

MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM, Inc.



M-DTS NEWSLETTER May, 2007

M-DTS WORK PARTY -- 9:00 a.m., Saturday, June 16
Meet at Apollo Park
to address problems with the trail there

Directions: Coming from the south, cross the Susquehanna River on Hwy 1, turn right on Rte. 74 (Delta Rd.) to Airville, turn right on Rte. 425 (Furnace Rd.), turn right on either Gum Tree or next road up Boyd Rd. to Apollo Park. There is parking for up to eight cars. Coming from the North from Wrightsville, take Rte. 625 S. to Craley, turn left on Rte 425, stay on rte 425 where it bears left at Buckholder Road and at Boyd Road turn left to Apollo Park.

M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING -- 2:00 p.m., Saturday, June 16
Meet at York Hiking Club Cabin

Directions: The YHC cabin is just north of Otter Creek Campground (MDT Map 5) near a sharp bend on Rte 425 (about where the dotted trail is shown on Map 5).



MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM INCPresident Jim Hooper
[REDACTED]Vice President..... Ron Gray
[REDACTED]Secretary & Newsletter Editor..Robert Bennett
[REDACTED]Treasurer.....Rick Maerker
[REDACTED]Director - PennsylvaniaRob Campbell
[REDACTED]Director - Maryland..... Bo Hopkins
[REDACTED]Director - Delaware..... Yvonne Blades
[REDACTED]

Trail Coordinators:

Western Section.....Ron Gray
[REDACTED]

Central Section..... volunteer needed

Eastern Section.....volunteer needed

The M-DTS Newsletter is published about four weeks in advance of each of the four M-DTS members' meetings/work parties held annually. Submissions are welcomed. Mail or email to editor. (See address under secretary above).

The Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc. is an all-volunteer, service-oriented association of trail clubs and individual hikers that has as its purpose the use and conservation of the backcountry through the development of new trails in the mid-Atlantic states. The nucleus of M-DTS is the 193-mile Mason-Dixon Trail which passes through historic and scenic areas of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware.

New members are welcome. To join send \$15 (which includes cost of M-DT maps and patch) to

Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc
Rick Maerker
[REDACTED]

Thereafter, the annual fee is \$5.

Life membership is available for \$250.

Visit the M-DTS web site at:
www.mason-dixontrail.org

Minutes of the March 25, 2007 M-DTS Members' Meeting

The meeting took place at Lock 12 north of the Norman Wood Bridge (PA Rte 372). Those present were Tim Schmidt, Ron Gray, Yvonne Blades, Jim McCoy, Lou Tateosian, Sarah Tateosian, Louise Sis, Ted Sanderson, Kevin McGraw, Kike Calabrese, Fran Sanderson, Joni Warsinski, Rob Campbell, Joyce Hooper, Jim Hooper, Robert Bennett.

Minutes from the previous meeting, with minor amendments were moved for acceptance by Ron Gray, seconded by Yvonne Blades, and passed.

Treasurer's Report

Jim Hooper, speaking for Rick Maerker, reported on the final financial report for 2006 and on activities so far this current year. Rick reviewed and affirmed the 2006 report submitted by our past treasurer, Mary Bleecker. We anticipate that Mary will audit the 2007 report. Our income for the year 2006 from dues, maps, patches, and interest was \$2,279.50. Our expenses from the newsletters, administration, guidebooks and maps, trail maintenance, and donations totaled \$1588.78. When coupled with CD transfers that total \$10,343.48 minus the year's expenses, the net monetary holding of the organization came to \$29,435.83. See back page for summary of expenses.

Trail Reports

Eastern Section – Eastern Terminus at Chadds Ford to Perryville.

Coordinator: Chester and New Castle Counties - Yvonne Blades

Cecil County – [REDACTED]

Yvonne Blades and Bob Bennett up-dated the blazes and did some clearing of debris in the 2.3 mile section from Chadds Ford to the Crossart Road (Map 10). On a second outing they cleared and refreshed trail blazes between Delancy Road and Eder Park in Elkton (Map 8).

Yvonne and Herb Blades encountered housing developments and warehouses on the current route in Cecil County between Belvedere Rd and Red Toad Rd (Map 7) making it impassable and similar industrial development in the Whitaker Woods area east of Red Toad Rd. Bob Bennett and Yvonne intend to consult with Antony DiGiacomo, Maryland director of WILMAPCO, about the possibility of charting a new route south of the present one.

Central Section - Havre de Grace to Lock 12. Coordinator: Bo Hopkins

No reported changes.

Western Section – Lock 12 to Whiskey Springs: Coordinator: Ron Gray

Apollo Park will receive needed trail work on June 17.

Gray's Plateau and Murphy's Hollow are in good shape, but new development is possible in the area of Murphy's Hollow. Archaeological discoveries there may deter development. Ron plans immediate work on High Point south of Wrightsville.

Western section, cont.

Jim and Ron are checking on possible relocations north of Wrightsville. The area is undergoing changes, and there may be a window of opportunity to secure a trail route.

Jim noted a problem section in the vicinity of the Conowingo Dam where the railroad is a hazard.

Louise Sis is planning to reblaze south of Gifford Pinchot State Park.

Rte 624 south of Wrightsville was under study to remove side walk, but the plan was rescinded when Jim alerted the planners to the importance it had to Mason-Dixon Trail. The hope is that eventually the trail in the Wrightsville area can be relocated off the side walk to along the river bank.

President Jim Hooper's Report:

Jim and Ron Gray have attended Green Ways meetings in Pennsylvania and urged ways of getting sections of the trail currently on roads off road.

[REDACTED] of the Appalachian Trail Club is planning to use the Mason-Dixon section to connect the Highlands Trail with the Appalachian Trail.

There is thought of a pedestrian crossing of the Susquehanna River at Wrightsville to link with existing trails as part of a general goal to establish a Pennsylvania Highlands System.

Other Items of Business, News, and Activity:

Ron proposed that the Mason-Dixon Trail System provide a donation of \$500.00 to the Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County. They are a non-profit that preserves land in York County. For the actual purchase, a large amount of the money will come from the state (PA's DCNR) with matching funds that we are working on as we exchange emails.

The Board addressed whether Trails Chairpersons should be appointed or elected. Subsequent to that discussion, President Hooper has offered the following amendment to Article III of the By-Laws:

Article III: Officers and Members of the Board of Directors

Section 1. The elected officers of the corporation shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, **and three Trails Chairmen**, each of whom shall be elected in accordance with the By-Laws and shall serve a three year term.

Should any officer be elected to more than one office, that officer will have only one vote on the board.

The Board noted with appreciation the York Hiking Club's promotion of the Mason-Dixon Trail System on its web site, but some concern that, as constituted, it created some confusion with our own web site. The Board agreed that we request the YHC to retain its link to our site, but remove its separate web entry on the Mason-Dixon to eliminate confusion.

Bob Bennett is meeting with the Newark Parks Director on June 19 to discuss routing a portion of the trail that passes through Newark off road onto public parkland in Newark that will become available in conjunction with the sale of the Newark Country Club property to a developer. The City of Newark mandates that all such developments reserve 10% of the land for open space.

On June 16th Bob presented a slide/lecture on the Mason-Dixon Trail at the Pennsylvania White Clay Creek Preserve Visitor's Center. The presentation centered on the portion of the Mason-Dixon Trail from the White Clay Creek Preserve to Iron Hill. He is hoping and looking for additional opportunities to encourage awareness and interest in the Trail in this manner.

██████████, curator of the PA. Preserve Visitor's Center, has passed the word that the historic engraved tri-state marker stone, that defines the junction of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware is likely soon to be in the public domain (under which state jurisdiction I wonder), and at that time the Mason-Dixon Trail will include a spur, if not a full rerouting, to include it as a significant addition to our trail's points of interest.

Dwayne Shreve, our Mason-Dixon Trail System web master, has designed a handsome and informative web page (www.masondixontrail.org) which warrants checking during the time between quarterly newsletters for announcements of meetings, links to other trail-related organizations, and breaking news items of possible relevance to our mission.

Our membership currently stands at 184. Our roster of board members is on page two with their emails included. We all welcome inquiries and expressions of interest in helping maintain and improve this citizen conceived and citizen maintained 190 mile trail. Its very existence is something of a miracle, and it is an affirmation of the direct role people in their spare time can play in shaping their environment and enhancing the quality of life for their communities.

Summary of annual budgets

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YEARLY FINANCIAL PICTURE OF M-DTS ACTIVITY

		1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006		Yrly Average (last 10 years)
INCOME	YEAR												
	Dues/Donations	\$2520.00	\$2953.50	\$2308.27	\$2384.00	\$2005.00	\$2282.00	\$1950.00	\$1713.50	\$2287.00	\$1799.00	\$22202.27	\$2220.23
	Maps/Guides	\$444.95	\$1117.00	\$542.50	\$480.50	\$804.72	\$462.00	\$410.00	\$972.00	\$662.00	\$480.50	\$6376.17	\$637.62
	Patches	\$10.00	\$2.00	\$22.00	\$81.30	\$135.00	\$43.00	\$32.00	\$14.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$339.30	\$33.93
	Interest	\$52.05	\$42.22	\$24.65	\$13.85	\$12.53	\$10.94	\$8.50	\$5.28	\$2.99	\$0.00	\$173.01	\$17.30
	CD transfers	\$6972.81										\$10343.48	\$1034.35
	TOTAL	\$9999.81	\$4114.72	\$2897.42	\$2959.65	\$2957.25	\$2797.94	\$2400.50	\$6075.45	\$2951.99	\$2279.50	\$39434.23	\$3943.42
EXPENSES													
	Newsletter	\$384.16	\$442.02	\$352.35	\$305.47	\$515.29	\$736.46	\$807.85	\$510.94	\$699.79	\$688.64	\$5442.97	\$544.30
	Administration	\$321.38	\$675.20	\$311.20	\$353.75	\$400.13	\$98.40	\$1294.55	\$426.89	\$316.07	\$327.23	\$4524.80	\$452.48
	Patches				\$370.00			\$370.00				\$740.00	\$74.00
	Guidebooks/Maps	\$7398.42							\$6215.88	\$168.16		\$13782.46	\$1378.25
	Trail Maintenance	\$109.66	\$179.82	\$139.31	\$390.47	\$135.48	\$9.54	\$124.02	\$186.10	\$1026.74	\$497.91	\$2799.05	\$279.90
	Capital Expense					\$1031.15	\$88.80	\$131.60				\$1251.55	\$125.16
	Donations	\$25.00	\$210.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$50.00	\$105.00	\$105.00	\$100.00	\$75.00	\$895.00	\$89.50
	TOTAL	\$8238.62	\$1507.04	\$877.86	\$1494.63	\$2157.05	\$983.20	\$2833.02	\$7444.83	\$2310.76	\$1588.78	\$29435.83	\$2943.58

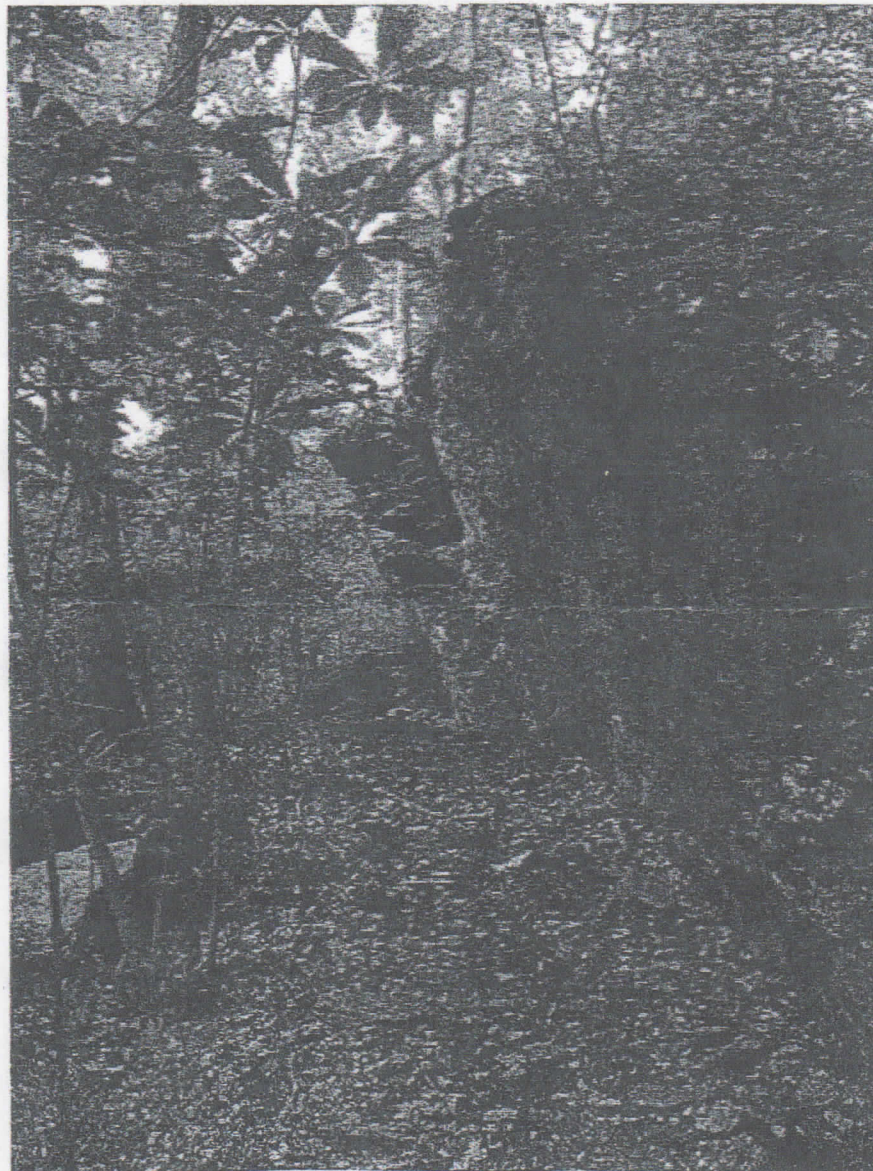


Photo by Hunt Bartine