

# MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM, Inc.



## M-DTS NEWSLETTER May, 2006

M-DTS HIKE PROGRAM and MEETING June 10, 2006

9:00 am – 9 mile “hilly” hike in White Clay Creek State Park and Preserve  
10:00 am – 4-5 mile easier hike  
2:00 pm - M-DTS Members Meeting

For both the hikes and members meeting, meet at the home of Warren & Vivian Davies,  
[REDACTED] Bring lunch and water.

**Driving Directions: From Wrightsville area:** Take US Rte 30 heading east across the Susquehanna and follow it 28 miles. Turn slight right at Gap onto Rte 41 and follow it 9.1 miles. Turn right on Rte 10 for 3.9 miles. Then turn left onto Rte 896 (Newark Rd) and follow it for 11.7 miles. [REDACTED]

**From South & West:** Cross Conowingo Dam on Rte 1. Veer right on Rte 273 and follow it to Newark, DE. Turn left onto Rt 896. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] as above.





## MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM INC

President ..... Anthony Belfiglio

Vice President & KTA rep.....Jim Hooper

Secretary & Newsletter Editor...Yvonne Blades

Treasurer.....Mary Bleecker

Director - Pennsylvania .....James McCoy

Director - Maryland..... Alan Roland

Director - Delaware.....Robert Bennett

Trail Coordinators:

Western Section.....Ron Gray

Central Section.....Pat Yale

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  
Mary Bleecker

Thereafter, the annual fee is \$5.

Life membership is available for \$250.

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Visit the M-DTS web site at:  
[www.mason-dixontrail.org](http://www.mason-dixontrail.org)

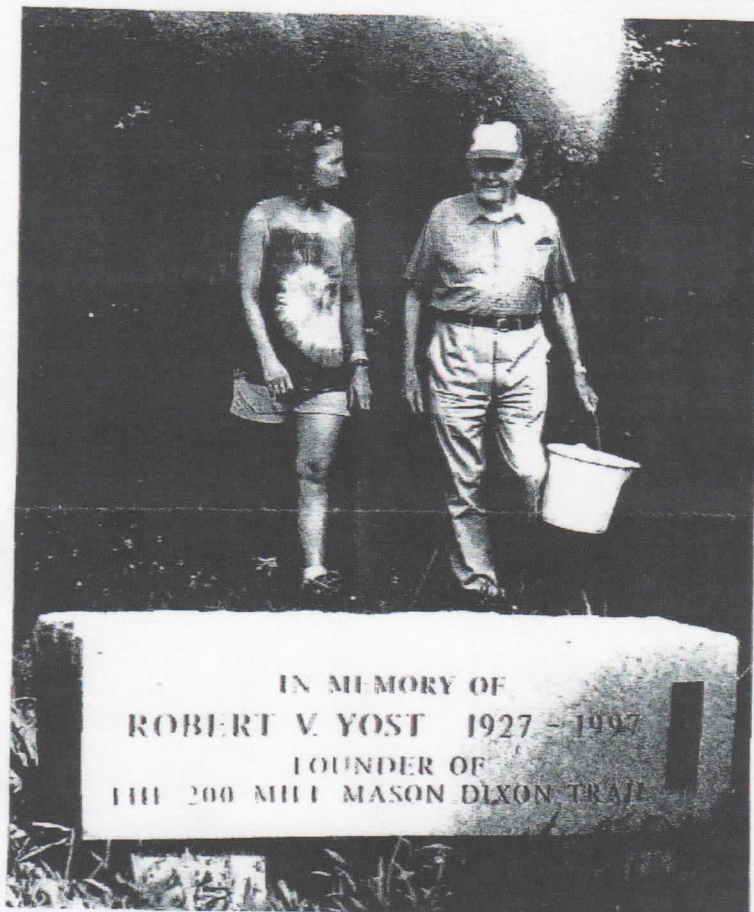
## Call for Volunteers

The Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc. needs volunteers to serve as officers of the organization. The term of office for the preser. officers ends December 31, 2006. Mary Bleecker, treasurer, and Yvonne Blades, secretary, are retiring after doing the job for 15 years. President Anthony Belfiglio is moving away. If you are willing to serve as treasurer or secretary or as a member of council, please contact a member of the nominating committee: Tony Belfiglio, Yvonne Blades, or Joyce Hooper

## "Seduced on a Saturday Morning"

*Trail blazing outing marks beginning of a love affair with the Mason-Dixon Trail.*

The above is the title of an article by free-lance author Patricia H. Jackson that appeared in the winter 2006 issue of Outdoor Delaware, a publication of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. The delightful story describes her Saturday morning rendezvous with Turner Darden (a founding member of M-DTS) to do trail maintenance on a five mile stretch of the M-DT from Iron Hill to Elkton.



Turner Darden and his "apprentice" Patricia Jackson on the M-DT near the Yost memorial at the top of Iron Hill



## MINUTES OF THE APRIL 29, 2006 M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING

The meeting took place at the Conowingo Visitor Center on a beautiful spring day following a program of hikes and a picnic. Those present included president Anthony Belfiglio, vice president Jim Hooper, secretary Yvonne Blades, treasurer Mary Bleecker and Ron Gray, Jim and Diane McCoy, Mike Calabrese, Joyce Hooper, Turner Darden, Tim Schmidt, Lou and Sarah Tateosian, Marion and Jack Schultz, Warren & Vivian Davies, Charles Glanville, Elizabeth Brecht, Dwayne Schreve, Robert Bennett, Brain Lillie, Randy Simon, Ricky Brown and Bo Hopkins. The minutes of the October 30, 2005 M-DTS members' meeting were approved as circulated (moved Hooper, seconded Schmidt).

### Financial Report for 2005

Rick Maerker has reviewed the treasurer's records and submitted the following summary of the year 2005 financial activity of Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc.

	2005	1996-2005 (average)
<b>Income</b>		
Dues/Donations (109 renew, 24 new)	\$2287.00	\$2256.84
Map/Guides (~72 sold)	662.00	632.77
Sale of patches	0.00	55.93
Interest	2.99	21.44
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$2951.99</b>	<b>\$2966.98</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Newsletters - printing, mailing*	683.87	497.92* (mailing costs included under
Administration: postage, phone etc	192.55	455.01 administration in past years)
Legal fees re incorporation	166.20	
Website expenses	41.40	
Trail Maintenance	1026.74	255.11
Map production costs	100.00	1378.25
Dues, donations	100.00	88.00
Patches	0.00	111.20
Capital expense	0.00	125.16
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2310.76</b>	<b>\$2910.64</b>
Opening balance in checking acct as of 1/1/05	\$2866.57	
Total income minus expenses in 2005	+ 641.23	
Ending balance in checking acct as of 12/27/05	\$3507.80	
CD - 30 month	\$3206.22	
CD - 24 month	\$4603.01	

**TOTAL ASSETS OF M-DTS, INC. AS OF 12/31/05 \$11317.03**

### Trail Reports

**Eastern Section - Eastern Terminus at Chadds Ford to Perryville: Coordinators: Chester & New Castle Co. - Yvonne Blades [REDACTED], Cecil Co. - Tony Belfiglio [REDACTED]**

- Bob Bennett reported that the land now occupied by the Newark Country Club has been sold to a developer. The developer is to provide a route for the M-DT through the area.
- Turner Darden and Pat Jackson have refreshed blazes on the M-DT through the Elkton area. (See page 2)

**Central Section - Havre de Grace to Lock 12: Coordinator: Pat Yale**

- New M-DTS member, Bo Hopkins, will maintain the M-DT from Havre de Grace to Conowingo. The blazes on the M-DT through Susquehanna State Park need refreshing.



- We need an improved route for the M-DT up the slope from Stafford Rd in Susquehanna State Park (Map 6: Mile 14.3 West to East). The park ranger and MCC group are willing to work with us on this project.
- PP&L have relocated and improved the trail at Lock 13. The M-DT follows the PP&L trail in this area.

**Western Section – Lock 12 to Western Terminus at Whisky Springs: Coordinator: Ron Gray**

- The Thursday retiree group have completed two relocations along Otter Creek: 1) the climb from the Rt 425 bridge over the creek (Map 4: East to West, Mile 0.3 +) and 2) a relocation through a recently logged area starting at Mile 1.8.
- Jim Hooper and Ron Gray have been negotiating with property owners for an off-road relocation between Wizard Ranch and the Marietta Water Company property (Map 3). One property owner is holding out. If it goes through, the relocation will provide an off-road route between Accomac Rd and the River Rd-Furnace Rd intersection. Negotiations are ongoing for permission to relocate the M-DT off-road between Murphy Rd and the Water Street Rescue Mission property (Map 3). These potential relocations would take 7 miles of the M-DT off road.
- The M-DT blazes through Gifford Pinchot State Park have been refreshed.

**Other Business**

**Muddy Creek Parking:** Apparently, the situation at present is that vehicles parked on the north side of Muddy Creek at Gaging Station bridge are being towed away. That area is in Lower Chanceford Township. Vehicles parked on the south side of the bridge, which is in Peach Bottom Township, are not being towed.

**KTA Meeting Report:** Jim Hooper is the M-DTS representative on the Keystone Trails Association Council. He attended the spring KTA council meeting at Wellsboro. He reports that KTA membership is now over 1000 due to the KTA membership letter and application form included with the newsletters of member clubs. Volunteer trail maintenance hours spent on Pennsylvania hiking trails in 2005 totaled over 3400 (882 hours on the M-DT).

[redacted], who is secretary on the new KTA Board, reported that a strategic planning retreat was held for KTA Board members in December to aid in the process of writing a strategic plan for KTA. A grant was received to pay for the process which was conducted by the University of Pittsburgh School of Public and International Affairs which services non-profit organizations.

**Workshop:** Jim and Joyce Hooper and Ron Gray attended a workshop about approaching property owners for permission to route a trail across their land.

**M-DTS Sign-up Sheet:** Jim Hooper recommended that our M-DTS sign-up sheet included a disclaimer. Jim will provide the secretary with the appropriate wording.

**Nominating Committee:** A nominating committee was appointed to provide a slate of candidates for election as officers of the M-DTS. Committee members are Anthony Belfiglio, Yvonne Blades and Joyce Hooper. The term of the present officers ends December 31, 2006. The current treasurer (Mary Bleecker) and secretary (Yvonne Blades) are retiring after 15 years on the job. The current president (Anthony Belfiglio) is moving to North Carolina.

**Loop Hikes:** It was suggested that the M-DTS website should feature loop hikes which include sections of the Mason-Dixon Trail. Send you suggestions to the webmaster. [redacted]

**Next Meeting:** Saturday June 10 at the home of Warren & Vivian Davies (adjacent to the White Clay Creek Preserve). Hikes starting at 9:00 and 11:00 am, M-DTS Meeting at 3:00 pm. Bring lunch.