



M-DTS NEWSLETTER November, 2008

A Morning Hike and an Afternoon Meeting In the White Clay Creek Valley

Saturday, December 6, 2008

The Mason-Dixon Trail hike, preceding the quarterly meeting on Saturday, December 6, will feature the trail's passage along the National Wild and Scenic White Clay Creek in the bi-state Delaware and Pennsylvania Park and Preserve (Map 9: w-e. mi. 11.4 to mi. 20.8). Because the Delaware Park Service has mandated that the trail be officially charted entirely along the river, removing it from its former forested hillside routes, the hike distance will be about seven and a half miles, or about two and a half miles shorter than the one described in the current Mason-Dixon Trail Map #9.

Participants should gather by 9:00 a.m. at the Pennsylvania Preserve Lot 1 parking area on London Tract Road. Lot One is located just before the junction of London Tract Road with Good Hope Road. A shuttle arrangement will take hikers to our start at Fremont Road for the hike back to Lot One. Bring water and a lunch, and dress as the weather on December 6th dictates.

All are welcome to the members and board meeting at 2:00 p.m. at the meeting room of the Pennsylvania Preserve in the historic Primitive Baptist Church. Hikers will have a preview of the Church which they will pass near around mile 5.

Directions to PA Preserve Lot One

From the North heading south on PA Rte. 896 (New London Road), after passing through the small borough of Kentlesville, in about half a mile take a left onto Good Hope Road. Stay on Good Hope until it ends in 3.2 miles where it merges on the right with London Tract Road. At this < shape juncture, **take a sharp right onto London Tract** and Parking Lot One will be immediately (about 20 yards) on your left.

From the South heading north on Rte. 896, after leaving Delaware and passing through a less-than-a-mile slice of the northeast corner of Maryland, you will enter Pennsylvania. In approximately 2.2 miles arrive at the juncture with Good Hope Road where you turn right. Stay on Good Hope until it ends in 3.2 miles where it merges on the right with London Tract Road. At this < shape juncture, **take a sharp right onto London Tract** and Parking Lot One will be immediately (about 20 yards) on your left.

The on-line Google Map "Get Directions" may help to visualize the above.

MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM INC

President 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 above 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 covers 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 Mason Dixon Trail web site at:
www.masondixontrail.org

Minutes of September 21, 2008 M-DTS Board and Members Meeting

President Hooper called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. at the Iron Hill Museum picnic area, Newark, Delaware. Members present included Robert Bennett, Yvonne Blades, Allen Britton, Lore Britton, Ron Campbell, Ron Gray, Jim Hooper, Joyce Hooper, Cynthia Kelly, Phyllis Morley, Tom Morley, Jim Neal, and Dwayne Shreve.

The meeting at the Iron Hill Museum was called to order by President Jim Hooper at 1:55 p.m. He opened by commending Rob Campbell for his article on the Mason-Dixon Trail in the September '08 issue of *York County Parks*, a Publication of the York County Department of Parks and Recreation.

Review of the Minutes of the June 15, 2008 as recorded in the September Newsletter

Ron Gray noted under the Western Section trail reports, the opening of the fifth paragraph should read, "Regarding the Game Lands, Area 242 . . ."

[There were no further corrections, but a mailed report from Dave Linthicum included as a news item later in this issue modifies a number of items in the Central Section reports in the June issue.]

Treasurer's Report

The report of income and expenses from 12/27/07 to 9/21/08 by treasurer, Rick Maerker, was accepted subject to audit.

Trail Reports

Eastern Section - Eastern Terminus at Chadds Ford to Perryville

Coordinators: Chester and New Castle Counties: Yvonne Blades; Cecil County: Kevin Jones.

On the basis of the hike preceding the meeting, there was general consensus that the broken marker at the exit of the trail from its course along the power line into adjacent woods (Map 9, w-e: mi. 1.4) be replaced as soon as possible.

Yvonne Blades reported that she and Sandy Weymouth, in late June, cleared the trail and refreshed blazes between Rolling Mill Rd in North East and the Stony Creek crossing (Map 7-E to W, Mile 0.3-2.9). Since then, Sandy has carried on with trail clearing and blazing heading west.

**Central Section – Havre de Grace to Lock 12:
Coordinator: Bo Hopkins**

Yvonne Blades reported that Susquehanna State Park Crew Supervisor, [REDACTED], has been working on a relocation of an unsafe eroded steep hill section of trail in the Park (Map 6: w-e, ca. mi. 16.5).

The Susquehanna State Park Crew Supervisor, [REDACTED], and her crew have been working on a relocation of an unsafe eroded steep hill section of the MDT in the Park (Map 6: w-e, mi 16.5). Jim Hooper and Ron Gray took part in one of the work sessions.

Yvonne Blades noted that has been seeking to get the trail off road in the Conowingo area. In August, she attended the Conowingo Dam ground breaking ceremony for an elaborate "Fisherman's Wharf" to be built by Exelon. She learned from the Conowingo plant manager that this area will be the trail head for a new Lower Susquehanna Heritage Trail (<http://www.lshgreenway.org/>) that will connect Fisherman's Park to the LSHG headquarters office on Rte 1. Yvonne will arrange for a meeting with Mary Ann Lisanti of LSHG to discuss the possibility of the M-DTS making use of the LSHG trail when it is built.

Jim reported that there is need for one or two trail relocations in Apollo Park (Map 4)

Bo Hopkins has submitted for the record the following on Susquehanna State Park:
The work being done in Susquehanna State Park is a reroute moving the park's old "Spur 6" from its current location to more sustainable land, and a more accessible point in a parking lot. Susquehanna's staff, I as a member of the Maryland Conservation Corps, and my crew of 5, with the help of M-DTS, AmeriCorps, and Maryland's Parks & People Program for underprivileged youth, all contributed to the re-route's design and construction.

This new spur included lots of rock work: Rock armoring the trail tread, moving rocks that were in the way, and placing rocks to create steps, and in some parts, a rock spree was secured in such a way that the trail traverses over the rock pile. As my contract with the Park has ended and I have returned to being a full-time student, I am not sure of what the current status of the relocation is, or if it is yet open. When I last left the park, it was not yet open, and a little bit more work had yet to be done. Nonetheless, the new trail provides new trail building techniques, and moves the old Mason-Dixon Trail closer to the Deer Creek Bridge so one spends less time walking along Stafford Road to reconnect with the trail. Since the Spur's head is at a Parking lot, one can now easily access the trail from this point with little trouble finding a parking place near the Deer Creek foot bridge. As for the trail itself, despite having to traverse the rock scrambles, the trail offers the hiker a gentler ascent/decent of the hill, and offers the eyes a close look at the new, sustainable, trail building techniques.

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

Jim Hooper reported that Pennsylvania Power and Light (PPL) has applied to the US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to transfer their land along the Susquehanna River to the Lancaster Conservancy. Management of the land is currently included as a requirement in their dam license. The proposal was made as part of their effort to respond to questions raised by the Commission in its oversight review of the utility.

Regarding the gamelands 242, located north of Pinchot State Park near Ski Roundtop Recreation Area, Jim reports that the administrators recently have shown a more cordial reception to our interest in routing our trail through the area than they had to our previous proposal several years back. The game lands would afford approximately five miles on road where there is little housing.

Other Business and Announcements

M-DTS T-Shirts. Joyce Hooper reports that there are only twenty shirts still available from our last order.

Progress Report on Production of the Next Edition of Trail Maps.

Rob Campbell submitted for the minutes the following report:

"On the advice of the IT technical staff at Penn State York, I decided to use Paint.net, a free program, to revise the maps, rather than PhotoShop, which would have cost the MDTS close to \$500. So far, it seems to work fine to read the last iteration of the maps that Yvonne Blades sent me on CD.

I've asked for help from Jan Gipe, who is a trail maintainer for MDTS and is helping me with understanding and using the software . . . and we have met once to initiate the process. We will continue to meet until the project is completed, or until I can do it myself. We are adding a small note to each map indicating "NOTE: For most recent revisions to these maps refer to: www.masondixontrail.org". This will mean that we need a systematic way to show any revisions on the MDTS web site."

Yvonne is sending me the trail details from the back of the maps as word documents. So far I have this data for Maps 1 - 4. I will ask for help with revising this information from Jim Hooper and Ron Gray for the Western portion of the trail, and Bob Bennett and Yvonne for the Eastern section.

Don Blyler Offset Printing, of Lebanon, PA is ready to print the maps as soon as we make the revisions and send them to them. Their proposal to MDTS for printing of the maps, the cover sheet, and inserting them into poly bags is \$4919 for 500 sets or \$5296 for 600 sets."

Next Meeting:

There being no further business, President Hooper set the next meeting for Sunday, December 6, at the headquarters for the Pennsylvania Section of the White Clay Creek Preserve, in conjunction with the series of hikes, west-to-east, in which a portion of our membership has been engaged in its survey of the whole trail.

News and Notes Since the Last Meeting

Maintainer Dave Linthicum offers the following amendments to the Central Section Report in the September issue

The reported erosion and overgrowth in the Bald Hill section and overgrowth in the Serpentine Barrens and to the south and near Indian Lake Christian Camp is not significant, and the section of trail there is in basically good shape and worth a hiker's visit. He notes that he hasn't "heard 'reports' that this summer's heavily logged and closed section of our trail in the Boy Scout camp (Map 6, E to W mi. 18.4-19.0) has been reopened" and he reports that the trail there is still hard to find and follow there. Management of this section is the responsibility of the scouts.

New Garden Township Open Space and Greenway Plan

An exciting wide-ranging open space plan in New Garden Township, Chester County, directly north of the Mason-Dixon Trail (Map 10: w-e 0.0 mi to 5.0 mi) is a promising companion to or actual relocation for the Mason-Dixon Trail in this area. Our trail currently is mapped along country roads once it heads east from the PA White Clay Creek Preserve, Lot One. For full details, google "New Garden Township" and select the entry: **New Garden Township unveils trail-blazing plan - Hockessin, DE**

Quarry Land/Murphy's Hollow Land Acquisition

In October the Pennsylvania Division of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) made a first payment to the Lancaster-York Heritage Region in support of its successful negotiation, contingent on a hazardous waste check, for the transfer of a Quarry Land/Murphy's Hollow parcel to the York Farm and Natural Lands Trust. This open space acquisition provides a possible option for an attractive rerouting of the Mason-Dixon Trail in that area.

DuPont Company/Stine-Haskell Lab Donates Ten Acres to the City of Newark

In October, the DuPont Company donated its ten-acre private in-holding along the Christina River in Newark, DE to the City of Newark, thus securing in public park protection a crucial link in the trail's long stream side passage through Newark. The *Wilmington News Journal* article on the donation, which is accessible on Dwayne Shreve's elegant and informative Mason-Dixon Trail System web site, contains glowing references to the Mason-Dixon Trail.

Paul Melzer runs the entire length of the Mason-Dixon Trail in three and one half days

While you are on Dwayne's M-D web site, check also the link to New Journal sports editor Steve Lanz's interview with Paul Melzer following the latter's prodigious feat (and/or feet). Paul, like many others, has become an enthusiastic spokesperson for the trail, and he hopes to attend our meeting on December 6.

Eco-Delaware - One more Mason-Dixon web site to enjoy

<http://www.ecodelaware.com/place.php?id=372>

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M-DTS Financial Report for the period 12/27/07 to 9/21/08

Checking Account as of 12/27/07: \$5383.59 — Checking Account as of 9/21/08: \$6050.19

Income \$2535.50 from dues, donations, and sale of maps, guides, patches and t-shirts

Expenses: \$1868.90 from newsletters/tri-folds production and mailing, trail maintenance supplies and donations and dues to allied groups.

Certificates of Deposit: 30 month CD - \$3,933.38 4month CD - \$5,088.73

Total Assets of M-DTS as of 9/12/08: \$15,072.30

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The Mason-Dixon Trail System expresses a special thanks to the Delaware Academy of Science and its treasurer and M-DTS member, James Neal, for making its facility, the Iron Hill Museum, available for our September meeting: www.ironhillmuseum.org.

Eco-Delaware - One more Mason-Dixon web site to enjoy

Put this in T report