



## **M-DTS NEWSLETTER** MAY 2009

### **The M-DTS in Western Cecil County is Focus of June 27 Hike and Meeting**

#### **The Morning Hike**

We will hike a proposed seven mile rerouting of the Mason-Dixon Trail from Belvedere Road to Perryville. Participants will meet by 9:00 a.m. at the Perryville Middle School (MDT Map 7: w-e at mile 2 where the "P" marks the large parking lot), and will car pool to the starting point on Logistics Way off of Belvedere Road, north of Rte 40.

The relocation includes sidewalks in the town of Perryville, greenways near the Susquehanna River, pathways through fields and woods, and sections along roadways. We will pass by Furnace Bay Golf Course and historic Principio Furnace, and climb to the top of Foy's Hill for grand views of the surrounding countryside. This relocation, if approved, will appear in our updated map set that is due out within the year. It replaces the dangerous section of railroad walking described in the current Map 7.

**Directions to the Perryville Middle School Parking Lot:** Heading west or east on I-95 take the exit south to Perryville on Rte 222 South. (This is the first exit after crossing the Susquehanna from the west and the last exit on I-95 from the east **before** I-95 crosses the Susquehanna.) Stay on Rte 222 about a mile and when you cross the major intersection with Rte 40, the Middle School Parking lot will be immediately on your left (Rte 222 becomes Aiken Avenue when it crosses Rte 40).

#### **The Quarterly Meeting**

The quarterly board and members meeting will start 2:00 p.m. in the yard and garden area of the historic Rodgers Tavern at the west end of Broad Street (#259) in Perryville, overlooking the Susquehanna River. Following the directions above to Perryville Middle School, one reaches Rodgers Tavern by continuing on Rte 222 south (Aiken Avenue) to where it ends at Main Street, and turning right on Main Street. The Tavern, clearly signed, will be a short distance on your right.

In the case of bad weather, the meeting will convene at 2:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the public library in North East, Maryland. From I-95 take exit 100 (North East/Rising Sun) in Cecil County. Go south on Rte. 272, and cross Route 40 (south of Rte 40 Rte 272 becomes N. Mauldin Street). Shortly after crossing over some tracks, where the road divides, stay on Rte 272 by bearing right onto Main St and in a short block turn right again onto Rte. 7 (Cecil Ave). The North East Library comes very quickly on the left. There is a parking lot on the left side of Cecil Ave. just past Race St. Cecil County members, especially, please come!



## 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 - Pennsylvania ....Rob Campbell  
[REDACTED]

Director - Maryland ... Bo Hopkins

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.

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Visit the Mason Dixon Trail web site at:

[www.masondixontrail.org](http://www.masondixontrail.org)

## Minutes of March 22, 2009 M-DTS Board and Members Meeting

President Hooper called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. at the Hooper residence. Members present: Bernie Frick, Allen & Lorie Briton, Ron Gray, Rob Campbell, Lou & Sarah Tateosean, Yvonne Blades, Mike Calabrese, Robert Bennett, Tom Alburn, Patrice Boeke, Joyce and Jim Hooper, Dwayne Shreve, Dick Martin, Thyra Sperry.

### Audit of Recent Treasurer's Reports:

President Hooper entered for the record the following audit statement by Mary Bleeker of the organization's financial records: "On March 15, 2009 I examined the books of the Mason-Dixon Trail Club for the years 2008 and 2007 and found the figures to be correct and the records of the expenditures to be in good order." (A summary of the most recent report is entered under Other Business.)

### Keystone Trails Super Hike

President Hooper introduced Keystone Trails Association President, [REDACTED] who invited us as participants or event assistants in KTA's planned Susquehanna Super Hike. The event, scheduled for September 12, 2009, is a 25 mile long run/hike beginning on the Mason-Dixon Trail at the York Hiking Club near Otter Creek (Map 5: w-e mi. 0.0) heading south to cross the Susquehanna River on the Norman Wood Bridge (Rte 372) (Map 5: w-e. mi. 10.2) and then heading north on the Conestoga Trail to Pequea Creek Campground across the river from Otter Creek (shown on Map 5: mi. 0.0). Manned check points will be spaced every seven miles. Paul Shaw is the event's coordinator. More information on the event and how to participate or assist can be found at the KTA web site: <http://www.kta-hike.org/>. President Hooper noted that the Mason-Dixon Trail's Oakland Run crossing could be tricky if the water were high, but that there should be no other obstructions on the Mason-Dixon portion.

### Trail Reports

#### Possible Application for National Recreational Trail Status for the Mason-Dixon Trail.

President Hooper noted that required in the lengthy application process are letters of support from all land owners along the trail. He will continue investigating the option.



**Eastern Section – Eastern Terminus at Chadds Ford to Perryville**  
**Coordinator: Chester and New Castle Counties: Yvonne Blades**  
**Cecil County: Open**

In the Principio area between Perryville and North East (Map 7: mi. 6.0) Yvonne Blades is working with the Principio Industrial Park liaison, [REDACTED] to define a clearer and more attractive right-of-way for the trail through that area. The Cecil County administration is aware of and supportive of the trail.

Bob Bennett noted that the Stine Haskell Division of the DuPont Company is seeking help in preserving a wetlands area in the immediate vicinity of the ten acres that the company recently donated to the City of Newark (Map 9: w-e, ca. mi. 9.0). The wetlands area is in the immediate vicinity of a section of our trail along the Christina Creek. The City, when contacted, referred their representative to Bob, who in turn referred her to several University of Delaware professors who have expertise in wetlands protection and have students for whom this parcel could be a subject for research.

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

Jim Hooper reports that Pennsylvania Power and Light (PP&L) could not get approval by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to sell their land in the area of the Holtwood Dam to the Lancaster Conservancy, as hoped.

*hair* Jim Hooper reports that in the area of Furnace Run [map 5, mi. w-e 2.4], the landowner has given us permission to route the trail along a power line on the property. This routing eliminates the currently awkward routing on dirt and surfaced roadways. Yvonne reports that Quarry representative, [REDACTED] requests that we be patient in our effort to receive a right-of-way for the trail in the area of the Quarry land (Map 6, w-e: 20.1-20.9). She does not have a final permission, but is waiting on it. The Quarry managers are busy, and it is difficult at this time for them to make our interest high on their agenda.

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

Ron Gray reports that the golf course management has said they support the relocation of the trail onto the golf course with the exception, due to safety considerations, of the part along the dirt road. (Map 2: w-e 22.7-24)

Ron reports that the M-DTS and Pa. Highlands Trail have submitted a proposal to the Game Commission for a relocation of the trail onto game land 242 (Map 1: w-e 12.3-13). We are awaiting their response.

**Other Business**

**T-Shirts**

Joyce Hooper reports that there were no t-shirts sold since the last meeting. We currently have twenty shirts still available from the most recent order.



### **Production of New Set of Trail Maps**

Rob Campbell reports that the maps are nearly ready to be printed. The Trail's route through the Principio Business Park and through the Wrightsville area presents some difficulty because of current reroutings in progress in those areas. The printer's quoted prices are \$4,919 for 500 sets and \$5,206 for 600 sets.

Rob expressed an interest in putting the maps on line. It makes changes easier to make when reroutings occur. The electronic Map can be kept up to date in the way printed maps cannot. He also suggested we consider applying the Global Positioning System (GPS) in subsequent productions of the map sets.

### **Susquehanna River Trail**

Jim Hooper attended a meeting on the Susquehanna River Trail

This water "trail" on the Susquehanna lies on the Mason-Dixon Trail's portion along the Susquehanna. Its current southern terminus is at the Maryland-Pennsylvania Line. They are putting the Mason-Dixon Trail on their map.

### **The On-Line Option for Receiving the Quarterly Newsletter**

Jim Hooper inquired how many of our current members have elected to receive the newsletter on-line. Currently twenty-five members receive the newsletter on line. The elimination of costs of printing and mailing, and possibility of making rapid interim communications of updates and corrections are potential advantages of receiving the newsletter on-line.

### **Next Quarterly Meeting and Adjournment**

President Hooper announced the next group hike and meeting for Saturday, June 27 in the Perryville area. There being no further business, thanks were extended to the Hoopers for hosting the hike and the meeting, and the meeting was formally adjourned.

## **News and Notes Since Our Last Meeting**

### **Supporting a Benefactor**

Jim Hooper reports that the Keystone Trails Association has for many years provided support of many kinds for our work in establishing the Mason-Dixon Trail. We know first hand the kind of contributions that it lists in its brochure soliciting new members, as a way by numbers and funds to continue its important work. Accordingly, he has requested that we broadcast to our membership their brochure seeking new members, and it is included separately with this newsletter.

### **Check out the Mason-Dixon Trail Website**

<http://www.masondixontrail.org/>

This is a reminder to our readers that our web site, under the impressive administering of Dwayne Shreve, is rich with up-to-date information, interviews, links to other useful sites, suggested hikes, photographs, maps, and more. If you need a nudge to get out on the trail, give it a visit!

### **Promoting the newsletter by email option**

To add to President Hooper's promotion of the on-line option for receiving the newsletter, its advantages in addition to saving the group some costs include and are not limited to immediate access to web sites and email addresses included such entries as this one and ease of storage for future reference. If you would like to receive the newsletter on-line, just email your request to [hybls@verizon.net](mailto:hybls@verizon.net).

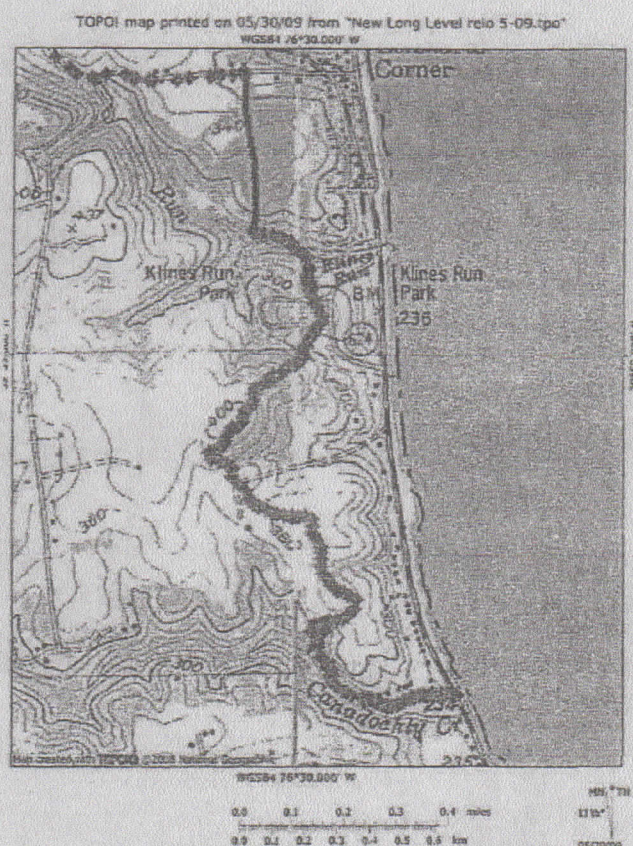


### Authorization for routing the Mason-Dixon Trail through Lakeside East

Jim Hooper received word in a meeting with [REDACTED], head of York County Parks in late March that we have permission to flag our desired route for the Trail through the recent York County acquisition for parkland of 187 acres that includes the remnants of the last known Susquehannock Indian village.

[REDACTED]  
Mason-Dixon members have also been invited to assist the York County Parks in improvements planned for Apollo Park and other maintenance efforts of the County Parks.

Rob Campbell has provided us with the trail relocation in anticipation of its inclusion in the complete set:



Map 4: Rerouting East to West Mi. 14.7 to 17.6


- 14.6 mi Pass Calvary Church Road on the left.
- 14.7 mi Turn left onto Bank Hill Road
- 15.0 mi Turn right up hill by switchbacks.
- 15.1 mi Exit the woods and turn right into an open field. Hopefully the trail will be mowed. Follow the blazed posts.
- 15.3 mi Yellow-blazed trail to the right goes into the woods and down to Pleasant Garden, home of LYHR
- 15.4 mi Unmarked mowed trail to the right leads to the Drift family cemetery.
- 15.9 mi Trail enters the woods.
- 16.0 mi Trail enters Klines Run Park at the southwest corner of the park..
- 16.1 mi Enjoy the view at the crest of the small hill.
- 16.2 mi After descending the hill and crossing the park road turn left and cross a small park bridge across Klines Run. Turn left.
- 16.3 mi Exit the park, turning right up the bank, at the northwest corner of the park.
- 16.6 mi Turn left onto Klines Run Road.
- 16.9 mi Klines Run Road turns left, Go Straight onto Trinity Church Road.
- 17.6 mi Pass Trinity North Road on the left. Trail continues on Trinity Church Rd.
- 17.9 mi Reach Knights View Road.

### The Work We Do.

A trail work log from October '08 through February '09 for the western sector lists sixteen work outings by groups of members. Activities include weed whacking and chain saw, pole saw, and rope work; trail blazing and relocations, global positioning and mapping, and tree removal. In addition to work outings there is regular correspondence and contact with land owners, public agencies, news media, and allied organizations. When hiking portions of the trail one may justly wonder "How in the world did this get here?" The above is part of the answer. If you are interested in being part of the answer, you are warmly encouraged to contact by email any of us who are listed in the left hand column of page two.



### **A New Bridge and a New Routing on White Clay Creek**

The trail heading north from Newark, DE, has a new route and new bridge. Map 9 at roughly mile 12.5 w-e on Creek Road there is a new foot bridge that crosses the main stem of the White Clay Creek and introduces the new relocation of the trail in this area already designated on local park maps and to be on our new M-DTS map set in progress.  This web sight provides a handsome collection of pictures of the new bridge.

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### **In Memoriam**

We note with sorrow the passing of three distinguished Members:

**Kay Way**, a former president of the Mason-Dixon Trail System, died December 29 at the age of 82. Yvonne Blades reports that Kay was a life member of M-DTS and was president from 1986-1991. During her term we had several MDTS meetings at her home in Kennett Square and, weather permitting, enjoyed a dip in the Way's swimming pool before the meetings. Kay was also active in the Wilmington Trail Club.

**Marie Pittinger**, M-DTS secretary and Newsletter editor 1985-1992, died on January 5, 2009 and her husband, **John Pittinger**, MDTS treasurer during that same period, died just weeks after his wife. We remember Kay, Marie, and John as good people and longtime, reliable advocates for hiking and open space protection. We celebrate their life long commitments to these causes we share, as we sorrow in their passing.