



M-DTS NEWSLETTER August, 2009

Western Portion of Trail Featured in Sunday, September 20

Hikes and Fall Meeting

in the Gifford Pinchot State Park Area

Hikers will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the boat launch parking area located on Rte 177 just outside the western end of Gifford Pinchot State Park (Map 2: w-e, 1.5mi.). From there we will shuttle to the start of the hike at the junction of Robinson Rd and Mountain Rd and hike the Trail from there back to the boat launch (ca. 6 miles). Featured on this part of the hike is a long sought relocation of the Mason-Dixon Trail onto Game Land 242.

The short hike ends at the boat launch. Those continuing will hike another three-and-a-half miles to the Conewago Day Use Area (Map. 2: w-e 4.5mi.). The quarterly meeting will be there at 2 p.m. Determining the logistics for transporting hikers from the boat launch parking area to the start of the hike will be made at the boat launch area on arrival for the day's hikes. Contact Jim Hooper [REDACTED] you have any questions.

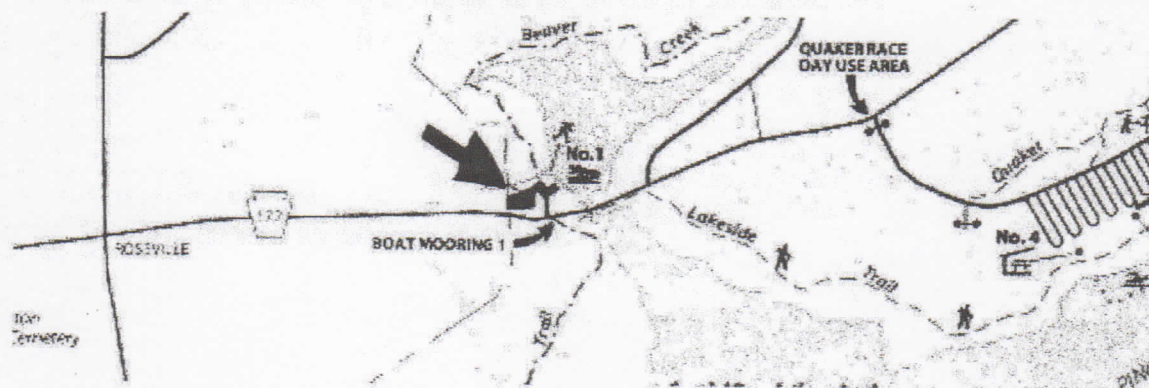
Directions to Gifford Pinchot State Park, PA.

From points east of the Susquehanna River via Lancaster, go west on I-283 take the Rte 30 exit to York to Rt. I-83. From I-83 take the Newberry Town exit (32), PA 382 west to PA 177 South.

From Harrisburg take the Lewisberry Exit (35) of I-83, then PA 177 South.

From York take I-83 north. From I-83, take the Newberry Town exit (32), PA 382 west to Pa 177 South.

http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/giffordpinchot/giffordpinchot_mini.pdf



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 Open

Director - Delaware..... Yvonne Blades
[REDACTED]

Trail Coordinators:

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

Central Section..... Cindy Kelly

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 \$19 (which covers cost of M-DT maps and patch) to

Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc

Rick Maerker
[REDACTED]

Thereafter, the annual fee is \$7.

Life membership is available for \$250.

Visit the Mason Dixon Trail web site at:

www.masondixontrail.org

Minutes of June 27, 2009 M-DTS Board and Members Meeting

President Hooper called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. at the Rogers Tavern Sun Porch, Perryville, MD. Members present: Rob Campbell, Ron Gray, Bob Bennett, Yvonne Blades, Jim Hooper, Joyce Hooper.

Corrections to the Minutes of March 22, 2009

Yvonne Blades noted that two sentences under the central section regarding the quarry are inaccurate and need to be deleted. Jim Hooper moved their deletion and the motion carried unanimously without further discussion. There being no further offer of corrections, Jim Hooper moved that the minutes as amended be approved, and the motion carried without further discussion.

Trail Reports

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

No new action reported.

Central Section - Havre de Grace to Lock 12:
Coordinator: Cindy Kelly

Jim Hooper reports that the operators of the Conowingo Dam are currently formulating studies that they must make as a regular part of the re-licensing of their management of the dam. The process offers the Mason-Dixon Trail System an opportunity to testify regarding their interest in maintaining and improving their route for their trail in this area (Map 6: w-e, mi. 9.4). The dam serves also as the bridge across the Susquehanna at Rte. One.

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

Ron Gray reports no response since the last report to our request for permission to route the trail onto the golf course property (Map 2: w-e, mi. 22.7 - 24.0).

Ron reports that we have received approval for routing the trail onto the Game Lands 242, located north of Pinchot State Park near the Ski Roundtop Recreation Area (Map 1: w-e. mi. 7.00) but official papers so authorizing have not yet been signed. [Update: Since the meeting a copy of the permission papers has been received - more in the "News Since Last Meeting" section of this newsletter.]

Ron Gray and Rob Campbell report having completed a minor relocation in the Boring Bridge Road-Conewago Creek area (Map 2: w-e mi. 8.5) that now avoids a trafficked intersection.

Committee Reports

T-Shirt: Joyce Hooper reports four sales so far this last quarter.

Maps:

Rob Campbell, general editor of the new set of trail maps, expressed his thanks to Yvonne Blades (Director for the Delaware Section) and Ron Gray (Trail Coordinator for the Western Section) for their help in the major undertaking of recording all the changes in the trail's routing that have occurred in the large section of trails under their general administration.

Rob called attention to the printed application form on the inside of the trail map cover sheet and its inclusion of the revised fee structure for the different kinds and levels membership. The total fee for new membership is now \$19.00, \$12.00 of which is the application fee.

Rob reports that the cost per map of printing was \$8.76 and the total cost for printing 600 sets of maps was \$5,507 and the cost for mailing brought the cost per map set to \$10.84. We will charge \$14.00 per set for an individual purchase.

General Closing Discussion

As a potential feature for future quarterly newsletters, it was suggested that members be encouraged to submit to the newsletter editor a short commentary on a favorite section of trail.

Next Quarterly Meeting and Adjournment

President Hooper moved that the next meeting be held in Pinchot State Park in York County on September 20. The motion was passed and the meeting adjourned at 3: 45 p.m.

News and Notes Since Our Last Meeting

President's Message:

Bo Hopkins has taken a job with Maryland's Green River State Forest as their trail supervisor. We wish him luck with his new job. Since he is now living in western Maryland, we need to have other people take over his duties. Cindy Kelly has taken over his section of the trail. We still need volunteers to take over his other duties. One responsibility was as the trail supervisor for the middle section of the trail from Norman Wood bridge to Havre de Grace. The other responsibility was as the trail system's Maryland Representative. Both are board positions, so the appointments will be temporary until the next election. The job of trail supervisor for the eastern section remains open.

If you are interested in any of the positions, please contact Jim Hooper at [REDACTED]

New 2009 Edition of Mason-Dixon Trail Maps:

It's been five years since the last edition of maps and the Mason-Dixon Trail System and the map making technologies have both grown in quality during this time. Board member, Rob Campbell with assistance from Yvonne Blades and others has produced a handsome ten map set of the 210 mile trail, in the same format as the 2004 set, but with all the latest changes. For more details on how the maps were made and how a set may be purchased, please consult Dwayne Shreve's informative lead entry on our web site:

<http://www.masondixontrail.org>

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Keystone Trails Super Hike, September 12, Welcomes Additional Support Crew Volunteers

From: "[REDACTED]"
Subject: Volunteers Needed for Susquehanna Super Hike

Final preparations are on course for the Susquehanna Super Hike, the 25-mile trail challenge to be held on Saturday, September 12 on both sides of the Susquehanna River in York and Lancaster counties. We appreciate the efforts of all of your members who have already stepped forward to volunteer at the Start/Registration at the York Hiking Club clubhouse, as trail sweeps, and for ongoing trail maintenance. Without your efforts to maintain the Mason Dixon Trail and the Conestoga Trail, the Susquehanna Super Hike would not be possible.

We still have several volunteer spots to fill and are hoping that we might find some willing (and local) volunteers from among your members. Volunteers are needed for the following:

1. 2-3 volunteers to be at the Pequea Creek Campground from 4:30 AM to 5:30 AM to assist with loading the shuttle buses and parking

2. 2 volunteers that have large passenger vehicles and would be available to shuttle supplies and participants. Time commitment would be from approximately 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM.
3. 2-3 volunteers to assist with registration at the York Hiking Club clubhouse from 5:00 AM to 7:00 AM
4. 5+ volunteers to assist at the finish line at Pequea Creek Campground any time between 10:30 AM and 7:30 PM. Volunteers would assist with event timing, distributing awards, etc.

We would appreciate it if you could share this information with your members. Of course if some volunteers can only volunteer for shorter periods than listed above, we would be happy for their help as well! Please contact us [redacted] if you have any questions. Thanks again for your support of the Susquehanna Super Hike.

Sincerely,

The Susquehanna Super Crew [redacted]

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Update on Growing Recognition of and Support for the Mason-Dixon Trail

Jim Hooper writes: [redacted] of the KTA [Keystone Trails Association] and I met with Mike Pruss of the Game Commission. We got approval for the relocation of the trail into State Game lands 242 (Map 1: E-W Mile 2.1-2.4). We also discussed the National Recreation Trail application. It sounds like we will get that approval!"

Carpooling to the September 20 hike in Gifford Pinchot State Park Environs

For persons living east of the Susquehanna, Gifford Pinchot Park will seem to some to be a long drive. If carpooling will ease the travel burden, contact Bob Bennett, via email [redacted] for the possible coordination of travel plans.

On-Line Option for Receiving the M-DTS Newsletter

About a fifth of our members currently receive their newsletter by electronic mail. The economic and time-saving advantages for the organization as well as the ability, if need be, to communicate time-sensitive news items during the periods between the quarterly letters compensate in some measure for comfortable experience of reading a hard copy text. If you are not already on the list to receive the newsletter via email, and wish to be so, please let me, your newsletter editor, know at [redacted]