

Mason-Dixon Quarterly Meeting and Hike

**Quarterly
Hike and
Meeting**
Sunday,
Aug 28, 2011
Hike:
9:00 am
Meeting:
2:00 pm

The Sunday, August 28 hike and meeting will introduce the group to a new relocation in Game Land 242 plus show off some work that the M-DTS members together with the KTA and the Friends of Pinchot State Park did on the M-DTS in Pinchot Park. The meeting location will be in the Conewago Day Use Area on the east side of Gifford Pinchot State Park in the parking lot near the water. It is

off of Alpine Rd. Meet at 9 am for the 10.7-mile hike and at 2 pm for the meeting. The group will then car pool to the start of the hike. For people that want a shorter hike there are several options where a car can be placed in a parking lot part way to the start for the shorter hike. The meeting location will be along the water or if it is raining, under any free pavilion. If you have trouble locating the meeting, you can call Jim at (717) 951-6808.

For a map of the park, please visit:
www.friendsofpinchot.org/gallery/album/1492641

M-DTS on the Citizen's Advisory Council for White Clay Creek State Park

In its 146th session, the General Assembly of the Delaware State Senate passed a Resolution creating the Citizen's Advisory Council for White Clay Creek State Park. It is composed of major organizational users of the White Clay Creek and Preserve in Northern New Castle County, whose long term and continuing use and knowledge of the parkland is a valuable resource for the law makers. The M-DTS, whose trail is routed in the Northern Delaware portion of the White Clay Creek Valley (Map 9: West to East, mi. 11.9 mi. to 16.1), is a member of the Advisory Council and is currently represented by Bob Bennett. The trail, formerly routed through bordering piedmont forest, was consigned several years ago by the Park Service to the valley floor directly bordering the Creek. Bob will be exploring possibilities of restoring some of the former routing, and welcomes especially Delaware M-DTS members to join him in this and other advisory issues relating to our trail in White Clay.

Explore further:

<http://legis.delaware.gov/LIS/lis146.nsf/vwLegislation/SJR+6?OpenDocument>



Image from the relocation of the trail in Game Lands 242

MAP UPDATE

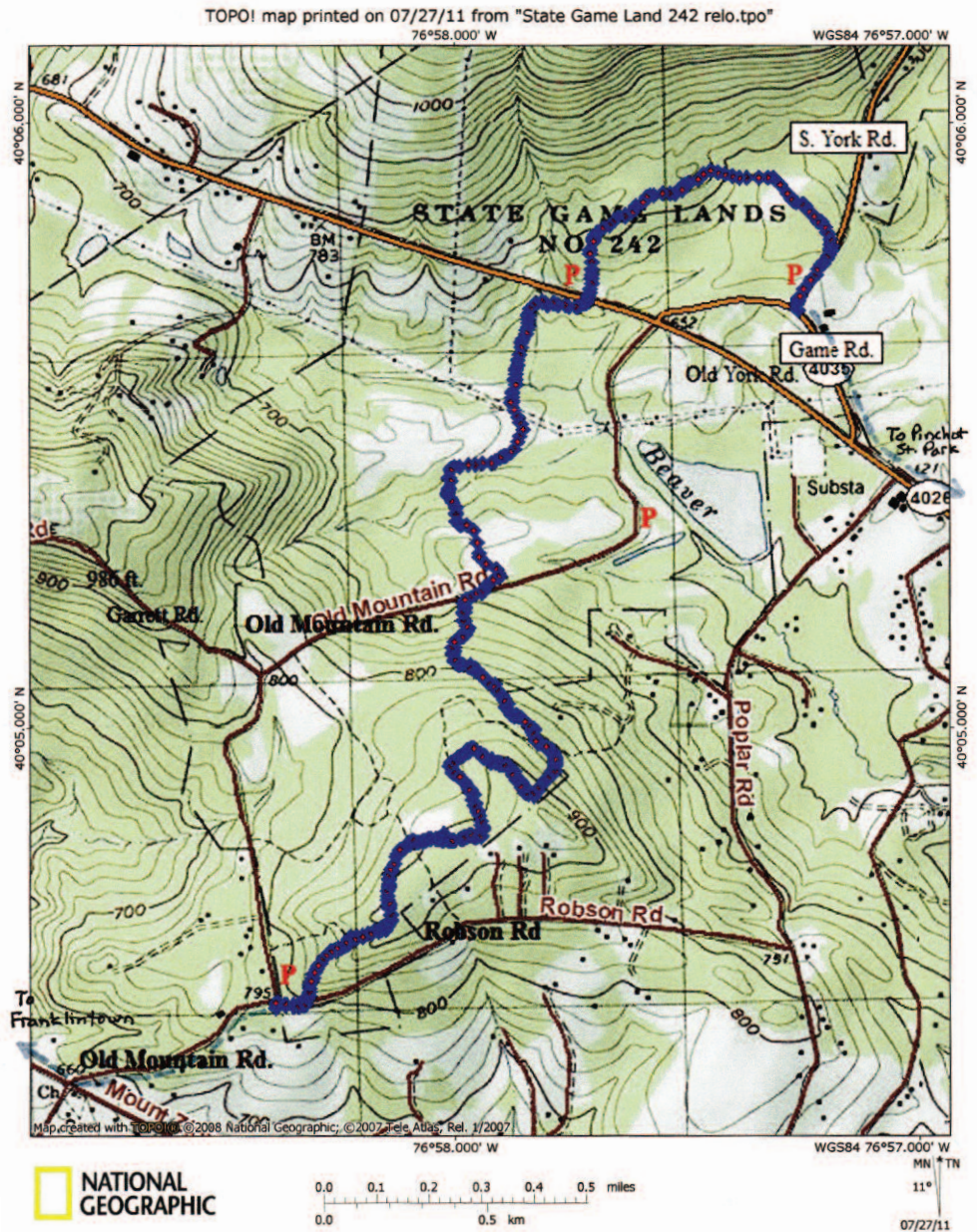
It is time to do another printing of the maps. Please send any updates to Rob Campbell at rbc1@psu.edu.

MDT Relocation in Game Lands No. 242

MDT Map 1

West to East

- 11.0 mi** : Continue straight onto Robson Road (listed as Robinson Road on the map). Old Mountain Road bears left
- 11.1 mi** : Bear left into woods on Game land trail.
- 11.2 mi** : Come out of woods onto wider Game land road. Bear right.
- 11.3 mi** : Bear left at next "intersection", pass through small meadow with fruit trees.
- 11.5 mi** : At next larger meadow, stay right along tree line.
- 11.8 mi** : Reach fenced area. Turn right and stay along fence line.
- 12.0 mi** : Turn left following fence line down steep slope. When fence is removed a switchback will be built here.
- 12.4 mi** : Leave fence line and turn right into the woods.
- 12.5 mi** : Reach Old Mountain Road. Turn right onto Old Mountain Road. After about 500 feet turn left onto game lands implement road. Follow it downhill to the left for about 100 feet and turn left across the field on the implement road.
- 12.6 mi** : Turn right downhill, again following an implement road.
- 12.7 mi** : At the top of the climb turn right and follow the implement road down and around the edge of the field bearing left as you go.
- 13.0 mi** : Continuing on the implement road diagonally down hill to the left under power lines. At the lower end of the power line clearing bear right down hill onto an abandoned road.
- 13.1 mi** : Bear right into heavy area of shrubs. The trail is a tunnel through the shrubs paralleling Old York Road at this point.
- 13.2 mi** : Climb to Old York Road and cross straight across and through the game lands parking lot.



- 13.4 mi** : Enter the woods past the gate.
- 13.5 mi** : At the small clearing the trail exits the clearing at about a two o'clock position.
- 13.9 mi** : Reach another small clearing. The trail exits the clearing almost directly across it.
- 14.0 mi** : Turn right onto S. York Road.

- 14.2 mi** : After passing a parking area on the right, turn left onto Game Road.
- 14.5 mi** : Bear left onto Old York Road.

Add 1.1 mile to each mileage indicator on Map 1 from here on.

Trail Signs



Skip Newcomer has started an effort to upgrade the Mason-Dixon Trail Signage. He took the signs that York Votech

routed for Ron Gray a number of years ago and widened the routing. Joyce Hooper, together with Sarah Tateosian and Lori Britton, repainted the signs in a three-color scheme.

In addition, Skip made a shop jig to rout posts for blazing. He also made a cap for the top of the post (see photo to right). Contact Skip at skipnewc@hotmail.com if you want details on how he built the posts.

In addition to the 7"x10" trail signs, small 3-1/2"x3-1/2" signs will be used to create attention to sections of trail where there may be restricted land use issues. Some of these are already noted in the map packets published by the Mason-Dixon Trail. The signs will be placed on the sites where, for instance, a "property owner has requested" that hikers "please stay on the trail" or in other locations as a reminder that this trail is a "recreational trail for foot travel only". A third sign message is a protection notice that emphasizes the carry in-carry out policy.

The first of these new signs was installed in the Wrightsville area and this becomes the second part of the Mason-Dixon initiative. Organized work trips are now being planned for a weekend day during each month (more or less) and are open (as always) for the public. The effort is two fold. One, there is an open invitation for



The new sign (above) and the post at Murphy's Hollow Side Trail (below)



individuals, families, students and civic groups to participate. Two, is to maintain this hiking trail in harmony with the natural environment with its various ecosystems and habitat. The work trips are organized to teach and discover. There are knowledgeable people, members of local hiking clubs, helping and working with interested individuals and with local people in trail communities along the way. Typical activity on these trips in addition to installing new signage, will be to repair the tread way, add and maintain water breaks for storm water control, trim the corridor and the blaze sight line, protect the wet areas and otherwise minimize hiking impact.

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GAME LAND 242 RELOCATION



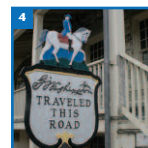
WHERE ON THE TRAIL?

ANSWERS TO LAST ISSUES CHALLENGE

Thanks to all who submitted their guesses to last issue's photo challenge. Although we had no clear winner, we had several people get one right or a couple partially correct. Stay tuned for more challenges in future issues—in the meantime keep hiking and looking around!



1 Principio Furnace
Ironmasters Mansion
Map 7
Mile 6.7 (W to E)
Mile 8.0 (E to W)



4 Historic Rodgers
Tavern in Perryville
Map 7
Mile 3.0 (W to E)
Mile 11.5 (E to W)



2 Barred Owl Nest in
Elk Neck State Forest
(slightly off trail)
Map 8
Mile 3.1 (W to E)
Mile 13.2 (E to W)



5 Training Course
Map 9
@ Mile 11.7 (W to E)
@ Mile 7.2 (E to W)



3 Arc Corner Marker
in White Clay Creek
SP (slightly off trail)
Map 9
Mile 13.9 (W to E)
Mile 4.9 (E to W)



6 Fish Propagation
Ponds near Elkton
Map 8
Mile 13.3 (W to E)
Mile 2.8 (E to W)

The M-DTS Newsletter is published about four weeks in advance of each of the four M-DTS board meetings held annually. Submissions are welcomed.

The Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc. is a non-profit 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

Rick Maerker

13 Denise Drive

Thornton, PA 19373

Thereafter, the annual fee is \$7. Life membership is available for \$250.

Visit the Mason-Dixon Trail web site at: www.masondixontrail.org