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# MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM, Inc.

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## M-DTS NEWSLETTER November, 2010

M-DTS Quarterly Hike and Meeting  
Saturday, December 4, 2010

The York Hiking Club Cabin is the Meeting Site for Both Events:

**Our late fall hike features one of the most celebrated sections of the  
Mason-Dixon Trail**

Our morning hike will cover about 6.5 miles of scenic Mason-Dixon Trail from Apollo Park south to the York Hiking Club Cabin near Otter Creek Crossing (see M-DTS map 4). This portion of the M-D Trail includes lands now owned by York County Parks and the PA. Division of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNCR), and includes two splendid views of the Susquehanna River. Hikers will gather at the York Hiking Cabin at 8:45 a.m. and car shuttle from there to the start of the hike. Bring your lunch for social time following the hike, and we hope all who are interested in the workings of the organization will stay for the Board Meeting. The quarterly meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m., and persons attending just the meeting are welcomed and encouraged to bring a lunch and arrive at the cabin by 1:00 a.m. to join the hikers for a social time before the meeting.

**Driving Directions to the York Hiking Cabin:** Heading north on Rte 425 from the Otter Creek Campground, in 3/10ths of a mile, the entrance to the York Hiking Club parking area and cabin will be on your right near a sharp bend in the road at the circled "p".  
**From the South:** Cross the Susquehanna River on Hwy 1, turn right on Rte. 74 (Delat Road) to Airville. At Airville turn right on Rte 425 (Furnace Rd.) Stay on Rte 425 as it descends to the Susquehanna, crosses Otter Creek and passes Otter Creek Camp Grounds. In 3/10ths of a mile the entrance to the York Hiking Club parking area and cabin will be on your right near a sharp bend in the road (map 4, e-w 0.3 mi. at the circled "p" on the map).

**From the North:** From Wrightsville, take Rte 625 S. to Craley, (about 6 miles), turn left on Rte 425 (New Bridgeville Road). About 2.5 mi. stay on Rte 425 when it turns left at Furnace Road. About six miles Rte 425 descends to the border with the Susquehanna and the York Hiking Club entrance drive way is on the left. On M-DTS Trail Map 4, the York Hiking Club is at the circled p near the red dotted line just north of the Otter Creek Campground.





**MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM INC**President ..... Jim Hooper  
[REDACTED]Vice President ..... Ron Gray  
[REDACTED]Secretary & Newsletter Ed. .... Robert Bennett  
[REDACTED]Treasurer ..... Rick Maerker  
[REDACTED]Director - Pennsylvania ..... Rob Campbell  
[REDACTED]

Director - Maryland ..... Open

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

## Trail Coordinators:

Western Section ..... Ron Gray  
[REDACTED]Central Section ..... Cindy Kelly  
[REDACTED]

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.)

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.

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Visit the Mason Dixon Trail web site at:

www.masondixontrail.org

## Minutes of June 19, 2010

### M-DTS Board and Members Meeting

Mason-Dixon Trail System Quarterly Meeting was called to order by President Hooper at 1:30 p.m. on June 19, 2010 at the Hooper Farm.

Members present: Charles Albin, Bob Bennett, Yvonne Blades, Rob Campbell, Ron Gray, Jim Hooper, Joyce Hooper.

**The Treasurer's Report** Rick Maerker reported by mail a beginning quarterly checking account balance as of 1/19/10 of \$1618.59 and an income during the period of \$2917 from membership dues, sale of maps/guides, patches, T-shirts, and expenses during the period of \$975.68 related to trail maintenance, production and mailing of the newsletter, printing of M-DTS brochures, refreshments in conjunction with the National Trails Day celebrations, and production of the ballots for election of officers, leaving an ending quarterly checking account balance on 6/19/10 of \$3560.02. Ron Gray moved acceptance of the report. The motion passed unanimously, pending the regular audit.

#### Report on the June 5 National Scenic Trail Celebration

The National Park's ceremony at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, June 5 at Urey Overlook, near Otter Creek, honoring the national recreation trail designation marked an important moment in the history of the trail. Good attendance and formal presentations by the National Parks representatives made it a memorable occasion, and fine weather enhanced the already festive mood. The Park Service praised this 30-mile section of the 193-mile Mason-Dixon Trail that follows the lower Susquehanna River from Wrightsville to the Norman Wood Bridge, its beautiful views, deep ravines with waterfalls, and several big climbs and descents to where streams have carved out canyons in the river hills. The national representatives noted that the trail accentuates the beauty of the area without impinging on its natural environment, and they praised highly those who fashioned the trail for their work. A day prior to the event *The York Dispatch* ran a feature article by John Walk on the national award and the event honoring it. [REDACTED]

To commemorate the designation the Park Service offers for purchase 3.5" by 3.5" and 8" by 8" inch signs that call attention to the distinction accorded this section of trail. In discussion of this offer, the question was raised whether to modify our current Mason-Dixon signs to give the name a higher profile. Also proposed was that we display together, in appropriate locations, the National Park Service sign and our existing Mason-Dixon sign.

It was decided that we purchase two of the larger National Park signs to post at the north and south ends of the 30 mile designated trail and purchase several of the smaller national park signs to place at interim spots. Areas recommended for signs were High Point, Wrightsville entry, the entrance into the woods at High Point from the south, one at the top of High Point, and one at the bottom of Klines run. Ron Gray proposed that we purchase ten small signs and two large one. The motion passed.



### **Committee Reports:**

**T-Shirts:** Joyce Hooper distributed the designs proposed for the shirts. The one submitted by B&T Sports was chosen. A 3% discount is offered for an order of 45 or more. Stitching of the logo may be on front or back (?). And order of forty-eight can specify a selection of both kinds. And order of four dozen hats, twenty each for the two choices for logo format, with a purchase price for members of \$20.00. The color options for the hats are green and brown.

**Maps:** Rob Campbell has received Mason-Dixon Trail files to send to DCNR for their web site.

**Mason Dixon Trail Web Site:** Mike Callabrese has provided a distance calculator for the Mason-Dixon web site. It is the last entry in the web site. Mike cautions: "Please make sure that Javascript is enabled on your browser in order for this application to work properly."

### **Meetings**

a) Charlie Albin reported that Wrightsville's Comprehensive Planning Committee has discussed a plan to upgrade the water front to include a relocation of the M-DTS to along the river. Support exists from local businesses.

b) York County Study. Support exists from local businesses for a York County Trail Study. The administration for York County has the funds needed to study all the trails. We need to be kept advised of this activity.

### **Announcements**

The second Super Hike will be held on the first weekend after Labor Day. It will be slightly longer than the inaugural last year. The Trail Dawgs' annual Longest Day run on the Mason-Dixon Trail along the Susquehanna is being run as we meet.

At 3:47 there being no further business the chair entertained a motion to adjourn, and it was passed without debate.

**Editor's Note:** Minutes of Board Meetings of the Mason-Dixon Trail System only become official documents when the version that appears in the newsletter is reviewed at the following board meeting and where necessary corrected. The corrected version becomes the minutes as a legal document.

## Minutes of September 12, 2010 M-DTS Board and Members Meeting

President Hooper called the meeting to order at 2:23 p.m. at the Conowingo Visitor Center. Members present: Ron Gray, Ron Green, Jim Hooper, Joyce Hooper, Cindy Kelly, Skip Newcomer.

### Approval of Agenda

The proposed agenda was distributed and accepted without out amendment or addition.

### Delay in review of minutes from the June 14, 2010 meeting

The minutes of the June meeting were not reviewed or approved due to the absence of the current secretary.

**Motions:** The following motions were made during the meeting:

1. Ron Gray moved to approve the spending of no more than \$3000.00 to reconstruct the bridge across Sawmill Run. The move was seconded by Ron Green and approved unanimously.

2. Joyce Hooper moved to approve our pricing for the Mason-Dixon hats purchased by the clothing committee for sale. The motion was seconded by Ron Gray and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

3. Joyce Hooper moved to purchase a M-DTS banner for display at functions similar to the PA Super Hike. The cost will not exceed \$25.00. Ron Gray seconded the motion and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

## Other Items of Business

**Treasurer's Report:** Jim Hooper presented the report submitted by treasurer, Rick Maerker. The reconstruction of the bridge across Sawmill Run is a major expense facing the organization.

**National Recreation Trail:** Jim Hooper proposed that we apply for national recreational trail status for the section of trail from Norman Wood Bridge past the Muddy Creek area. With the full approval of the Board, Jim has agreed to coordinate the effort.

**Coordinating Efforts with Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway (LSHG):** Jim Hooper related that he, Ron Gray, and Ron Green met with Mary [REDACTED] executive director of the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway (LSHG). They planned to share Geographic Information System (GIS) data for more accurate mapping, pursue off-road relocations for portions of the trail in Cecil and Harford Counties, and share signs where both trails coincide.



Off-Road Routings sought for section of trail in York County. Jim Hooper informed the board that [REDACTED] of the York County Visitors Bureau is conducting a master study of York County Trails and will make suggestions on how to move the MDTs off the roads where it currently is not so.

Affiliation with the American Hiking Society Under Consideration: Jim Hooper asked everyone to research the American Hiking Society and determine whether a club membership would be advantageous.

Shared Signage Option: Cindy Kelly and Ron Green provided an update on efforts to share signage with the North Park Loop and Lower Susquehanna Greenway Trail. Further discussion is necessary to standardize the marking.

Coordinating with Youth Groups: Skip Newcomer discussed the benefits of engaging local youth groups in the maintenance of trail sections. Concerns were raised over the scope of the work. Skip will work to limit the scope and ensure that the necessary oversight is on-site.

Trail Marking in Otter Creek Campground. Ron Gray noted that there were mis-markings of the trail where it passes through the Otter Creek Campground. Ron in conjunction with maintainers will monitor the area and work with Otter Creek Campground to maintain correct blazes.

Closing Announcements: Jim Hooper encouraged all members to seek ways to advertise the M-DTS. Jim noted that our web master, Dwayne Shreve, has requested more of a partnership between our organization and local biking clubs concerning trail maintenance.

### **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m. by President Hooper. The next general meeting will be at 2:00 p.m. on 4 December 2010 at the York Hiking Club Cabin.

Minutes Submitted by Ron Green

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## **Some Up-dates and Items Since Our Last Meeting**

**GIS Data Base for the M-DTS:** A GIS database for the Mason-Dixon Trail developed by Rob Campbell and his students is now in place and may be consulted by referencing the following website: **ExplorePATrails.com** Do check out this very useful and interactive web site.

### **An Extraordinary Map of the White Clay Creek Watershed**

Benefitting from the status of White Clay Creek as a National Wild and Scenic River within both the states of Delaware and Pennsylvania, the White Clay Creek Management Committee has received funding from the National Park Service to produce a scenic Trail Map and Visitor Guide of extraordinary beauty and clarity. The map displays green parklands against a tan background and visualizes the remarkable scope of the natural area that includes three parklands, Judge Morris Estate, Carpenter Recreation Area, and Middle Run Valley (county owned), that are adjacent to the preserve in Delaware. The preserve, which includes the watershed in Pennsylvania where the Creek originates, sports eleven independent trails systems within its piedmont borders.. The Mason-Dixon Trail, with its stream-side routing along the main stem of White Clay Creek that it closely borders, is marked prominently by twelve circled red MD decals, and it anchors the map system. Included as well in the brochure are prized photographs by the nationally distinguished nature photographer, [REDACTED] who resides in a Pennsylvania portion of the valley. The brochure invites the reader "Visit us on line at [www.whiteclay.org](http://www.whiteclay.org)."

### **Loop Hikes Incorporating the Mason-Dixon Trail**

President Hooper invites members to share with the membership favorite loop hikes that incorporate a section of the Mason-Dixon Trail. If you have a favorite hike of this nature, you are encouraged to provide a description of it and forward it by email to any of the officers of your choosing on the list on the left hand column of page 2.

### **State of Delaware Trail Summit Conference - Sands Hotel, Rehoboth, October 14**

Bob Bennett attended above conference. There were three concurrent morning sessions and four concurrent afternoon sessions with a total of twenty-two presenters and a general session titled "Trail Survey Report and Ranking Trail Issues for Statewide Trail Plan" with two presenters, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] from the Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation. Although it was far too much information to digest with any clarity, the Conference may serve in having identified a broad range of topics and persons with recognized knowledge and authority in the various areas to whom to turn where they relate to our concerns. For example, the session on Trail Users included spokespersons from pedestrian, horse-back, and bicycle groups. The spokespersons for the session on Regional and Long Distance Trails were all officials: [REDACTED], WILMAPCO, for East Coast Greenway; [REDACTED], St. Div. of Parks and Rec., for the Northern Delaware Greenway; [REDACTED], Newark Parks and Rec Dir for the Hall Trail; and [REDACTED], Army Corp of Engineers, for the C&D Canal Trail.



## 2010 FINANCIAL PICTURE OF M-DTS ACTIVITY

OPENING BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCOUNT AS OF 1/19/10			\$1618.59
<b>INCOME</b>			
	Dues/Donations (89 "old"; 51 "new")	\$2697.00	
	Maps/Guides (134 sold)	\$1343.61	
	Patches (24 sold)	\$28.00	
	1 T-shirts + 7 hats	\$120.00	
	Contributions	\$210.00	
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>\$4398.61</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
	Administration		
	1/14/10 Yvonne Blades (misc. exp. for 2nd half, 2009))	\$99.87	
	1/14/10 Jim Hooper (300 M-DTS brochures)	\$62.01	
	1/14/10 Bob Bennett (ballot expenses)	\$11.94	
	1/14/10 Rick Maerker (Treas postage for 2009)	\$92.55	
	4/1/10 Bob Bennett (March newsltr expenses)	\$78.75	
	4/10/10 Jim Hooper (postage and parking)	\$5.73	
	5/26/10 Yvonne Blades (mng dues, Mar, May nwsltrs)	\$217.55	
	6/1/10 Jim Hooper (300 M-DTS brochures)	\$54.06	
	6/11/10 Robert Bennett (May newsletter)	\$110.45	
	6/14/10 Sarah Tateosian (rfrshmnts Trails Day celeb)	\$35.00	
	6/14/10 Joyce Hooper (rfrshmnts Trails Day celeb)	\$81.34	
	8/7/10 Jim Hooper (300 brochures & blank DVD)	\$70.50	
	8/7/10 Jim Hooper (downpayment for hats)	\$60.00	
	8/7/10 B & T Sportswear (54 caps/hats)	\$725.22	
	9/2/10 Jim Hooper (300 brochures and envelopes)	\$56.88	
	9/11/10 Dwayne Shreve (mwl internet domain name)	\$30.51	
	11/11/10 Jim Hooper (501 M-DTS brochures)	\$103.87	
	Sub-Total	\$1896.23	
	Trail Maintenance		
	4/10/10 Jim Hooper for brush axe	\$21.97	
	5/3/10 Ron Gray (chainsaw blade sharpening)	\$25.44	
	5/13/10 Allen Britton (laminated signs)	\$43.75	
	6/1/10 Jim Hooper (1 gal. paint)	\$35.27	
	6/29/10 American Trails (trail marker signs)	\$74.00	
	8/7/10 Jim Hooper (new carburator for weed whckr)	\$126.62	
	11/11/10 Ron Gray (mtrls to rebuild Swml brdg)	45.13	
	Sub-Total	\$372.18	
	Donations/Dues		
	7/12/10 KTA 2010-2011 dues	\$50.00	
	Sub-Total	\$50.00	
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$2318.41</b>
ENDING BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCOUNT AS OF 11/30/10			<b>\$3698.79</b>
	CD — 30-month		\$4248.04
	CD — 24-month		\$5386.17
<b>TOTAL ASSETS AS OF 12/5/10</b>			<b>\$13333.00</b>