



M-D-T-S NEWSLETTER February, 2008

**A Winter's Hike in Elk Neck State Forest - 9 a.m.
and
Meeting on Saturday March 1 - 2 p.m.**

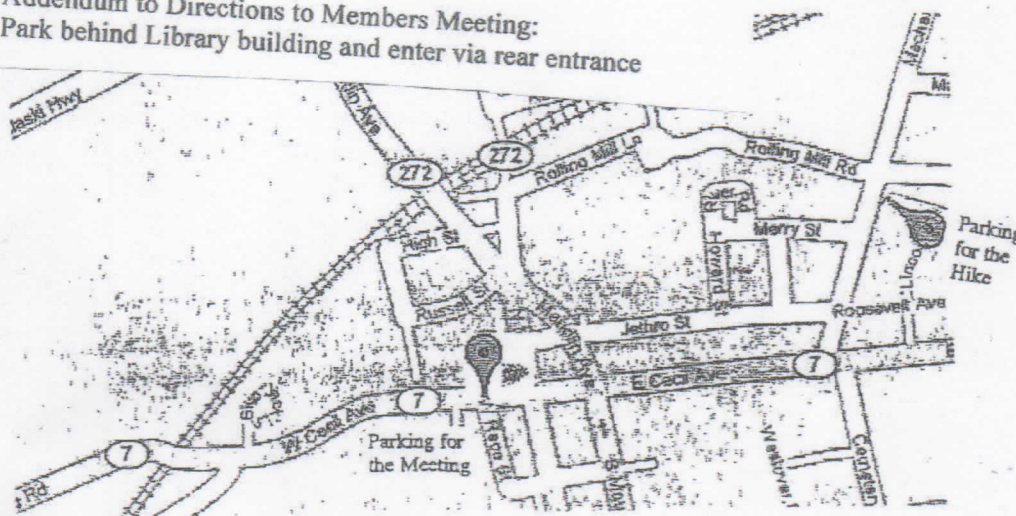
Hike the Mason-Dixon Trail in Elk Neck State Forest

Approximately nine miles, this hike, led by Yvonne Blades, is, as she describes it, "easy, mostly flat through Elk Neck State Forest, featuring nice woods, a bridge built by M-D-T-S, and signs of beaver activity" or, as the Elk Neck State Parks notes: "The Mason Dixon Trail System crosses between the Diggs Farm Tract and the Main Tract and gives avid hikers a pristine pass through the densely forested Plum Creek Watershed." **Directions to the 9:00 a.m. meeting place for the hike:** From 1-95 take exit 100 (North East/Rising Sun) in Cecil County. Go south on Rte. 272 towards North East. Turn left on Rte 40, and after 0.8 miles turn right on Mechanics Valley Rd. Go about 0.5 miles and park in large parking lot by church on the left side of the road. **See the marker on the map below.** It will be a one-way, point to point hike, and a shuttle will be worked out at the meeting place. A shorter noon hike may be added to the activities. Check the M-D-T-S website for its posting.

The Members and Board Meeting

The Members and Board Meeting will convene at 2:00 p.m. at the North East Public Library, 106 West Cecil Ave. **Directions:** From 1-95 take exit 100 (North East/Rising Sun) in Cecil County. Go south on Rte. 272 towards North East. Cross Route 40 (Rte 272 south of Rte 40 is N. Mauldin Ave.). Shortly after crossing over tracks, 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 will be very quickly on the left. There is a parking lot on the left side of Cecil Ave. just past Race St. **See marker on map below.**

Addendum to Directions to Members Meeting:
Park behind Library building and enter via rear entrance



MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM INCPresident 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 under secretary 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 includes 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 M-DTS web site at:
www.mason-dixontrail.org

Your 2008 M-DTS membership dues are now due. We hope you will continue to support the Mason-Dixon Trail. An addressed return envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Minutes of the November 17, 2007 M-DTS Board and Members' Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Hooper at 2:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Meeting Room in Perryville, Maryland. Attendees included Jim Hooper, Mike Calabrese, Rob Campbell, Joyce Hooper, Ron Gray, Yvonne Blades, Matt Bazar, Dwayne Shreve, Bob Bennett, Mary Nickerson (guest), Jim Wright, and Cindy Majewski.

Corrections to Minutes of Meeting of September 15, 2007 as recorded in the October 2007 newsletter:

Ron Gray note that in the item calling for volunteers to fill the positions of Trail Coordinator for the eastern and central sections (p.3), the second sentence, beginning "These are trail maintenance positions ..." is inaccurate and should be crossed out. Also he notes that the picture on p. 5 is not of Pequea but is a view of Mill Creek just north of Lock 12.

Trail Reports

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

Ron Gray reports that a 191 acre parcel of land formerly in private hands in the area of Apollo Park has been purchased by York County for addition to the park. An article on this purchase appeared in the *York Daily Register* 12.31.2007 and may be accessed via Google.

The York County Farm and Natural Lands Trust is currently working on gaining preservation status for several native Indian sites in the area of Rte. 624.

M-DTS has sought permission from Pennsylvania Power and Light to route our trail through a portion of their land at Brunner Island. PP&L communicated that this request will be tabled until work that is being done there is completed.

Jim Hooper noted that a section of PP&L land had been marked, "no trespassing" by the owner of an adjacent farm. The land is part of the land that PP&L is planning to sell. The question now is who will be managing this area. It was expected that DCNR (Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources) would be, but more recently it appears that the Game Land Commission is a candidate.

Central Section - Havre de Grace to Lock 12: Coordinator: Bo Hopkins (not present)

Dave Linthicum reports by email that the Security Office of PP&L denied a request from the Mason-Dixon Trail System for permission to reroute a portion of the trail in the area of the Conowingo Dam through land owned by PP&L.

Ron Gray and Jim Hooper reported that the portion of the trail from Rte. 165 to Havre de Grace needs some reblazing. Any who are interested in helping with this effort should contact Bo.

Eastern Section - Eastern Terminus at Chadds Ford to Perryville.

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

Bob Bennett noted that [REDACTED], White Clay Creek Wild and Scenic Program Administrator is gathering support from allied groups for a meeting with the new president of the University of Delaware, [REDACTED] to discuss the disposition of a parcel of University land that is in the watershed corridor and is bordered by land currently in and under the management and protection of the Preserve. The Mason-Dixon Board Members by telephone survey prior to the present meeting voted to support the inclusion of the Mason-Dixon Trail System with the other outdoors and environmental groups who are signatories to this letter of request to [REDACTED].

Other Business

Map Committee:

Yvonne Blades and Rob Campbell will review the changes in the trail since the most recent maps were published and report their recommendations for when and whether a new set is likely to be needed.

T-Shirt Sales

Joyce Hooper reports that the first order of t-shirts has sold out and a second order is in progress.

Recent Meetings

Pennsylvania Highlands: Jim Hopper reported that he and [REDACTED] of the AMC went to meetings at Conowago, Carroll, and East Manchester townships, focusing on getting the MDTs off the roads and sharing the route with the Highland Trail. The Appalachian Mountain Club is supporting this effort, and the Pennsylvania Highlands has a federal grant to aid it. PA Highlands trail is a multistate trail.

Rivers Conservation Plan for the Conowago Creek

RCP: Rob Campbell reports that the RCP is developing a plan and that it is important that we maintain communications and provide assistance.

Susquehanna Greenway: The recent meeting of the Susquehanna Greenway focused attention on land stewardship and negotiations with PP&L.

York Hiking Club: Joyce Hooper reports that the York Hiking Club will be sponsoring a series of hikes on the Mason-Dixon Trail from March through November this year. Specific dates and other information can be found by referencing the "Hiking Dates" option on the main page of its web site: <http://www.yorkhikingclub.com/>

Funding for New Trail Work Equipment: Joyce Hooper moved that we increase our previous allocation of funds for new trail-building equipment from \$600.00 to \$1,000.00 to facilitate the present project needs of Bo Hopkins. Bo has recently taken a safety course in trail construction and received certification from the Maryland Parks System. Rob Campbell seconded the motion to increase the funding as requested, and it passed unanimously.

Keystone Trail Association Distance Hike Planned: The KTA is planning a 25 mile hike on August 23rd as a way to attract younger members. This will include portions of the MDTs and Conestoga Trails. Jim Hooper asked whether this event was one the M-DTS should support in some manner. There was a general endorsement of their event without significant discussion or special commitment at this time.

York County Conservation Line: Rob Campbell reported that there is an attempt to establish a loose association of groups in York County to enhance the impact of support for trail issues that the membership groups have in common. The umbrella group would not be an active political entity, but rather one that collectively gathers and shares information on matters of common interest.

Cecil and Harford County Members Support: Because of present needs of upgrading and relocating portions of the M-DTS in these counties, help is needed to organize members in the Maryland counties in the tasks of trail planning and political negotiation. A possible initial scenario for proceeding in this effort posed was for Yvonne Blades, Bo Hopkins, and Cindy Majewski to serve as resource persons in the area of trail upgrading and/or rerouting and Matt Bazar, Luke Yackley, and a third member from Cecil County focus on seeking advice and assistance from political authorities and private entities that typically is needed in an effort of this kind. Yvonne Blades and Bob Bennett will attempt to set up a core group meeting to begin work on this effort.

Site and Time for Next Meeting: Jim Hooper proposed 2:00 p.m. Saturday, March 1, 2008 at Perryville for the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

News Items and Activities Since the Last Meeting

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Rick Maerker reports that as of December 27, 2007 the checking account stood at \$5,383.59, which together with two certificates of deposit brought the total assets of the organization to \$14,307.32 with income over the period derived from dues and donations, and the sale of maps, patches, and t-shirts, and expenses over the period for production and distribution of the newsletters, t-shirts, and membership brochures. This represents an increase over this time last year in the checking account of \$778.10 and savings accounts of \$774.86.

Protection of the Quarry Land One-Step Closer:

Jim Hooper received word from [REDACTED] of the York County Farm and Natural Lands Trust just days before this newsletter went to print that a price has been agreed upon for the Quarry Land. Jim writes, "There are still issues to work out with the township but this is a big step forward."

Changes in the Offing for the Trail in White Clay Creek State Park:

Bob Bennett and Yvonne Blades met recently with the Trails manager for the Delaware State Parks, [REDACTED] who wished to inform us that numerous old trails in Walter S. Carpenter State Park were badly eroded because of poor construction and increased use, and that the Park management will be closing much of the area perhaps as soon as late this year for redesign of the trails system. Moreover, he said that the current thinking of the State Parks Administration is that once the work is completed, the Mason-Dixon Trail not be routed back into the steep hillside terrain, but be directed along the Pomeroy Rail Trail System now in construction, which parallels the stream. These proposed changes will likely initiate new thinking regarding a major rerouting that might follow more closely the Mason-Dixon line in this area and take advantage of the extensive open space of the Fair Hill Natural Area.

Iron Hill Restoration Up-Date

Jim Neal and Bob Bennett will be attending a meeting on February 7 at the New Castle County District Office, Old Rte. 896 near Glasgow for a status report on the restoration work currently under way in Iron Hill Park, through which the trail passes and which prominently displays a memorial to *Robert Yost*, the founder of the M-DTS (See map 9: 3.5 mi w-e).

T-Shirts Now Available. Joyce Hooper reports, "we have restocked our sizes and are ready to fill orders. We feel this is a great way to advertise and give information on location of the MDTs. So as a club member support your club and enjoy showing and telling." Please refer to the MDTs web site for more information and an order form. The address is on the bottom of the first column on page two.

2007 FINANCIAL PICTURE OF M-DTS ACTIVITY

OPENING BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCOUNT AS OF 1/1/07		\$4198.52
INCOME		
Dues/Donations (96 "old"; 47 "new")	\$2170.00	
Maps/Guides (~85 sold)	\$819.00	
Patches (23 sold)	\$46.00	
T-shirts sold	\$1015.00	
TOTAL INCOME		\$4050.00
EXPENSES		
Administration		
1/6/07 (postage)	\$8.10	
2/4/07 (dues mailing)	\$239.95	
2/27/07 (February nwsltr)	\$94.30	
3/27/07 (new deposit slips)	\$9.75	
3/30/07 (trail relo copies & postage)	\$33.88	
6/8/07 (postage for new member guides/patches)	\$53.30	
6/20/07 (May newsletter and brochures)	\$85.29	
6/21/07 (postage and directory copying)	\$11.59	
7/19/07 (address labels and stamped envelopes)	\$245.99	
8/14/07 relocation copies and T-shirt expenses	\$41.83	
8/20/07 (Aug nwsltr and T-shirt form copying)	\$120.36	
8/20/07 (48 T-shirts & set-up costs)	\$456.00	
8/30/07 (postage for mailing T-shirts)	\$15.17	
9/7/07 (copying and mailing 100 brochures)	\$24.00	
9/17/07 (T-shirt mailing costs)	\$5.83	
9/17/07 (brochure copying)	\$5.41	
9/17/07 (first re-order of 36 T-shirts)	\$271.00	
9/29/07 (50 copies of relo)	\$8.22	
10/11/07 (T-shirt mailing costs)	\$10.00	
10/11/07 (return address labels)	\$21.70	
11/1/07 (October newsletter)	\$75.38	
12/17/07 (T-shirt mailing costs)	\$21.28	
12/17/07 (Treasurer mailing expenses for 2007)	\$52.76	
Sub-Total		\$1911.09
Trail Maintenance		
2/26/07 (posts for High Point relo)	\$68.27	
6/20/07 (chain saw overhaul)	\$136.84	
7/19/07 (2 posts for marking Trail)	\$13.66	
8/4/07 (6 posts for marking Trail near Peachy Btm)	\$40.96	
9/7/07 (1 gal paint and T-shirt mailing expenses)	\$35.07	
10/11/07 (1 gal. of paint)	\$30.73	
12/17/07 (bridge repairs)	\$28.31	
Sub-Total		\$353.84
Donations/Dues		
Farms and Natural Lands Trust of York County	\$500.00	
Central PA Conservancy	\$50.00	
KTA membership renewal for 2007	\$50.00	
Sub-Total		\$600.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$2864.93
ENDING BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCOUNT AS OF 12/27/07		\$5383.59
CD — 30-month		\$3933.38
CD — 24-month		\$4990.35
TOTAL ASSETS OF M-DTS, INC. AS OF 12/27/07		\$14307.32