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# MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM, Inc.

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## M-DTS NEWSLETTER August, 2007

### Two Hike Options and Meeting on Saturday September 15

Hoping for a crowd, new members and old, our September meeting features the choice of two scenic hike options: an 8 mile hike departing from the boat launch in Wrightsville at 9:00 a.m. or a 3 mile hike at noon, that also departs from the Wrightsville boat launch. These will be followed at 2:00 p.m. by a covered dish luncheon (bring an item to share) and business meeting at Jim and Joyce Hoopers' farm.

#### **Directions to the boat launch:**

From Lancaster side go west on Rt. 30, exit on the Columbia Exit and turn left toward Columbia. Turn right at second light onto Rt 462 and the Wrightsville-Columbia Bridge. Proceed across the bridge and turn right at end of bridge and then right again under the bridge on to Rt 624. boat launch. (Map 3 has a P where the boat launch is)

From York side, go toward Lancaster (east) on Rt 30. Exit on Wrightsville exit, and go left. Go down to the light and turn left onto Rt 462. Just before bridge turn left and go down under the bridge.

#### **The Hikes:**

The 8-mile hike from Wrightsville to Fishing Creek includes latest trail relocations including High Point, the best view on the trail with a 360° view of the Susquehanna River Lancaster, and York counties. A combination of road and woods walking.

The 3-mile hike at noon will go up to the top of High Point on the new relocations.

#### **The 2:00 P.M. Meeting:**

##### **Directions to the Hooper's Farm:**

For those going straight to the meeting, follow Rt 624 beyond the quarry, up the hill and turn right onto Hilt Rd. (first paved road). At the next intersection, Hilt Rd turns into Trinity Church Rd. Proceed down the hill to the second road, Kline Run.

[REDACTED]

If anyone has problems call Jim or Joyce at [REDACTED]



**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  
[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.

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Visit the M-DTS web site at:  
[www.mason-dixontrail.org](http://www.mason-dixontrail.org)

**Minutes of the June 16, 2007 M-DTS Members' Meeting**

The meeting took place at 2:00 p.m. at the York Hiking Club Cabin, Rte 425 just north of Otter Creek Campground, following the work party at Apollo Park (Map 5). Work hike attendees included Jim Hooper, Joyce Hooper, Tom Morley, Charles Albin, Ron Gray, and Rob Campbell. Joining them for the meeting were Bob Bennett and Jeff Levan.

**Financial Report.** Jim Hooper related report from M-DTS Treasurer Rick Maerker that the organization's present account stands at \$13,307.00.

**Trail Reports****Western Section – Lock 12 to Whiskey Springs:  
Coordinator: Ron Gray**

Gifford Pinchot State Park, from the camp ground to the dam, trail markings gave been refreshed.

In the southern portion of the western sector, over the past 16 months, new trail has been put in from Wrightsville to High Point and to Knight's View Road. On Oakland Run there will need to be a relocation because flooding has washed out part of the trail. A short section of trail in Apollo Park was relocated by the work party prior to this June meeting.

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

Ron Gray, Bo Hopkins, and Jim Hooper examined the area just south of Conowingo for possible relocation. Dave Linthicum and Bo Hopkins will be exploring possible relocations of the trail in Susquehanna State Park (Map 6)

**Eastern Section – Eastern Terminus at Chadds Ford to Perryville.  
Coordinators: Chester and New Castle Counties: Yvonne Blades;  
Cecil County: Kevin Jones.**

Yvonne Blades and Bob Bennett recently scouted the roughly 6.5 miles from Belvedere Road east to Rolling Mill Road in Northeast (maps 7&8). Though continuing development in this sector poses a challenge, the route was discernible, but a detour was necessary at the eastern end because the bridge over Northeast Creek at Rolling Mill Road is out. See the News and Updates link on the M-DTS web page for the temporary rerouting.



## Minutes Cont.

### By-Laws Revision:

The revision of Article III of the by-laws relating to the role of trails chairmen relative to board membership proposed in the March 25 meeting and published for comment and review in the May newsletter, was moved and accepted unanimously. It reads as follows with the amended portions in bold:

#### Article III: Officers and Members of the Board of Directors

Section 1. The elected officers of the corporation shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and **three Trails Chairmen**, each of whom shall be elected in accordance with the By-Laws and shall serve a three year term.

**Should any officer be elected to more than one office, that officer will have only one vote on the board.**

### Funding for Purchase of Open Space:

Jim spoke of our need to seek funding from the State of Pennsylvania's Farmland Trust to bring the Murphy Hollow quarry land into the public domain. Also, the York County Commission has been informed that PH Gladfelder is giving up its land. The M-DTS currently goes through this property, and it is crucial that we continue to have access. Jim noted that the State has a program to match money raised by non-profit organizations and also that when persons provide volunteer labor on trails in Pennsylvania, their work may be given a dollar value by the State for grants if they sign a work session sheet.

### Raising public awareness of the Mason-Dixon Trail System:

Jim noted the need for member assistance in generating publicity and media attention to the work being done by volunteer groups like ours in trail maintenance and open space. The reporter, [REDACTED], of the Lancaster Intelligencer Journal area was mentioned as one who would probably be willing to help promote our organization. Pictures would be important in promoting this endeavor. Major users of the trail like the York Hiking Club and the Trail Dawgs are appropriate sources for assistance in this effort.

### Section maintainer sought:

We need someone to assume maintenance of the section of trail from Wrightsville to Pinchot. Since this section is entirely on road, clean-up tasks should be relatively easy.

### Mason-Dixon Trail T-Shirt Sale

Rob Campbell and Joyce Hooper volunteered to manage the design, production, distribution and sale of Mason-Dixon T-Shirts, and there was discussion of pricing, number to order made, and public outlets that might carry them for sale. The shirts may be purchased via the order form at the end of this newsletter or on the M-DTS web site, <http://www.masondixontrail.org/images/tshirts/orderform.htm>. By vote price for a shirt ordered through the attached form or web site has been set at \$15.00.

With setting the next meeting for September 15 at the Hooper residence to be preceded by a hike, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

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## New Mason-Dixon T-Shirts now Available

Thanks to the good work of Rob Campbell, we now have handsome blue with white lettering Mason-Dixon Trail T-Shirts for sale. A color image of each can be seen via a link on our web site: <http://www.masondixontrail.org/>. The shirts range in size from Medium to XXLarge and sell for \$15.00. There are two designs to choose from: one has the MDTS map on the back and the MDTS logo on the upper left chest; the other has the MDTS map on the front and the MDTS on the sleeve. An order form is included at the end of this newsletter. Also, shirts will be available at the forthcoming hike and meeting on September 15. These are great for wearing on the trail and for promoting the mission of maintaining and improving the trail with hikers you meet.





## News Since the Last Meeting

### Treasurer's Report for first half of 2007

Expenses for equipment, for contributions to Farms and Natural Lands Trust of York County and Central PA Conservancy, and for administration (largely postage and copying related to the newsletter, dues notices, and new member services) totaled \$1057.55. Income from dues and from sales of maps and patches totaled \$2117.50. Our checking account as of 6/16/07 was \$5,258.47. This sum coupled with non-operating-budget savings accounts in two Certificates of Deposit set our total assets as of 6/16/07 at \$13,307.34.

### Wooden Trail Signs Needed

Jim Hooper is seeking a volunteer with wood craft skills to make signs for the Trail. The signs are to include trail name, the immediate destination according to where each is placed, distance, and an arrow. (There would be a separate sign for each direction).

Please email Jim at [james.hooper@worldnet.att.net](mailto:james.hooper@worldnet.att.net) for more information if there is a chance you can help on this project.

### Trail Condition up-dates

Bo Hopkins reports a recent survey that he and Laura made of the trail from Long Level to Otter Creek (Map 4). He applauds some fine recent work on portions of the trail north and south of Cuff's Run. More blazing and reblazing is needed in the section south of Apollo Park. The trail is hard to follow where it passes through the tree farm and where it crosses rte. 425 and Kline Rd. Portions of the trail between Apollo Park and Otter Creek Campground need trimming of overgrowth and removal of trees including some large ones-- that are down across the trail.

Bob Bennett and Yvonne Blades surveyed and cleared minor over-growth in the portion of trail along the Christina River in Newark between Elkton Road and Barksdale Road. Erosion by feeder streams and the Christina will necessitate some minor rerouting in the near future.

See the "news and updates" link on the web site, <http://www.masondixontrail.org/>, for additional trail reports and relocations.

## Politics and Negotiations

Jim Hooper and Rob Campbell are working with the PA Highlands/Appalachian Mountain Club group (a division of the multi-state land conservancy, the Highlands Coalition <http://www.highlandscoalition.org>), PA Highlands/AMC is interested in sharing our trail from Wrightsville to Whiskey Springs, and Mason-Dixon is seeking their help in getting portions of the trail off of the roads. Jim and Rob will be meeting at the end of August with AMC representatives, the York County Planning Commission, the lower Susquehanna Greenway, and some township representatives to further this effort.

The Conservation Advisory Commission for the City of Newark has forwarded a unanimously supported resolution, offered by Bob Bennett, to the City's Planning Commission that the proposed "Country Club Estates" (formerly, the Newark Country Club golf course) include a trail system as part of its mandated open-space allotment. The resolution specifies that the trail include access points at the development's northeastern and southwestern terminals. As such it will connect with off-road portions of the M-D Trail through Newark at both end points and replace the current 7/10<sup>th</sup> of a mile of on-road routing on Country Club Drive (Map 9, east to west, 9.7mi. to 10.4).

## Mason-Dixon Trail History Archived at the University of Delaware

Bob Bennett recently donated to the Special Collections Division of the University of Delaware Library his Mason-Dixon Trail System materials that date roughly over the last quarter of a century. Yvonne Blades has also contributed material. As a repository the Library's Special Collections division on local history provides public access and safe keeping to much of the history of the organization. For persons who are interested in this history or in finding a permanent place for their own M-DTS papers, the University of Delaware Special Collections Division is worth considering.

## Commendation

The M-DTS received a Certificate of Appreciation from [REDACTED], Chair of the 2007 Christina River Cleanup Committee, for its participation in the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Christina River Watershed Cleanup.

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## A Parting Thought

"What is remarkable is that a loosely connected group of interested people and organizations was able to establish such an attractive trail through woods and fields, by creeks and rivers in such a highly populated area."

John Wristen – Interview January 5, 1989  
Early M-DTS Blazer and Maintainer