
MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM, Inc.



M-DTS NEWSLETTER October, 2007

The M-DTS in Western Cecil County is the Focus of November 17, 2007 Hikes and Meeting

The scenic, "sleepy" town of Perryville on the eastern bank of the Susquehanna below Route 40 is the gathering point for morning and noon outing options, and its town hall will be the site of the afternoon quarterly meeting.

The Hikes

9:00 am - A 7-mile shuttle hike on the M-DT in Cecil County from Belvedere Rd to the town of North East (M-DT Map 7: West to East: Mile 5.5 to 12 plus.). In spite of ongoing development of warehouses, business parks etc. in this area, the trail still exists and has some interesting features including nice views from Foys Hill and a scenic stretch along North East Creek. There is a stream crossing. If there has been recent rain, bring an extra pair of socks and a small towel. Leader: Yvonne Blades [REDACTED]

12:00 Noon - From the meeting place by Rodger's Tavern, walk north along the asphalt "greenway" which provides nice views of the Susquehanna River. The greenway is built on an old railway line along the Susquehanna and passes under two railroad bridges and the Rte 40 bridge that cross the Susquehanna River. Pick your own leader and walk as far as you wish on this out and back hike.

**For both hikes, meet in the parking lot of historic Rodger's Tavern in Perryville.
Bring lunch and water**

Driving Directions to Rodger's Tavern:

From Rte 40 at the traffic light, turn south on Rte 222 (Aiken Ave) in Perryville. Turn right at the 3-way intersection onto Broad Street. Follow it about 0.4 miles and turn right into the parking lot at Rodger's tavern (just before the road turns left to go under the RR tracks).

The Members' Meeting

2:00 pm. Members' Meeting in the Perryville Town Hall meeting room. The Town Hall is on the north side of Broad Street (#515). A driveway from Broad Street leads to a parking area behind the building and the entrance to the meeting room.

MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM INCPresident Jim Hooper
[REDACTED]Vice President..... Ron Gray
[REDACTED]Secretary & Newsletter Editor ... Bob 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

Minutes of the September 15, 2007 M-DTS Members' Meeting

The meeting took place at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Jim and Joyce Hooper, following a covered dish lunch, and preceded by morning and noon hikes on new sections of the Wrightsville portion of the trail (Map 3). Attendees included Sarah Tateosian, Lou Tateosian, Allen Britten, Lore Britton, Ron Gray, Ian Tangert, Louise Sis, Joyce Hooper, Jim Hooper, Yvonne Blades, Wes Shirey, Daniel Rau, and Bob Bennett.

Financial Report: The financial report submitted by treasurer Rick Maerker, for the period from 1/1/07 to 9/15/07 records an increase in the checking account from \$4,198.52 to \$4,976.71, and total assets, when combined with the club CD accounts, of \$13,025.58. Sources of income included dues and donation, and the sale of trail guides, patches, and T-shirts. Costs were administrative chiefly in relation to the newsletters, T-shirt production, and brochures. Acceptance of the report was moved by President Hooper and accepted subject to audit.

Trail Reports

Western Section - Lock 12 to Whiskey Springs:

Coordinator: Ron Gray

Work has recently been done on sections to the north and south of Cuff's Run. More blazing and reblazing is needed in sections south of Apollo Park. The trail through the tree farm and across rte. 425 to Kline Rd. is hard to follow in places. Overgrowth in places between Apollo Park and Otter Creek Campground need trimming. There is a large tree across the trail north of Cuff's Run, and another in the general area as well as smaller limbs and trees.

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

A summary of information related by Bo Hopkins prior to the meeting: Re-routes in the Exelon area are in planned with the cooperation of Exelon representatives. There is over growth in places where the trail passes through Broad Creek Scout Camp. The trail climbing Bald Hill needs widening, and a small tree down along that section of the trail needs to be removed. There is debris where the trail passes under the power lines just north of Glen Cove and along the sections south of Glen Cove. The trail in the wooded area along Clarke's Farm is badly overgrown. The portion of trail through the Old Conowingo Village that is not on road is overgrown.

Eastern Section - Eastern Terminus at Chadds Ford to Perryville.

Coordinators: Chester and New Castle Counties: Yvonne Blades;

Cecil County: Kevin Jones.

Yvonne Blades reports that the bridge over Little Northeast Creek at Rolling Mill Road (Map 7 east-to-west 0.5 mi.) is out, perhaps permanently. A description of the relocation of the trail at this point is provided on the "News and Updates" link on the M-DTS web site (www.masondixontrail.org) under the "News and Updates" link.

Other Business

The Board approved the President's appointing trails chairmen to serve until the next election:

Bo Hopkins for the central section

Ron Gray for the western section

The Board approved a request from Bo Hopkins for money to purchase needed trail maintenance tools was reviewed and approved, and \$ 600.00 was allocated for this purpose.

General discussion followed of other areas of the trail that require attention in regards to maintenance, relocations, or continued public access. Items noted include the status of Quarry land area (Map 3, mi. 14.6 West to East); relocations in Oakland Run (map 5, mi. 4.2 West to East), the status of High Point (Map 3, near mi. 16.7); and Michael's Run to Broad Creek (Map 5, mi. 19.3 to Map 6, mi. 1.7).

Also addressed were a number of trail-related conservation issues including the proposed removal of trail systems from the PenDot road maps; the Cumberland County Planning Commission's Greenway and Open Space Preservation Initiatives (google: CCPA: Planning Home Page); and the proposed meeting on October 23 at the York Campus of Penn State University to consider forming the York County Conservation Alliance (google: York County Conservation Alliance).

Filling the vacancies in the Mason-Dixon Trail System's list of administrative positions for a Central Section Trail Coordinator and an Eastern Section Trail Coordinator was addressed. These are trail maintenance positions, and the trail coordinators are not voting Board members. These are crucial positions within the framework of the organization and any members in the Central and Eastern Sections who are interested in considering taking on this office should contact President Hooper or any other of the officers listed in the information column.

President Hooper set November 17, 2007 for the next quarterly meeting. There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Bob Bennett and accepted without further discussion. The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

News Items Since the Last Meeting

Attention Cecil County Members of the Mason-Dixon Trail System !

The Mason-Dixon Trail from Perryville (Map 7, mile 2) to Belvedere Road (mile 5.1) is under study by the M-DTS Board for relocation. For this we need the advice and support of appropriate Cecil County personnel whose offices (parks and transportation) relate to such matters, and of **Cecil County residents who are members of the M-DTS whose participation will be essential in any such contacts and negotiations.** Our meeting on November 17th initiates this effort. Yvonne Blades has worked hard to define the problem and explore possible reroutings. This coming November meeting is our opportunity to draw our Cecil County members into the process—**please come!** If you cannot, but are interested in helping, please let Yvonne or me (your newsletter editor) know. Our e-mails are included on the information column of page two.

Mason-Dixon Trail System Draws Interest at the Darlington, MD Apple Festival

On October 6, trail members Director/Coordinator Bo Hopkins, Laura Miranda, and Jason Thomas set up a tent at the Darlington Apple Festival and drew a warm reception. Their efforts yielded three new members and sales of T-shirts, patches, and maps that spread the word and help fund our efforts. Bo adds that he has begun his internship with the Maryland Park Service, which is proving a vital outlet for our M-DTS flyers.

Mason-Dixon Trail T-Shirts: Selling well, still available.

<http://www.masondixontrail.org/tshirts.htm>

Editor's Comment: These really are attractive T-shirts! Mine has become the T-shirt of choice when I am hiking or running in the mild weather. It is very comfortable, handsomely designed, and a great advertisement for our trail! If you have not ordered yours yet, but are considering doing so, see the above web site for full page images and an order form.

Latest news on prime hiking lands in York County

York County Parks is acquiring the land just south of Apollo Park (Map 4, ca. mi. 12) that was owned by PH Gladfelder. The eventual owner of the another portion of the PH Gladfelder property has not yet been determined.

Iron Hill Park Closure

On November 1, Iron Hill Park is scheduled to close for five months while improvements are made to the 335 acre area. Already planned is the installation of a "bark park," and an upgrading of the system of trails, and increased security measures. The park is under the jurisdiction of New Castle County which, as reported in the Wilmington News Journal on November 23, "is reviewing other improvements and will hold future public meetings to gather resident's input on design before moving forward." A mile or more of the M-DTS (Map 9, w-e 2.6 to 4.2) passes through this park. This news has arrived too late for a description of the temporary rerouting of the trail during this period to be provided here. Please consult the M-DTS web site for the recommended rerouting if you are planning to hike this section of the trail within the next five months.

The Trail Dawgs: Mason-Dixon Trail System Enthusiasts

Among the users of the Mason-Dixon Trail, the regional trail running group the Trail Dawgs

are one of the most visible and enthusiastic. On June 23rd they sponsored the second annual **Longest Day 100 Kilometer Mason-Dixon Trail Run**, a sixty-two mile jaunt on the trail from Rock Run Mill in Havre de Grace to Shanks Mare Store near Wrightsville

This year's version of the run is handsomely documented by Jaret Seiberg, a runner from the Virginia Happy Trails Running Club who was first with one other to finish the complete distance. Jaret's account of his run for his home running club in Virginia provides an interesting and useful overview of this celebrated section of the trail:

Through such events the reputation of this trail gains enthusiasts well beyond its borders.



The above picture was taken by Trail Dawg run organizer and participant, and Mason-Dixon Trail promoter, Hunt Bartine. It depicts a view of Pequea from trail and stream north of Lock 12.