



History Along the Trail **Wrightsville Lime Kilns**

The lime industry played a large part in Wrightsville's history. An 1894 map of Wrightsville indicates that at least five different sets of kilns were operating in the community.

Located on M-DTS Map 3 mile 14.1, the Wrightsville Lime Kilns were used for cooking limestone and turning it into lime. The lime was used for fertilizer, white-wash, plaster, and deodorant for outhouses. Quarried limestone was also used along with coal and iron ore to make pig iron in furnaces such as the Codorus mentioned in the last newsletter.

The common feature of early kilns was an egg-cup shaped burning chamber, with an air inlet at the base, constructed of brick. Limestone was crushed (often by hand) to fairly uniform lumps—fine stone was rejected. Successive dome-shaped layers of limestone and wood or coal were built up in the kiln on grate bars across the eye. When loading was complete, the kiln was kindled at the



bottom, and the fire gradually spread upwards through the charge. When burnt through, the lime was cooled and raked out through the base.

Only lump stone could be used, because the charge needed to "breathe" during firing. Typically the kiln took a day to load, three days to

fire, two days to cool and a day to unload, so a one-week turnaround was normal. That was why they had multiple kilns. The degree of burning was controlled from batch to batch by varying the amount of fuel used. The lime was then crushed to make a powder.

Mason-Dixon Quarterly Meeting and Hike

Quarterly Meeting and Hike

Sat, November 16, 2013

Hike:

9:00 am

Meeting:

12:00 pm

Hikers should plan to arrive at 9:00 am at Iron Hill Park in Delaware. We will meet at the Yost Memorial in the main parking lot. (Mile 3.5 Eastbound or mile 15.3 west bound on Map 9). Iron Hill is accessed from Robert Melson Lane located on Old Baltimore Pike, just west of Rt 896. We will leave most of cars there and carpool to our starting location in Maryland at Hatchery Ponds. This hike will showcase part of the diversity (good and not so good) of the M-D trail as it uses an old fish hatchery, Power Line easements, pocket parks and suburban streets as we hike back to Iron Hill for approximately a 6.5 mile hike.

Meeting will be at Noon at the pavillion at Iron Hill Park. Contact Mike Ott at (302) 229-6157 if you have questions or need directions.

Trail Loop Hike

Muddy Creek Gorge

Trailhead and Parking Location

MAP 5 | S Cold Cabin Road
Peach Bottom, PA 17314

Distance and Difficulty

10-miles; Moderate

Hiking Time

Approximately 4 hours

This is a 10-mile loop that takes you through the beautiful Muddy Creek Gorge near Delta, PA. The starting point for this hike is at the Cold Cabin Access area along the Susquehanna River where you should find plenty of room for parking. Walking in the opposite direction of the river you follow Cold Cabin Rd. back the way you drove in. You will be following the Blue blazes of the MDT along this road for only a short while until you pass by Grove Rd. Ignore the double blazes of the MDT where it turns onto Grove Rd. and proceed straight up Cold Cabin Rd until you reach Paper Mill Rd. Turn right onto Paper Mill Road. You will walk until you reach the bridge that crosses over Muddy Creek but you will not cross this bridge. You will see the Blue blazes of the MDT once again here as you follow along the right side of the creek and continue along the MDT for the remainder of this hike.



The trail follows alongside the creek for about 2 miles where you will pass by some wonderful swimming holes and some impressive rapids and falls. The trail eventually leaves the side of the creek and gains some elevation above the gorge before eventually

crossing over the mountain and back down onto Cold Cabin Rd. You will follow Cold Cabin Rd. through a private neighborhood until you reach the boat access where you began. This is only a moderately challenging hike with only one significant climb up and climb down.

WE NEED YOUR E-MAIL

We have email addresses for about 2/3 of our membership, but this means we still need to send snail-mail to over 100 of our members when we have news to disseminate. This is most often our Quarterly Newsletter, but also could include election ballots, etc. Sending the Newsletter by mail is getting quite costly, and we'd like to be able to send it electronically to as many members as possible.

Those with email addresses also get an early "Save the Date" notice about when our next meeting and hike will be held. We do respect your privacy and your email will only be used for M-DTS business.

Will you please send your email information to Kathy Dempsey, our Membership Chair, at kdemps@yahoo.com. It will make it easier for us to communicate with you, and save the M-DTS some money, too.

President's Message

TREASURER

Frank Kempf has agreed to take over as treasurer of the M-DTS. Rick has served both as president and as treasurer for many years. However, he is spending his summers in the Adirondacks and winters in Florida. He is having trouble responding to membership applications and map orders in a timely fashion. We owe him a big thank you for his many years of volunteering for the organization. Frank's address is 2174 Esbenshade Rd, York Pa 17408.

KTA CODE ORANGE

We had a very successful Code Orange trail day in Gifford Pinchot State Park. We installed a small relocation and did work on spots that tended to get muddy. We used geotech cells and material and then applied crusher mix stone on top. We had three utility dump trucks to move the stone. People from DCNR, M-DTS, KTA and the Friends of Pinchot Park participated. The Friends put on a picnic supper afterwards. Special recognition should be given to Bob Deffner, the park manager who not only planned the work but on his day off came out and worked harder than anyone else. Skip Newcomer helped plan the event.

PPL LAND TRANSFER

The Lancaster Conservancy has surveyed the land and needs township approval for the subdivision plan to divide the land. We have not seen the plan to see where the actual boundary between Lancaster Conservancy and PPL.

M-DTS HISTORY

When Rick turned over the treasurer's paper work to Frank, he gave me some old records that he had. It turns out that the Wilmington Trail Club started writing letters to establish the trail in 1975. They initially called it the Susquehanna-Brandywine Trail.

We need someone to consolidate the records and write up a history of the M-DTS. If you are interested please contact me, Jim Hooper, at j.e.hooper@ieee.org.

CONOWINGO DAM RELICENSING

The state of Maryland is in private negotiations with Exelon and have not supplied any information on the negotiations. Typical lawyer, they did not want us to do a separate agreement but do not brief us on what is happening!

SUSQUEHANNA HERITAGE PARKS

A draft final development plan has been issued. We have returned comments on the document and will attend the steering committee when it is held.

MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM LEADERSHIP

President

Jim Hooper
309 Bank Hill Rd., Wrightsville, PA 17368
(717) 252-3784
jimhooper07@gmail.com

Vice President

Tim Schmidt
1803 Orwig Rd., New Freedom, PA 17349
(717) 235-5940
wanderfool@comcast.net

Secretary

Rob Campbell
811 Marvell Dr., York, PA, 17402
(717) 840-4482
rbc1@psu.edu

Treasurer

Frank Kempf
2174 Esbenshade Rd., York, PA 17408
(717) 764-3942
fjkempf@comcast.net

Director - Pennsylvania

John Beatty
411 Perendale Rd., Red Lion, PA 17356
(717) 683-7099
jbeatty@gmail.com

Director - Maryland

Rick Pavao
80 Ironoak Ct., North East, MD 21901
(443) 674-8342
rjpavao@yahoo.com

Director - Delaware

Mike Ott
14 Barnard St., Newark, DE 19711
(302) 229-6157
mikeott52@aol.com

Newsletter Editor

Tony Nardi
2204 Cantley Dr., Forest Hill, MD 21050
(410) 893-5382
anthonywardi@hotmail.com

TRAIL COORDINATORS

Western Section

Skip Newcomer
208 Calvary Church Rd., Wrightsville, PA 17368
(717) 841-4930
skipnewc@hotmail.com

Central Section

Vacant

Eastern Section

Vacant

LOOKING TO HELP THE M-DT?

POTENTIAL EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

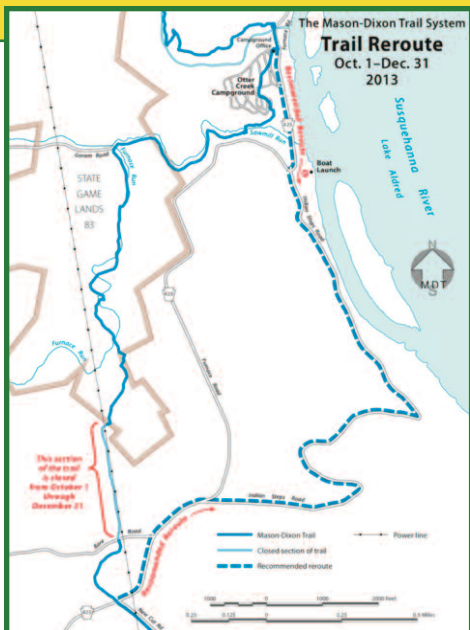
York County Parks has in their plans to locate a lean-to in Apollo Park. This has been identified as a possible Eagle Scout Project. Please contact Jim Hooper if you have a scout that is interested.

DISTANCE SIGNS

The York Hiking Club got a school up in the Duncannon region to route wooden signs for the AT giving direction and distance to various points on the trail. They used a CNC router to do the routing. These signs are going at key points like trail junctions. Do any of the members have contact with a school shop that has a CNC router and would be interested as a school project to make us signs?

MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM

Rob Campbell, *Secretary*
811 Marvell Drive
York, Pennsylvania 17402



Trail Section Closure

In a recent newsletter article, we talked about people needing to be courteous to land owners. Due to some complaining about the shooting range, the trail is closed along the power line right-of-way between Bare Road and Furnace Run (**Map 5 : Mile 1.9**) for the time period between October 1 and December 31.

The recommended rerouting for that period of time is to follow Rt. 425 to Indian Steps Road, follow Indian Steps Road to Rt. 425 and then to Newcut Road.

Power company rightaways provide for power company access but often do not provide for public access without the landowner permission. We need to be courteous to landowners!

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 \$25 (which covers cost of M-DT maps and patch) to:

Mason-Dixon Trail System

Frank Kempf

2174 Esbenshade Road

York, PA 17408

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

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