

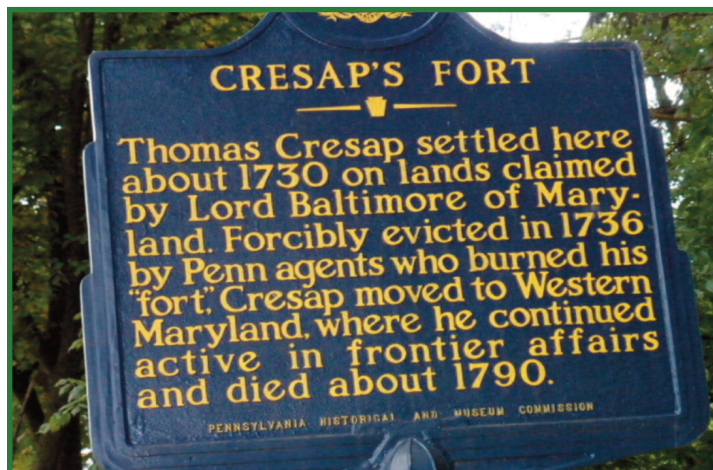
History Along the Trail **Conojocular Wars¹**

The first recorded struggle on the Mason-Dixon Trail between Europeans was the Conojocular Wars. This developed over a dispute on where the boundary between the colonies of Pennsylvania and Maryland was. The original border in the charters, signed by the king in London without any survey information, was the 40th parallel. The parallel runs directly thru southern Philadelphia.

In 1730, the Maryland governor sent Thomas Cresap to the disputed area to claim the land for Maryland. He built a blockhouse. The exact location is not known but it was on the river somewhere along what is now known as Long Level. He and his wife were tough individuals. His wife is described as carrying a rifle, two pistols, a tomahawk, and a scalping knife.

Cresap established a ferry across the river and planted corn fields. Pennsylvania was determined to evict him. Pennsylvanians first ran their live stock into Cresap's cornfields. He threatened to shoot the livestock. The dispute escalated from there.

The first recorded attempt to capture Cresap was started with a signal for the ferry to come to the



State
Historical
Marker

Lancaster side of the river to carry several people over. During the return trip, he and his assistant were rowing with their back to the passengers. The passengers attempted to take him. He fought them off.

After that, there were multiple attempts that the Lancaster sheriff made to seize him. Cresap, in return, got the Baltimore sheriff involved. Arrests were made on both sides. Letters went back and forth between the two governors. Militia were called out by both sides.

The Lancaster sheriff finally captured Cresap by surrounding his house and burning him out. They

bound him and took him across the river, where they put irons on him. He knocked down the smith after being handcuffed. He was then taken to Philadelphia. As he was being taken thru the streets, he declared; "this is one of the Prettiest Towns in Maryland."

After the courts in England got involved with the land dispute, Cresap was released and moved to western Maryland where he operated a trading post that the Braddock marching route went by. George Washington visited the post many times.

¹ **Thomas Cresap**, Kenneth P Bailey, Boston, 1944.

Mason-Dixon Quarterly Meeting and Hike

Quarterly Meeting and Hike

Sun, Nov 16, 2014

Hike:

9:00 am

Meeting:

1:30 pm

On Nov 16, we will meet at the Conowingo Visitor's Center parking lot at 9 am — <https://plus.google.com/111917882492282920403/about?gl=us&hl=en>. We will divide in teams and go down to Susquehanna State Park. We will be blazing the trail in the park and making explorations for future relocations. After lunch we will proceed back to the visitor's center for a board meeting at about 1:30 pm. The meeting will be held rain or shine.

Conowingo Dam Relocation

MDT Map 6 |

West to East

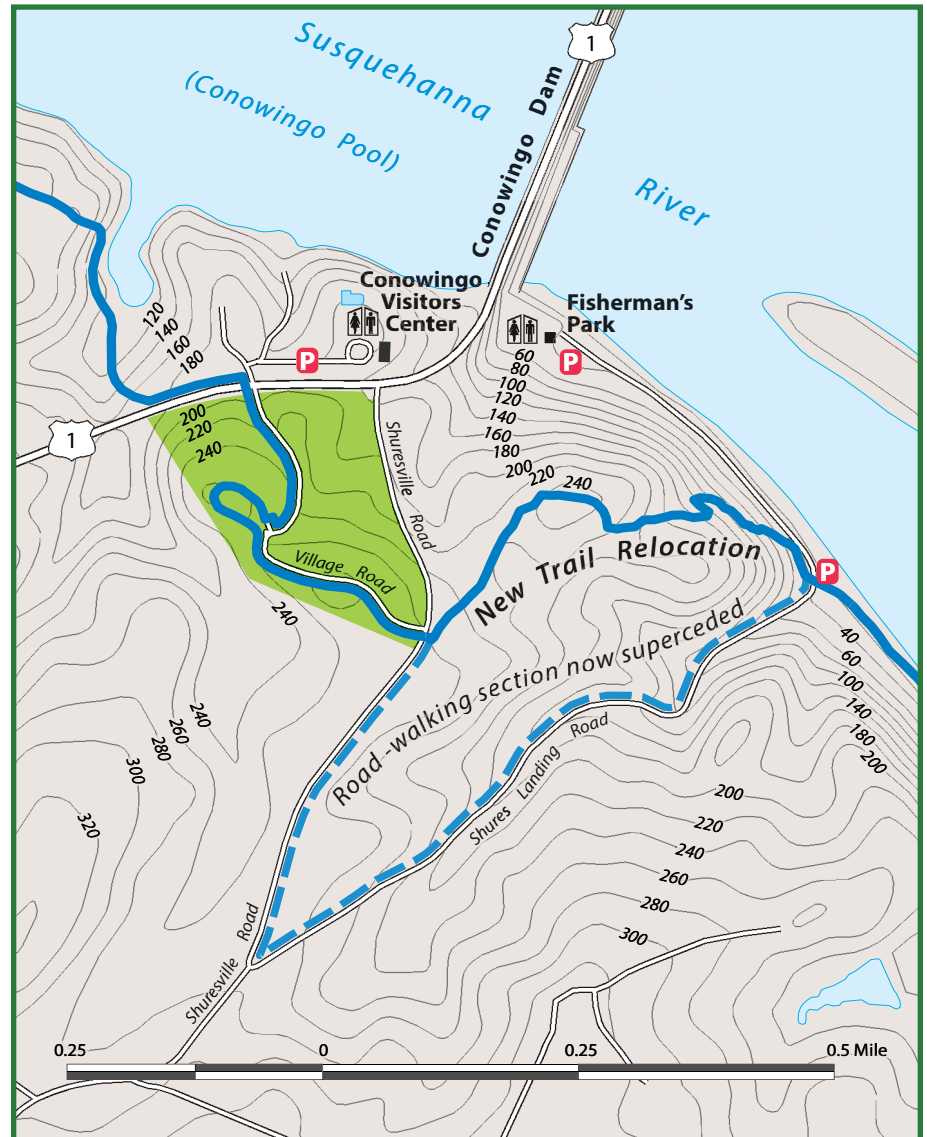
- 9.9 mi** : Cross Shuresville Rd and turn left onto the grassy lane. After 0.1 mi, turn left into the woods and follow the trail gradually downhill for 0.3 mi.
- 10.3 mi** : Follow the edge of the bowl to your right, then turn sharply right and descend the hill for 0.2 mi toward the river.

Subtract 0.4 mi from each mileage indicator on Map 6 from here on.

East to West

- 10.4 mi** : Reach Fisherman's Park (ample parking, a good spot to see bald eagles in winter). Cross the parking lot diagonally towards the hill and climb for 0.2 mi.
- 10.6 mi** : At the top of the climb turn sharply to your left and follow the trail halfway around the bowl. Turn left and climb gradually for 0.3 mi. Turn right onto the grass lane and follow it for 0.1 mi. Cross Shuresville Rd and follow the roadway into the former site of Conowingo Village.

Subtract 0.4 mi from each mileage indicator on Map 6 from here on.



Spring Cleaning the M-DTS Rolls

Our membership rules define current members as those who have paid dues within the past three years or those who have reached the life member status by an aggregate payment of \$250 in dues and contributions. If you have not paid dues since 2011, and you are not a life member, this is the last newsletter you will be receiving. To attain current member status, send the \$7.00 to the Treasurer

whose name and address are listed in this newsletter. If you are a current member, dues notices will be sent in the Spring.

Thanks for being a member of the Mason-Dixon Trail System. Questions or comments may be sent to any of the officers whose names and addresses are listed in this newsletter.

President's Message

TRAIL STEWARDS

There are many sections of the M-DTS that do not have trail stewards. These individuals were called in the past maintainers. Their tasks are to periodically walk a section and do the work that they are capable of doing. If there is a problem that is too difficult for them to handle they are to contact a member of the board. This board member then makes the contacts necessary to get a team out to fix the problem.

SUSQUEHANNA STATE PARK

We have a problem in Susquehanna State park due to not having a trail steward. The trail has been in Susquehanna State Park since around 1980 with blue blazes. The personnel in the park changed multiple times. The park personnel repainted the blue blazes red and painted another trail blue. Then they issued a map with the new blazing. We are going to go in and mark the trail with blue plastic blazes to differentiate from the other trail.

TRAIL CLOSURE

Again this year the Mason-Dixon Trail along the power line right-of-way from PA State Game Lands 181 boundary to

Bare Road (Map 5) will be closed due to hunting from Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2014. Please respect this closure.

HUNTING

There are many places along the trail that allow hunting. Please show respect to the hunters. Conflicts cause trail closures. Most hunters are very careful, but there is a small percentage that shoot when they should not. Please wear orange so they can see you. It is strongly recommended that you do not hike during deer rifle season except on Sunday. (In PA, the Saturday after Thanksgiving to two Saturdays after that) For bow hunters avoid the early morning and late evening times because that is when they are most likely out.

PERRYVILLE

We are still working with Perryville to extend the trail down to Perry Point and back up the other side. Somehow we are taking very long to get an agreement.

GREENBRANCH

The Red Lion water company has posted their water intake area no trespassing. However, Safe Harbor says that hikers can still cross the area when hiking the Mason-Dixon Trail.

MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM LEADERSHIP

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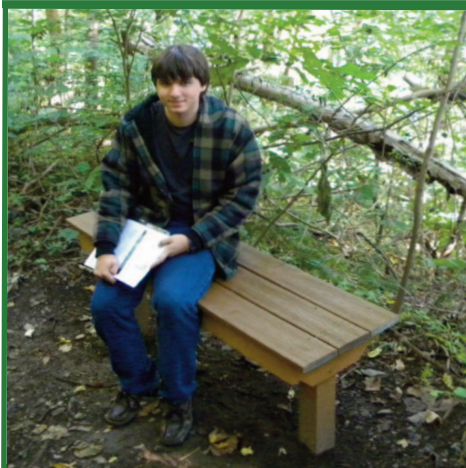
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Central Section

Vacant

Eastern Section

Vacant



EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

As part of an Eagle Scout Project, Cameron Blomquist installed some benches on the Dorsey Park Rd to Robinsons Run Rd section.

MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM

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Emailing Newsletters Saves \$\$\$ for M-DTS

Mailing paper newsletter, printed in color, as opposed to emailing color files, is a significant expense for our club. The cost to print, fold and mail the color newsletter is \$3.21 per newsletter versus no cost to the club to email them. This is a quarterly expense so the annual cost is \$12.84. Compare this to our annual dues of \$7 and you can see that mailing the paper newsletters, printed in color, has a significant, negative impact on our treasury.

We would like to reduce the cost of mailing newsletters. One easy way is to receive your newsletter by email. If you are receiving this newsletter via US Mail, please provide us with your email address by

emailing the Treasurer, *FJKempf@Comcast.net*.

Please use “newsletter” in the subject line and we will begin sending your newsletters via email.

At the September 13, 2014 meeting, the Board considered two options to minimize the effects on the treasury of continuing to mail paper newsletters to those people who aren’t receiving email newsletters: raising everyone’s dues or printing newsletters in black-and-white. The Board voted for the latter. So this is your final paper, color newsletter and all future paper newsletters will be in black-and-white. Emailed newsletters will continue to be in color.

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
