



Historical Sites Along the Trail **Lock 12 Historic Area**

By Mark W. Arbogast

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MDT Map 5 | Mile 9.9 W→E; 20.5 E→W

This article is about the Lock 12 Historic Area in York County Pennsylvania. Lock 12 is located in southern York County along Rt. 372 at the western side of the Norman Wood Bridge. It is along the Mason Dixon Trail and is the southern terminus of the Conestoga Trail.

Lock 12 was one of many locks on the Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal. The Canal went for 45 miles from Wrightsville Pennsylvania to Havre De Grace Maryland on the western side of the Susquehanna River. 28 lift locks were constructed to make up for an elevation difference of 233 feet along the canal. The Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal was constructed from 1836 to 1839 and opened for

business in 1840. The canal was an important connection in the Pennsylvania canal system, connecting the Pennsylvania Main Line Canal to the Chesapeake Bay and ships and shipping. Canal boats transported coal, lumber, iron and grain bound for Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York. The Canal closed in 1894 due to competition from railroads.

The picture to the left is from an old postcard and shows the canal north of Lock 12 and McCall's Ferry. The location is directly across from present day Pinnacle Overlook. This spot is now under water from Holtwood Dam but the vertical rock water is visible. Note the cow along the canal, this photo would have been in the early 1900s after the canal was abandoned.

Lock 12 itself was 170 feet long and 17 feet wide. It had a lift capacity of 8.8 feet, meaning it could lift or drop a canal boat 8.8 feet in elevation. A canal boat traveling

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Canal along the Susquehanna, above McCall's, PA

Mason-Dixon Quarterly Meeting and Hike

Quarterly Hike and Meeting

Sat, Mar 24, 2012

*Hike:
10:00 am
Meeting:
1:30 pm*

The hike from the White Clay Creek State Park Nature Center will start around 10 am. It will be approximately a five mile clock-wise loop and will include a lovely mix of rolling and forested hillside woods and fields, as well as the historic Arc Cornerstone Monument. The meeting will follow in the Nature Center around 1:30 pm.

To minimize the number of cars having to pay the park entrance fee (\$3 - Resident; \$6 - Out-of-State), we will be meeting at 9:30 am to carpool the hikers. We will meet at the southeast corner of the Super Fresh Shopping Area on Rt. 896 (New London Rd. and Hillside Dr.).

The Nature Center is accessed by turning on Hopkins Road and then turning on a gravel road before the bridge. The Nature Center parking lot will be on your left in a short hundred yards.

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south on the canal would come into the lock, the gates would be closed and the water dropped in the lock, the gate opened and the canal boat would travel south on the canal, being 8.8 feet lower in elevation. Lock 12 was made of local schist stone and is in good condition for its age. When visiting Lock 12 walk to the southern end of the lock and stand and marvel at the large cut corner stones that were used. All this work was done in the mid 1800s before large power machinery.

The photo above shows Lock 12 and is courtesy of Jim Hooper. Note the indentations in the lock walls at the bottom of the photo. These were for the lock gates, the gates could be folded back in the wall and be flush with the stone wall so canal boats could pass through the lock.

The Lock 12 Historic Area has a number of other interesting features. A double lime kiln is on the site and was used to burn limestone down to make lime for farm fields. A sawmill is also on the site. A mill pond was constructed above the sawmill and the sawmill used the force of falling water

to power a saw blade to cut lumber. The lime and lumber were probably shipped on the canal to places that would pay for these goods. Another feature on the site are the two large terrace areas used for car parking. These are a more recent feature and utilized large rock from the Rt. 372 approaches during the construction of the Norman Wood Bridge in the 1960s. The rock was dumped and used to create the level parking areas for the historic area.

Lock 12 Historic Area is owned by PPL Corporation which operates Holtwood Hydroelectric Plant. During the 1960s PPL created the historic area by cleaning up the area, creating the parking areas, building a picnic area and restrooms and providing historic information. PPL has operated and maintained the area since then.

Mark W. Arbogast retired from PPL in 2008. During his work at Holtwood he managed the 5000 acre Holtwood Environmental Preserve which includes Lock 12 Historic Area. Mark collects old postcards and is always looking for old postcards and photographs of the lower Susquehanna River. He can be reached at (717) 517-1170.

Conowingo Cleanup Day

**June 9, 2012
9:00 am - 12 noon**

Seven locations this year:

- Lock 15, River Road, Delta, PA
- Peach Bottom Marina, 1798 Slate Hill Road, Peach Bottom, PA
- Dorsey Boat Launch, Dorsey Park Trail, Delta, PA
- Line Bridge Road, Whiteford, MD
- Conowingo Creek Boat Launch, Old Conowingo Road, Conowingo, MD
- Broad Creek Boat Launch, 623 Flintville Road, Darlington, MD
- Glen Cove Marina, 2326 Glen Cove Road, Darlington, MD

Conowingo Pond Cleanup Day hosted by Exelon is quickly becoming a favorite yearly activity for Maryland and Pennsylvania residents. For this event, volunteers from the community will work to clean up the Conowingo Pond, the creeks and streams, and both shorelines. Lunch will be provided by Exelon. Because citizens responded so enthusiastically to last year's cleanup, the second annual Cleanup Day, set for June 9, 2012, has almost twice as many locations. Last year's event focused on the western side of the Conowingo Pond. This year we are going to include both shores of the Conowingo Pond and add 4 locations to the cleanup day. Participation in this family-friendly volunteer experience is memorable and guaranteed to become a local tradition with the continued support of a company and a community that cares. Please plan on joining as a volunteer for this event.

If you have any questions about the planned Cleanup Day please call the Conowingo Visitor's Center at (410) 457-2427.

President's Message

PRIVATE LANDOWNERS

Recently at a meeting with a landowner, we found out that someone had given a key landowner hell about some trail issue. We must remember that we are guests on the private property and treat the landowners with respect and courtesy. It is very hard to get permissions for trail access and very easy to lose them. In addition, please report any misuse of the land such as ATV activity or party sites.

Do not park on private land without permission. If you have your car vandalized, take photos of the damage. If you want, call the police but do not engage directly with the individual that you think vandalized your car. Beware in eastern York County, the state police have a history of siding with the landowner even when the landowner went too far.

REPORTING TRAIL WORK HOURS

We are in three states—Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware. We need to record the hours that we work in Pennsylvania and send the reports to Skip Newcomer he then reports it to the KTA. The PA Game Commission wants the hours specifically worked in the three game lands that we are in. Both Delaware and Maryland would like the hours worked in the their state owned land. In Delaware, please let Bob Bennett know the hours. I need some one to volunteer to do the same for Maryland.

BOARD REELECTION

This is the year that we have to elect a new slate of officers and board members. I am almost 71 years old and I need to train a replacement for my job. Several of the members, such

as Ron Gray, Rick Maerker, Yvonne Blades and Bob Bennett have been active for a long time. (Ron and I have been involved since the late 70's.) We need new blood on the board! The positions are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Eastern Trails Chairman, Central Trails Chairman, Western Trails Chairman, PA Director at Large, DEL Director at Large and MD Director at Large. Please let us know if you are interested in any of the positions.

Also, as we move the trail off of the roads we need more volunteer maintainers for each section. If interested, please let us know where you are located so we can see what the needs are in your area.

PERRYVILLE

Ron Gray, Rob Campbell and myself had a very good meeting with the Perryville Greenway. They are agreeable to a rerouting of the trail along the river down to the Perryville Community Park and then back out the other shoreline to Ikea Way. The East Coast Greenway would share the route except for any part that is a dirt trail. The group will research the right-of-way agreement with the VA Hospital and see if it has to be renegotiated.

GAME LAND 242

We have put in an application for our third and last relocation onto Game Land 242 in western York County. This will complete our relocations onto Game Land 242. It could take a year to get approval out of Harrisburg. Please thank the Game Commission for their support!

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THE TREES HAVE EYES!

TRAIL GUARDIANS?

Have you seen these whimsical characters popping out of the trees throughout the trail? Are they providing a watchful eye for the M-DT hikers? Or maybe adding a little mischief to your hike? Keep your eyes open and see how many you can find.



MAPS!

NEW 2012 EDITION NOW AVAILABLE!

The new 2012 edition of the Mason-Dixon Map Set is now available! The changes from 2009 set are: Maps 1 and 10 had route changes, Map 2 had very minor changes (one section of trail by Gifford Pinchot deleted, one parking site in the park deleted, and Conewago Lake changed to Pinchot Lake. Map 2 had a typo fixed on the trail description. The price is \$14 for a set of 10 maps and are available by contacting Rick Maerker (see address below).

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 \$19 (which covers cost of M-DT maps and patch) to:

Mason-Dixon Trail System

Rick Maerker

13 Denise Drive

Thornton, PA 19373

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

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