

## *History Along the Trail*

# Maryland Bridges Across the Susquehanna

**T**here have been many bridges across the Susquehanna River in Maryland. However, none of the present bridges provide for pedestrian traffic.

### **CONOWINGO BRIDGE**

The original Conowingo Bridge was a seven-span, 1,334-foot covered bridge built between 1818 and 1820. The bridge was destroyed, in 1846 or 1847 by a flood and replaced with a new wooden covered bridge in 1859. On 6 June 1907, the wooden bridge was set fire using kerosene burning three-quarters of a mile. The bridge was rebuilt as a steel structure in 1909. With the completion of the dam in 1928 the bridge was then destroyed by dynamite. U.S. Route 1 now crosses on top of the Dam.

### **ROCK RUN BRIDGE**

Rock Run Covered Bridge crossed the Susquehanna River from Rock Run on the Harford County side to Port Deposit in Cecil County. Theodore Burr, who constructed the Wrightsville-Columbia bridge, completed the construction of the



Millard Tydings  
Memorial Bridge

Rock Run Covered Bridge in 1818. The 18 span superstructure stretched 4,170 feet across the Susquehanna River. The Eastern shore end of the bridge was located near the presently abandoned site of McClenahan's Quarry at Port Deposit. Stretching west it crossed to Steel's Island, then to Kerr's Island, on to Wood's Island and then across the Susquehanna to the Harford County shore near the Rocky Run mill. Today, the old

tollhouse on the Harford side is used as a welcome center for the Rock Run Mill. The piers that supported the covered bridge are still visible across the Susquehanna River.

### **MILLARD TYDINGS MEMORIAL BRIDGE**

A part of Interstate 95, the Millard Tydings Memorial Bridge, a toll bridge, opened to traffic on November 14, 1963.

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## **Mason-Dixon Quarterly Hike and Meeting**

### **Quarterly Hike and Meeting**

Sun, May 22, 2016

*Hike: 9:00 am*

*Meeting: 1:00 pm*

The next board meeting of the Mason-Dixon Trail System will be held on Sunday, May 22, 1:00 pm at the Zimmerman Center for Heritage, 1706 Long Level Road, Wrightsville PA. The short hike is 2.5 miles on the Mason-Dixon Trail to the High Point Scenic Vista followed by a carpool back to the Zimmerman Center. The longer hike will continue on foot from High Point on the M-DT to the Zimmerman Center a total distance of 6.1 miles. Both hikes will leave from the Zimmerman Center at 9:00 am. Bring snacks/lunch and water and good walking footwear.

## Bridges Across the Susquehanna *continued*

### RAILROAD BRIDGE

A railroad bridge for the Baltimore and Ohio railroad was built with the bridge using Garrett Island in 1886. It was rebuilt in 1907 but sections of it collapsed. It was replaced with a double track bridge in 1910.

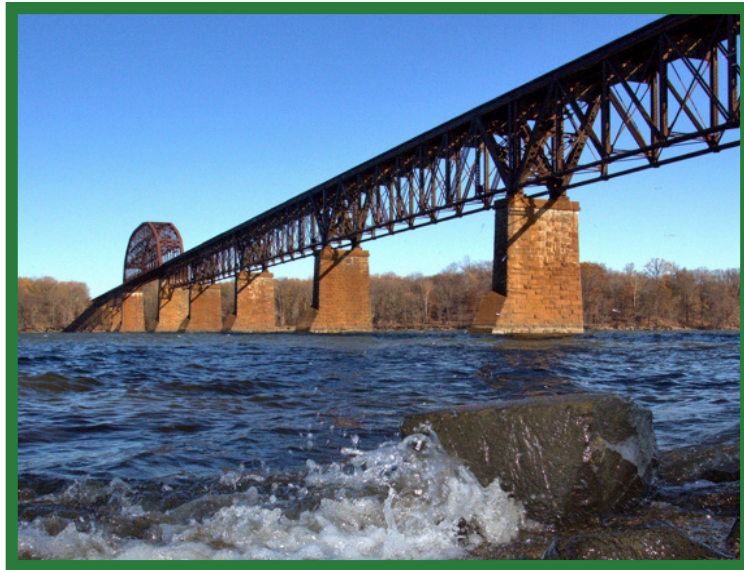
### RT 40 BRIDGE

Thomas J. Hatem Memorial Bridge (formerly the Susquehanna River Toll Bridge) is between the northern edge of Perryville and Havre de Grace. The 1.4 mile bridge opened as part of U.S. 40 on August 28, 1940.

The Susquehanna Bridge located near the current Amtrak Bridge was completed in 1866 between Perryville to Havre de Grace. It only lasted a month due to a tornado, and then was rebuilt for the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad. It was purchased in 1874 by the Pennsylvania Railroad and reinforced with iron. The bridge was replaced in 1906 by a bridge next to it. The original bridge was converted to vehicle traffic and had a second deck installed so traffic could travel both ways at the same time. It was torn down in 1943 for the scrap metal.

### AMTRAK BRIDGE

The new bridge is used by the high speed Amtrak line. The trains have to slow down because the bridge was not made to handle the high speeds. Engineering has been started to replace it with a new bridge. A walkway was proposed for the new bridge but Havre de Grace said that the walkway had to be able to handle emergency vehicles making the "walkway" a one lane road and too large to be practical.



Railroad Bridge



Rt 40 Bridge



Amtrak Bridge



# President's Message

I was disappointed in the number of responses we received on the opinion poll I asked you to complete in the last newsletter (only about 10 % of membership) but I was encouraged in the content of those responses, especially about reporting trail issues you encounter on the Mason-Dixon Trail. All the respondents indicated they were willing to report trail issues on the M-DT website and 44 % said they already had.

Since there are plenty of you willing to report, let's make sure you know how to report. If you encounter a trail issue like a blowdown, an overgrown section, missing blazes or misuse of the trail, you should first make a note of the nature and location of the trail issue. Some of you may still be able to make mental notes and recover them later but I'm beyond that point. I carry 3x5 index cards and a Bic pen in a snack size Ziploc bag to make my notes. I'll leave it up to you to decide how best to record and recover your notes.

After you get home, you can go to [mason-dixontrail.org](http://mason-dixontrail.org) and click on "Report Trail Issues" in the menu at

the top of the page. I know many of you can do this right away using your smart phone but I'm beyond that too. Either way, you will now have a form to fill out telling us who you are, where the trail issue is located and a description of the issue. Identifying the correct map helps us get the report to the right maintainer. If you don't know on which of the M-DT maps the issue is located, just click on "Not Sure" at the bottom of the list of maps. Accurately identifying the location in the text box that follows is actually more important. Hopefully, you can identify the location by its distance (or walking time) and direction from a landmark on the trail like a road crossing, stream crossing, intersecting trail or other landmark.

If you have any suggestions on how to improve the "Report Trail Issues" webpage, just click on "Contact Us" in the menu, click on the last selection (information... on the website) and then type in your suggestion.

*Thanks for your help!*

<a href="#">Home</a>	<a href="#">Report Trail Issues</a>	<a href="#">Maps/ Membership</a>	<a href="#">Suggested Hikes</a>	<a href="#">Archives</a>	<a href="#">Contact Us</a>
<a href="#">Photo Gallery</a>	<a href="#">Current Trail Status</a>	<a href="#">Map Updates</a>	<a href="#">Distance Calculator</a>	<a href="#">Related Links</a>	<a href="#">Privacy Policy</a>
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## Report Trail Issues

[<<Home](#)

If you are hiking on the Mason-Dixon Trail and come across any issues such as blow downs, inadequate or missing blazes, general poor trail quality, problems with dogs, ATVs, other people or any other issues, you can report them to us via this form. Simply fill in all the fields below and click on the submit button. Please include your phone number in case we need to contact you for more information. Data from the location and comments areas of your post may be included in our [Current Trail Status](#) area.

Your IP Address is: 100.16.4.148 (We use this information to help reduce spam posts.)

Please select the date that this issue was observed. It can not be a date in the future:

Month:  Day:  Year:

No ☐ Date ☐ Selected ☐

What is your Name:

What is your Email Address:  ☐ Reply requested

What is your Phone Number:

Which section of the Mason-Dixon Trail were you hiking on?

**WESTERN SECTION**

- ☐ **Map 1-** Appalachian Trail at Whiskey Spring, PA to Pinchot State Park, PA.
- ☐ **Map 2-** Pinchot Park at Squire Gratz Road, PA to Wago Junction at the Susquehanna River, PA.
- ☐ **Map 3-** Wago Junction at the Susquehanna River, PA to Trinity Church Road South of Wrightsville, PA.
- ☐ **Map 4-** Trinity Church Road South of Wrightsville, PA to Otter Creek Campground, PA.

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## MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM

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## Check Out Our Website!

Check out our website for trail updates, news, suggested hikes, information about the trail, and much more!

[www.mason-dixontrail.org](http://www.mason-dixontrail.org)

<a href="#">Home</a>	<a href="#">Report Trail Issues</a>	<a href="#">Maps/ Membership</a>	<a href="#">Suggested Hikes</a>	<a href="#">Archives</a>	<a href="#">Contact Us</a>
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### The Mason-Dixon Trail System

The Mason-Dixon Trail connects the Appalachian Trail with the Brandywine Trail. This 199 mile long trail starts at Whiskey Springs on the Appalachian Trail, in Cumberland County, PA and heads east towards the Susquehanna River, passing through Gifford Pinchot State Park en route. The trail then follows the west bank of the Susquehanna River south to Havre de Grace, MD. Across the river, the M-DT continues east, passes through Elk Neck State Forest, then on to Iron Hill Park, DE, north along the Christina River and White Clay Creek to the White Clay Creek Preserve. The trail then heads northeast to its eastern terminus at Chadds Ford, PA on the banks of the Brandywine River.



Images courtesy of John Beatty

#### Special Message:

Updated: 04/20/2016 13:20:03

#### Mason-Dixon Trail System Quarterly Hike and Meeting

When: Sunday, May 22, 2016 at 9:00AM EDT

Where: Between Wrightsville Boat Ramp and the Zimmerman Center for Heritage, PA

[Click/Tap Here for More Information](#)

#### NEWS:

[M-DT Now Open near North East, MD](#)

[M-DT Trail Maintenance Sections Available](#)

[4 New Mason-Dixon Trail Opinion Polls](#)

[Mason-Dixon Trail Random Facts](#)

[SGL181 Woodland Burn in Spring of 2016](#)

[Photos from a Quick Hike on the M-DT](#)

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.mason-dixontrail.org](http://www.mason-dixontrail.org)