

History Along the Trail

Impact of War of 1812 Along the Trail

In the War of 1812, the British had Naval superiority. This meant that they could range up and down the Chesapeake Bay and raid any location along the bay. Two locations that they hit were Havre de Grace and the Principio Iron Foundry.

The British under Rear Admiral Cockburn made an attempt against Elkton late April 1813. But Elkton had three earthwork forts and a chain across the Elk River, stopping the British attempt.

Havre de Grace erected a battery near Point Concord where the lighthouse stands (the exact location has not been established). The town also was the hometown of Commodore John Rogers of the US Navy.

On May 3, 1813, the British attacked Havre de Grace. Since the larger ships could not get closer than six miles due to the shallow bay, the British rowed 150 men in 16 row boats from Specutia Island, a major fishing location. Some of the troops landed near Point Concord. Point Concord is where the lighthouse is located. Others landed in several locations upriver from the point. To cover the landings the British fired Congreve rockets and cannon. Only a couple people manned the battery and abandoned it after a couple of shots. The militia and town people fled the

Point
Concord



Principio
Office

town top high ground. The British then plundered the town and burned the buildings.

The British also sent a boat to Bell's Ferry (now Lapidum) where they burned a warehouse of a gristmill.

A specific target of the British was the Principio Iron Foundry. It was used to produce cannon for the US Navy.

The British destroyed sixty cannon, some ready for shipment. They also destroyed the machinery used to bore out the cannon and other equipment. The US Navy lost a source of cannon for the rest of the war. The Foundry was not restored to service until after the war.

Mason-Dixon Quarterly Hike and Meeting

Quarterly Hike and Meeting

Sat, May 30, 2015

Hike: 9:30 am

Meeting: 1:30 pm

Meet at the York Hiking Club cabin at Otter Creek at 9:30 am. The address is 1145 Furnace Road, Airville, PA 17302. The cabin is an old stone farm house just up hill (north) from the Otter Creek bridge on Rt 425. The hike will be determined when the group meets—either a hike in Apollo Park (3.7 miles) or Otter Creek (3 miles). See page 3 for more details.

Apollo Park Shelter

By mid-summer a shelter will be completed on the M-DTS in Apollo Park, York County. This will be only the second shelter on the M-DTS system that provides a place for backpackers to sleep under roof.* The other shelter was built by the Boy Scouts and is located near Lock 12. The new shelter will sleep eight and is identical to the Clarks Ferry Shelter on the Appalachian Trail constructed and maintained by the York Hiking Club.

The shelter is being constructed by the M-DTS Thursday trail crew with funding for the shelter provided by the Harley Davidson Foundation through the efforts of Todd Trimmer. York County Parks had to permit the shelter construction since Apollo Park is a County Park.

A side trail leads approximately 100 yards from the Mason-Dixon trail uphill to the shelter. The side trail also leads to the water supply for overnight hikers. The shelter is sited with a view of a small valley where two small streams join, about one half mile from the Susquehanna River. Come out and admire our newest feature next time you are hiking in the area.

*There are other places to camp and some may have cabins (e.g.: Gifford Pinchot State Park, Otter Creek Campgrounds, and Susquehanna State Park).



President's Message

BRIGHTWATER

Grace Plateau has been renamed Brightwater Landing. I met with two of the staff. They are supportive of the M-DTS and want to help maintain the trail.

TRICORNER MARKER

There are hikes and a ceremony for opening up the trail to the Tricorner Marker on Trails Day, June 6. The Tricorner marker is where Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland meet. We hope that this will become part of the M-DTS when the trail loop is completed. There will be a series of hikes led by the Wilmington Trail Club and the Friends of White Clay Creek

Preserve. See <http://friendsofpawccp-org.doodlekit.com/home/events> for details.

PAINT FOR BLAZING

I gave up on Martin Senior paint. Of the stores within 30 miles of my house listed on their web site, two are out of business and three others no longer carry the paint. I went to Phillips in Centerville with a paint lid. They custom mixed a batch of Benjamin Moore Aura exterior latex paint. I was not sure of the finish to buy so I got satin. I would be interested in peoples opinion. We will see how it weathers.

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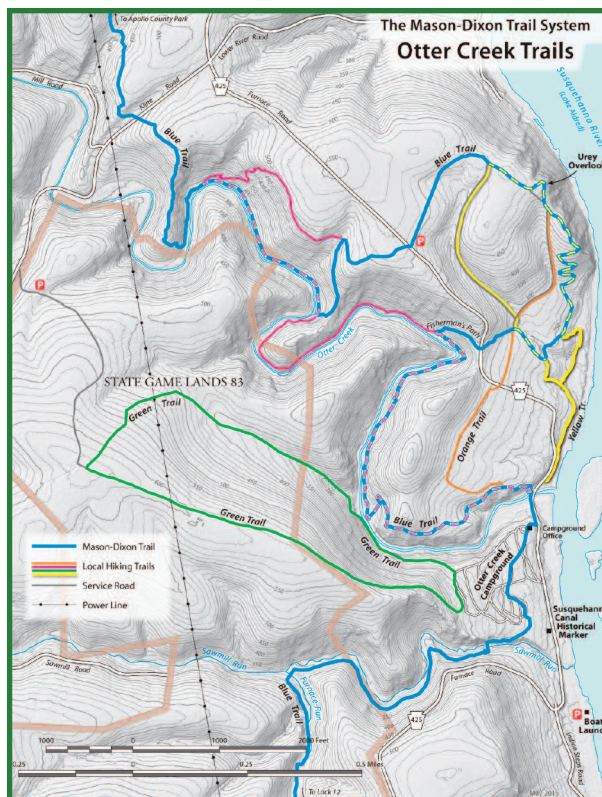
Vacant

Eastern Section

Vacant

Quarterly Hike and Meeting

For the next hike we have two options for the hike. One is a hike in Apollo Park, which would include the shelter work site (3.7 miles). This will involve placing cars at one parking lot and hiking from the other parking lot. The other is to walk the improved trails in Otter Creek (about 3 miles). The Otter Creek ravine is beautiful. Here is the most current map of this area. The hike will be decided when the group meets. The meeting will be at the cabin after the hike at around 1:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.



MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM

Rob Campbell, *Secretary*
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New Web Site Features!

Two new features have recently been added to the Mason-Dixon Trail System web site at www.mason-dixontrail.org. They are the ability to report trail issues as well as the ability to view the current status of the M-DT. These new features will help make hiking on the Mason-Dixon Trail a better experience for all.

The **Report Trail Issues** form is linked directly off of the front page of the site. Users of the trail that encounter things like missing or inadequate blazes, poor trail quality, overgrowth, blow downs, trail closures, problem dogs or problem people can use this form to alert the maintainers and officers of the M-DTS. This information goes to the maintainers of the stretch of trail that the user encountered the issue and is investigated. If it can be fixed in a reasonable amount of time, it is. If the issue requires

more time or effort, a trail work group is organized or other long term solutions to the issue are sought.

The **Current Trail Status** form is the result of the trail issues collected from the above form as well as notifications of things such as trail reroutes since the last map printing and trail closures due to various reasons. This form is updated by the maintainers and officers of the Mason-Dixon Trail System.

So before you take a hike on the Mason-Dixon Trail, please check out the **Current Trail Status** page on our web site. And if you ever encounter any adverse conditions on the Mason-Dixon Trail please report them to us via our **Report Trail Issues** form. And please let us know what you think about these features as well as the overall web site. — *Mike Calabrese*

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
