

History Along the Trail **Susquehannock Native Americans**

The earliest recorded history of English contact with the Susquehannock tribe was in 1608 by Capt. John Smith at the fall line of the Susquehanna River. The location was close to where the Conowingo Dam is today, most likely on the Cecil County side of the river. He met with sixty of the natives and described them as giants. (He was short). There is evidence that the Susquehannocks traded earlier with the Europeans on the Delaware River even selling lands to the Swedes.

The Mason-Dixon Trail goes through the last Susquehannock Village in the Native Lands County Park. The Susquehannocks had a palisade mounting a brass cannon they got from the Swedes. Inside were long houses, which were occupied by extended families. Up to 900 people lived in the village. The park keeps the estimated location of the palisade mowed so people can see how large the village was.

The Susquehannocks fought with other native tribes from North Carolina to New York State. They traded



with the Maryland colony and fought with other tribes from Virginia and New York. Their location enabled control of the native American trade with the Europeans on the Susquehanna River. However, their downfall happened when European diseases decimated the tribe and made them weak. In around 1675,

the Seneca Indians from upper New York defeated the remainder of the tribe. The tribe split up with one group going south and another group becoming the Conestoga Indians in Lancaster County, who ended up being slaughtered by the Paxton boys from Harrisburg. Others became absorbed into other tribes.

Mason-Dixon Quarterly Meeting and Hike

Quarterly Hike and Meeting

Sat, Mar 16, 2013

Hike:

9:00 am

Meeting:

12:00 pm

Hikers should plan to arrive by 9:00 a.m. at the home of Bob Bennett, 117 Dallas Ave. (corner of Apple Road and Dallas Ave.), Newark, DE. Leaving some cars at the Bennett house, we will carpool for a 10-minute drive to the starting point of the hike in Iron Hill Park at the memorial of Robert Yost, M-DT founder (Map 9: Mile 3.5). The trail leaves Iron Hill Park at Map 9: Mile 4 and continues to Rittenhouse Park at Mile 5.1, where it follows the Persimmon Run and then the Christina Creek to Elkton Road at roughly Mile 8, which is 4.5 miles from our Iron Hill starting point. From Elkton Road, we will leave the trail and walk roughly one mile through the neighborhood of "Devon" along its border with the Amtrak line to Apple Road and the Bennetts' house, where the meeting will begin at about noon. If you have questions or need directions, call the Bennetts at 302-731-4524.

President's Message

BLAZING

The entire trail in three states is blazed blue. In the Glen Cove area, some of the blue blazes have faded to white. We have decided to change our paint standard to Martin Senour, Great Life semi-gloss acrylic exterior paint Color 157-5 (Electric Blue) with finish 123105 to stop the fading. Please send any bills for paint to our treasurer, Rick Maerker. If there is a problem with the blazing, please contact us.

EXELON

We have been engaged in the Conowingo Dam relicensing and think we have an agreement on several relocations onto Exelon land. However, the relicensing process is in the negotiation phase. We are held up on the other, more expensive issues that the partners want to pursue. It is hard to predict how long the negotiations are going to take.

VULCAN QUARRY

We have been contacted by Maryland's DNR about a proposed relocation around the quarry north of Havre de Grace. Once the weather improves we are to have a meeting to plan the relocation. The route so far is only a partial solution to the rerouting around the quarry and is not the route that we explored years ago. Also, the trail will be a shared trail with the Lower Susquehanna Greenway. The Greenway will want a multiuse trail, which means the final trail will be wider and may require hardening the tread way to handle the impact from non-hiker use.

GRACE PLATEAU

The Water Street Rescue Mission has decided to put their Grace Plateau property up for sale. We need to get an easement so that the trail will remain where it is no matter who owns the property. In addition, there is an effort to preserve the land from development.

PPL LAND TRANSFER

FERC has finally approved the PPL Land Transfer to DCNR and the Lancaster Conservancy. However, the head of Pennsylvania State Parks was forced out over issues on the use of State Park land for drilling, logging and mining. The senior management of DCNR is reviewing their plans involving the transferred land. Letters to your state representative would help.

PERRYVILLE VA HOSPITAL

Before the last meeting, we hiked the proposed relocation of the trail that goes thru the Perryville Veterans Administration hospital down to the Perryville Community Park at the mouth of the Susquehanna. We still have not found who to talk to in the Veterans Administration to get permission to do the rerouting. We need help identifying whom at the VA we should be talking to.

Thornburg Historical Society

SPRING PROGRAM — "WALKING THE MASON DIXON LINE"

Thursday, March 28, 2013
7:00 pm
The AME Church
646 Cheyney Road, Glen Mills

Free and open to the public

Light refreshments will be served

For more information call
 Joan Dehm at 610-358-3397 or
 Jean Mackenzie at 484-840-9252

THS is very pleased to host Todd Babcock, charter member and Chairman of the Mason Dixon Line Preservation Partnership since 1991. Learn the fascinating story behind the Mason Dixon Line and the major role it has played in American History since 1763.

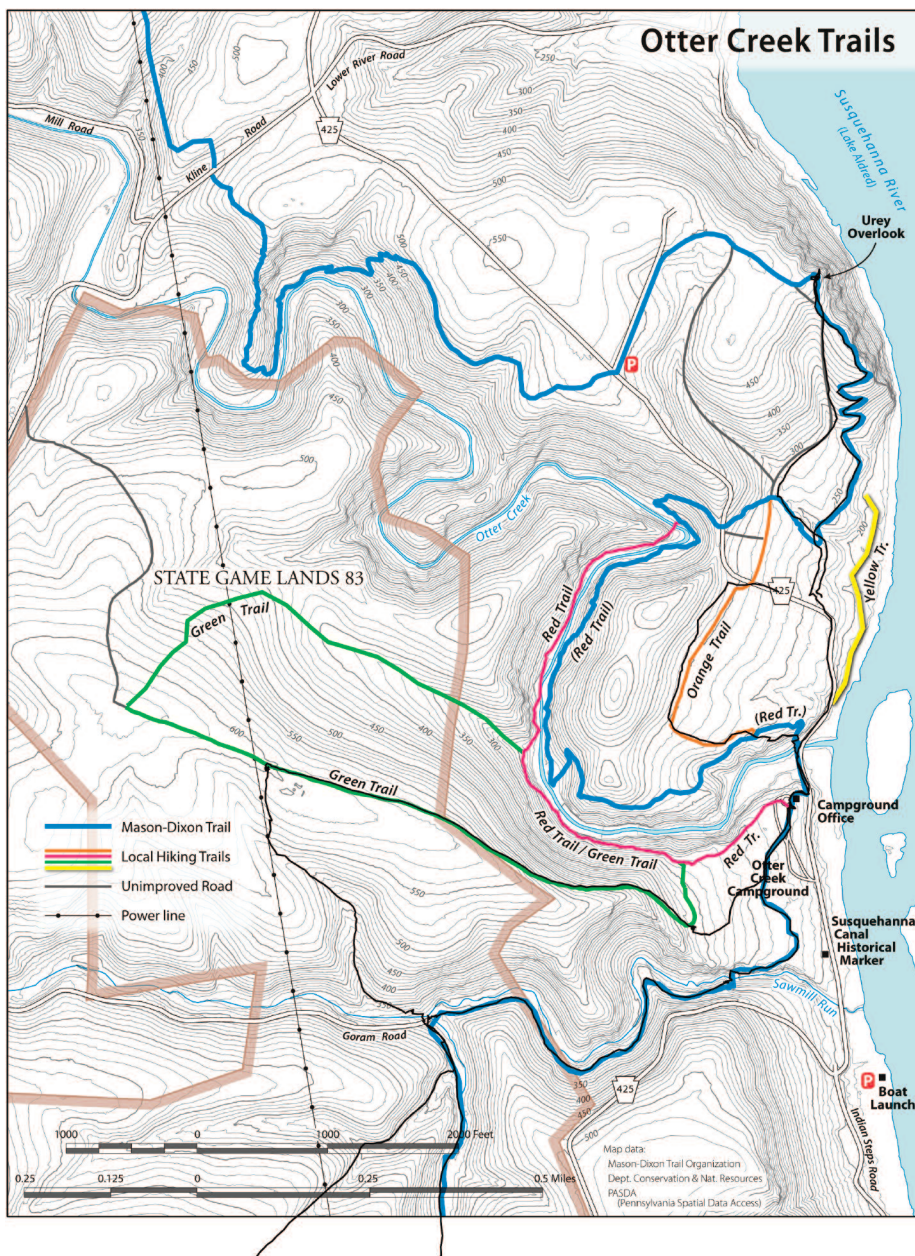
Mason and Dixon's line has become a symbol for the division between North and South and is associated with one the most defining issues to shape our national society from the 18th through the 20th centuries. Few people realize the true history behind the creation of this line and fewer still know that the line is monumented by 12" square monuments at 1-mile intervals. The results of a 1950 inventory show that 217 of 219 monuments along the Maryland portion of the boundary remain.

From the Mason Dixon Preservation Partnership web page



Otter Creek Area Trails

The York Hiking Club Thursday work crew has been working on the trails in the Otter Creek area (M-DTS maps 4 and 5). The map below shows the network of trails. Be advised that there are still some corrections to be made to the map.



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SYSTEMATIC ERRORS AND EXPERIMENTS TO WEIGH THE EARTH

AN EXCERPT FROM WIKIPEDIA ABOUT SURVEYING, CHARLES MASON AND JEREMIAH DIXON

Mason and Dixon could only do the work as accurately as they did due to the work of Nevil Maskelyne, some of whose instruments they used. There was keen interest in their work and much communication between the surveyors, Maskelyne and other members of the British Scientific establishment in the Royal Society in England, notably Henry Cavendish. During such survey work it is normal to survey from point to point along the line and then survey back to the starting point, where no errors would coincide. Normally the return errors would be random – i.e. the return survey errors compared to the intermediate points back to the start point would be spacially randomly distributed around the start point. Mason and Dixon found that there were larger than expected systematic errors, i.e. non-random errors, that led the return survey consistently in one direction away

from the starting point. When this information got back to the Royal Society members, Henry Cavendish realised that this may have been due to the gravitational pull of the Allegheny Mountains deflecting the theodolite plumb-bobs and spirit levels. Maskelyne proposed measuring the gravitational force deflection induced by the pull of a nearby mountain upon a plumb-bob in 1772 and sent Mason (who had returned to England) on a site survey through central England and Scotland to find a suitable location during the summer of 1773. Mason selected Schiehallion at which to conduct what became known as the Schiehallion experiment which was carried out primarily by Maskelyne and determined the density of the Scottish mountain. Several years later Cavendish used a very sensitive torsion balance to carry out the Cavendish experiment and determine the density of the Earth.

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

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
