



History Along the Trail **American Revolution Along the Trail**

During the revolution, the British Campaign to take Philadelphia sailed up the Chesapeake Bay and landed the troops at the town of Head of the Elk, which is now known as Elkton. They landed at Elk Ferry on Turkey Point and across the river within sight of the Cecil County Courthouse and moved inland about 3 miles.

George Washington climbed Iron Hill (map 9 3.5 mile) and then Grays Hill (map 8) to observe the British troops. He was lucky that the British horses were in bad shape due to being aboard the ships such a long time so the British Cavalry was not active. Otherwise, he might have been captured.

Washington placed a light infantry brigade under General Maxwell on Iron Hill and at Cooch's Bridge across the Christiana Creek. The British put troops on Gray's Hill.

The British advanced and outflanked Maxwell to the south. A running battle occurred with Maxwell slowing the British with a number of ambushes. The British finally outnumbered the Americans and succeeded in crossing Cooch's Bridge. The American troops ran out of ammunition and had to retreat.

Washington fortified his army on the Philadelphia side of Red Creek. Howe avoided Washington by moving



Iron Hill
Marker

north past Iron Hill and through Newark crossing White Clay Creek where it was undefended but only went 10 miles further to Hockessin. Washington then moved his troops to the Philadelphia side of the Brandywine at Chadds Ford. On September 11, 1777, approximately

thirty thousand British and American soldiers fought in the Chadds Ford area in what is known as the Battle of the Brandywine, which is upstream of where the Mason-Dixon Trail ends. Brandywine Battlefield State Park, on the site of the famous battle, is well worth a visit.

Mason-Dixon Quarterly Meeting and Hike

Quarterly Meeting and Hike
Sun, March 22, 2015
Hike: 10:00 am
Meeting: 1:30 pm

Hike: 10 am White Clay Creek Preserve, Parking at end of Arc Corner Road
Meeting: 1:30 pm Newark Free Library Community Room (750 Library Ave), at intersection of Main Street and Rt 72 (Library Ave). Access is only from Main Street (1-way street) westbound. Follow signs for library. *See inside for more info.*

Quarterly Meeting and Hike

THE HIKE

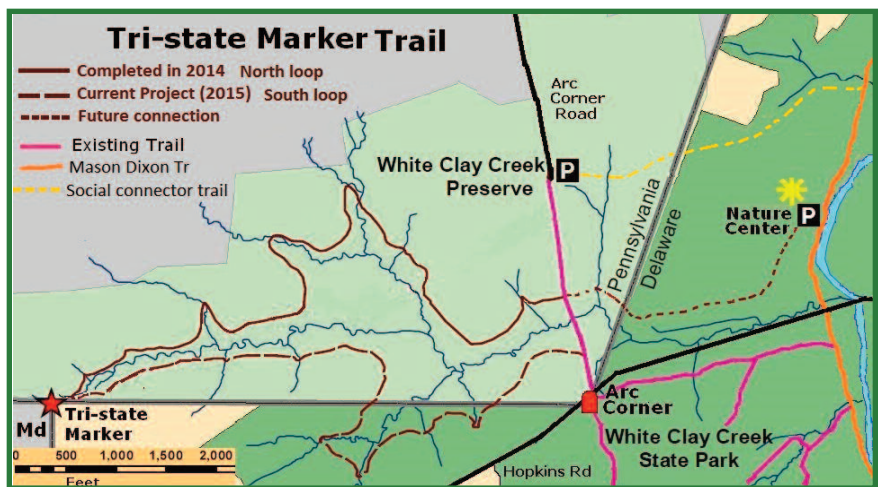
The hike will start at newly completed north leg of Tri-State Marker trail where we will hike to the marker that is starting location for the east-west Mason Dixon Line. The return will be on partly cleared/flagged south leg and then to Delaware section to visit the Arc Corner Monument. Once the Tri-State Marker trail is complete (needs a connection to Delaware Nature Center), goal would be to have the loop designated as part of Mason-Dixon trail. See attached map.

DIRECTIONS TO HIKE

Lancaster-Strasburg Area:

Traveling south on Rt-896 (7-8 miles past Rt 1) while still in Pa (about 1/2 mile from Delaware) turn left onto Chambers Rock Road and go 0.8 miles. Turn right on Arc Corner Road that is paved for about 500 feet and then becomes gravel one lane road as it goes downhill and ends at parking area.

Maryland Area: Either I-95 or Rt-273 to Newark Delaware. Take Rt-896 north. About 1/2 mile after entering Pa, turn right onto Chambers Rock Road and go 0.8 miles. Turn right on Arc Corner Road that is paved for about 500 feet and then becomes gravel one lane road as it goes downhill and ends at parking area.



Rick Maerker

Sorry to report that Rick passed away recently at the age of 66. He was very active with the Horseshoe Trail and the Mason-Dixon Trail. He served both as president and as treasurer of the Mason-Dixon Trail System. He was responsible for getting large distances of the trail off of roads and into the woods in the Chester County Pennsylvania area.

Rick hiked the entire Mason Dixon Trail at least twice. He also hiked the Appalachian Trail twice. He never did anything half way. If he could be present for a work trip, he was there.

In the accompanying photo we had just loaded the lumber for a walkway across a very swampy area beside the Brandywine. The picture is vintage Rick. There was always an adventure. *Several examples:* 1. We were to meet in the library in Hockessin. When the group showed up he ran out to greet us and let the door lock behind him. We met on the curb with his treasurers information nicely laid out inside the library. 2. Jim Hooper & I came across him in Maine on the A.T. Nothing would do but to take him into town for a restaurant meal and then deposit him back on the trail the next morning. *continued on page 3*

President's Message

TRAIL STEWARDS

We lost two of our strong supporters since my last message. Rick Maerker, ex-president and treasurer, died. There is a separate write-up on Rick in the newsletter.

Vivian Davies let us know that her husband, Warren, died. Vivian is 95. The Davies were instrumental in getting us established in the White Clay Creek parks. They lived near the tri-corner marker and hosted the club for several meetings.

SUSQUEHANNA STATE PARK

We have approval to complete the Deer Creek relocation, but not on the exact route that we wanted. This work will start as soon as the ground thaws using the Thursday work crew. Please let us know if you want to join us.

PPL

PPL is one of our major landowners. They seem to be undergoing a major

reorganization with their land managers not knowing the history of cooperation with the M-DTS. We are attempting to find out who at PPL we need to brief.

BALD EAGLES

Recently, reporters from a TV station got too close to a Bald Eagle nest (not on the M-DTS) and the bird flew off of the nest. In the cold weather, the eggs can freeze. We have several nests near the trail. If you see one:

1. Stay on the trail
2. Quietly take your photos and then move on
3. The M-DTS does not publicize the nest locations to avoid crowds collecting near a nest. Please do not publicize the location.
4. Maintainers should not operate any power equipment near a nest while the eagles are sitting on the nest.

Rick Maerker *continued*

3. After one work trip, I had several lumps on my head from being beamed by the other end of a digging bar being wielded by Rick. Yes, he was enthusiastic in all he did: Treasurer, President, and Trail Worker. A long time MDT member and good friend. We are going to miss him!



APOLLO PARK SHELTER

On February 25, 2015 The Harley-Davidson Foundation informed Mr. Jim Hooper, President of the Mason-Dixon Trail System that it had awarded a grant of \$3,200.00 to the M-DTS for the construction of a trail shelter in Apollo Park, PA. The M-DTS had applied for this grant in 2014. The tentative plans are to model this shelter after the Clarks Ferry Shelter on the Appalachian Trail in PA. Clarks Ferry Shelter is about 4 miles north of Duncanon, PA.

This will be the first shelter on the M-DT built by the M-DTS. There is a shelter near Lock 12 near Airville, PA close to the Mason-Dixon Trail that was built by the Boy Scouts. Construction of this shelter is scheduled to begin sometime in 2014.

MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM LEADERSHIP

President

Jim Hooper
309 Bank Hill Rd., Wrightsville, PA 17368
(717) 252-3784
jimhooper07@gmail.com

Vice President

Tim Schmidt
1803 Orwig Rd., New Freedom, PA 17349
(717) 235-5940
wanderfool@comcast.net

Secretary

Rob Campbell
811 Marvell Dr., York, PA, 17402
(717) 840-4482
rbcamp811@gmail.com

Treasurer

Frank Kempf
2174 Esbshade Rd., York, PA 17408
(717) 764-3942
fjkempf@comcast.net

Director - Pennsylvania

John Beatty
411 Perendale Rd., Red Lion, PA 17356
(717) 683-7099
jbeatty@gmail.com

Director - Maryland

Rick Pavao
80 Ironoak Ct., North East, MD 21901
(443) 674-8342
rjpavao@yahoo.com

Director - Delaware

Mike Ott
14 Barnard St., Newark, DE 19711
(302) 229-6157
mikeott52@aol.com

Newsletter Editor

Tony Nardi
2204 Cantley Dr., Forest Hill, MD 21050
(410) 893-5382
anthonymardi@hotmail.com

Website

Mike Calabrese
12356 Purcell Road, Manassas, VA 20112
(703) 963-6458
mikecalabrese@gmail.com

TRAIL COORDINATORS

Western Section

Skip Newcomer
208 Calvary Church Rd., Wrightsville, PA 17368
(717) 841-4930
skipnewc@hotmail.com

Central Section

Vacant

Eastern Section

Vacant

MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM

Rob Campbell, *Secretary*
811 Marvell Drive
York, Pennsylvania 17402

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
