

## History Along the Trail

# The Delaware-Pennsylvania Arc Boundary

*Special thanks to Delaware Geological Survey*

*(Delaware's State Boundaries By William S. Schenck)*

### Trivia Question

The Mason Dixon Trail starts and ends in Pennsylvania and also includes trail in Maryland and Delaware. How many times does the trail cross a state boundary? *Find the answer on page 2.*

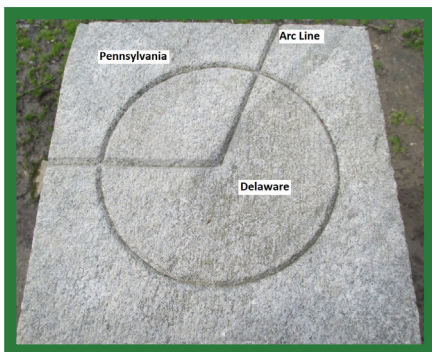
**T**he unique arc boundary dates from a deed to William Penn from the Duke of York on August 24, 1682, which granted Penn:

*“All that the Towne of Newcastle otherwise called Delaware and All that Tract of Land lying within the Compass or Circle of 12 Miles about the same scituate lying and being upon the River Delaware in America.”*

This land was managed as part of the other Penn Family grants that included the Colony of Pennsylvania. In 1701, Isaac Taylor of West Chester County and Thomas Pierson of New Castle County were appointed to survey and mark the boundary from the Delaware River westward for 120 degrees or two-thirds of a semicircle. At the time this survey was only a boundary between New Castle County which was one of the ‘Lower Three Counties of Pennsylvania’ and Chester and Delaware Counties that were part of the Pennsylvania grant. The Lower



Arc Corner Monument (above) and top of Arc Corner Monument (below)



three counties later gained semi-independence from Pennsylvania and had their own legislature and later became the state of Delaware.

A boundary between counties became a much more important boundary between two states. The boundary had been very poorly marked. Lt. Col. J. D. Graham, U. S. Corps of Topographical Engineers, during the 1849 resurvey of the northeast corner of Maryland, correctly located the 12-mile distance in the area of the junction of the three states, creating the area known as “The Wedge”.

Graham’s work was not ratified by Delaware as this would have given the Wedge to Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania did take steps to ratify the Graham line. The change was accepted on paper (maps) but was ignored in fact by Delaware which continued to exercise jurisdiction over the area.

In 1892, W.C. Hodgkins, Office of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, was contracted by a joint commission to survey and monument the Delaware-Pennsylvania boundary. Hodgkins extended the northern boundary of Maryland eastward across the top of the Wedge to the 12-mile Circle. This created the Top of the Wedge Line.

*continued on page 3*

## Mason-Dixon Quarterly Hike and Meeting

Saturday, May 13, 2017 See page 2 for more details

# Trail Maintenance Report

January – March 2017

## WESTERN SECTION

- Tom Morley, Tim Schmidt, Jim McCoy and Jim Hooper explored PA Gamelands #243 near Franklinton for a possible relocation to move the trail off the road (12 hrs).
- Mike Calabrese and Ron Gray continued their reblazing efforts completing the section between Codorus Furnace and the PA-462 bridge in Wrightsville (13 hrs).
- Roxanne Strine patrolled the M-DT from John Wright's in Wrightsville to Shanks Mare (3 hrs).
- McCoy, Schmidt, Morley and Hooper cleared blow downs north of Klines Run Park and south of Devil's Hole (6 hrs).
- Roxanne patrolled from Shanks Mare to Otter Creek and found blow downs between Cuffs Run and Kohler Rd (5 hrs).
- Roxanne, Schmidt and Hooper cleared blowdowns, small branches and brush south of Fishing Creek; they also hung a sign (9 hrs).
- McCoy and Bernie Frick cleared a few blowdowns just north of Cuffs Run (8 hrs).
- Hooper, Lukes, Calabrese, Frick and Schmidt redug several sections of trail between Green Branch and Cuffs Run (15 hrs).

- Dave Strine cut 2 blowdowns between Shenks Ferry Rd and Kline Rd (3 hrs).
- In the Otter Creek area Roxanne and Dave Strine cleared a tree on the climb, McCoy, Frick, Lukes and Morley cleared 3 trees and other material blown down and Hooper installed a post (22 hrs).

## CENTRAL SECTION

- Schmidt, Hooper, McCoy, Frick, Lukes and Frank Kempf explored for a possible relocation between Peavine Island and Lock 15 (15 hrs).
- Frank Ziemski along with 4 other adults and 7 scouts from BSA Troop 238 cleared branches and brush between Lay and Burk Rd (48 hrs).
- Mickey Glendon cleared blowdowns from the Bald Hill section (4hrs).
- Joe Alford patrolled the trail in Susquehanna State Park adding one M-DT disk (3.5 hrs).

## EASTERN SECTION

- Jim McCoy, Cameron Culler and most of the attendees of the 2/25 meeting explored, GPSed and partially cleared short trail sections in Principio Business Park in order to relocate the M-DT completely within the area approved by Stewart Properties (55 hrs).
- Pete McLaughlin, William Welch and Kera cleared blown down trees limbs and brush from about 4 miles of the M-DT in Elk Neck State Forest (14 hrs).
- Mike Ott repainted blazes along roads and streets in the Elkton area (7 hrs).
- Nick Brock cleared branches and blowdowns from the Principio Business Park section (10 hrs).
- Clark Mattison removed fallen branches and also found some logs and tires to remove on a future trip (2.5 hrs).

## Trivia Answer : 9 times (coming from the west)

1. PA to MD (Map 5 mile 30.4) 2. MD to DE (Map 8 mile 15.5) 3. DE to PA (Map 9 mile 14.9) 4. 6 more times back and forth across DE and PA (Map 10). A 4 mile addition in 2015 that took the trail to the TriState Marker included 4 border crossings. Three of the PA/DE crossings are on the 0.8 mile long E-W line (along Mason Dixon survey path) and 4 are on a unique Arc boundary line.

# Mason-Dixon Quarterly Hike and Meeting

**Quarterly Hike and Meeting**  
Sat., May 13, 2017  
Hike: 9:00 am  
Meeting: 1:00 pm

The next quarterly hike and meeting of the Mason-Dixon Trail System will take place on Saturday, May 13, 2017 near the eastern terminus of the M-DT. We will initially meet at the Brandywine River Museum parking lot in Chadds Ford, PA at 9:00 AM sharp. The address is below. The hike itself will take place along the M-DT within the Chester County area in PA. Use Map 10 for this hike. The hike will be a 6 mile loop from the eastern terminus of the M-DT to Fairville RD for the first 3 miles. Then we will return via Fairville RD for the last 3 miles. We will offer a shorter 3 mile hike via a shuttle for those that are interested. If the majority want to hike from the museum to the eastern terminus and back, we will do so. If not, we will shuttle some cars to Chadds Ford Elementary School parking lot.

## Our next quarterly meeting is scheduled to be at 1:00 PM at:

The Brandywine Conservancy & Museum of Art (610-388-2700)  
10 Station Way Road, Chadds Ford, PA 19317

The meeting place will be a small out-building on Station Way Road. It is just a 2-minute walk from the museum parking lot. We will have a guest speaker at this meeting. Sheila Fleming, Senior Planner for Conservation Design at the museum, will give a short talk on the Brandywine Creek Greenway at the beginning of the meeting. Mark your calendars now to attend our next quarterly hike and meeting. All are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, please contact us at: [www.mason-dixontrail.org/request\\_info1.php](http://www.mason-dixontrail.org/request_info1.php)

## President's Message

Last quarter's opinion poll, as with most opinion polls, can be interpreted in different ways. One way to look at the poll is that 44 % of the respondents said they attend the quarterly meetings whenever they can and 33 % intend to attend in the future when they have more free time. That's more than an overwhelming majority. The other way to look at it is that less than 5 % of the people who received the newsletter responded to the poll, only 9 people. That's more than underwhelming or should that be less than underwhelming. The poll results didn't assuage my concerns about finding the next generation of officers for the Mason-

Dixon Trail System, so I guess we have to keep working on this one.

### FUTURE FEATURES

At the last quarterly board meeting, we discussed future feature articles for the newsletter and one of the ideas was to see if we could get submissions from the membership. Two topics we considered were favorite stories from the Mason-Dixon Trail and character sketches or profiles of someone who has made an impact on some part of the trail. If you are interested in helping us out by writing an article, please contact me at [president@mason-dixontrail.org](mailto:president@mason-dixontrail.org).

### COMING EVENTS ON THE M-DT

**Saturday, June 3 — National Trails Day at Conowingo Dam**  
[www.mason-dixontrail.org/National\\_Trail\\_Day\\_Flyer.pdf](http://www.mason-dixontrail.org/National_Trail_Day_Flyer.pdf)

**Saturday, August 5 — Shanks Mare Art & Outdoor Fest**  
[shanksmare.com/?page\\_id=5270](http://shanksmare.com/?page_id=5270)

**Saturday, September 9 — KTA Trail Challenge**  
[www.kta-hike.org/faq.html](http://www.kta-hike.org/faq.html)

**Saturday, October 7 — KTA Code Orange Trail Care at Gifford Pinchot State Park**  
[www.kta-hike.org/trail-care-and-crew.html](http://www.kta-hike.org/trail-care-and-crew.html)

**Saturday, October 7 — Susquehanna Biathlon at Shanks Mare 5K Kayak & 5K Trail Run on Mason-Dixon Trail**

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## Arc Boundary *continued from page 1*

Because of errors in original survey and to best fit the very limited old existing boundary marks, Hodgkins had to draw the arc as a compound curve with several different radii both close to 12 mile circle centered in New Castle.

Hodgkins then marked the 12-mile Circle every half-mile. Including the initial point (Arc Corner Monument) and a terminal point there are 46 monuments.

The Arc Corner stone is made of dark gneiss of the Wilmington Complex. Both the Pennsylvania and Delaware sides bear the state name along with names of their commissioners and surveyor. The date, "1892" is on another side. The fourth side list the work as being done by "US Coast and Geodetic Survey".

The stones along the arc are pyramidal frustums of gray gneiss monuments, 10 inches square at the top and projecting about 30 inches above the ground. The half-mile stones bear a "1/2" on their west side. The mile stones bear a "P" on the north face, a "D" on the south face, the mile number from the initial stone on the west face, and the date 1892 on the east face.



## MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM

Frank Kempf  
2174 Esbenshade Road  
York, PA 17408

# April 1st Dump Clean-Up

This was no joke! On this day 14 people from 30ish to 70ish showed up and worked their tails off to fill a 20 ft long, 7 ft wide and 8 ft high dumpster, that's about 41.5 cubic yards or 4 standard dump trucks loads, all in about 5 hours. Kudos to everyone!!!!

The location is difficult to get to by way of the trail. We contacted Dean Heikes for permission to drive about ½ mile through his fields. He not only gave us permission, he also allowed us to place the dumpster by his barn, use his pickup all day, and he helped us most of the day. Thank you Mr Heikes!!!

Items we found included wringer washers(2), freezers(2), bikes/tricycles, dolls, shoes, old bottles, not so old cans, tires, inner tubes( lots of those), bed springs (twin and full), old car parts, TVs, and hot water heaters. Just to name a few. We're more than halfway done at this site but we could probably fill 2 more dumpsters.

I would hope that this generation will take better care of our land. I know 50 years ago this is how people got rid of unwanted things. You dumped them on a hillside. Please, please think of where your trash is going for our future generations. Recycle, reuse and dispose of things safely. Thank you all and hope to see you next spring for another Earth Day clean up in York County.



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 199-mile Mason-Dixon Trail which passes through historic and scenic areas of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware.

New members are welcome. To join, send \$20 (which covers initial membership as well as the M-DT maps) 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)**

**Visit the Mason-Dixon Trail Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/theMDTS](https://www.facebook.com/theMDTS)**