

## *History Along the Trail*

### **Early Battles Along the Mason-Dixon Trail**

**T**here have been conflicts along the route of the Mason-Dixon Trail from before the Europeans settled in the area up thru the Civil War. Before the Europeans, the various tribes would fight for hunting and fishing grounds. The earliest European settlements in Delaware were the Swedes in 1638. The Dutch had an earlier settlement in New Jersey and disputed the Swedes occupation of Delaware. The first English settlement in Maryland was at the mouth of the Potomac in 1632.

The strongest tribe was the Susquehannock, who occupied the lower Susquehanna River and the upper part of the Chesapeake. Captain John Smith met them in 1608 when he was exploring the bay. The Susquehannock bought firearms including cannon and got training on their use from the Swedes and Dutch. In addition, they adopted the European practice of building a log palisade around their towns. Inside the palisade were long houses that contained multiple families.

With their location on the Susquehanna River, the Susquehannock controlled the trade with the Europeans including the settlers in Maryland. One of the disputes was over the fisheries at the mouth of the Susquehanna, where they trapped the migrating fish with weirs. They fought off and on with the Maryland colonists and with the various Iroquois tribes. The battles came to a head with the Beaver Wars, considered some of the bloodiest conflicts in North America, as the Iroquois attempted to increase their territory. They fought first with the Mohawks and later with the Seneca, with other Iroquois tribes participating. Maryland actually supplied gunpowder to the Susquehannock to fend off the Iroquois. They were successful in defending their villages until smallpox greatly weakened their tribe. Finally in 1672, the Seneca conquered the last Susquehannock village, which was located in what is now the Native Lands County Park in

York Co. Part of the tribe fled south into Maryland where a Maryland militia defeated them in Bacon's war. Some of them were adopted or became slaves of the various Iroquois tribes.

A major Indian path into Maryland was the Monocacy Path. The exact route is not known but it went through Long Level, York County, PA just upriver from the Canadochly Creek. The Monocacy Path crossed our Mason-Dixon Trail somewhere in Native Lands County Park. This area was a pivotal site of the Conojocular War, pitting Pennsylvania against Maryland. But, more about this in the next M-DTS Newsletter.

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

### **Quarterly Meeting and Hike**

Sat, Sept 13, 2014

*Hike:*  
9:00 am

*Meeting:*  
1:45 pm

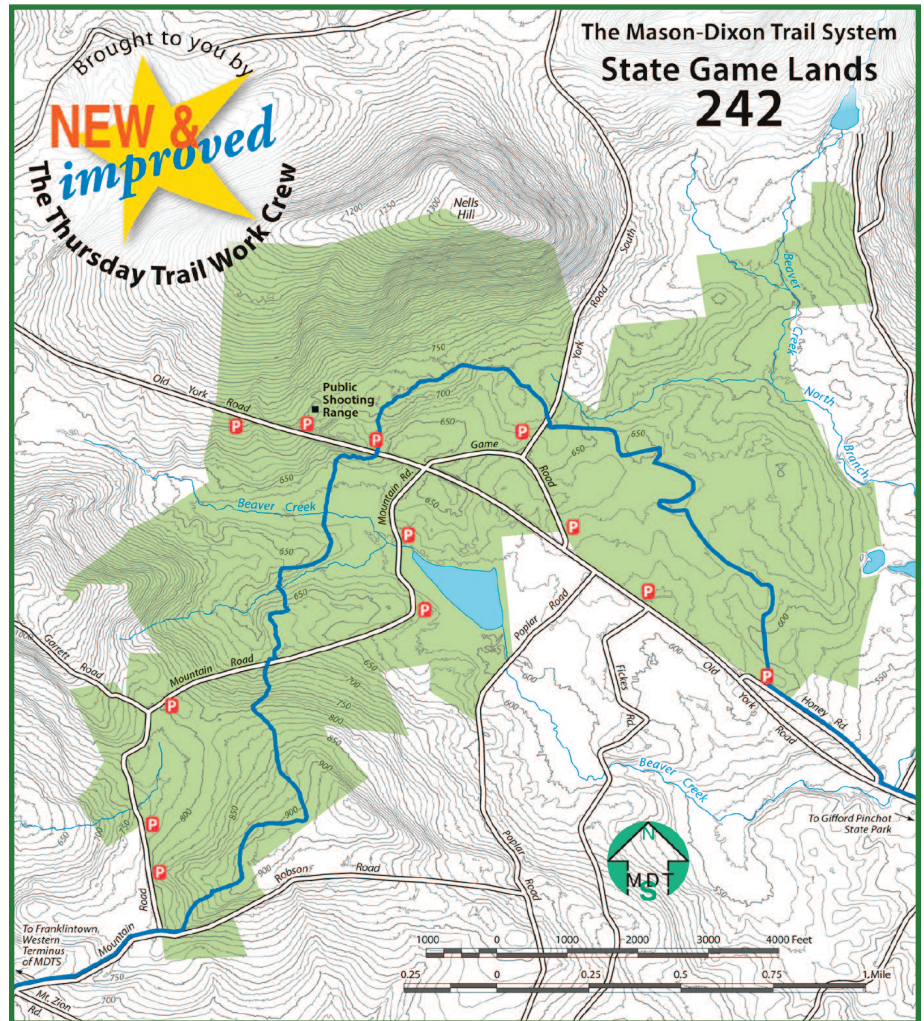
The next hike and meeting will be in the western part of the trail, hiking the new relocations in Gameland 242. The hike will be 8.1 miles with the option to bail out at the halfway point. We will meet at the boat launching site on Rt 177 and then car pool to the start of the section on Old Mountain Road (see Map 1 and the relocation map in this newsletter). Meet for the hike at 9:00 am and for the meeting at 1:45 pm. If it is raining we will move the meeting to a dry spot. If you have any questions please contact Jim Hooper at (717) 951-6808 or [j.e.hooper@ieee.org](mailto:j.e.hooper@ieee.org).

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# State Game Land 242 Relocation

## MDT Map 1 | West to East

- 11.0 mi** : Continue straight onto Robson Road. Old Mountain Road bears left.
- 11.1 mi** : Bear left into the woods on a game land trail.
- 11.2 mi** : Come out of the woods on a wider game land road. Bear right.
- 11.3 mi** : Bear left at next "intersection", pass through a small meadow with fruit trees.
- 11.5 mi** : At next larger meadow, stay right along the tree line.
- 11.8 mi** : Continue straight ahead into a woods of small trees. After 0.2 mi turn right onto an overgrown road and then bear left downhill.
- 12.2 mi** : Turn right onto Old Mountain Road, then after 100 ft turn left onto the implement road and follow the trail into the woods ahead. When you exit the woods, go to the left around the cultivated field.
- 12.4 mi** : Turn left downhill into the woods onto the implement road.
- 12.5 mi** : At the top of the climb turn right and follow the implement road down and around the edge of the field bearing left as you go.
- 12.8 mi** : Continue on the implement road diagonally downhill to the left under the power lines. At the lower end of the powerline clearing bear right downhill onto an abandoned road.
- 12.9 mi** : Bear right into a very shrubby area. The trail is a tunnel through the shrubs paralleling Old York Road.
- 13.0 mi** : Climb to Old York Road and cross straight across and through the game lands parking lot.
- 13.2 mi** : Enter the woods past the gate.
- 13.3 mi** : At the small clearing the trail exits the clearing at about the two o'clock position.
- 13.7 mi** : Reach another small clearing. The trail exits the clearing almost directly across it.



- 13.8 mi** : Turn right onto S. York Road and walk 100 ft. Turn left onto the implement road and walk straight ahead keeping the woods on your left and the fields on your right. Follow the edge of the field as it curves to the right.
- 14.1 mi** : Turn left on the implement road and walk 0.1 mi. Turn right and walk 250 ft. Turn left and follow the wheel tracks for 0.2 mi as they curve to the right and then along the power line right-of-way.
- 14.4 mi** : When you come to a break in the crops, turn to the left under the power lines and walk to the tree line. Turn left again and follow wheel tracks

for about 400 ft. Turn right and continue following wheel tracks for 0.3 mi keeping the woods on your left.

- 14.8 mi** : Bear to the right and follow wheel tracks through the field towards the opening in the trees about 400 ft ahead. Walk ahead for 0.3mi on wheel tracks with the trees on your right and the ponds on your left to the game land parking lot.

- 15.2 mi** : Cross the parking lot and turn left onto Honey Road.

Subtract 0.7 mi from each mileage indicator on Map 1 from here.

# President's Message

## RELOCATIONS

Persistence works! Two relocations were approved this year that had been pursued by the M-DTS team for years. One was Pa State Game Land 242 in northern York County. About 15 years ago, Ron Gray met with Pa Game Commission staff. The individuals he met with were very negative on relocating the trail on the Game Lands and we did not pursue this issue. In the fall of 2008, we met with the regional director and the regional land manager and walked a relocation that was viewed to be the least controversial part of the overall relocation. The Game Commission approved the relocation in June 2009. The second relocation was submitted in November 2009 and was approved June 2011. A third relocation application was submitted in June 2009 and was "lost." A fourth relocation application was submitted in February 2013 and was "lost." In June 2014, Curt Ashenfelter, KTA executive director, and Jim Hooper went in to meet with the new individual in charge of the Pa Game Commission trail permits and explained the situation. He was not aware of the 2009 application. He said he had instituted a computerized approval system, which enabled the tracking of the applications. He combined all four relocations into one new permit and got it approved in 8 days! The entire relocation in SGL 242 is now approved. The relocations were built in two work trips.

A second relocation was just completed at the Conowingo Dam. The M-DTS originally went down to the dam from the Visitor's Center on a route near the power plant. After 9/11, Exelon security expanded their security perimeter and forced the trail to move to the roads, including a narrow road that was busy on weekends. Dave Linthicum drew a map proposing a relocation in the woods away from the dam. He tried multiple times to get the relocation approved without success. During the conversations about the dam relicensing, the M-DTS team brought up the relocation issue. After much hard work by Fred Smith, Exelon's Shore Line Specialist, it was finally approved in Dec 2013. He not only had to get internal approval from Exelon but had to get approval from Harford County's Homeland Security. Due to the harsh winter the relocation was not built until May 2014.

## PERRY POINT, MD

We are negotiating the right to cross the VA hospital grounds along the Susquehanna River to the town park on Perry Point. Support from people that live in Perryville would be useful.

## TRAIL STEWARDS (MAINTAINERS)

We still have sections of the trail that we have no identified individual to be a Trail Steward. The duties can be tailored to the capabilities of the individual. Please contact Skip Newcomer if you are interested.

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# MDT to Participate in October 4 Trailcare Day at Gifford Pinchot State Park

Members of the MDT will again participate in a Code Orange Trailcare event on Saturday, October 4, at Gifford Pinchot State Park. The event is co-sponsored by the Friends of Pinchot State Park and the Keystone Trails Association.

The main work crew that day will install geotextile material, and improve the footway and drainage of the MDT across a chronically wet area of the trail between the campground and Route 177. Park manager Bob Deffner will lead this crew. This work is subject to approval by the Army Corps of Engineers, but park officials report that approval appears likely by October 4.

A second crew will construct a loop trail off of the MDT between Boat Mooring #1 along Route 177 and Squire Gratz Road on the park boundary. We expect this crew to be led by a trail specialist from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

The work day will conclude with a cookout hosted by the Friends of Pinchot.

The meeting place for the trailcare day is 8:30 am at the Quaker Race Day Use Area. However, MDT members may meet at 8 AM at the main work site as in previous years. Please contact Skip Newcomer for further information on the work day and meeting place.

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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.masondixontrail.org](http://www.masondixontrail.org)**

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