



## Historical Sites Along the Trail

### The Canal System

**T**he Mason-Dixon Trail System follows the canal system from Havre de Grace to Wrightsville. Construction on the Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal was begun in 1836 and completed in 1840. It interconnected with nearly 4,000 miles of other canals throughout the Midwest and Eastern United States and opened central Pennsylvania to convenient trade with Philadelphia and Baltimore. A total of 29 locks, 19

in Pennsylvania and 10 in Maryland, raised or lowered canal boats a total of 233 feet to compensate for the elevation difference. Mules pulled the boats while on the towpath. Lumber, farm products, and especially coal were the primary cargoes transported via the Canal during its heyday in the 1860s and 1870s. With the advent of the railroad, the role of canals began to decline. Railroads were faster, cheaper to maintain, and could

operate 12 months a year. In fact, the Reading Railroad acquired the Canal in the 1870s, eventually selling it to an agent of the Philadelphia Electric Company in 1902 for the future construction of the Conowingo Dam. Thus ended the active life of the S & T Canal and the Canal Era in Havre de Grace.

The trail goes right by the Lock House and Lock in Havre de Grace (see map #7, mile 0.9). This is where boats entered from the Chesapeake Bay. While the Canal was in operation (1840–1890s), the Lock House, built in 1840, served ably in its dual roles of providing a residence for the Lock Tender and his family and an office for the Toll Collector. A brick two-story building about 30 feet deep and 37 feet long, it was nearly twice the size of the other lock houses on the Canal. It is of the late Greek Revival style reflecting the latest fashion of the time. The Lock House is now a museum.

**For further information, please visit:**  
[www.thelockhousemuseum.org](http://www.thelockhousemuseum.org)



Canal Lock and Lock House in Havre de Grace

## Mason-Dixon Quarterly Meeting and Hike

### Quarterly Hike and Meeting

Sat, Oct 29, 2011

*Hike:*

9:00 am

*Meeting:*

1:30 pm

The next Mason-Dixon Trail System hike and meeting will be held on October 29. The hike will be between Broad Creek and the Conowingo Visitors Center, 4948 Conowingo Road, Darlington, MD 2103. Meet at 9 am at the Visitors Center parking lot. The group will then carpool to Paddrick Rd for the start of the 6.5-mile hike. The Conowingo Visitors Center and swimming pool is located on Rt 1 on the Hartford County, south side of the Conowingo Dam. Turn into the last upriver driveway before the dam.

The meeting is at 1:30 pm after the hike. If anyone has problems, please contact Jim Hooper on his cell phone at (717) 951-6808 or by email at [j.e.hooper@ieee.org](mailto:j.e.hooper@ieee.org).

## The Origin of the Mason-Dixon Trail

The origin of the idea for the M-DT came from the longings of Bob Yost, a chemist with the Getty Oil Co., and the head trail maintainer for the Wilmington Trail Club in the early seventies. Bob created a number of blue-blazed loops coming off and circling back to the Brandywine Trail in southeastern PA and northern DE so that hikers could do loop hikes rather than linear miles along the Brandywine Trail (a 36-mile Trail stretching from above Marsh Creek State Park to Brandywine Creek State Park north of Wilmington).

Bob had grown up as a boy in York County along the banks of the Susquehanna and had spent many enjoyable summer months exploring the west bank of the Susquehanna between Wrightsville and Havre de Grace. He dreamed of an extension of the Brandywine Trail through northern DE into MD, crossing the Susquehanna between Perryville and Havre de Grace and then up along the west bank of the Susquehanna for seventy-five miles over many of those paths which he had enjoyed as a teenager. He figured he could "resurrect" some of the paths he'd used as a boy along the west side of the Susquehanna and then somewhere north of Wrightsville cut west to the Appalachian Trail.

He depended on Earl Shaeffer (of AT thru-hiking renown) to create the western spur along back country roads. It was actually Earl's brother Dan and some boy scouts who put in that section, eight miles of which go through Gifford Pinchot State Park. Unfortunately, many of those back-country roads which were dirt back in the seventies have since been paved, so some of the charm of the western end of the Trail has been diminished. Ron Gray and Jim Hooper are forever trying to reroute the Trail off roads



*Memorial to Bob Yost in Iron Hill Park*

to improve the quality of hiking on the western end. Dick Tobias of the Lebanon Hiking Club was insistent that the M-DT have its western terminus at the AT at a place called Whiskey Springs. That name just tickled Dick's humor.

Originally the Trail was called the Brandywine-Susquehanna Trail (B-ST), but that name seemed a bit cumbersome. Because the Trail crossed the Mason-Dixon line several times, the idea of calling the Trail the Mason-Dixon Trail, or M-DT, developed. In 1979 the Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc., was officially established as an organization (to have stewardship of any hiking trails in southeastern PA, northern DE, and northeastern MD) with the completion of the sky blue blazing of the entire 215 miles of the Trail and the re-decking of a railroad bridge across Deer Creek in Susquehanna State Park in MD. Permission was obtained from the Rt. 40 Bridge toll takers/police force for M-DT thru-hikers to be transported by patrol cars across the Brandywine (I have availed myself of their kind services two or three times on my M-DT thru hikes—they were good to their word!).

At that time the eastern section coincided with the Brandywine Trail to its northern terminus at the Horse-Shoe Trail at Bartlett Lane near Birchrunville, PA, about a mile northeast of Ludwigs Corner. About ten years later, in the late eighties, the decision was made to start the M-DT in Chadds Ford where it deviates from the Brandywine Trail. That's essentially what happens now. The eastern terminus of the M-DT is on Fairville Road in Chadds Ford Township on the west side of the Brandywine. The Brandywine Trail and the Mason-Dixon Trail coincide for about a mile and a half now.

Today, the total length of the M-DT is about 190 miles and it traverses White Clay Creek State Park in PA, Susquehanna State Park in MD, and Gifford Pinchot State Park in PA, and also passes through various county parks on its way to its western terminus at the AT in Whiskey Springs, southwest of Carlisle and Boiling Springs in PA. Many land owners and several power companies and paper companies have been most gracious in granting permission for a public hiking trail to traverse their properties.

# President's Message

## SUSQUEHANNA SUPER HIKE

A crew from the York Hiking Club got the M-DTS part of the trail ready for the Super Hike then Irene came along. Several individuals (Curt Ashenfelter, Roxanne Stine and Gary Bowman) hiked various sections of the route and identified where the blow downs from the storm were. Two chainsaw crews cut all the blowdowns (about 20) on the same day. Then along came the rain and flooding. Otter Creek Campground was evacuated by the emergency personnel and the other end of the hike at Pequea campground was under water, therefore the KTA had to cancel the Super Hike.

## STORM DAMAGE

The recent two storms caused a lot of damage. The maintenance crews can't get in to repair the damage unless they know where and what the damage is. When you hike the trail please note down the location of any blow downs or other damage and let a member of the board know. Since the maintainers might have permission to get to the trail over non-public land, the better the location can be defined, the easier it is for the maintainers to get in to do the repair work. Photos also help the maintainers to figure out what equipment they need to carry in with them.

## PAINT FOR THE BLAZES

We have found out that the original paint that we used for blazes tended over time to bleach to white. We are now recommending Martin Senour, Great Life semi-gloss acrylic exterior paint Color 157-5 (Electric Blue) with finish 123105. Send the bills for the paint to our treasurer, Rick Maerker. If you can't get the paint, please contact Jim Hooper.

We follow the guidelines that are used on the Appalachian Trail. A single blaze means straight ahead. For turns we use offset blazing with the top blaze offset from the bottom in the direction of turn. A single blaze should be about 2 by 6 inches. A single blaze just after a turn helps individuals know the make the correct turn. When the trail is relocated you should paint out the blazer with a color close to the background color of the tree or post. This is usually a gray or brown color.

## CONOWINGO RELICENSING

Members of the board attended a series of meetings with Exelon and their consultants, TRC, about the development of the Recreation Plan that will be part of the relicensing of the dam. One of the meetings was a private meeting about the routing of the Mason-Dixon Trail System and the various issues that occur along the trail. In all, the meetings were successful. Another meeting was a meeting without Exelon represented which headed by the National Park Service included representatives from PA DCNR, MD DNR, York, Harford and Cecil Counties, Susquehanna Gateway Heritage, Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway and the Lancaster Conservancy. The meeting was to get the various stakeholders to team together on addressing the various issues.

**For further information, please visit:**  
[www.exeloncorp.com/powerplants/Conowingo/relicensing/meetings.aspx](http://www.exeloncorp.com/powerplants/Conowingo/relicensing/meetings.aspx)

## MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM LEADERSHIP

### President

Jim Hooper  
 309 Bank Hill Rd., Wrightsville, PA 17368  
 (717) 252-3784  
[j.e.hooper@ieee.org](mailto:j.e.hooper@ieee.org)

### Vice President

Ron Gray  
 640 Sterling Drive, Red Lion, PA 17356  
 (717) 244-8040  
[ronaldgray@comcast.net](mailto:ronaldgray@comcast.net)

### Secretary

Rob Campbell  
 811 Marvell Dr., York, PA, 17402  
 (717) 840-4482  
[rbc1@psu.edu](mailto:rbc1@psu.edu)

### Treasurer

Rick Maerker  
 13 Denise Dr., Thornton, PA 19373  
 (610) 459-3203  
[merk@ccil.org](mailto:merk@ccil.org)

### Director - Pennsylvania

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

### Director - Maryland

Cindy Kelly  
 117 Francis St., Havre de Grace, MD 21078  
 (410) 939-5029  
[cl\\_kelly@comcast.net](mailto:cl_kelly@comcast.net)

### Director - Delaware

Yvonne Blades  
 56 Crosslands Dr., Kennett Square, PA 19348  
 (610) 388-1871  
[hyblades@verizon.net](mailto:hyblades@verizon.net)

### Newsletter Editor

Tony Nardi  
 2204 Cantley Dr., Forest Hill, MD 21050  
 (410) 893-5382  
[anthonywardi@hotmail.com](mailto:anthonywardi@hotmail.com)

## TRAIL COORDINATORS

### Western Section

Skip Newcomer  
 P.O. Box 8228, Lancaster, PA 17604  
[skipnewc@hotmail.com](mailto:skipnewc@hotmail.com)

### Central Section

Ron Green  
 2893 Yost Ct., Edgewood, MD 21040  
 (443) 655-6358  
[rgreen@chimera-enterprises.com](mailto:rgreen@chimera-enterprises.com)

### Eastern Section - Cecil County

Keith Williams  
 131 Skyline Drive, Conowingo, MD 21918  
 (443) 206-2923  
[kwilliams@northbayadventure.com](mailto:kwilliams@northbayadventure.com)

### Eastern Section - Delaware

Vacant

## MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM

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

### WHERE ON THE TRAIL?

Do you know what this image is and where it can be found?



**GET INVOLVED!**

#### **VOLUNTEERING**

We continue to need volunteers in Maryland and Delaware. People are needed to help with both maintenance and the “administrative” tasks. More local people that are involved the easier it is to deal with both the government and private entities. Please contact me if you are interested.

#### **NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

Tony needs articles and photos for the newsletter. One series we are trying to start is a series on the historical spots along the trail. Other possible articles could be on people’s adventures on the trail and about geology. If you have an article or propose to write an article please contact our newsletter editor, Tony Nardi at [anthohnardi@hotmail.com](mailto:anthohnardi@hotmail.com)

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 \$19 (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](http://www.masondixontrail.org)**