



## Tri-State Marker Trail becoming a reality

Almost 250 years ago a team of surveyors from England – Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon – placed a marker at the precise point at which Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania intersect. (See page 2 for a history of the marker.)

This historic tri-state marker remained on private land, which was hard for the general public to visit. That is until now.

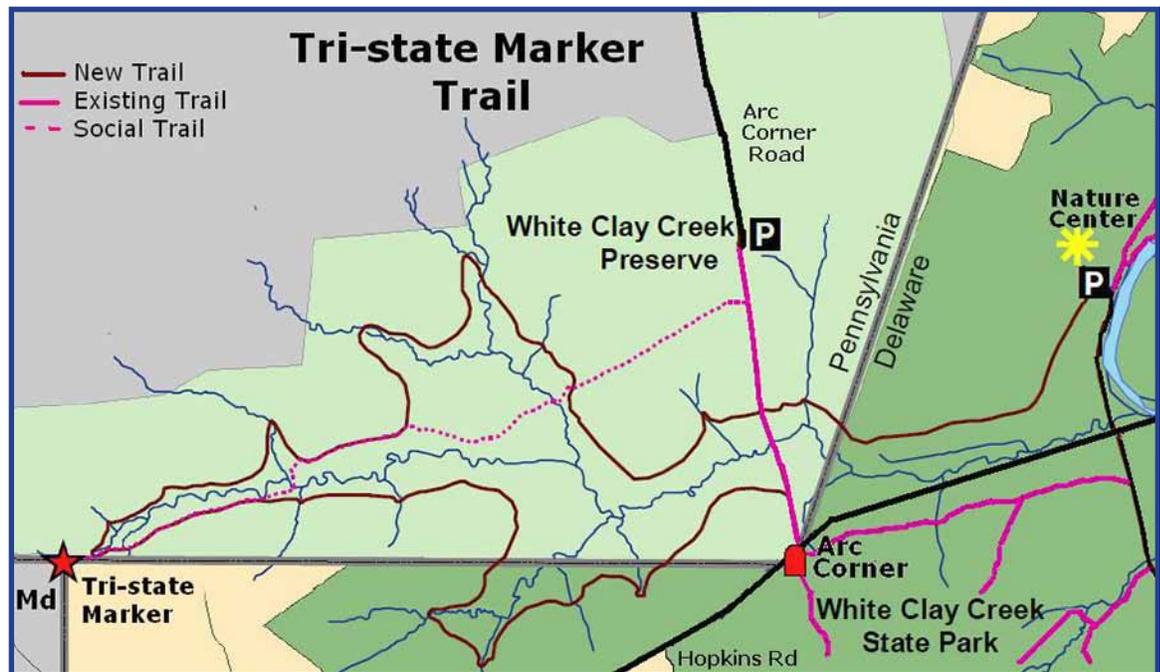
In December 2011, the State of Pennsylvania purchased the Pennsylvania lands around the marker. The parcel connected to other holdings in the White Clay Creek Preserve. Although the land was under state ownership, access to the site was still difficult with safe public parking unavailable. Only unmarked existing social trails, some through boggy marshes with many stream crossings, were available for those interested in visiting this historic marker. The only way of finding the marker if you didn't know where it was located was to go with someone who knew the location.

Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve (FWCCP) partnered with the Wilmington Trail Club to work with the State of Pennsylvania in the hope of building a viable, sustainable, ecologically-friendly trail to the Tri-State Marker. Wendel Cassel, FWCCP and WTC member, is leading the effort on this project.

Throughout much of 2012 and 2013 a trail plan was developed. The plan was changed many times to meet the needs of local constituents. It was then presented to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) for review and approval. Ecological and biodiversity studies were

conducted. The plans were revised again and final approval was gained.

The Tri-State Marker Trail (see map below) will be an approximately 4-mile looping trail connecting the Preserve's Arc Corner parking lot with the Tri-State Marker. It will have connecting trails to the Carpenter Area of White Clay Creek State Park in Delaware. The single-lane pedestrian trail with a total of 15 bridges and boardwalks will take visitors on a wonderful hike through beautiful mature woodlands, around farmlands, and over small



tributaries of the White Clay Creek to the Tri-State Marker.

The trail will be built in phases. Phase One, the Northern Trail is under construction. This 1.7 mile trail with 9 bridges/boardwalks goes from the Arc Corner Parking lot to the Tri-State Marker. Before the winter freeze set in, the three bridges closest to the Tri-State Marker were installed and about 500 feet of new trail was cut. Two more bridges are in progress, being built by local Boy Scouts for their community service project. When complete, this trail will give public access to the Tri-State Marker on a one-way trail.

## Tri-State Trail Marker.....(continued from page 1)

Phase Two, the Southern Trail, will commence once the Northern Trail is complete and upon approval of the plan from Delaware State Parks. The Southern Trail is another two-mile trail with five additional water crossings. It will also connect into trails in the White Clay Creek State Park in Delaware.

The building of the trail is an all-volunteer effort. Come spring, Wendel will organize work days to get the trail complete. Details will be placed on the FWCCP's website: [www.FriendsofPaWCCP.org](http://www.FriendsofPaWCCP.org) and messages sent out from our distribution list. Email FWCCP from the link on our website if you are interested in being notified about workdays.

Phase One of Tri-State Trail is expected to cost slightly over \$20,000 to complete. FWCCP received grants from the Wilmington Trail Club, Friends of White Clay Creek

State Park (Delaware's friends group), and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania totaling \$4,500. We are applying for grants from a variety of sources to continue the work on the project. Individual donations are also being accepted to help make this project become a reality. Donations can be made from our website or sent to Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve, P. O. Box 172, Landenberg, PA 19350.

The goal is to have the Northern Trail completed in time to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Mason-Dixon survey's setting of a marker on June 18, 1765.

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Friends of White Clay  
Creek Preserve

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New programs coming in 2014! Check  
the website in March for details.



## History of the Tri-State Marker

By Mike Ott

In 1763-67 Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon surveyed and marked most of the boundaries between Maryland and Pennsylvania that included the Three Lower Counties that would later become Delaware. The survey was commissioned by the Penn and Calvert families to settle their long-running boundary dispute.

The west line, popularly called Mason-Dixon Line, was set by Mason-Dixon

to be 15 miles south of southern most part of Philadelphia and to run due west. Mason-Dixon also surveyed (coming from south) the Tangent line, Arc line, and North line that formed the boundary between Maryland and lower three counties of Pennsylvania (later to become Delaware) The intersection of the North Line with the West line formed the northeast Corner of Maryland.

Most Mason-Dixon mile marker stones had P and M on opposite sides and at 5 miles intervals they had Calvert family and Penn family crests to replace the M and P. The Northeast Corner of Md. stone along with what later became SW corner of Delaware were the only two stones to have double crownstones.

At some point the Marker went missing. Lt. Col. Graham of U.S. Corps of Topographical Engineers was commissioned to re-survey and replace the marker. He correctly located the exact position of

the missing Mason-Dixon marker. However he had very unusual (and later deemed incorrect) viewpoint that Delaware was only land east of the arc and Maryland was correctly surveyed. That left the wedge shaped area just south and east of northeast corner of Maryland and west of the arc belonging to Pa. Because of this interpretation, the Tri-state point was 5 miles to the south where the arc intercepted the Transpeninsular line. That left the northeast Corner of Maryland being only a border with Pa, so the replacement marker had a 1849 date on north side along with a "M" on two sides and a "P" on two sides and no mention of Delaware. Ironic that it kind of matched the original Mason Dixon crownstone stone that had Crest of Calvert family (Maryland) on 2 sides and crest of Penn family (Pa) on other two sides. Delaware never ratified the re-survey

In 1892 W.C. Hodgkins of U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey was commissioned to re-survey and monument the Delaware-Pennsylvania boundary. This survey corrected the 1849 "mistake" and returned the wedge to Delaware and the Northeast Corner of Maryland then also became the three-state intersection of Md., Pa, and De. Since the 1849 marker was in the correct location, it was not changed. The Arc Corner Marker was added east of this along with new markers along the arc every 1/2 mile.

So now what you will see at the historic Mason Dixon Survey location that they called Northeast Corner of Maryland is not an original special M-D double crownstone or a stone with three states inscribed on it, but a very old 1849 kind of replica of what was originally there. There is a brass 1935 US Geodetic survey marker drilled into the top of the marker to officially designate it the "MDP Corner, but most people simply call it the Tristate Marker.

*Reprinted with permission from the Friends of White Clay Creek State Park Newsletter*

# Dorothy Miller honored with Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve 2013 Preservation Award

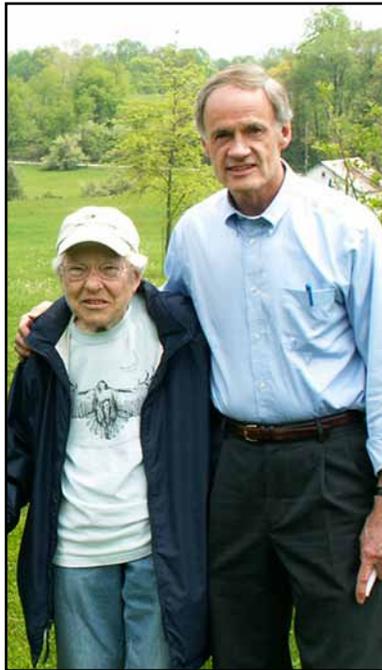
White Clay Creek Preserve and White Clay Creek State Park would not be here today if it weren't for Dorothy Miller. She's dedicated thousands upon thousands of hours for the past 50+ years in successfully protecting this natural resource.

Dorothy came to the cause as an avid birder and lover of nature who spent much time along the banks of the White Clay Creek.

"It was a real grassroots effort," said Miller in previous interviews about the processes of saving the White Clay Creek from being dammed. "We wanted to see the area preserved for its natural values. There was so much support in the whole region that politicians found our project desirable."

As one of the founding members of a Delaware Coalition created to fight the building of the dam, she worked tirelessly to help elected officials, government employees, and the general public understand the importance of the White Clay Valley and to find a solution to keep the Creek free-flowing.

Eventually the Delaware Coalition merged



*At Creekfest (May 2009 at White Clay Creek State Park), Dorothy Miller with then Delaware Senator Tom Carper.*

with a similar Pennsylvania group to form the White Clay Watershed Association. This group was responsible for having DuPont's holdings along the White Clay Creek donated as the Preserve and Park.

After the lands were preserved and donated, Dorothy continued to lend her talents through the Bi-State Citizen's Advisory Council, which was tasked with working with Pennsylvania and Delaware park officials to turn the private lands into public spaces. According to Miller, when the Park and Preserve were designed, the focus was to spread out use along the entire area. "You can always find someplace to be alone," said Miller.

The Park and Preserve we know today has much to do with the vision and efforts of Dorothy Miller. In 2009 she said, "We still work on this everyday. There is a lot going on. We are trying to prevent damage to the stream. We are always looking to acquire adjacent lands while the opportunity is still there. We are still fighting battles."

To this day, she continues the work in her quiet, but steady way.

## Renew Your FWCCP Membership Now!

Support the work and goals of Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve remain an ACTIVE member by renewing your membership now!

Membership dues are \$10 for an individual or \$15 for a Family.

### Lifetime Memberships

So you always want to be a member of FWCCP but don't want the hassle of remembering to send the check every year? Become a Lifetime member for \$150.

### Donations always accepted

All donations made through the White Clay Creek Preserve's page on the Pennsylvania Parks and Forest Foundation's website are credited to the White Clay Creek Preserve's account. They are tax deductible. We appreciate all support we receive from our members.

### Encourage your neighbors to join

Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve is as strong as its membership. If you think the White Clay Creek Preserve is an asset to your life and community then show your support and become a member of Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve. Ask your friends and neighbors to join too!

The online/credit card membership process is accessed from our website: [www.FriendsOfPaWCCP.org](http://www.FriendsOfPaWCCP.org)

A membership form is enclosed at the end of the newsletter for those preferring to send a check. Send it to FWCCP, P. O. Box 172, Landenberg, PA 19350.



## Join Pennsylvania Parks and Forest Foundation, too!

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation welcomes the support of individuals and businesses who share a commitment to conserving, protecting, and enhancing the natural and recreational areas of the Commonwealth.

Help keep Pennsylvania's parks and forests places that all can enjoy, forever, by becoming a member of the Foundation.

With help from our members, the Foundation works to enhance your outdoor treasures through events, advocacy, projects, and a network of volunteer friends groups—one of the strongest and most diverse citizen movements in Pennsylvania. Their 35 friends groups are making YOUR parks and forests even better!

Visit [paparksandforests.org](http://paparksandforests.org) to learn more about PPF. Memberships and donations are possible by clicking the link on their home page.

# 2013 Christina Watershed Clean-Up

As the White Clay Creek flows into the Christina River, Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve (FWCCP) supported the annual Christina River Watershed Clean up on April 6, 2013. Led by FWCCP Board member, April Schmitt, over a dozen members of FWCCP joined members of the Wilmington Trail Club plus other volunteers in removing junk from a former trash dump located on a slope overlooking the White Clay Creek just off Paper Mill Road, in Newark, Delaware.

It was the second year volunteers worked to clear years and years of dumped trash at the site. In total more than 75 contractor-size trash bags, a dozen tires and about five cubic yards of

metal were removed from the illegal dump and taken to the official dump for proper disposal.

FWCCP will participate in the 2014 Christina Watershed Clean-Up again this year at the same site. Although the official clean-up date is April 12, we will hold our clean-up a week early on April 5 because of schedule conflicts. Anyone interested in participating should contact April Schmitt by email: (april.schmitt27@gmail.com) to reserve a space, give her your t-shirt size, and for details on where to meet.

Join us for the 2014 Clean-Up  
 Saturday, April 5, 2013  
 9 AM to Noon  
 Contact : april.schmitt27@gmail.com



Some of the many volunteers who made a difference within the White Clay Watershed.



Loading metal to take to the real dump.



A team works to remove an old pipe from the ground

## The First Annual TRIHUMPF Race a Great Success!

Saturday, May 18 was the perfect day for the Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve's first annual TriHumpf Race. Over 90 people participated in one of the runs -- the 4.5 mile, 8 mile, or the half-marathon to the Tri-State Marker.



Hunt Bartine, of both Trail Dawgs (our partner organization for this event) and FWCCP says that at minimum the participants at the TRIHUMPF learned about the amazing resource the White Clay Preserve is as they ran the trails. He thinks many even learned more about the mission of FWCCP (Pa), too.



## Kathy Ruck's "Yeatman's Mill" Print Available



Yeatman's Mill, by Kathy Ruck

Yeatman's Mill was once a major hub of the White Clay Valley. The house, built in the late 1700s still stands on Sharpless Road.

Landenberg resident and local artist Kathy Ruck's painting "Yeatman's Mill" depicts the residence and mills of John C. Yeatman circa 1880.

When you purchase this limited edition print through Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve you not only support a gifted artist

but the WCCP Friends group, too.

- Two sizes are available:
- 15' x 8.25' - \$40 unframed, \$115 framed
  - 18" x 10" - \$55 unframed, \$155 framed

Other Ruck prints are also available.

Call George Dunmire at Framemakers (302-999-9968) or email fra.geo02@verizon.net for details and/or to order a print.



FRIENDS OF  
**White Clay  
 Creek Preserve**  
 Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

[www.FriendsofPaWCCP.org](http://www.FriendsofPaWCCP.org)

**A volunteer community service organization committed to supporting Pennsylvania's White Clay Creek Preserve through improvement/maintenance projects, educational programs and fund raising efforts.**

Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve (PA) was chartered by a group of concerned citizens to support the Pennsylvania portion of the White Clay Creek Preserve and Park system in March 2012. It is a local chapter of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, an organization dedicated to helping all of Pennsylvania's state parks, forests and preserves.

State funding cuts have left White Clay Creek Preserve with minimal staff, no naturalist/interpretive specialist, and limited funding to improve the Preserve. As a volunteer service orga-

nization, Friends of White Clay Creek (PA) sponsors public education programs, organizes clean-ups and volunteer park maintenance programs, seeks funding for improvement projects, raises awareness of the Preserve's assets, and advocates for the park's future at all levels of government.

Help us realize our goals by becoming a member of the Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve (PA). As a member of this Friends group, you will become part of a community that enjoys all the White Clay Valley has to offer and is committed to its preservation.

**Join the Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve (PA) online at  
 FriendsofPaWCCP.org**

**or use the application below to mail in your membership**

**Friends of White Clay Creek (PA) Membership**

\$10 Individual       \$15 Family       \$5 Student       \$150 Lifetime

Please accept my/our additional gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in support of FWCCP(PA) programs (gifts are tax deductible).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Your municipality/township: \_\_\_\_\_

- I am interested in serving on a Friends of the White Clay Creek Preserve Committee (circle preference)  
**Programs • Communications • Improvements • Funding/Grant Writing • Government Relations**
- I am interested in: (circle all that apply):  
**Attending Programs • Helping with Park Clean-Ups • Working on Improvement/Maintenance Projects**

Make checks payable to Pennsylvania Parks and Forest Foundation (place White Clay Creek in memo)  
 Mail To: FWCCP Membership, c/o White Clay Creek Preserve, P. O, Box 172, Landenberg, PA 19350