

**SECTION 1: MARYLAND TO PA 326 2<sup>nd</sup> CROSSING  
MASON-DIXON LINE TO RAINSBURG GAP  
BUCHANAN STATE FOREST, PRIVATE LAND, SGL 97**

**Web Update, August 2010 <http://www.hike-mst.org>**

Section 1 follows Tussey Mountain through Buchanan State Forest and small sections of private land and State Game Land 97. A relocation in 2009 moved the trail several kilometers west to align with a realignment of Great Eastern Trail within Maryland's Green Ridge State Forest. A second, smaller relocation moved MST off Martin Hill Road into Martin Hill Wild Area. Future relocations are planned in and near Martin Hill Wild Area so continue to check [www.hike-mst.org](http://www.hike-mst.org) for updates.

The southern end of the section at the Mason- Dixon line can be reached from exit 56 on I-68, north on Flintstone Creek Road to an all way stop then right on Black Valley Road, unnumbered in MD, that becomes PA 326 and MST at the border.

The northern end of the section, which is partway down the east side of Rainsburg Gap is on PA 326 between Rainsburg and Chaneyville and can be reached by driving south on PA 326 from Bedford. Better parking is in the ATV access trail lot at the top of the mountain in Rainsburg Gap, nearly at the south end of Section 2.

Primitive camping along the trail is possible at a few points within the State Forest. Camping is prohibited in the Sweet Root Natural Area, and the brief interludes of State Game Land and private land.

Intermediate access is available from Beans Cove and seasonal forestry roads Martin Hill Road and Tower Road. Features of section 1 are Martin Hill Wild Area, Sweet Root Natural Area, and Martin Hill itself, the highest point on the Mid State Trail.

Section 1 was opened in 1994 and significantly relocated in 2009.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

After a short road walk just north of the M-D line MST enters Buchanan State Forest and climbs Tussey Mountain on Burnt Mills Trail into Martin Hill Wild Area. It then turns north on Dickens Trail and new trails eventually following Tussey Mountain XC Ski Trail to Beans Cove Gap. Continuing north it climbs to the top of Martin Hill and then traverses Sweet Root Natural Area before reaching PA 326 between Rainsburg and Chaneyville.

**MARYLAND TO PA 326 2<sup>nd</sup> CROSSING (Mason-Dixon Line TO Rainsburg Gap) Detailed Description, Map 301-306**

NorthBound km	Features/Directions	SouthBound km
0.00	NB: Follow PA 326 and cross a pipeline and pass fields and scattered homes. Paved road, microscopic shoulder, fortunately little traffic. Mason-Dixon Line. Black Valley Rd in both PA and MD, PA 326 on PA side, unnumbered on MD side. SB: To continue to Green Ridge State Forest Great Eastern Trail, continue ahead briefly on Black Valley Road but quickly turn left on Gap Road, right on Dry Ridge Road, Cross under I-68 (no exit), left on MD 144 east, right onto trail at signed junction. Or if you need supplies and a post office head south on Black Valley Rd to the rural crossroads town of Flintstone, MD. Check <a href="http://www.hike-mst.org">www.hike-mst.org</a> for links to more detailed information as it becomes available.	23.39
0.71	NB: Turn left on Bennett Lane (private).	

NorthBound km	Features/Directions	SouthBound km
	Parking is available 0.2 km north at the private business Solid Wood Products, either by permission or on weekends. SB: Turn right on PA 326/Black Valley Rd.	22.68
1.49	NB: Turn right on new trail alongside field, soon entering woods. SB: Turn left on gravel Bennett Lane (private)	21.90
2.13	NB: Climb gently into young oak woods on Burnt Mills Trail. Cross occasional old skid trails. State Forest and Martin Hill Wild Area boundary. Seasonal stream. SB: Woods then emerge alongside field.	21.26
3.33	NB: Junction with Gap Trail. Gap Trail to west vanishes into the laurel, to east/northeast at first barely discernible then becomes fairly well traveled closer to Beans Cove Rd. Possible	

NorthBound km	Features/Directions	SouthBound km
	seasonal spring 100 m south on MST. SB:	20.06
4.05	NB: Turn right on meandering Dickens Trail. SB: Turn left on straighter Burnt Mills Trail.	19.34
6.40	NB: Cross Carnes Trail, some signs read "Karns" Trail. Old MST downhill to east. SB: Continue on meandering Dickens Trail.	16.99
6.85	NB: Pass Big Pond to east. Old MST/Sawmill Trail on opposite side of pond. SB:	16.54
6.91	NB: Turn left on Sawmill Trail. Junction of 2009 relocation to south with 1994 trail to north. Future relocation planned here, check <a href="http://www.hike-mst.org">www.hike-mst.org</a> for updates.	

NorthBound km	Features/Directions	SouthBound km
	SB: Turn right on new trail.	16.48
7.23	NB: Turn left on Morris Trail. (km 14.29 in 11 <sup>th</sup> edition Guide) SB: Turn right on Sawmill Trail. (km 16.01 in 11 <sup>th</sup> edition Guide)	16.15
7.43	NB: Turn right on gated Tussey Mountain Trail. SB: Turn left on Morris Trail.	15.95
8.86	NB: Pass x-c ski trail mile 3 sign. SB:	14.52
9.68	NB: Junction with Johnson Trail. Alder Spring is alleged by the sign posted here to be somewhere to the west but efforts to find it have failed. Little Pond is downhill to the east then south of trail. Future relocation planned here, check <a href="http://www.hike-mst.org">www.hike-mst.org</a> for updates. SB:	13.70
10.40	NB:	

NorthBound km	Features/Directions	SouthBound km
	Pass x-c ski trail mile 2 sign. SB:	12.98
11.49	NB: Junction with Fetters Trail. To west, reaches Beans Cove Rd near forest boundary in 1.2 km. To east, 1.1 km to Gap Trail. Relocation possible here, check <a href="http://www.hike-mst.org">www.hike-mst.org</a> for updates. SB:	11.89
11.96	NB: Pass x-c ski trail mile 1 sign. SB:	11.42
12.20	NB: Junction with overgrown indiscernible old ridgetop trail to west. SB:	11.18
13.51	NB: Climb gently off road other side of parking lot on Carl Cessna Trail into pine plantation, soon entering laurel thicket and leveling off. Evidence of mid-1960's burn in this "Pennsylvania chaparral." Cross paved Beans Cove Road	

NorthBound km	Features/Directions	SouthBound km
	SR 3005. Large parking area with kiosk on north side of road. Both Beans Cove Road and the parking area are plowed, but Martin Hill Road which diverges north here is NOT plowed. Perennial Tussey Spring inside signed enclosure is about 150 m to west just off south side of Beans Cove Road. Gap Access Trail diverges to east just south of gate, allows circuit hike to Gap Trail without walking on the hard road. Relocation possible here, check <a href="http://www.hike-mst.org">www.hike-mst.org</a> for updates. SB: Pass steel gate and large routed sign to always-gated but double track Tussey Mountain XC Ski Trail.	9.87
15.17	NB: Headwaters of Wildcat Run, spring 10 m down ravine west of trail. Cleared campsite 100 m south of ravine bottom, east of trail, on east rim of hollow. Large lunch rock on west side of	

NorthBound km	Features/Directions	SouthBound km
	trail just south of campsite. SB:	8.22
15.48	NB: Turn left on powerline. Trail climbs steeply. SB: Turn right on new trail in sparse, burned woods.	7.91
16.11	NB: Turn left on Tower Road. (km 23.03 in 11 <sup>th</sup> edition Guide) View of I-68 cut through Sideling Hill in Maryland. SB: Turn right on powerline and descend.	7.27
16.30	NB: Proceed ahead briefly following Evitts Mountain ATV Trail, passing large microwave tower. Pass the former location of Martin Hill Fire Tower, no views. At 829 m this is the highest point on Mid State Trail. SB: Proceed ahead on Tower Road.	7.08
16.44	NB: Pass steel gate on Evitts Mountain ATV Trail. Limited parking next to microwave tower, do not block access. Not plowed in winter.	

NorthBound km	Features/Directions	SouthBound km
	SB: Pass steel gate and then a large microwave tower.	6.94
16.55	NB: Turn right on Basin Trail leaving Martin Hill Wild Area and descend <u>VERY</u> steeply. SB: Turn left on Evitts Mountain ATV Trail, Martin Hill Wild Area is south of ATV trail.	6.83
17.02	NB: Enter Sweet Root Natural Area (NO CAMPING) and continue on new trail. Cross Martin Hill Road, not plowed in winter. No parking. SB: Leave Sweet Root Natural Area and continue on Basin Trail. Climb <u>VERY</u> steeply.	6.36
17.63	NB: Turn left on Verbal Trail and cross stream. Then pass a large spring on the left. SB: Pass a large spring to the right, then cross a stream and turn right on new trail.	5.76
18.16	NB: Turn right on trail. Hog Pen Trail to west, 200 m to Martin Hill Road.	

NorthBound km	Features/Directions	SouthBound km
	SB: Turn left on Verbal Trail.	5.23
18.66	NB: Junction spring trail to west. Hiker use of spring at leased camp allowed per Bureau of Forestry.	
	SB:	4.73
19.02	NB: Cross another stream and turn right on Tar Kiln Trail.	
	SB: After two more stream crossings, turn left on new trail crossing stream yet again.	4.37
19.82	NB: After two stream crossings turn left on Sweet Root Trail and cross culvert over run.	
	Old road to east quickly narrows to trail descending into many blowdowns of old hemlock in Sweet Root Gap. A posted private land interlude prevents hiking down from here to Sweet Root Picnic Area and Chaneyville.	
	SB: Just after another stream crossing turn right on Tar Kiln Trail.	3.57

NorthBound km	Features/Directions	SouthBound km
21.23	NB: Two more culvert crossings of Sweet Root Run. Pass Wasson Trail.	
	SB:	2.16
21.68	NB: Bear right on Garlic Trail leaving Sweet Root Natural Area, and descend.	
	SB: Bear left on Sweet Root Trail, entering Sweet Root Natural Area, and descend gently. No Camping.	1.71
21.89	NB: Trail Register. Sign in.	
	SB:	1.50
21.97	NB: Cross corner of State Game Land 97.	
	SB:	1.42
22.20	NB: Pass spring to left.	
	SB: After nine stream crossings, pass spring to right.	1.19
23.39	NB: After nine stream crossings reach PA 326 and end of this section.	

NorthBound km	Features/Directions	SouthBound km
	PA 326. Very limited roadside parking, a much larger lot is 1.2 km north on trail, see Section 2 description. Rainsburg is west/uphill and Chaneyville is east/downhill, neither community has any services to offer the hiker.	
	SB: From the edge of PA 326 proceed upstream on the Garlick Trail. Routed sign forgets the "k".	0.00