

Conrad Weiser State Forest

Taylorville Tract

BACKGROUND: The Weiser State Forest was named for Conrad Weiser, a frontier diplomat of the colonial period. In 1731, Weiser's close association and knowledge of Iroquois customs and language was key to maintaining and developing Indian policy during the period. He was befriended by Shikellamy, Chief of the Oneidas, who lived on the Susquehanna River near present day Sunbury. For nearly two decades Weiser and Chief Shikellamy traveled the valleys between the Susquehanna and Delaware Rivers serving as delegates during negotiations with the Iroquois Confederation (Six Nations). Following Major General



Braddock's defeat at Fort Necessity in 1755 during the French and Indian War, Weiser persisted more than any other man of his time to hold the chain of friendship between white settlers and Indians from falling apart. Conrad Weiser was one of the great men of early America and was prominent in the development of Pennsylvania.

INFORMATION: Weiser State Forest consists of fourteen tracts of land located in Dauphin, Berks, Carbon, Columbia, Northumberland, and Schuylkill Counties. The total area of State Forest land encompassing all of the tracts is more than 28,000 acres. About 30 miles of state forest roads are available for recreational use in Schuylkill and Carbon Counties. Hunting also is permitted on state forest land.

The Taylorville Tract is located approximately 4 miles south of Lavelle and just 3 miles west of SR 901 at the top of the Taylorville Road. Parking is available along the side of Taylorville Road near the state forest road entrance sign. Hikers will enjoy a moderately difficult hike on the state forest road that ascends to a summit. There are no facilities along the trail. Pets and cyclists (mountain bikes only) are welcome.

CONTACT: The road is maintained by PA DCNR, Bureau of Forestry, at 570-385-7800.

AREA ATTRACTIONS: For birding enthusiasts, the Taylorville Tract is famous for its great blue heron rookery. Nearby Lavelle, on SR 901, has two convenience store/gas stations with public restrooms. Ashland, only 6 miles from the trailhead, is famous for the Pioneer Tunnel Coal Mine and Steam Train and also has 5-10 restaurants available.

GPS COORDINATES: Lat 40°43'41.22" N Lon 76°26'13.71" W

RECOMMENDED GEAR: Comfortable walking shoes or hiking boots are recommended. Helmets and safety equipment are suggested for cyclists.