

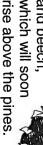
root once again. poplars and pines will now be able to take reach the forest floor. Sun-loving tulip woods was opened up, allowing sunlight to by the hill you stand on. Here, a patch of lakeshore below, however, was protected through this forest, toppling trees. The In September, 2003, Hurricane Isabel tore

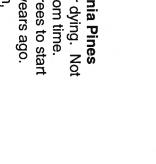
Pine Grove

Now, at the peak of their lifespan, growing on an old farm field 50 years ago. These "pioneers" were the first trees to start In ten years, most of these Virginia Pines from deadly insects or fire, but from time. (*Pinus virginiana*) will be dead or dying. Not

shade-loving and beech, oaks, maples

which will soon





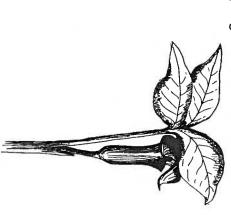
they shelter



tree's never ending quest to reach the sun! another branch took the lead, highlighting a lateral branch took over as the "terminal his "Z?" The answer is not nearly so bolt shape? Was Zorro here to mark it with Did Harry Potter give this tree its lightning **leader."** When that limb was injured, mysterious! After losing its top, a side or

Soggy Soils

of spring. with decay, the perfect bed for Jack-in-thewater which has washed and seeped down "bottomland", the acidic soil is dark and rich pulpit, mayapple, ferns and other splendors from the hill you just descended. Here in the The leaves and roots underfoot are holding in



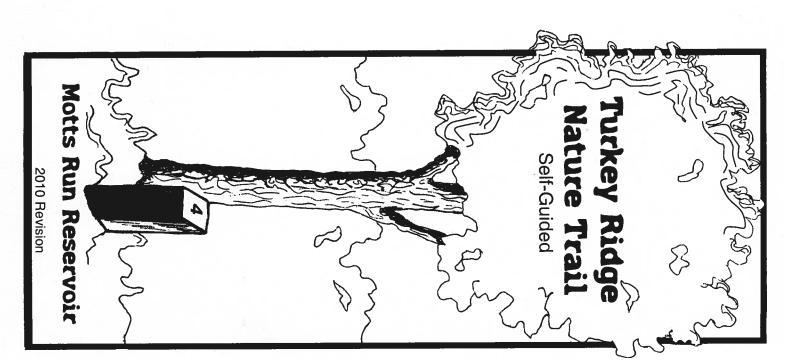
Turkey Ridge Nature Trail

Located at Motts Run Reservoir Spotsylvania Co., VA



Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities Owned and operated by City of Fredericksburg

Fredericksburg, VA—Marjolijn Bijlefeld, Leader Posts constructed by Girl Scout Troop 72 Nature Specialist—3/06; revised 12/09 Written & Illustrated by Linda Bailey,



Welcome!

The woods around you beckon. Come walk this self-guided trail and let nature reveal its treasures!

Start at the Turkey Ridge trailhead, located behind the picnic area, left of the Motts Run Nature Center. Follow the **yellow** tree "blazes" and hike **clockwise**, looking for numbered posts which match this brochure. (First post is approx. 400' up path on left). Enjoy your journey!

Allow 40 minutes to complete .8 mile loop

Ship Masts & Canoes

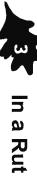
Ship ahoy! Look straight up the limbless trunk of this **Tulip Poplar** (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) and imagine it was the mast of a sailing ship in colonial times. Indians used these for boats as well, hollowing out large tulip poplars for canoes. The tallest species of hardwood tree in North America, these sun seekers use their energy to grow branches high in the canopy.



Fence-Eating Tree

Please do NOT touch the barbed wire—very brittle and breakable!

Look closely...it appears this large oak has "eaten" a barbed-wire fence...or has it?! Years ago, a sapling grew next to a fence whose posts have long since rotted. As the tree grew a bit wider each year it expanded around the wire, "swallowing it up" so that rows of protruding metal are the only evidence left.



Listen and you can hear an old pickup truck rumbling along the farm road beneath your

feet. Downhill AND STATES TO THE TOWN T

Up, Up and Away

Look overhead for balls of leaves high in the forked trunks of trees. These are E. Grey Squirrel nests or **dreys**, used yearround as shelter and nurseries. Made of leafy branches clipped in summer before the leaves loosen, and lined with dry grass, shredded bark, moss and feathers, they are a cozy home. Squirrels may build several and move every few days to reduce fleas.

Nature's Supermarket

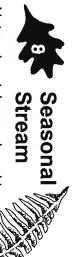
A large White Oak (Quercus alba) like this one can produce 5,000 acorns in a year! These little energy packets feed more wildlife than any other food source in the eastern forests. Wild turkey, deer and squirrels rely on this nutrition or "hard mast" in fall and early winter. As you walk, look for patches of disturbed leaves, where turkey have scratched the forest floor in search of acorns, beechnuts, insects and worms.

Favorite Things

Good things often come in small packages. Notice this squat spreading tree overhead with rough, platey bark. This may just be a lowly "understory" tree, but in value to wildlife it soars! The bright red fruit of the **Flowering Dogwood** (*Cornus florida*) is a favorite food of the cardinal. The bird, tree and flower are all Virginia state symbols--a natural connection.

Animal Inn

Dead standing trees, like
the 60' tulip poplar before
you, are called "snags."
These "animal inns" are
valuable to wildlife for
feeding, perching and
nesting. As the heartwood
rots and the center of the tree
becomes hollow, woodpeckers,
wrens, raccoons, squirrels, opossums,
bats, owls and others may find shelter.
Look for holes up high...is anyone looking
back at you?



Nature has taken a shovel to the land at your feet. Rain, running off the surrounding hillsides has created this "draw" or small valley where you stand. Over time, water has carved this seasonal stream which only flows in wet periods. Look around for the evidence of moisture-loving ferns and mosses.