

TRIP REPORT

Morgan Run End to End Hiking Trip
Morgan Run Natural Environment Area, MD
8 March, 2008

Participants:

Greg Hoffmann, Robert Dworkin (L)

Summary:

This hike was in Morgan Run Natural Environment Area (MRNEA) in the piedmont uplands of central Maryland. The route consisted of a loop traverse of Morgan Run valley totaling ~10 mi. The footpath was unmarked on mainly YDS class-II terrain, and at times travel was off trail (bushwack). The route involved one stream crossing, over Morgan Run. As is common in this region, a thorny understory was predominant near the valley floor and mountain laurel flourished on the often steep hillsides.

Severe weather made this moderate hike into more of an adventure. The hike began Saturday at noon from the main Morgan Run parking area at the end of Ben Rose Lane. We hiked north, toward the river and proceeded eastward down the valley. Numerous equestrian trails criss-cross the landscape before the steep descent to Morgan Run. In the valley the footpaths are unmaintained and intermittent. The hike returned on the opposite side of the stream from London Bridge Road, the approximate eastern border of MRNEA.

The weather was variable. Early dense fog, was followed by a heavy rain shower and then clearing skies and temperatures that rose into the low 60's °F by 3pm. After a period of cloudless skies, at ~4pm ominous clouds overtook the horizon. With strong winds and a heavy downpour, the temperature fell by ~20 °F in less than 30 minutes.

The hike concluded in the early evening (5pm). Overall, the trip was enjoyable, safe and successful. We had a very good time in the field.

