

Local Walking Trail
By Marylou Stone

Catoctin Mountain Park - Blue Blazes Whiskey Still Trail

Thanksgiving Day Dinner is over and everyone has eaten too much food. Someone suggests that a walk in the woods would be a good idea. However no one wants to climb a mountain. If this sounds familiar to you, this is the hike for you.

Blue Blazes Whiskey Still Trail is a very easy trail that has interpretive signs along the way that describes the history of moon shining in the Catoctin Mountains. The trail ends at the spot where a still had been operating during the 1920's.

The trail starts at the parking lot across Park Central Road, which is across from the Catoctin Mountain Park visitor's center. The trail is small gravel and rocks so tennis shoes or hiking boots would be a good idea. The trail is only 0.6 miles rounds trip and climbs 60 feet and is rated by the park as easy.

A stream runs along beside the trail and offers more opportunities to spot wildlife and birds. I spotted three Pileated Woodpeckers pecking at trees that had fallen on the ground with a fourth one calling out of sight. I also spotted a White breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Chickadee, three Blue Jays, four Cardinals, and two Chipmunks that had decided that I was not welcomed. It was a great hike!

