

## Useful Hiking Books for Southern Blue Ridge Region

### **De Hart, Allen. The Trails of Virginia. 2003.**

The late de Hart developed several revisions of a comprehensive guide to trails in Virginia. His book lists trails by entity (national forest, park, wildlife management area, state park etc), subdivision and trail name. Trails or loops involving several trails are described including mileage, features, very exacting instructions on finding the trailhead, and short hike description. The trailhead finding instructions are invaluable in dealing with many Virginia areas which are often remote, accessed by a confusing network of back roads and in many cases, lacking a decent map for finding access or trails. I found de Hart's organization hard to follow; using index in back to find a particular trail by name worked best. Also, his last edition (2003) was written before several Virginia wilderness were designated in 2009; not all wilderness trails are in this guide and infrequently listed under a wilderness.

Trails in this book (listed by wilderness area) include:

**Lewis Fork:** loop including Mount Rogers, Appalachian, Pine Mountain, Cliffside & Lewis Fork trails; loop including Sugar Maple, Helton Creek Spur & Virginia Highlands Horse trails.

**Little Dry Run:** mentions Little Dry Run & Virginia Highlands Horse trails in the wilderness as part of longer loop outside wilderness starting at Comers Rock Campground under Iron Mountain Area (NE).

**Little Wilson Creek:** loop including Wilson Creek, Wilson Creek, Virginia Highlands Horse, Scales, First Peak, Kabel & Big Wilson trails.

**Raccoon Branch:** loop including Dickey Gap, Raccoon Branch & Mullins Branch trails under Iron Mountain Area (Central) heading.

Available at these sellers ([links will not open in new tab, click on upper left arrow to return here](#)):

<https://www.amazon.com/Trails-Virginia-Hiking-Old-Dominion/dp/0807854719>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-trails-of-virginia-allen-de-hart/1111439314>

### **Burnham, Bill and Mary. 2018. Hiking Virginia: A Guide to the Area's Greatest Hiking Adventures.**

The Burnhams have updated this unusual hiking guide three times which covers their favorite areas/ hikes within Virginia. What makes it unique is its extensive historic background on the areas and trails covered. It also includes trailhead directions, mile-by-mile description of each hike, a trail map, and background information.

Although the guide covers only a few wilderness areas, its background information and mile-by-mile trail descriptors were invaluable for certain areas and interesting for others .

Trails or loops in this book (listed by wilderness area) include:

**Little Wilson Creek:** loop from Scales Trailhead(a trailhead in Mount Rogers NRA with access to both Little Wilson and Lewis Fork wilderness) including First Peak, Kabel, Big Wilson Creek & Appalachian trails. Includes side trip on Hightree Rock trail and historic background on Scales, Hightree and Kabel trails.

**Lewis Fork:** covers conventional out-and-back route to Mount Rogers summit from Graysons Highlands State Park using Virginia Highlands Horse, Appalachian & Mount Rogers spur trails but has some interesting historic and ecological information on Mount Rogers.

Available from these sellers (links will not open in new tab, click on upper left arrow to return here):

<https://www.amazon.com/Hiking-Virginia-Greatest-Adventures-Guides/dp/1493031260>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/hiking-virginia-bill-burnham/1127740915>