

## Useful Hiking Books for Northern Valley & 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. Each trail or loop of trails described includes 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, the last edition (2003) was written before several Virginia wilderness were designated in 2009; not all wilderness trails are in this guide.

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

**Ramsey's Draft:** Ramsey's Draft, Jerry's Run, Tearjacket, Hardscrabble, Bald Ridge, Bridge Hollow, Road Hollow, Wild Oak & Shenandoah Mountain trails (last 4 outside wilderness).

**Rich Hole:** Rich Hole (directions to trailheads at both ends), & White Tower (on wilderness boundary) trails.

**Rough Mountain:** Crane (both ends) Trail.

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>

### **Carroll, Steve and Miller, Mark. Wild Virginia: A Guide to 30 Roadless Recreation Areas including Shenandoah National Park. 2002.**

This guide lists several roadless/wilderness areas by entity with proposed hike(s), routes or overnight backpacks in each. It gives distance, difficulty, topographic map(s) that cover area, trailhead descriptions and hike descriptions. Often includes loop possibilities with other trails. Like the de Hart guide, this book was written before some Virginia areas became wilderness in 2009. However, it includes proposed cross-country hikes/ routes in more obscure wilderness. One of the authors has also hiked most of Virginia wilderness and written short descriptions of each on the Virginia Wilderness Committee website. Links below.

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

**Ramsey's Draft:** Ramsey's Draft Trail; rim loop including Bridge Hollow, Bald Ridge, Wild Oak, Tearjacket, Shenandoah Mountain & Road Hollow trails (mostly on wilderness boundary).

**Rich Hole:** Rich Hole Trail; Mill Mountain bushwhack.

**Rough Mountain:** Crane Trail (east access), ridgeline bushwhack.

Available at these sellers (links will not open in new tab, click on upper left arrow to return here):  
<https://www.amazon.com/Wild-Virginia-Recreation-Including-Shenandoah/dp/0762723157>  
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/wild-virginia-steven-carroll/1100004652>

\*Author, Miller has also posted more information on most Virginia wilderness organized by National Forest and including descriptions, proposed wilderness additions, issues and hiking directions: <http://www.vawilderness.org/va-wilderness.html>