

## ***M. R. Hyker's Latest Adventure***



**02/16/2009 - Piney Point-Middle Run Circuit: Before I became involved in hiking I was an avid fisherman. Most weekends and holidays would find me on one of the lakes in central Maryland stalking bass and any other species that would strike at my lure. Often I would see trails in the woods along the bank and would wonder where they went to. Now that my fishing days are over I'm back searching out those trails and putting together hikes. The Liberty Reservoir watershed is loaded with these trails. While many are out-and-back treks some can be cobbled together to make for some nice loops. This particular hike was taken from the book "The Baltimore Trail Book" by Suzanne Meyer Mittenthal. It was a good hike for me and my new hiking partner, Precious, to explore together. These trails are seldom used by hikers. I was quite surprised with the amount of solitude we found so close to the urban sprawl of Baltimore and its surrounding counties. Before we started on the hike as described in the book we set out on a bit of an adventure to find the submerged foundations of Bollinger Mill, an area I had visited via boat years ago. My instincts took me right to the spot. Actually it was pretty easy as there were a couple of old fishermen's trails heading right to it.**

**After our little adventure we proceeded to complete the circuit as designed. The first ford on Middle Run was a little tricky as I slipped on a rock and**

took in a small amount of water into my right boot. It wasn't enough to require immediate attention. We completed the first of 3 easy climbs and found ourselves walking through a grand pine plantation. When we reached Piney Point I took photos of the main lake and what I call Bollinger Mill Cove. My partner wanted to lay in the water but quickly found it was over her head. That was probably the only real break we took as Precious was eager to seek out new trails. (She's impatient that way.) We returned to the ford and quickly completed the loop part of the hike, walking through several more evergreen plantations, climbing a couple of smallish hills and finally descending to follow the pretty Middle Run back to the truck.