

M. R. Hyker's Latest Adventure



06-05-2010, Seneca Creek State Park, Clopper Lake Area, MD: MrsHyker and I decided to leave the children (dogs) home and do a hike in a venue where canines aren't allowed. I had the map for this state park in my files for quite some time but never got around to investigating it. This weekend it floated up to the top of the stack. It was going to be a hot and humid day and this one seemed to fit the bill as far as some nice hiking with little exertion goes.

We were really surprised. We have found another "Urban Oasis". Most of the time we were hiking in mature hardwood forest with the occasional dark, dense pine groves dispersed in between. The trails were well signed, blazed and maintained ... and amazingly unoccupied. We saw 0 hikers, 2 pairs of mountain bikers and 3 fishermen the entire day. First we did a circumnavigation of the lake. After tying into the Lake Shore Trail from the Mink Hollow Trail we were treated to continuous views of it. It made the hot day seem a little cooler. The first cove we visited was filled with a flotilla of rented kayaks. The occupants didn't seem to be in a big hurry to work up a sweat. There were several places where the trail split with one fork staying along the bank of the lake and the other taking a "high water" route. They always came back together.

We took a short break at the boat rental building before proceeding to the dam. After a quick photo op we jumped on the Great Seneca trail, traveled a short section of unattractive power line swath and visited the namesake creek and the Park Headquarters with the pre-Civil War Grusendorf Log Cabin (built in the 1850s). On our return leg on the Old Pond trail we found an old bathtub sitting in what obviously was once the "Old Pond" (now very dry.) We had started our 7.4 mile trek around 10:30 and were done by 2:30. We weren't tired but boy were we soaked. We couldn't wait to get home, take a shower and drink a couple of cold ones. It was a very rewarding day.