

DOUBLING GAP NATURE TRAIL

Beginning and ending at Doubling Gap Lake the trail is easy hiking with two low hills and about 1 mile in length. It is marked with blue blaze. This is a self-guiding nature trail with several interpretive waysides along its length explaining the natural history found around a mountain stream.

RATTLESNAKE TRAIL

A 1 mile loop trail located entirely in the park and is marked with a yellow blaze. This trail begins along the main park road near the vehicle bridge. The trail is easy to moderate hiking, although a .4 mile section is rocky. This hike will take you through a mixed oak forest on the foothills of Blue Mountain.

- 0.0 - Trailhead begins near vehicle bridge
- 0.20 - Trail climbs above campground
- 0.40 - Beginning rocky section of trail
- 0.60 - Trail turns left and downhill along an old road
- 0.67 - Trail turns left into the woods
- 0.90 - Trail crosses old road and drainage
- 1.15 - Trail returns to its beginning

FLAT ROCK TRAIL

The trail is 2.5 miles long leading from the park to the top of Blue Mountain. The trailhead is at the footbridge next to the nature center. This is a moderate to rugged hike to the top of the mountain. At the top of the mountain, Flat Rock Trail joins Tuscarora Trail to the overlook. The trail blazes change from red to light blue while on the Tuscarora Trail. Flat Rock Overlook is a natural rock outcrop that affords a view of the great Cumberland Valley. Return to the park by Flat Rock Trail or choose a different trail back down the mountain.

- 0.0 - Trail begins at nature center footbridge
- 0.20 - Trail turns left onto a dirt access road
- 0.40 - Trail passes old spring houses
- 0.90 - Trail joins Tuscarora Trail on top of Blue Mountain, at the "wagon wheel" of trails
- 1.15 - Trail crosses the headwaters of Wildcat Run
- 2.20 - Trail ends at Flat Rock Overlook

WARNER TRAIL

A 2.5 mile trail starting at the "wagon wheel" of trails following along the northern side of the ridge and overlooking the park. The trail then crosses over the ridge to the southern exposure and meets the Tuscarora Trail. This is a moderate hiking trail with short sections of steep slopes.

- 0.0 - From the "wagon wheel" of trails follow old road along the ridge top
- 1.20 - Intersection of Warner Trail with Cider Path Trail
- 1.90 - Trail cuts right at state forest boundary crossing stream onto old woods road
- 2.50 - Trail terminates at intersection with the Tuscarora Trail

TUSCARORA TRAIL

This is the northern portion of a 220 mile-by-pass of the Appalachian Trail. Hiking is moderate to rugged, trail blazes are light blue. Detailed trail guides are available through the Keystone Trails Association, PO Box 251, Cogan Station, PA 17728.

WOODBURN TRAIL

Trail begins along PA Route 233, 1 mile south of the park office, near a large pull-off. Hiking this trail is moderate to rugged with a steep grade. This trail terminates on the Tuscarora Trail at the "wagon wheel", on the summit of Blue Mountain.

- 0.0 - Start at shale bank along Route 233
- 0.40 - Start of steep grade on narrow footpath
- 1.00 - At summit of mountain trail turns left
- 1.10 - Trail follows fire access road east along ridge
- 1.60 - Trail ends at intersection with the Tuscarora Trail

LEHMAN TRAIL

This short .5 mile connector trail was once a section of the Tuscarora Trail. From the "wagon wheel" of trails the trail follows and old logging road across Wildcat Ridge and intersects with the Tuscarora Trail at the head of Wildcat Hollow.

CIDER PATH TRAIL

This 1.2 mile trail begins along the Old Doubling Gap Road just east of the park boundary. Cider Path climbs to the summit of Blue Mountain then dips over the other side to meet the Warner Trail. Hiking is moderate to rugged.

- 0.0 - Trail begins along Old Doubling Gap Road
- 0.30 - Trail begins steep ascent
- 0.60 - Summit of mountain intersection of North Slope Road Trail in log landing, trail continues across landing
- 1.20 - Trail ends at intersection with Warner Trail

OLD DOUBLING GAP ROAD TRAIL

This is the road trace of the Old Doubling Gap Road, which once passed through the park and into the gap. Trail blazes are red. Gated to vehicle traffic, approximately 2.6 miles of the road trace is an easy hike.

- 0.0 - Red blazes begin, but are sparse
- 0.30 - Intersection with Cider Path Trail
- 0.70 - Intersection of Shade Trail
- 0.80 - Y in the road; stay to the right unless you want to get to Route 233
- 1.40 - Intersection of Link Trail
- 2.10 - Intersection with North Slope Road Trail
- 2.60 - Road trace turns into a footpath and will shortly disappear towards the top of the ridge. Time to retrace your steps!

SHADE TRAIL

This trail begins along Cider Path Trail and proceeds east along old logging roads. At the intersection of Crooked Leg Trail the trail turns left and terminates along the Old Doubling Gap Road Trail.

SHORT CUT TRAIL

This "short" 0.27 mile trail connects the Old Doubling Gap Road Trail with the Crooked Leg Trail. This is an old skid road from a logging operation in the 1970's.

HAUL ROAD LINK TRAIL

This short 0.4 mile trail connects Crooked Leg Trail to the North Slope Road Trail. The trail was once a log hauling road for a logging operation in 1989. The large clearings were once log landings, where logs were gathered then were loaded onto trucks to be taken to a sawmill.

NORTH SLOPE ROAD TRAIL

This 2.45 mile trail begins on the Old Doubling Gap Road Trail and ends on Cider Path Trail on top of Blue Mountain. This trail is the main access to the top of Blue Mountain for logging operations. The last logging operation ended in 1989. Closed to traffic, this hauling road is used as a hiking trail until it is again needed for logging.

- 0.0 - Trail begins 2.1 miles out along Old Doubling Gap Road Trail
- 0.30 - Shade Trail intersection, Shade turns right along the valley floor
- 0.75 - Intersection of Haul Road Link Trail
- 1.30 - End of trail at intersection of Cider Path Trail. Cider Path Trail continues on road for a short distance then becomes a footpath

CROOKED LEG TRAIL

This 1.2 mile trail begins along Shade Trail and proceeds northeast along log skid and haul roads, ending on the North Slope Road Trail.

COLONEL DENNING STATE PARK

1599 Doubling Gap Rd.

Newville, PA 17241

717-776-5272

Visit DCNR's Web Site directly at www.dcnr.state.pa.us

COLONEL DENNING STATE PARK And surrounding TUSCARORA STATE FOREST Hiking and Nature Trails

Experience hiking
Doubling Gap and Blue Mountain

This guide will help you discover the trail system in and around Colonel Denning State Park. Many of the trails lead to the southern summit of Blue Mountain. Most of the trails follow old or recent logging roads and are not accessible by vehicles unless a current logging operation is in progress. Please choose another trail for your hiking pleasure should there be a logging operation going on. One point of reference is on Blue Mountain where five trails intersect in the saddle of the ridge. This intersection of Tuscarora, Warner, Lehman, Flat Rock, and Woodburn trails meet like the spoke of a wheel and is known by local hikers as the "wagon wheel." Here's how to have a safe and enjoyable hiking experience.

Staying Safe

- Always carry a whistle, map, and flashlight
- Know your physical limitations
- Keep close supervision of your children
- Stay on the marked trails
- Let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return

When Lost

- Stay calm
- If there is still light walk downhill and downstream to a road
- If it is getting dark stay where you are
- Report lost or late hikers immediately to the park office or park ranger

Call Colonel Denning State Park at:

717-776-5272

