The Short Hill/ Painter's Corner/Old River Rd Running Trails

(Revised 12/25/10 JSchatz)

The running trails on the map on page 3 are either on private property (requiring owner permission) and are hunted during deer hunting season or are on US National Park Property. Jim Schatz is the POC for this area and local NPS Volunteer. He can be reached at schtred@aol.com or (571) 276-7042.

●The Area in General

This area at the eastern slope of the Short Hill is rich in local history and includes many excellent views obtained only on foot and with owner permission, to include views of Harpers Ferry, the Potomac River, the Catoctin Valley and at least one Bald Eagle nest from above. The area combines steep mountain trails (1050' ascent), flat and rocky trails along the Potomac River past historic Mill and Kiln ruins and passage through scenic farm fields on the @ 250 year old Georges Mill Road. Please respect this area – carry out/pick up any litter.

●Getting There

Head west on Irish Corner Road (Rt. 673) (aka Broad Street West) from the square in downtown Lovettsville. After 1.75 miles make a right onto Georges Mill Road (Rt. 852).

●The Trails

Georges Mill Road Trail – Gravel surface, mostly flat with some rolling hills. Scenic views inbound of the Short Hill and "Potomac Gap" (with South Mountain). Moderate traffic. **2.75 miles one way** (O/W) from Irish Corner Road to the end of state maintenance near the Potomac and NPS property.

Steven's Road Loop - Gravel surface, mostly flat with some rolling hills. Scenic views of the Short Hill. Moderate traffic. Connects with Georges Mill Road at two points to form a loop. **1.5 miles O/W**.

Jenkins Farm Spur – PRIVATE farm/hunting preserve. Hilly farm road that leads past the historic 1731-era Robert Booth estate buildings and access to the former Payne's Ferry/Stump's Landing site on the Potomac, and the River Road Trail. REQUIRES OWNER PERMISSION TO ACCESS. **.8 miles O/W**.

River Road Trail - Historic Old River Road (circa 1825) was built to provide access to Harpers Ferry along the Potomac River. The trail is wet, muddy and very rocky at points but rewards the runner with close contact with the old River (Peacher's) Mill and mill race ruins (circa 1824), a Lime Kiln, the scenic Potomac River with a turnaround at "Devils Elbow" (up stream) and/or "Stump's Landing" (down stream). This trail is 100% on NPS property maintained by local volunteers. **2.0 miles** from Georges Mill Road terminus down and back to Devil's Elbow and Stump's Landing.

Blue Trail – PRIVATE property. VERY steep @ 500' climb along a forest "social" (unimproved) trail up the Short Hill. Provides access to the Short Hill scenic overlooks. Usually combined with the Orange Trail as a loop circuit. REQUIRES OWNER PERMISSION TO ACCESS. Marked with blue tape. **.7 miles O/W.**

Orange Trail - Partially on private and NPS property but requires access through PRIVATE property. Acts as the connecting trail to all Short Hill scenic overlooks. Usually combined with the Blue Trail as a loop circuit. A mix of groomed logging trails and rough and rocky unimproved social trails. Stunning spring descent through a hillside of Virginia Blue Bell flowers. VERY steep if run in a CCW direction. REQUIRES OWNER PERMISSION TO ACCESS. **1.5 miles O/W**.

White Rock Spur – This is little more than a "game trail" that runs along the flat ridgeline at the top of the Short Hill (@ 1000'). Outstanding views from Buzzard Rock (looking west) and White Rock (looking east) over the Catoctin Valley. Usually combined with the Orange Trail from Buzzard Rock. REQUIRES OWNER PERMISSION TO ACCESS. **.5 miles O/W**.

●Best Running Circuits

#1 - You Like Hills, Views, Unimproved Trails? (and have owner permission)
Blue, Orange and White Rock Spur trails will burn those thighs and lungs but offer amazing non-public views to those who accept the challenge. **@ 3.5 mile loop**.

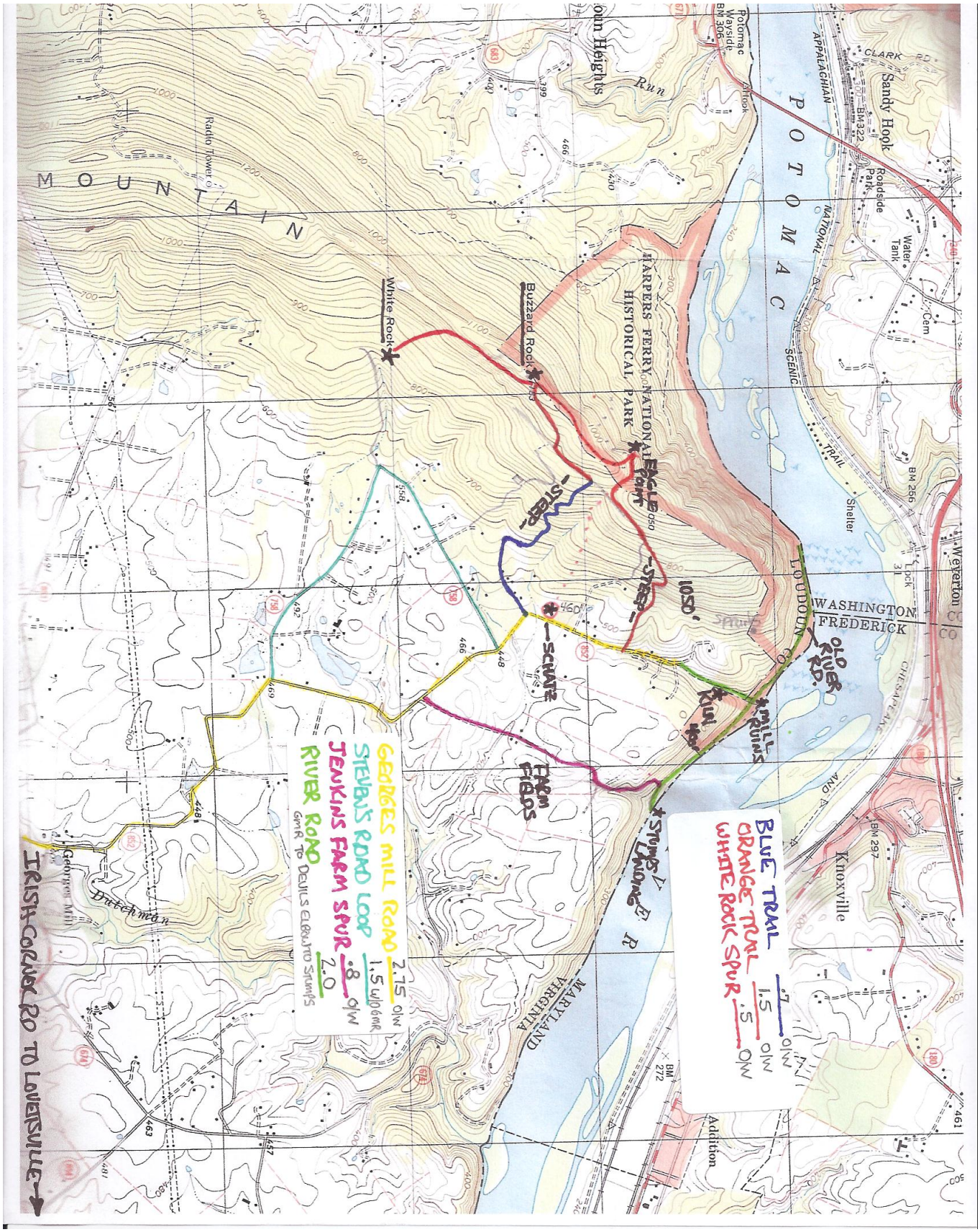
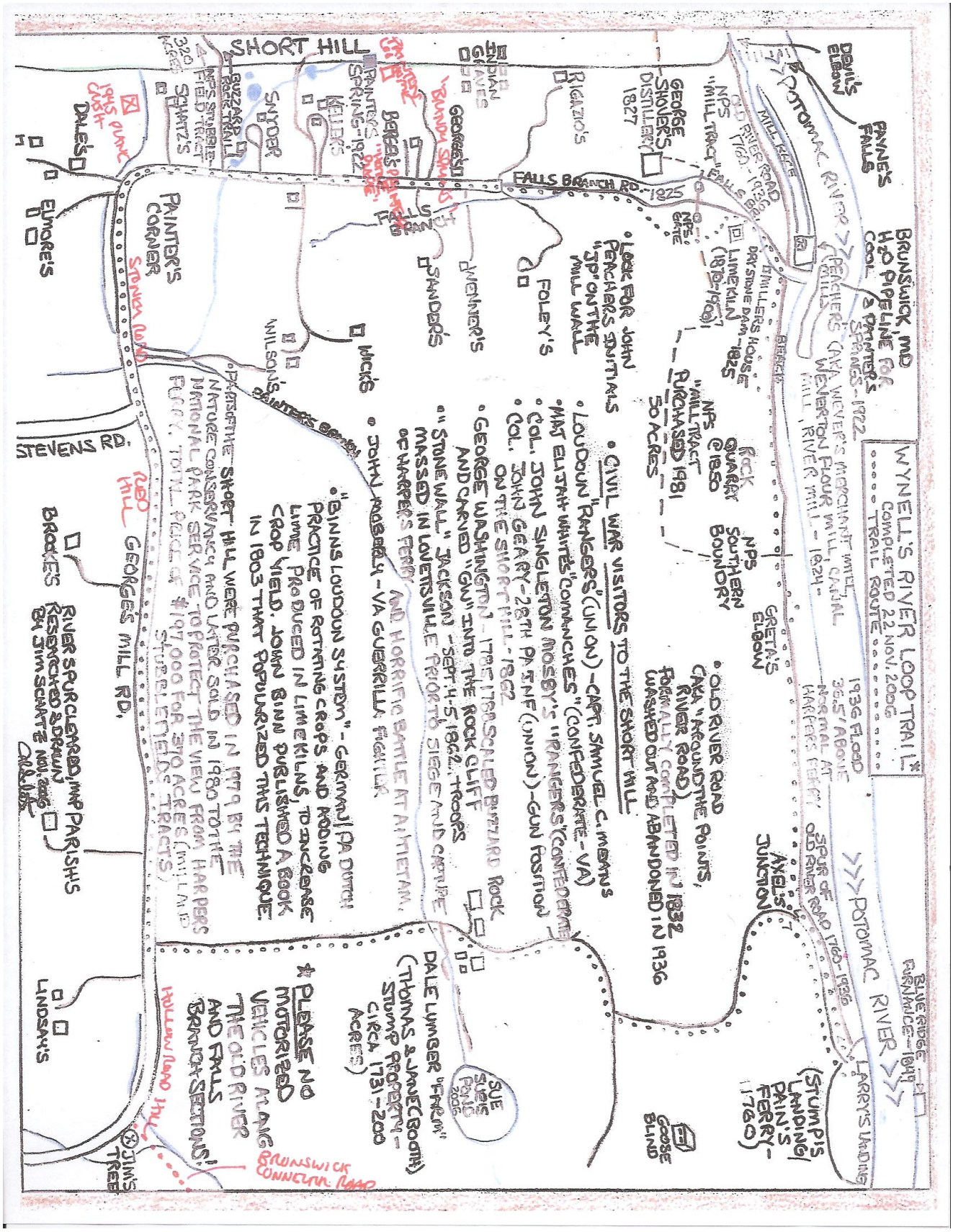
 # 2 - Prefer River Views and Flats?
Try the River Road trail with sections of Steven's and Georges Mill Road added in to up the mileage. Public property.

 # 3 Best Combo Long Run (must have owner permission)
Combine # 1 and # 2 above with the Jenkins Farm Spur back to Georges Mill Road.
@ 6.5 miles.

 # 4 Best Combo Short Run (must have owner permission)
Combine # 1 and # 2 above (without the White Rock Spur) and add the River Road Circuit coming back out on to the terminus of Georges Mill Road. **@ 5.0 miles**.

Attachments:
Page 3 - Map, "The Short Hill/ Painter's Corner/Old River Rd Running Trails"
Page 4 – Map, Local History of the Area ("Wynell's River Loop Trail" map)

The Short Hill/ Painter's Corner/Old River Rd Running Trails



A brief history lesson – The Short Hill, Painter's Corner and Georges Mill Road