

About the Trail

The Bluff/Blue trail of the Siegen Forest provides a unique opportunity to walk in the footsteps of history. This trail carries you across the bluff at the southwestern part of the property to a magnificent bluff overlooking the Rapidan River.

The trail is about 0.7 miles one way and is relatively flat. It goes across a peak of about 350 feet above sea level. The river is about 200 feet above sea level.

The trailhead is on county route 601, Flat Run Road just south of Germanna Highway (state route 3) in Locust Grove, Virginia. The long-term goal of the foundation is to have a parking area at the trailhead, but until then there really is no easy-safe way to get to the trailhead.

About 100 yards to the southeast of the trail is the concrete remains of the Locust Grove Airway Beacon – National Geodetic Survey PID identification – HV5526. Beginning in 1923, the U.S. Post Office began to complete a transcontinental airway of beacons on towers spaced 15-25 miles apart to guide night flights for the mail. The large concrete pad was painted chrome yellow to guide daytime and good weather flights.

Thank you for visiting the Germanna Foundation's Siegen Forest. Conservation of this beautiful area and maintenance of our property and trails depend on generous donations from visitors like you. If you enjoy your visit, please consider making a tax deductible donation to the Germanna Foundation today.

Trail Rules and Safety Guidelines

Vehicles may park in marked parking spaces only. There is no general public boat access to the river, and there are no restroom facilities along the trails. All visitors must adhere to "pack it in, pack it out" practices.

- Use of metal detectors, digging, or removal or collection of artifacts, materials, plants, or relics is strictly prohibited.
- Help protect our historical resources by staying on the trails. Do not walk on the Civil War earthworks or walk on or move rocks at any historical building or cemetery sites.
- Do not drink water from streams or the river.
- Wear insect repellent and appropriate clothing and shoes. Beware of poison ivy, chiggers, ticks, and snakes. Foxes, bears and even a coyote have been reported in the Forest.
- Picnicking is allowed at the established area(s). No overnight camping and no fires are allowed, except for Scouts and other organized and supervised groups, and only with advance written permission from the Foundation.
- Bicycles, motorized vehicles, and horses are not permitted on the trails. Dogs are allowed if leashed and all solid waste must be picked up and packed out.
- Although hunting in Siegen Forest is illegal, exercise caution and wear bright colors during hunting season.
- Beware of trail hazards and uneven surfaces. Wear sturdy shoes or boots.
- Road traces and animal trails crisscross the area. To stay on the trail, follow the map carefully and look for the 2" x 6" colored blazes (trail markings) on the trees.
- A single blaze indicates you are on the path. A double blaze indicates the trail changes direction. The blazes are spaced so you should see the next one as you pass a blaze.
- Trails are open during daylight hours, year-round. To help protect our trails and property, please remove/replace the yellow chain across our access road as you come and go.

BLUE/BLUFF TRAIL

GERMANNA FOUNDATION

SIEGEN FOREST



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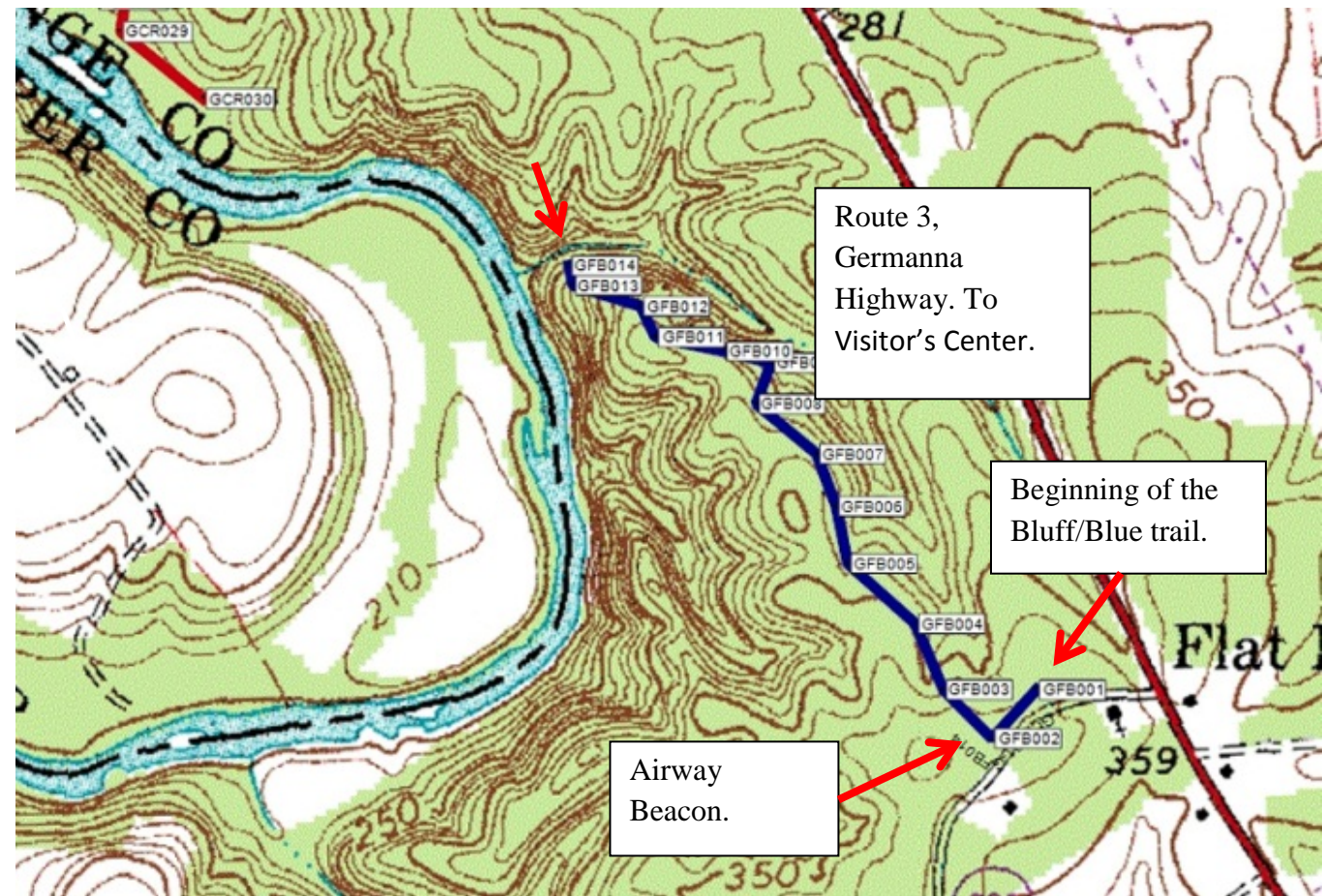
The trail has a cable across the entrance. The road is not passable so vehicular traffic is not allowed.

As you enter the trail, you may want to walk about 100 yards southeast to view the concrete pad of the Airway beacon. Future research may uncover other portions of the beacon, but for now the large pad tells us it was here.

Note the geology of the trail on the map. You are walking a high ridge toward the river. The closeness of the contour lines indicates steep drop-off and that is what you will see. The dark lines are 50' elevation change and the light lines are 10' elevation changes.

When you get to the bluff, you have a great view of the river. See the picture on bottom right. You are advised against trying to go down these slopes.

The drawing below is by Alfred Waud, "Rebel Earthworks Commanding the Passage at Germanna Ford Abandoned on the Approach of Meade's Army," November 26, 1863. Further research is needed to see if this is the location of the drawing.



Bluff and view about 150' above

