Using the Schedule

Hikes in the schedule are graded according to difficulty using the table below. Consult the hike leader for a more specific appraisal.

E	Easy hike, 2-5 miles. Expect good trails, often old roads
EM	Easy to Moderate, 3-6 miles. Expect steeper trails and more hills
M	Moderate, 5-8 miles. Trails may be difficult walking in places
MS	Moderate to Strenuous. Expect longer hikes with more climbing, perhaps bushwacking
S	Strenuous. Expect long hikes and hill climbing with large elevation gains, bushwacking

Other standard acronym's used in the hike descriptions are:

HD	Hiking Distance
DD	Driving Distance
MRT	Miles Round Trip

RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFETY

There are certain risks that are inherent in any hike or other club activity. These include, but are not limited to, weather conditions, trail conditions, ticks, wildlife, plant and insect allergens, etc. Each NBATC member, guest, or non-member agrees to accept responsibility for his or her own safety. Adults who are accompanied by minors agree to accept responsibility for those minors. Hike leaders are responsible for hike organization, reasonable instruction and guidance, and proper documentation. Hike participants are responsible for following this reasonable guidance and instruction. By signing the hike sign-up form, each hike participant is affirming that he/she has read and understands these responsibilities.

Before You Go

If you are planning to go on a hike, please call the hike leader at least the evening before the hike. That's not only a courtesy to the hike leader, but also an aid to planning transportation to the trail head. Hiking in each season can require very different types and amounts of equipment, but food, water, and layered clothing are a minimum. If you have any doubt contact the hike leader for more information.

NBATC Hike Meeting Places

Madison Heights Lowe's - Lowe's parking lot at the River James Shopping Center on Business 29. Park in the line of parking spaces facing US 29, near the traffic signal entrance to Lowe's.

Boonsboro Shopping Center - On Boonsboro Road. Meet on the Starbucks side of the shopping center.

Buena Vista Food Lion - On US 60 west of downtown Buena Vista. Meet on the side of the parking lot adjacent to US 60.

Lynchburg Kohl's - Off Wards Road, just before the US 460. Park in front, far from the store.

Forest Square Shopping Center - On Rt 221 in Forest. Meet near the Kroger Gas Pumps.

Waterlick Plaza - On Timberlake Road (Rt 460 Business). Meet near Wells Fargo Bank.

Other Hiking opportunies

Wednesday Work Hikes - We have work hikes almost every Wednesday. If you are interested in a trail work during the week, contact Eric Anderson at 540-721-1994 (wed.crew@nbatc.org) or Trudy Phillips at 434-384-4870.

Saturday Work Hikes - We have work hikes almost every Saturday. If you are interested, call Jason Hammer at 434-401-4204 for the meeting place and time.

Weekday Hikes - For recreational hikes during the week: *88Miler Companions* (A.T. Focus - Moderate), *Day Flowers* (Easy to M), *Happy Hikers* (Easy to M), *The O.T. Group* (Moderate - Thurs), *Trail Trekkers* (M to Strenuous - Fri), *Summit Seekers* (Strenuous). For details contact Herb Vreeland: herb.vreeland@gmail.com

Section Maintainers - If none of these suit, consider contacting one of the Section Maintainers (nbatc.org//maintenance.htm#SectionMaintainers) and offer to help.

Apr 2026

Sat Apr 04 Hike #6186(S)
Petites Gap to the James River Foot Bridge HD:10
Leader:Frank Huddle, 804-266-6644
8:00 AM @ Boonsboro Shopping Center - Meet hike leader at the Foot Bridge about 8:30 AM, then carpool to Petites Gap (DD:75 MRT, $4)

This is a fun hike which will utilize both the A.T. and the Sulphur Springs Trail as we hike to the longest footbridge on the A.T. We will enjoy a snack/lunch in a boulder field as we start our 1900' descent to Matts Creek Shelter, then walk along Matts Creek and finally the James River. Contact Frank at 804-266-6644 (text preferred) to join his hike and let him know where you will meet the group.

Sun Apr 05 Hike #6187(EM)
Percival's Island Hike HD:6
Leader:Jordan Welborn, 434-209-4935
1:30 PM @ Percival's Island Parking Lot (Local)

We will walk from the Percival's Island parking lot to the end of the trail on the Amherst side and back. It is paved and level, with various views of the James River. If you don't want to walk the full 6 miles, you can turn around at any time. If you're interested in joining Jordan's Easter afternoon hike, just show up at the Percival's Island parking lot at 1:30.

Sat Apr 11 Hike #6188(EM)
Thunder Ridge Overlook to the Guillotine & Return HD:5
Leader:Shana Carter, 434-213-5755
8:00 AM @ Peaks of Otter Visitor Center - Caravan to Thunder Ridge O/L (BRP MP 74.7) to meet other hikers at 8:20 (DD:60 MRT, $3)

After enjoying the fantastic views from the Thunder Ridge O/L, we will hike south on the A.T., stopping to visit the Thunder Hill Shelter before reaching the Guillotine. After exploring this unique rock formation, we will retrace our steps back to our vehicles. Please call or text Shana to join her hike and let her know where you will meet the group.

Sun Apr 12 Hike #6189(M)
Saddle Gap to the Foot Bridge using various trails HD:7
Leader:Eric Anderson, 540-721-1994
8:30 AM @ Boonsboro Shopping Center - Meet hike leader and others at Foot Bridge at 9:00, then carpool to Hercules Rd. (DD:40 MRT, $3)

Starting at the Saddle Gap trailhead, we will explore the area west of Hercules Road using mountain bike trails to reach Sheppe Pond. From there, we will take the SP trail to Johns Hollow Shelter where we will stop and enjoy lunch and finally follow the A.T. south to the Foot Bridge. There are no steep climbs and many level or downhill sections on this route. Please call or email (eric.anderson.sml@gmail.com) Eric to reserve your place on his hike and to let him know where you will meet the group.

Sat Apr 18 Hike #6190(M)
Apple Orchard Falls Loop from North Creek HD:8
Leader:Cheryl Hines, 540-797-0992
9:00 AM @ Peaks of Otter Visitor Center - Meet hike leader at North Ck Rd trailhead at 9:35 (DD:84 MRT, $3)

From the trailhead at the end of North Cr Rd, we will hike up to Apple Orchard Falls. After admiring the falls, we will continue up the trail until it intersects with the A.T. We will go south on the A.T. until it intersects with the Cornelius Cr trail. We will then follow this trail down the mountain and beside beautiful Cornelius Creek until we return to the North Cr trailhead. There will be 2 creek crossings on this section of the hike. Please call or text Cheryl to join her hike and let her know where you will meet the group.

Sun Apr 19 Hike #6191(M)
Ragged Mnt. Reservoir Loop Trail with Optional Lunch HD:7
Leader:Angelo Mercado, 434-941-9843
7:30 AM @ Madison Heights Lowe's - Carpool to Ragged Mountain Nature Area, arriving about 8:35 (DD:120 MRT, $5)

This hike is comprised of several trails with rolling terrain that loop around the Charlottesville Reservoir, with a total elevation gain of 1,046'. Within this 980-acre hardwood forest are nice views of the water and wooden animal sculptures tucked into the woods. There is an option to eat lunch in Charlottesville after the hike at Dr. Ho's. Call Angelo to sign up for the (1) hike and (2) lunch.

Sat Apr 25 Hike #6192(EM)
Sheppe Pond/Johns Hollow Shelter Loop HD:4
Leader:Doris Moorman, 405-249-6045
8:30 AM @ Boonsboro Shopping Center - Meet hike leader at the Foot Bridge at 9:00 AM, then carpool to Hercules Rd. (DD:40 MRT, $3)

This slow-paced hike will start on Hercules Rd. at the A.T. intersection. After a short walk on Hercules Rd., we'll take a spur trail to Sheppe Pond. After walking around the pond, we will continue on a blue blaze trail that takes us to Johns Hollow Shelter. The blue blaze trail will climb from the shelter, intersecting with the A.T., which we will take south on our way back to Hercules Rd. Please contact Doris to reserve your place on her hike and let her know where you will meet the group.

Sun Apr 26 Hike #6193(M)
Sprouts Run/Wilson Mountain Loop Hike HD:8
Leaders:Bret Boman, 434-841-0554; Lisa Boman,
8:00 AM @ Forest Square Shopping Center - Meet other hikers at the Peaks VC about 8:30, then carpool to trailhead (DD:80 MRT, $4)

This loop hike in the Jefferson National Forest involves multiple stream crossings through a very pretty valley and adds some great views as we climb Wilson Mountain, all before hiking down the mountain and back to the trailhead. Water shoes (boots) and hiking sticks are highly recommended if the stream is running high. Contact the hike leaders to join their hike and let them know where you will meet the group.

May 2026

Sat May 02 Hike #6194(M)
(88 Miler) Long Mountain Wayside to Swapping Camp Creek HD:9
Leader:Shana Carter, 434-213-5755
7:30 AM @ Madison Heights Lowe's - Carpool to the Rt.60, Long Mt. Wayside, arriving about 8:15 AM (DD:65 MRT, $4)

This hike will start at Long Mountain Wayside on US 60. We will hike south on the A.T., alongside the historic Brown Mountain Creek. This is a beautiful hike with many views along the way. We will have lunch on the boulders of Swapping Camp Creek before turning around and retracing our steps. Please call or text Shana to (1) sign up for the hike and (2) let her know where you will meet the group.

Sun May 03 Hike #6195(M)
Sawtooth Ridge to Dragons Tooth parking lot HD:7
Leader:Frank Huddle, 804-266-6644
7:30 AM @ Forest Square Shopping Center - Meet other hikers at the Bedford Food Lion at 7:50 (DD:150 MRT, $5)

We will meet at the McAfee parking lot on Rt 311 at 8:50, shuttle vehicles to the Dragons Tooth parking lot, return to the McAfee parking area, and begin our hike by heading south on the A.T. This is a fun up and down hike which will include an old mill site, varied terrain, beautiful fields, and fantastic views. We will leave the A.T. at the Boy Scout Trail, taking it down to the Dragons Tooth parking lot and our vehicles. Please call or text Frank to join his hike and to let him know where you will meet the group.

Sat May 09 Hike #6196(M)
Adventure Hike...Lower Hoop Hole/Iron Ore/Roaring Run HD:8
Leader:Cheryl Hines, 540-797-0992
7:30 AM @ Forest Square Shopping Center - Peaks VC @ 8:00, meet hike leader @ Craigs Creek Rd./Rt. 220 inters. @ 9:00 (DD:108 MRT, $5)

This run-around hike is an adventure that combines 3 different hikes: Lower Hoop Hole, Iron Ore (the connector trail), and the Roaring Run Trail. The Roaring Run Trail includes cascades, a waterfall, and an old iron ore furnace. And the lower Hoop Hole trail has several water crossings as it follows a beautiful stream. Hiking sticks and Croc's or water shoes are recommended for the stream crossings. Please call or text Cheryl to join her hike and let her know where you will meet the group.

Sat May 09 Hike #6197(M)
Lady Slipper Hike - Old Hotel Trail / Cole Mountain Loop HD:3 / 7
Leaders:Wally Blair, 434-426-1554; Judy Blair
8:30 AM @ Madison Heights Lowe's - Meet other hikers at the Rt. 60 Long Mountain Wayside about 9:15 (DD:70 MRT, share cost)

Hike Leader, Wally Blair, will take you on this 7-mile (Moderate) hike. We will start at the Mount Pleasant parking lot (3500'), hike the Old Hotel Trail going through the largest collection of lady slipper orchids in our region, by historic rock walls from the early 1800's, then climbing to the top of Cole Mountain (4022'), with its mile of open meadows providing some of the best views in our area. We will also offer a shorter hike to the lady slippers and back, about 3 miles round trip. Please contact Wally to join this hike.

Sun May 10 Hike #6198(EM)
Mother's Day Lady Slipper Hike on Cove Mountain HD:4
Leader:Nora Cox, jimandnor3@gmail.com
1:00 PM @ Forest Square Shopping Center - Meet other hikers at Peaks of Otter VC at 1:30, then carpool to Bearwallow (DD:70 MRT, $4)

This spring wildflower hike is an NBATC Mother's Day tradition. Come out and count the lady slippers on Cove Mountain! In some years, we have found dozens of them along this beautiful section of the A.T. In addition to the lady slippers, there will be wildflowers by the dozen to learn. A snack break will be taken at the turnaround point. Please email the hike leader to join her hike and let her know where you will meet the group.

Sat May 16 Hike #6199(M)
(88 Miler) Thunder Ridge Overlook to Floyd Field on the A.T. HD:7
Leader:Eric Anderson, 540-721-1994
8:30 AM @ Forest Square Shopping Center - Meet hike leader and other hikers at the Peaks VC at 9:00 (DD:60 MRT, $4)

We will leave cars at Floyd Field on our way to the Thunder Ridge Overlook (MP 74.7) trailhead. As we hike south on the A.T., we will go under the Guillotine and climb to the top of Apple Orchard Mountain (4225'). We will enjoy the views there as well as at Black Rock Overlook and stop for lunch at some point during the hike. If we're lucky, the rhododendrons will be in bloom. Please call or email (eric.anderson.sml@gmail.com) Eric to join his hike and let him know where you will meet the group.

Sun May 17 Hike #6200(S)
(88 Miler) Punchbowl Crossing to Route 60, Long Mtn. Wayside on the A.T. HD:11
Leader:Jim Grondin, 540-425-5588
7:30 AM @ Madison Heights Lowe's - Meet other hikers at LMW about 8:15 AM, then shuttle to PB X-ing (DD:90 MRT, $4)

We will hike north on the A.T. starting at Punchbowl Crossing (BRP...MP 51.7) and top Rice Mountain. From there, we will head down to the Pedlar Reservoir and hike along the blue waters of the reservoir before walking along historic Brown Mountain Creek to Rt. 60/Long Mountain Wayside. Along the way, we will cross the Pedlar River Footbridge. Please TEXT Jim to (1) sign up for the hike, (2) let him know where you will meet the group and (3) make sure you receive a response back acknowledging your sign up.

Sat May 23 Hike #6201(S)
Little Ottie Cline Memorial Hike (Bluff Mt.) HD:10
Leader:Wally Blair, 434-426-1554
8:00 AM @ Madison Heights Lowe's - Leave cars at the Punchbowl O/L and the site of the old schoolhouse (DD:65 MRT, share cost)

In 1891, little Ottie Cline Powell was a 4-year-old boy who got lost and somehow ended up climbing to the top of Bluff Mountain (elevation 3372'), where sadly he passed away. We will start this hike at the site of his schoolhouse. Our hike will follow the southern Saltlog Gap Trail to the A.T., then north on the A.T. as we climb to the top of Bluff Mountain. We will end our hike by descending to the Punchbowl parking area on the BRP. Please contact Wally to join this hike and to let him know where you will meet the group.

Sat May 30 Hike #6202(EM)
Otter Creek Trail (starting at the Pond) HD:4
Leader:Carol White, carol.jacobs.white@gmail.com
12:30 PM @ Boonsboro Shopping Center - Meet hike leader and others at the Otter Creek Pond at 1 PM (DD:40 MRT, $3)

Our hike will start at the pond, and we will hike to the campground and back. This is a lovely hike along Otter Creek. Please email or text Carol at 540-314-0488 to join her hike and to let her know where you will meet the group.

Sun May 31 Hike #6203(M)
Route 11 to Fullhardt Knob Shelter on the A.T. HD:8
Leader:Mary Beth Nickolich, 252-514-3580
7:30 AM @ Forest Square Shopping Center - Meet hike leader at Bedford FL at 7:50, arriving at trailhead about 8:30 AM (DD:90 MRT, $4)

This hike starts just north of Daleville at the trailhead on US 11. The hike takes us through some farmlands and then up the forested slopes to Fullhardt Knob Shelter, with great views of the valley as we hike up the trail. It is a lovely hike up and a "walk in the park" down, with a snack at the shelter. Let's plan on lunch after the hike in Daleville. Please call or text the hike leader to join her hike and to let her know where you will meet the group.

Jun 2026

Sat Jun 06 Hike #6204(E)
Adopt-a-Highway HD:3
Leader:Angelo Mercado, 434-941-9843
8:30 AM @ Boonsboro Shopping Center - Meet Angelo at 9 AM at the turn off between the Rt. 501 bridge and Foot Bridge (DD:40 MRT, $3)

NBATC cleans up litter along a section of US 501 and VA 130 near the A.T. crossing at the Foot Bridge. Please come out and help keep our area free of litter and earn some maintenance hours too! Please call Angelo to (1) join the Adopt-a-Highway team and (2) let him know where you will meet the group.

Sun Jun 07 Hike #6205(S)
(88 Miler) Punchbowl Overlook to the Foot Bridge on the A.T. HD:11
Leaders:Bret Boman, 434-841-0554; Lisa Boman,
7:20 AM @ Forest Square Shopping Center - Meet other hikers at the Foot Bridge about 8:00 and drive to Punchbowl O/L (DD:70 MRT, $4)

Starting at Punchbowl O/L, we'll climb 1100' in the first 2 miles to the top of the 3400' Bluff Mountain. We will hike in a saddle for the next 4 miles before topping Big Rocky Row. We'll descend to Fullers Rocks and enjoy lunch while looking at the amazing river & valley views. After leaving Fullers Rocks, the trail has 20 switchbacks to help us descend 1500' before hiking along the waters of Rocky Row Run to our finish. This can also be offered as a key exchange hike. Please contact the hike leaders to sign up for this hike.

Sun Jun 14 Hike #6206(M)
Carvins Cove - Happy Valley Trail HD:11
Leader:Cheryl Hines, 540-797-0992
7:30 AM @ Forest Square Shopping Center - Arrive at Bedford FL at 7:50, then Daleville Park and Ride about 8:30 AM. (DD:90 MRT, $4)

We will carpool from Daleville to the boat landing parking lot at Carvins Cove, due to the parking fee ($7/vehicle). The Happy Valley Trail is an out and back hike from the boat landing to the C. Cove Road on the northeast side of the Reservoir. Highlights include nice views and a quiet atmosphere. Call or text Cheryl to join her hike and let her know where you will meet the group.

Sun Jun 21 Hike #6207(M)
Reservoir Hollow Trail HD:6
Leader:Jim Grondin, 540-425-5588
8:00 AM @ Boonsboro Shopping Center - Meet hike leader and others at the Foot Bridge at 8:30 (DD:90 MRT, $4)

This hike will begin in Buena Vista. There are 6 small creek crossings (each way) and we will be climbing a long hill up to the Blue Ridge Parkway. Giant boulders await us at Indian Gap on the BRP, where we will enjoy a snack before traveling back down the trail to our cars. Recommend hiking sticks and/or water shoes for the creek crossings if the water is running high. Lunch is planned for after the hike at the 501 Roadhouse. Please text Jim to sign up for his hike and let him know where you will meet the group.

Sat Jun 27 Hike #6208(M)
Little Rocky Row, Fullers Rocks, and the A.T. HD:7
Leader:Doris Moorman, 405-249-6045
8:30 AM @ Boonsboro Shopping Center - Meet hike leader and other hikers at the Foot Bridge at 9:00 (DD:40 MRT, $3)

After staging a vehicle on Hercules Rd, we'll drive to the trailhead parking for the Little Rocky Run trail on Rt. 501 to begin our slow-paced hike. We'll take the Little Rocky Row trail to its intersection with the A.T. and head north on the A.T. for the short distance to Fullers Rocks. After enjoying the beautiful view while eating lunch, we'll head south on the A.T., perhaps stop at the Johns Hollow Shelter, and end our hike on Hercules Rd. Please contact Doris to join her hike and let her know where you will meet the group.

Sun Jun 28 Hike #6209(MS)
Old Mine Hike: Bearwallow Gap to Pico Road Trailhead HD:9
Leader:Mary Beth Nickolich, 252-514-3580
7:30 AM @ Forest Square Shopping Center - Meet hike leader and other hikers at Peaks Visitor Center at 8:00 AM (DD:60 MRT, $3)

After leaving a vehicle at the Pico Rd. trailhead, we will begin our hike at Bearwallow Gap. There will be some nice views along the way and signs of old iron ore mining sites on the GHT portion of the hike. We will also have wonderful valley/mountain views from two parkway overlooks during our hike. Please call or text Mary Beth to join her hike and let her know where you will meet the group.

Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club
P.O. Box 3012
Lynchburg, VA 24503

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