

## 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 opportunities

**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.

<b>Oct 2025</b>
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**Sat Oct 04 Hike #6770(M)****Route 56 to Harpers Creek Shelter on the A.T. HD:5****Leader:Shana Carter, 434-213-5755****8:00 AM @ Madison Heights Lowe's - Meet other hikers at the Rt 56 Priest parking lot at 8:45 AM (DD:70 MRT, \$4)**

This 5.4-mile hike will start at Route 56 and head north on the A.T., crossing the Tye River on a wooden swinging bridge and then climbing up to Harpers Creek Shelter. This beautiful hike includes rhododendron tunnels, a very interesting forest trail, and the waters of Harpers Creek flowing near the shelter. Elevation gain is 1350' heading up to the shelter, but we will take our time and make stops along the way. Please text Shana to join her hike and to let her know where you will meet the group.

**Sun Oct 12 Hike #6771(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 Oct 18 Hike #6772(MS)****(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 pass by the Thunder Hill Shelter, 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. 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 Oct 19 Hike #6773(M)****Mt. Pleasant and Henry Lanum Loop HD:6****Leader:Angelo Mercado, 434-941-9843****8:00 AM @ Madison Heights Lowe's - Meet other hikers about 8:45 at Long Mt. Wayside (DD:70 MRT, \$4)**

This hike will start at the Mt. Pleasant parking area and climb to the summit of Mt. Pleasant (4,040') for some great views from two overlooks at the top. After enjoying a snack/lunch, we will hike back down to the parking area using a different trail. Please contact Angelo to join his hike and let him know where you will meet the group.

**Sat Oct 25 Hike #6774(M)****(88 Miler) Fork Mountain HD:5****Leader:Wally Blair, 434-426-1554****8:30 AM @ Forest Square Shopping Center - Meet other hikers at Peaks VC at 9:00 before driving to trailhead (DD:80 MRT, share cost)**

Come out and join Wally Blair on this beautiful hike in a beautiful forest at a beautiful time of year (fall foliage!). We will start at the trailhead located off Route 714 and follow the blue blaze trail over Button Hill to the two-story Bryant Ridge Shelter. Then we will hike south on the A.T., climbing Fork Mountain before descending to Jennings Creek. Call Wally (434-426-1554) to join his hike and let him know where you will meet the group.

**Sun Oct 26 Hike #6775(M)****James River Foot Bridge to two shelters & return HD:9****Leader:Mary Beth Nickolich, 252-514-3580****8:00 AM @ Boonsboro Shopping Center - Meet the hike leader and other hikers at the Foot Bridge at 8:30 AM (DD:40 MRT, \$3)**

Our two-prong hike will begin at the Foot Bridge and go north on the AT until we reach Johns Hollow Shelter. We will loop around to visit Sheppe Pond before returning to the Foot Bridge and continuing on to the Matts Creek Shelter. After having lunch at the shelter, we will once again retrace our steps to the Foot Bridge. Hopefully, the fall colors will be close to peak at this time. Please call or text Mary Beth to (1) join her hike and (2) let her know where you will meet the group.

Nov 2025
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**Sat Nov 01 Hike #6776(M)****Lower Terrapin Mountain Trail HD:7****Leader:Shana Carter, 434-213-5755****8:30 AM @ Boonsboro Shopping Center -****Meet other hikers at the trailhead at 9:00 AM. (DD:40 MRT, \$3)**

This in and out hike is on an old woods road that generally follows the contour line near the base of Terrapin Mountain. We will enjoy some beautiful fall colors this time of year and will be stopping for lunch/snack alongside Reed's Creek. Please text Shana to sign up for her hike and let her know where you will meet the group.

**Sun Nov 02 Hike #6777(S)****Reids Gap to the Tye River on the A.T.****HD:11****Leader:Jim Grondin, 540-425-5588****7:30 AM @ Madison Heights Lowe's - Meet the hike leader and others at the T/H on the BRP at 8:30 (DD:90 MRT, \$5)**

This hike will start at Reids Gap (MP 13.6 on the BRP) and follow the A.T. south through the Three Ridges Wilderness to the Tye River, passing Hanging Rock and several other overlooks with beautiful views of the valley below and The Priest. Please TEXT Jim to 1) sign up for his 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 Nov 08 Hike #6778(S)****Little Ottie Cline Memorial Hike (Bluff Mt.)****HD:9****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.

**Sun Nov 09 Hike #6779(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 over to the A.T. north of Johns Hollow Shelter and then 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 Nov 15 Hike #6780(MS)****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 Peaks VC at 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, before hiking back to the trailhead. Highly recommend water shoes (boots) and hiking sticks if the stream is running high. Contact the hike leaders to join their hike and let them know where you will meet the group.

**Sun Nov 16 Hike #6781(M)****Sweet Briar College Trails with Optional Lunch HD:5 / 6****Leader:Angelo Mercado, 434-941-9843****8:00 AM @ Madison Heights Lowe's - Carpool to Sweet Briar College (DD:30 MRT, \$3)**

We will explore portions of all 4-loop trails: (1) through the horse stables and riding center; (2) uphill to the Monument to view the campus and family cemetery; (3) continue walking through vineyards, athletic fields and a brief pause at the plantation cemetery; (4) walk around the most scenic lakes on campus, through woods and wetlands. We will end the hike at the campus grounds. There may be an option to eat lunch in the college cafeteria. Call Angelo to sign up for the (1) hike and (2) lunch.

**Sat Nov 22 Hike #6782(M)**  
**Humpback Rocks from the Humpback Rocks Picnic Area HD:6**  
**Leader:Doris Moorman, 405-249-6045**  
**8:00 AM @ Madison Heights Lowe's - Meet hike leader at King's Gourmet Popcorn at Afton Mtn. at 9:05, then carpool (DD:100 MRT, \$5)**

Come out and enjoy this seldom-offered hike to the iconic Humpback Rocks! Starting at the Humpback Rocks Picnic Area off the BRP, this slow-to-moderate paced hike utilizes a connector trail to the A.T., which we will then follow north. We will cross over the top of Humpback Mountain on the A.T. before detouring onto the Humpback Rocks Trail. This rocky viewpoint is one the most well-known in the area. Please call or text Doris to sign up for her hike and to let her know where you will meet the group.

**Sun Nov 23 Hike #6783(S)**  
**Sawtooth Ridge to Dragons Tooth parking lot HD:9**  
**Leader:Cheryl Hines, 540-797-0992**  
**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 area on Rt. 311 at 8:50, shuttle vehicles to the end point, and then begin hiking south on the A.T. This is a fun up and down hike which will include an old mill site, varied terrain, wonderful rock formations, beautiful fields and fantastic views. We will leave the A.T. at Lost Spectacles Gap, taking the blue-blazed trail to the Dragons Tooth parking lot and our cars. Please call or text Cheryl to join her hike and to let her know where you will meet the group.

**Sat Nov 29 Hike #6784(EM)**  
**Thunder Ridge Overlook to the Guillotine & Return HD:5**  
**Leader:Carol White, carol.jacobs.white@gmail.com**  
**1:00 PM @ Peaks of Otter Visitor Center - Caravan to Thunder Ridge O/L (BRP MP 74.7) to meet other hikers at 1:20 PM (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 email (see above) or call (540-314-0488) Carol to join her hike and let her know where you will meet the group.

**Sun Nov 30 Hike #6785(EM)**  
**Falling Creek Park in Bedford HD:4 / 5**  
**Leader:Larry Scott, 434-525-7126**  
**1:00 PM Contact hike leader - Meet hike leader at Falling Creek Park parking lot (1257 County Farm Rd.) (DD:30 MRT, share cost)**

Come out and enjoy this after-Thanksgiving afternoon hike! Falling Creek Park has many trails to explore - leading us beside a pond, through woods, and along a creek. Please call Larry to join his hike. Park address is: 1257 County Farm Road, Bedford VA.

**Dec 2025**

**Sat Dec 06 Hike #6786(MS)**  
**Big House Mountain HD:8**  
**Leader:Doris Moorman, 405-249-6045**  
**8:00 AM @ Boonsboro Shopping Center - Meet hike leader at Lexington Tractor Supply at 9:00 am, then carpool to T/H (DD:90 MRT, \$4)**

This slow to moderate-pace hike begins at the House Mtn. parking area on Saddle Ridge Rd. We will use an old jeep road for the first 2.5 miles. Upon reaching the saddle, we will go left and begin a rocky, strenuous climb to the top of Big House Mtn. Once on top, we will walk along the ridgeline to Goat Point and Table Top Rock. After lunch, we will follow the same route back to the trailhead. Please call or text Doris to join her hike and to let her know where you will meet the group.

**Sun Dec 07 Hike #6787(MS)**  
**McAfee Knob from Rt. 311 HD:8**  
**Leader:Cheryl Hines, 540-797-0992**  
**7:30 AM @ Forest Square Shopping Center - Meet other hikes at the Bedford Food Lion at 7:50 (DD:150 MRT, \$5)**

After meeting the hike leader at the McAfee Knob parking lot on Rt. 311 at 8:50, we'll begin this iconic hike by crossing the new foot bridge over Rt. 311 and hiking north on the A.T. We'll continue on the A.T. for 4 miles before reaching McAfee's Knob, which has exceptional views of the Catawba Valley. After taking time to enjoy the view and eat a snack or lunch, we'll retrace our steps back down to Rt. 311 and our vehicles. Please call or text Cheryl to join this hike and let her know where you will meet the group.

**Sat Dec 13 Hike #6788(E)**  
**Adopt-a-Highway HD:3**  
**Leader:Larry Spangler, 540-460-6903**  
**9:00 AM @ Boonsboro Shopping Center -**  
**Meet hike leader at pull-off near dam on US**  
**501 / VA 130 about 9:30 AM (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. Get on Santa's nice list! Please call the hike leader to reserve your place on this work hike and to let him know where you will meet the group.

**Sun Dec 14 Hike #6789(S)**  
**(88 Miler) Hunting Creek Trail, A.T., and**  
**Glenwood Horse Trail Loop HD:11**  
**Leaders:Bret Boman, 434-841-0554; Lisa**  
**Boman,**  
**8:00 AM @ Forest Square Shopping Center -**  
**Meet other hikers at the big parking area on**  
**Hunting Creek Road about 8:45 (DD:40**  
**MRT, \$3)**

This loop hike on Hunting Creek Trail, the A.T. and Glenwood Horse Trail will start at the Glenwood Horse Trail parking area on Hunting Creek Road. We will follow Hunting Creek Trail 1.9-miles to the A.T. intersection (elevation gain 1280') and go north to Thunder Ridge O/L and continue to Petites Gap. Then we will hike the Glenwood Horse Trail for 3-miles before taking Hunting Creek Road back to our cars. Please contact the hike leaders to join their hike and let them know where you will meet the group.

**Sat Dec 20 Hike #6790(EM)**  
**Three Short Hikes HD:4 / 5**  
**Leader:Larry Scott, 434-525-7126**  
**12:00 PM @ Waterlick Plaza (DD:40 MRT,**  
**share cost)**

Let's get together and take three short hikes in three local natural areas within a short driving distance of each other: Ivy Creek Park trails (which the club helped to build), Brookville Area Park, and CVCC Nature Trails. We will meet at Waterlick Plaza and caravan to the hikes. Please call Larry to join this hike.

**Sun Dec 21 Hike #6791(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. All minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. If you're interested in joining Jordan's pre-Christmas hike, just show up at the Percival's Island parking lot at 1:30.

**Sun Dec 28 Hike #6792(S)**  
**Spec Mine (Bushwhack Hike) HD:8**  
**Leader:Mary Beth Nickolich, 252-514-3580**  
**8:30 AM @ Forest Square Shopping Center -**  
**Meet hike leader at Peaks VC at 9 AM,**  
**Carpool to Montvale O/L (MP 95.9) (DD:64**  
**MRT, \$3)**

We will start our hike from the Montvale O/L, descend to the bottom of Spec Mine Trail, and then hike up to the ruins of the Spec Mine iron ore operation from the 1920's. This hike is on some steep trails and will include some bushwhacking. The mines are multi-level but we will not be venturing inside. After exploring the grounds, we will climb up above Spec Mine, descend a steep slope to the woods road that will take us back to the Spec Mine Trail. Please contact Mary Beth to join this hike.

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

Electronic Service Requested

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NBATC is a member of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, an affiliate of member of the American Hiking Society, and a maintainer of the A.T. from the Tye River to Black Horse Gap.

### NBATC Board of Directors

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