

## Hikes 1st Quarter, 2024



## MONDAY HIKES

All hikes meet at 9:30 am, are 5 miles or less in length, offer a relaxed pace and are done by noon, mostly. No dogs. Children and grandchildren, guests, visitors, and non-members are very welcome.

If the weather is misting, we will hike. If rain is bucketing down, no hike.

Jan 1: Mountain-to-Sea Trail: Meet at the Raven Rock Overlook, hiking south to Thunder Hill and return. BRP MP 289.5.

Jan 8: Tanawha Trail to Holloway Mountain Road, and on to an older community cemetery. Meet at boat ramp parking at Price Lake, BRP MP 297.

Jan 15: Bass Lake to Cone Manor Loop. Meet at Bass Lake lower parking area, off Rt. 221 just south of Blowing Rock.

Jan 22: Flat Top Observation Tower + Cone Memorial. Meet in front of the Carriage House by Cone Manor, BRP MP 294.1.

Jan 29: Trout Lake to Rich Mountain. Meet in parking area of Trout Lake off Shull's Mill Road near BRP Milepost 294.6.

Feb 5: The Maze and Apple Barn at Cone Manor. Meet at Bass Lake lower parking area, off Rt. 221 just south of Blowing Rock.

Feb 12: Price Lake plus. Meet at Boat ramp parking area, BRP MP 297.

Feb 19: Green Knob Trail: This is a short trail with a bit of a climb. Meet at Sims Pond Overlook, BRP MP 295.9.

Feb 26: Mountain-to-Sea Trail: Meet at the Raven Rock Overlook, hiking south to Thunder Hill and return. BRP MP 289.5.

Mar 4: Old John's River Road to Boone Fork and the new MST bridge. Meet at Price Picnic Area BRP MP 296.4.

Mar 11: Trout Lake to Rich Mountain. Meet in parking area of Trout Lake off Shull's Mill Road near BRP Milepost 294.6.

Mar 18: Old John's River Road to Price Lake. Meet at Sim's Pond Overlook, BRP MP 295.9.

Mar 25: Carriage Barn to Blowing Rock Stables. Meet at Cone Manor House in front of the Carriage Barn BRP Milepost 294.1.

## WEDNESDAY HIKES

### JANUARY

3 - **Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge** moderate approx. 6 miles, fantastic views from the Balds. No dogs, covid precautions. Carol Ann Mitchell leader 23-772-4280, [camitchell21@gmail.com](mailto:camitchell21@gmail.com), text iffy 423-957-1207.

10 - **Middle Fork Greenway**. Hike on the newly-completed parts of the Greenway. See historical features, listen to the traffic on Blowing Rock Road! 3.2 miles round trip. Mostly flat. A few hills on the gravel part. No dogs. Contact hike leader, Pam Hoffman, [hoffmanpw@yahoo.com](mailto:hoffmanpw@yahoo.com) or text/call 828-963-3369.

17 - **Fonta Flora loop trail** –This lakeside trail is located in Fonta Flora County Park at Fish Hatchery road and Hwy 126 on the north side of Lake James near Morganton. Bring water and snack or consider stopping at a fun bar and grill a few miles away. No Dogs. 5+ miles, hilly. Moderately challenging. Email [juinadams@yahoo.com](mailto:juinadams@yahoo.com) or call 828-295-9607 (landline-no texts) for meeting time, place and carpooling opportunities.

24 - **MST: Thunderhill Overlook to Boone's Trace**. Meet at Thunderhill Overlook on the BRP(290.4) just north of 321. Hike is 6.3 miles rated as easy. Spot cars at Boone's Trace Overlook. The hike follows the BRP through woods, pastures and along streams and on roads with a net elevation loss of 500 feet. COVID, RSV, and Flu vaccinated only. No dogs. No whining. Text or email Judy at 630 240 2644 or [Jeichmiller@gmail.com](mailto:Jeichmiller@gmail.com). Please no calls or VM.

31 - **Blue Ridge Conservancy Trail**. 2.2 mile loop in the woods behind/above the new conservancy headquarters on Aho Rod. No dogs. Contact hike leader, Pam Hoffman, [hoffmanpw@yahoo.com](mailto:hoffmanpw@yahoo.com) or text/call 828-963-3369

## FEBRUARY

7 - **Shulls Mills, MST, Price Lake Loop and return.** Will lunch in picnic area on way back. . No Dogs. 7+ miles Moderate climb back up to cars. Email [juinadams@yahoo.com](mailto:juinadams@yahoo.com) or call 828-295-9607 (landline-no texts) for meeting time.

14 - **Aho Gap to Goshen Creek Bridge on the MST.** 4.5 miles, ups and downs. Rocky and rooty. A couple of easy creek crossings. No dogs. Contact hike leader, Pam Hoffman, [hoffmanpw@yahoo.com](mailto:hoffmanpw@yahoo.com) or text/call 828-963-3369

21 - 2/21 Laurel Fork Falls 5 miles, easy/moderate, varying terrain. No dogs, covid precautions. Carol Ann Mitchell leader 23-772-4280, [camitchell21@gmail.com](mailto:camitchell21@gmail.com), text iffy 423-957-1207.

28 - **Mt. Jefferson:** 6 miles from Ranger Station to Luther Rock and beyond. Beautiful ridge trail after summit is reached. Moderate. COVID, RSV, and Flu vaccinated only. No dogs. No whining. Text or email Judy at 630 240 2644 or [Jeichmiller@gmail.com](mailto:Jeichmiller@gmail.com). Please no calls or VM.

## MARCH

6 - **Rocky Knob Trails:** This 185-acre park consists of a series of switchbacks with trails rated easy to moderate. Bring hiking poles and water. There are bathrooms and a picnic pavilion. Entrance is off Rte 421 heading east, about 2 miles east of the intersection with Rte 194 in Boone. We won't do all 9 miles of trails but let the weather dictate how far we want to go. Option for lunch afterwards at nearby Booneshine. No dogs please. Contact Eva Rand (text) 301-758-4375 or [twowheels28@hotmail.com](mailto:twowheels28@hotmail.com)

13 - **Jones Falls** 4+ miles gentle climbing then descent to falls, lovely. No dogs, covid precautions. Carol Ann Mitchell leader 23-772-4280, [camitchell21@gmail.com](mailto:camitchell21@gmail.com), text iffy 423-957-1207.

20 - **Hughes Gap to Overlook** + approx. 5+ miles, moderate, fantastic views from overlook No dogs, covid precautions. Carol Ann Mitchell leader 23-772-4280, [camitchell21@gmail.com](mailto:camitchell21@gmail.com), text iffy 423-957-1207.

27 - **Holloway Mountain Road to Cold Prong** via the Tanawha Trail and back. Approximately 4½ miles; rated moderate. Meet at Holloway Mountain Road Parking lot. No dogs. Sherrey Murray leader, 828-737-0248, [smpa1958@gmail.com](mailto:smpa1958@gmail.com).

## SATURDAY HIKES

### January

- 6 **Tanawha Trail: Boone Fork Parking Area (MP 299.9) to Price Lake** One-way, mostly downhill with 3 easy water crossings. This is a beautiful section of the Tanawha Trail with gentle slopes along wooded terrain, crossing several creeks and open pastures. Bring lunch and water. Will stop at rocks above Holloway Rd. for mid-hike break. Meeting place and starting point will be determined by the weather. However, the Parkway is open in the winter from Holloway Rd. to Price Lake even when other portions are closed. Will hike up from 221 to the Tanawha if Parkway is closed, adding .4 mile to the distance. 6 miles. Rated easy/moderate. No Dogs. Email [juinadams@yahoo.com](mailto:juinadams@yahoo.com) or call 828-295-9607 (landline-no texts) for meeting time and place.
- 13 **19E to Doll Flats plus**. Moderate, some short but strenuous sections, approx. 6 miles. Challenging. Then to AT Station 19E for music jam session at 3, plus. No dogs. Call Carol Ann Mitchell, leader at 423-772-4280, [camitchell21@gmail.com](mailto:camitchell21@gmail.com), text iffy 423-957-1207.
- 20 **Elk Shoals (New River State Park)**, Ashe County. This is an easy paced hike along the New River (flat) with more effort hiking the trails in the woods. Approximately 5-mile hike on new and indistinct trails where hiking sticks are a must. No dogs. Contact hike leader Allmuth Curly Perzel by phone 336-982-8291.
- 27 **Trout Lake to Flat Top Tower:** Meet at Trout Lake parking area. Approximately 7 miles, rated moderate, on Cone Manor carriage trails with approximately 650 ft. elevation gain. No dogs. Call hike leader, Bob Heath at 828-773-0471.

### February

- 3 **Hughes Gap to Overlook** + approx 5+ miles, moderate, fantastic views from overlook No dogs, take covid precautions. Call Carol Ann Mitchell, hike leader at 423-772-4280; email [camitchell21@gmail.com](mailto:camitchell21@gmail.com), text iffy 423-957-1207.
- 10 **Storyteller and Flat Rock:** from Boone Fork Parking area on the BRP. The hike will follow the Nuwati Trail to Storyteller Rock with the return trip via the Cragway, Daniel Boone Scout and Tanawha Trails. Storyteller and Flat Rock afford beautiful vistas of the Boone Bowl and beyond. 5 mi., some parts strenuous and rocky. No dogs. Call hike leader, Bob Heath at 828-773-0471.

- 17 **MST: Trout Lake to Price Park Picnic ground** with lunch/snack on rocks on the shore of the Boone Fork creek. . Moderate 3.5 mile uphill walk from Trout up Rich Mtn trail to MST style and then all downhill to bridge, lunch and short walk on Boone Fork Trail to the picnic ground. Approx. 6 miles. Moderate. No dogs. Email [juinadams@yahoo.com](mailto:juinadams@yahoo.com) or call 828-295-9607 (landline-no texts) for meeting time.
- 24 **MST: Highway 421 to Elk Mountain Overlook**. 4-5 miles. COVID, flu and RSV vaccinated only. No whining. No dogs. Rated as moderate. Text or email hike leader Judy at 630 240 2644 or [Jeichmiller@gmail.com](mailto:Jeichmiller@gmail.com). Please no calls or VM.

### **March**

- 2 **South Mountain State Park:** High Shoals Falls and HQ loop.. We will start at trailhead parking lot about 2 miles into the park. (This isn't the ranger station on the right, or the horse parking area on the left, but is a little further in on the left.) We will walk up past waterfall to and do HQ loop trail around ridge.4.7 mi. Moderately challenging. No dogs. Email [juinadams@yahoo.com](mailto:juinadams@yahoo.com) or call 828-295-9607 (landline-no texts) for meeting time, place and carpooling opportunities.
- 9 **Quarterly Meeting** Hosts: Eva Rand and Roger Bodo
- 16 **Tanawha Trail End-to-End:** 13.5 mi. from Beacon Heights to Julian Price Park. Ranges from easy to strenuous, about 8 hrs. Bring plenty of water, snacks and lunch. Hiking sticks are strongly recommended. Meet at Price Park boat ramp area nearest the Parkway. We will carpool to Beacon Heights. No dogs. Call hike leader, Bob Heath at 828-773-0471.
- 23 **Basin Creek Trail to Caudill Cabin:** (Alleghany/Ashe Co.). 9.6 miles, all-day hike. Rated moderate to strenuous. Elevation gain of 1,560 ft., 34 stream crossings, mostly by rock-hopping. Streams are not deep or wide. Chimneys are left standing from cabins washed away in the terrible flood of 1916. The Caudill cabin, however, is newly restored. Dress for the weather, bring 2 quarts of water, headlight, hiking sticks for stream hopping, a small towel, and lunch. No dogs. Contact hike leader, Allmuth Curley Perzel at 336-982-8291.
- 30 **Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge:** Moderate; approx. 6 miles; fantastic views from the Balds. No dogs, covid precautions. Call Carol Ann Mitchell, hike leader at 423-772-4280; email [camitchell21@gmail.com](mailto:camitchell21@gmail.com), text iffy 423-957-1207.