

Hikes: 4th Quarter 2026

MONDAY HIKES

October



Oct 5: Trout Lake to Manor House & Figure 8 Trail: Meet at Trout Lake parking lot (1st exit left off Parkway just south of Cone Manor going to Rt. 221 and then take an immediate right, nearly a U turn, onto Shull's Mill Rd going under parkway), and an immediate angling right onto single lane paved access to parking around the lake. Bill Baker

Oct 12: The Maze and Apple Barn at Cone Manor. Meet at Bass Lake lower parking area, off Rt. 221 just south of Blowing Rock. Dave J

Oct 19: Cone Manor House to Blowing Rock Stables. Meet at Carriage Barn next to Cone Manor House on BRP Milepost 294.1 Dave J

Oct 26: Trout Lake to Rich Mountain. Meet in parking area of Trout Lake off Shull's Mill Road near BRP Milepost 294.6. Take 1st exit left off Parkway just south of Cone Manor going to Rt. 221 and then take an immediate right, nearly a U turn, onto Shull's Mill Rd going under parkway, and an immediate angling right onto single lane paved access to parking around the lake. Bob Heath

November

Nov 2: Bass Lake to Cone Manor Loop. Meet at Bass Lake lower parking area off 221 just south of Blowing Rock. Linda Elksnin

Nov 9: Bass Lake to Apple Barn & return via old trail. Meet at Bass Lake lower parking area off 221 just south of Blowing Rock. Dave J

Nov 16: Price Lake plus. Meet at Boat ramp parking area, BRP MP 297. Since this is a short hike, be prepared to hike over to and up a bit of the Tanawha Trail. Dave J

Nov 23: Green Knob Trail: This is a short trail with a bit of a climb. Meet at Sims Pond Overlook, BRP MP 295.9. Juin

Nov 30: Tanawha Trail to Holloway Mountain Road, and on to an older community cemetery. Meet at boat ramp parking at Price Lake, BRP MP 297. Carol Anne Mitchell

December

Dec 7: Boone Fork Trail to the new MST bridge and Old John's River Road. Meet at Price Picnic area. BRP MP296.4. Dave J

Dec 14: Flat Top Observation Tower + Cone Memorial. Meet in front of the Carriage House by Cone Manor, BRP MP 294.1. Linda Elksnin

Dec 21: Mountain-to-Sea Trail: Meet at the Raven Rock Overlook, hiking south toward Thunder Hill and return. BRP MP 289.5. Dave J

Dec 28: Old John's River Road to Price Lake. Meet at Price Picnic area. BRP MP296.4. Dave J

WEDNESDAY HIKES

October

7 - Fall Color Hike: Storyteller and ½ Cragway: We will hike on the Upper Boone Fork, Tanawha, Nuwati and half of the Cragway trails to get views of the fall color in the Boone Bowl. 4-5 Miles, easy to moderate. No dogs. Epi pen if needed. Sticks, water, lunch. Contact Juin at juinadams@yahoo.com or text/call [828-406-5738](tel:828-406-5738) for starting location and time.

14 - Hike along the /Jonas Ridge Trail in Linville Gorge to Hawksbill with spectacular views of the Gorge, with a stop along the way at Sitting Bear. This is a moderate to strenuous out and back hike for 5.5 miles with approx.1600 ft of elevation gain There are a couple of steeper/technical sections, so poles are advisable. Bring water and a snack/lunch. No dogs. Email Nancy Riggsbee at nwriggsbee@gmail.com or text/call [704-517-2993](tel:704-517-2993).

21 - Fonta Flora - Approximately 6-7 miles, moderate terrain. Start at the Fonta Flora County Park trailhead at the intersection of Fish Hatchery Road and NC 126. Will hike the trail through the park until we reach the Boat Launch. Bring water, lunch and wear appropriate footwear. Text or call Sheryl Yatsko @ [908-797-4016](tel:908-797-4016) .

28 - Boone Fork trail, 5 miles, moderate. Carol Ann Mitchell [423-772-4280](tel:423-772-4280), [423-957-1207](tel:423-957-1207), camitchell21@gmail.com. Covid precautions. No Dogs.

November

4 - Tanawha trail at Holloway Rd trailhead to Cold Prong, approximately 5 miles, easy, moderate. Carol Ann Mitchell [423-772-4280](tel:423-772-4280), [423-957-1207](tel:423-957-1207), camitchell21@gmail.com. Covid precautions. No Dogs.

11 - Tanawha: Rough Ridge from Boulder Fields: Parking BRP mile 302.1. Up and back. 2 miles gentle uphill with steeper final climb to top of Rough Ridge. Roots and Rocks. Moderate. 4.5 miles 500-600 elevation gain. Bring sticks, water and snack for lunch on top No Dogs. Epi Pen if needed. Contact Juin Adams at juinadams@yahoo.com or text/call [828-406-5738](tel:828-406-5738) for meeting time, place and carpooling opportunities.

18 - Hanging Rock (Seven Devils) About 3 miles , rated strenuous. Very steep near the top, but with an amazing 360-degree view. In the spring, wildflowers along the trail consist of lilies of the valley and mayapples. Bring water, lunch and wear appropriate footwear. Call or text Sheryl Yatsko for meeting time and carpooling at [908-797-4016](tel:908-797-4016).

25 - Thanksgiving Eve No hike scheduled unless someone wants to.

December

2 - Chain of trails Roan Mountain state park-Raven Rocks, Old Forest Road, Moonshiners Run, Turkey Trot. Approximately 4-5 miles, moderate to sensuous, fantastic views on the ridges. Some parts very narrow and steep. Carol Ann Mitchell [423-772-4280](tel:423-772-4280), [423-957-1207](tel:423-957-1207), camitchell21@gmail.com. Covid precautions. No Dogs.

9 - Rock Jock Trail in Linville Gorge - Description to be submitted in early October. Hike Leader Nancy Riggsbee.

16 - Boone Fork including Hebron Falls - Trail is a moderate 5.5-mile hike that traverses streams and goes through tunnels of rhododendron. This scenic trail through the woods has many peaceful water features. The most challenging aspects along the way are boulder hopping, rocks and roots in the trail, and some ladders Bring water, lunch and wear appropriate footwear. Call or text Sheryl Yatsko for meeting time and carpooling at [908-797-4016](tel:908-797-4016).

23 - Christmas Eve No hike scheduled unless someone wants to.

30 - Linville Falls including Plunge Basin - Linville Falls is one of the most impressive waterfalls along the Blue Ridge Parkway and marks the beginning of the Linville Gorge. We will be hiking the five viewpoints via two trails, approximately 4 miles. Plunge Basin trail to the bottom of falls is rated moderate and is rocky along the river. Will meet at the parking lot of BRP. Call or text Sheryl Yatsko for meeting time and carpooling at [908-797-4016](tel:908-797-4016)

SATURDAY HIKES

October

- 3 **AT around Watauga Lake to dam.** Moderate 6 miles, gorgeous views of lake and mountains. Carol Ann Mitchell hike leader 423-772-4280, 423-957-1207, camitchell21@gmail.com. No dogs, Covid precautions.
- 10 **Storyteller Rock and Flat Rock** from Boone Fork Parking area on the BRP. Start time will be 8:00 a.m. in order to beat the leaf peepers. 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. Text hike leader Kelly McDuffie at 813-787-1198 to RSVP.
- 17 **Babel Tower:** 8:30am meet at Linville Land Harbor to carpool. Please let me know if you're coming from Boone and maybe we can create another carpool. High clearance vehicles (SUVs, trucks) recommended for the drive to the trailhead. We'll hike to Babel Tower to see the gorgeous view of Linville Gorge, then down to the Linville River where we'll have a snack while sitting amongst the rocks and falls. We'll return the same route. This hike is 3.5 miles with 1400 ft. of elevation gain and is rated difficult. Hiking poles are recommended. Please bring lunch or a heavy snack, water, and electrolytes. No dogs. Text hike leader Kelly McDuffie at 813-787-1198 to RSVP.
- 24 **Stone Mtn. State Park:** Stone Mountain loop: We will start walking up a trail with steps from the lower (north) parking; stop for lunch on the summit of Stone Mountain; explore along the rock face; come down wooden steps by the 400' waterfalls and pass the homestead in the valley below on our return. Rated moderate. 4.5 miles, 900+ ft. elev. gain. Bring sticks, water and lunch. No Dogs. We will carpool/caravan from New Market in Boone. Email juinadams@yahoo.com or call/text 828-406-5738 for meeting time
- 31 **Table Rock Gap trail to the Chimneys (must wear a costume):** It's Halloween! Costume required! Approx. 6.5 miles. The highlight of this route is the stunning views from Table Rock, Devile's Cellar and the Chimneys overlooking the Gorge. Trails rated hard and can be rocky. Bring water, lunch and wear appropriate footwear. Call or text Shery Yatsko for meeting time and carpooling at 908-797-4016.

November

- 7 **Laurel Fork Falls:** 5 miles, lovely falls, easy to moderate hike. Contact Carol Ann Mitchell, hike leader at 423-772-4280 or 423-957-1207 or email: camitchell21@gmail.com. No dogs.
- 14 **Elk Knob:** 3.8 mi. round trip, with 900 ft. gain in elevation. Moderately strenuous. Spectacular views at the summit with views of all 3 ski slopes. The trails are mostly moderate, with steady, steep incline in some places. 2 ½ - 3 hrs. No dogs. Contact hike leader, Bob Heath at 828-773-0471 or email plumbob309@yahoo.com.

21 **Shortoff Mountain Trail:** 5 mi., rated moderate-strenuous. Starting from Wolf Pit Road above Lake James the trail gains 1,321 feet in elevation. The first 1 1/2 mile of the hike is a strenuous, rocky trail with switchbacks and sweeping views of Lake James. 1 mile up, the trail merges with the Mountain to Sea Trail. The last 1¼ mile is mostly level across the summit at 2883 feet, passing by many panoramic views. Call or text hike leader Shery Yatsko for meeting time and carpooling at 908-797-4016.

28 No hike scheduled - unless someone wants to. (Thanksgiving weekend)

December

5 **Hughes Gap to Overlook:** 4+ miles, follows ridge line, beautiful views of surrounding peaks. Contact hike leader Carol Ann Mitchell, hike leader at 423-772-4280 or 423-957-1207, or email: camitchell21@gmail.com. No dogs

12 **Annual holiday party and quarterly meeting – Host:** Juin Adams

19 **12/19 Glen Burney Soup Hike:** The trail starts at Annie Cannon Gardens parking lot on Laurel Lane in Blowing Rock. The trail meanders down through a gorge past 3 waterfalls (Cascades, Glen Burney and Glen Marie Falls) on the New Years Creek. It is 3.2 miles total. Easy going down but the 700 feet elevation gain is a good workout coming back up. On the way back up, we will divert up to Juin's house for a soup lunch, then finish the hike. No dogs. Contact hike leader, Juin Adams at juinadams@yahoo.com or text/call 828-406-5738 for meeting time, place and carpooling opportunities.

26 **No hike - enjoy Christmas weekend!**