



Monday Hike List for 1st QTR 2025

Note: All Monday 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 please. Children and grandchildren, guests, visitors, and non-members are very welcome.

January

Jan 6: **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.

Jan 13: **The Maze and Apple Barn at Cone Manor.** Meet at Bass Lake lower parking area, off Rt. 221 just south of Blowing Rock.

Jan 20: **Mountain-to-Sea Trail:** Meet at the Raven Rock Overlook, hiking south toward Thunder Hill and return. BRP MP 289.5.

Jan 27: **Flat Top Observation Tower + Cone Memorial.** Meet in front of the Carriage House by Cone Manor, BRP MP 294.1.

February

Feb 3: **Tanawha Trail to Holloway Mountain Road,** and on to an older community cemetery. Meet at boat ramp parking at Price Lake, BRP MP 297.

Feb 10: **Trout Lake to Rich Mountain.** Meet in parking area of Trout Lake off Shull's Mill Road near BRP Milepost 294.6.

Feb 17: **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.

Feb:24 **Green Knob Trail:** This is a short trail with a bit of a climb. Meet at Sims Pond Overlook, BRP MP 295.9.

March

Mar3: **Bass Lake to Cone Manor Loop.** Meet at Bass Lake lower parking area off 221 just south of Blowing Rock.

Mar 10: **Old John's River Road to Boone Fork** and the new MST bridge. Meet at Price Picnic area. BRP MP296.4.

Mar 17: **Bass Lake to Apple Barn & return.** Meet at Bass Lake lower parking area off 221 just south of Blowing Rock.

Mar24: **Carriage Barn to Blowing Rock Stables.** Meet at Cone Manor House in front of the Carriage Barn BRP Milepost 294.1.

Mar 31: **Old John's River Road to Price Lake**, and perhaps a visit to King's marker. Meet at Sim's Pond Overlook, BRP MP 295.9.

Wednesday Hikes 1st Quarter 2025

JANUARY

1 - **Mt Jefferson Natural Area, Ashe County** Join a ranger-led New Years Hike. When that is finished, we will continue on trails the ranger did not cover. Length 5-6 miles. Bring lunch, water and hiking sticks Call hike leader Allmuth "Curly" Perzel 336-982-8591 no texts or emails please.

8 - **MST: Trout Lake to Price Lake** 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. 7 miles. Moderate. No dogs. Email juinadams@yahoo.com or call 828-295-9607 (landline-no texts) for meeting time.

15 - **Crab Orchard Falls & Hermitages:** Meet at waterfalls parking behind Holy Cross Episcopal Church at 122 Skiles Way, Banner Elk, near Valle Crucis. Moderate, but somewhat steep, 5-mile hike. Will head up the logging road to the Hermitages, back down via the Loop, and on to the beautiful falls. Call or text for time, Sheryl 908-797-4016.

22 - **Blue 2 and Moonshiners Run in RMSP**, easy/moderate, 6-mile loop along ridges then along Doe River. Covid precautions, Carol Ann Mitchell Leader 423-772-4280, camitchell21@gmail.com or text 423-957-1207. No dogs.

29 - **Lenoir Greenway**, Lenoir (3.9 miles) We can do it twice if folks want to. Paved, beautiful area in the woods, neighborhoods etc. Bring snacks, lunch, fluids and walking stick COVID, RSV, and Flu vaccinated only. No dogs. TEXT or email Judy at 630 240-2644 or Jeichmiller@gmail.com. Please no calls or VM.

February

5 - **Soup Hike up Old John's River Road and back to Bill Baker's house. 9:30**

A.M. Description - Meet at Bill Baker's house. (3.7 miles along 221 from Blowing Rock traffic light.) Pass Westglow Spa, pass Ansley Heights sign on LHS - Several quick bends, Saddle Ridge is the next LH turn, it has a standard NC road sign. Bill's house is first on RHS up Saddle Ridge.) Spot a couple of cars at Bill's. Drive hikers to Sim's Pond. Hike up John's River Road to 221. Walk 221 about half a mile to Artist's Alley. (Some traffic, Sorry about that bit!) Artist's Alley and back roads back to Bill's house. (Little or no traffic.) It is a good four miles, mostly uphill but no major climbs. Hike leader: Bill Baker 828-295-8677 or williamr.baker@prodigy.net

12 - **Tanawha: Boone Fork Parking Area (MP 299.9) to Price Lake** One-way, mostly downhill with 3 easy water crossings. Bring lunch, sticks and water. Will stop at rocks above Holloway Rd. for mid-hike break. The meeting place and starting point will be determined by the weather. 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 or call 828-295-9607 (landline-no texts) for meeting time and place.

19 - **AT from trailhead 19E to Overlook and/or Doll Flats** 5-7.5 miles, moderate ascent to top. Spectacular views in winter. Covid precautions, Carol Ann Mitchell Leader 423-772-4280, camitchell21@gmail.com or text 423-957-1207. No dogs.

26 - **Mt. Jefferson Mtn., West Jefferson** We will hike to the Jefferson Overlook, Luther Rock and beyond. Approx. 4+ miles. All downhill after that! Meet at the first turn off of Mt. Jefferson Natural Area (Sunset view). Bring snacks, lunch, fluids and walking sticks. COVID, RSV, and Flu vaccinated only. No dogs. TEXT or email Judy at 630 240-2644 or Jeichmiller@gmail.com. Please no calls or VM.

March

5 - **Flannery Fork to Flat Top tower** Approximately 6.8 miles up and back, rated moderate, on Cone Manor carriage trails with approximately 650 ft. elevation gain. Meet at Trout Lake Dam on Flannery Fork Rd. Bring lunch and a drink for a snack break at the top. No Dogs. Email juinadams@yahoo.com or call 828-295-9607 (landline-no texts)

12 - **Dark Mountain, W. Scott Kerr Park, Wilkesboro** (6.5 miles) Assuming this is cleared by March. This is a bike hike, but it is winter and Wednesday. I have never seen a bike on this trail. Bring snacks, lunch, fluids and walking sticks. Hiking poles recommended. COVID, RSV, and Flu vaccinated only. No dogs. TEXT or email Judy at 630 240-2644 or Jeichmiller@gmail.com. Please no calls or VM.

19 - **Laurel Fork Falls**, easy/moderate in sections, long descent to Beautiful Falls, 5 miles, interesting topography. Covid precautions, Carol Ann Mitchell Leader 423-772-4280, camitchell21@gmail.com or text 423-957-1207. No dogs.

26 - **Caudill Cabin Hike Basin Creek** 9.6 mile, all day hike. Rated moderate to strenuous. Elevation gain 1560 ft. 34 stream crossings, Chimneys are left standing from cabins washed away in the terrible flood of 1916. The Caudill Cabin stood. Bring lunch, water, a headlamp and sticks helpful for stream crossings. No dogs. Call hike leader Allmuth "Curly" Perzel 336-983-8591 no text, no emails please.

Saturday Hikes

- 4 **Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge:** 6 mi. out and back rated moderate to strenuous. Spectacular 360 views along part of the AT that crosses the Balds. Trail is rocky with steep slopes in each direction, reaching 6,000 ft. elevations. Hiking stick(s) recommended. Bring water and lunch. No Dogs. Covid/Respiratory illness precautions. Contact Cyndi for meeting location, time and carpool options. Text or email 941-720-1299 or Plantseeds3@gmail.com.
- 11 **AT from trailhead 19E to Overlook and/or Doll Flats** 5-7.5 miles, moderate ascent to top. Spectacular views in winter. Covid precautions, Carol Ann Mitchell Leader 423-772-4280, camitchell21@gmail.com or text 423-957-1207. No dogs.
- 18 **Story Teller Rock 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. Contact hike leader, Bob Heath at 828-773-0471.
- 25 **Fonta Flora Trail** through the county park and the Fonta Flora/MST Connector in the game lands. Start at the trailhead at the intersection of Fish Hatchery Road and NC 126. From there, enter the Fonta Flora State Trail through the park for about 4.5 miles until you reach the Lake James Boat Launch. Hike through the parking lot and head west on NC 126 for a half mile to Wolf Pit Road. Turn right onto Wolf Pit Road and start looking for the Fonta Flora/MST Connector Trail crossing the road just under a quarter of a mile into this gravel section. Turn right onto the Fonta Flora/MST Connector Trail and follow it back to the trailhead for a total loop of 6.9 miles. 2% average grade and 14% max grade. Section one of a planned trail which will eventually extend from Morganton to Asheville. Call or text for time, Sheryl, 908-797-4016.

February

- 1 **Beacon Heights to Rough Ridge (out and back):** 8.2 mile out and back rated moderate to strenuous. Hike through one of the most spectacular sections of the Tanawha Trail. Hiking stick(s) recommended. Bring plenty of water, snacks and lunch. No dogs. Text or email hike leader Cyndi for start time. 941-720-1299 plantseeds3@gmail.com
- 8 **Hwy. 221 Pre-Viaduct Parkway Ramp to Rough Ridge:** Hike the old roadbed from Hwy. 221 to Rough Ridge via the closed entry ramp to the Parkway at Wilson Creek Overlook, then the Tanawha to Rough Ridge and return. Approximately 5 mi. roundtrip; moderately strenuous, some rock scrambling. Meet at the entry on Hwy. 221. No dogs. Call hike leader Bob Heath at 828-773-0471
- 15 **Blue 2 and Moonshiners Run in RMSP,** easy/moderate, 6-mile loop along ridges then along Doe River. No dogs. Covid precautions, Carol Ann Mitchell Leader 423-772-4280, camitchell21@gmail.com or text 423-957-1207. No dogs. N.B. Roan Mountain Winter Rally that Saturday could fit it in as well.

- 22 **Shulls Mill Rd. to Price Lake Loop and return:** Will lunch in picnic area on way back. . No Dogs. 7+ miles. Moderate climb back up to cars. No dogs. Email hike leader Juin Adams at juinadams@yahoo.com or call 828-295-9607 (landline-no texts) for meeting time.

March

- 1 **Cone Manor to Flat Top Mountain:** Cone Manor to Flat Top Tower 5.6 mile out and back on carriage trails. The hike is rated moderate, with approximately 600 ft. elevation gain. At the top, climb a 30' tower for panoramic views of the area. Bring water and lunch. No dogs. Text or email hike leader Cyndi for start time. 941-720-1299; plantseeds3@gmail.com
- 8 **Quarterly Meeting** Hosts: Eva Rand & Roger Bodo
- 15 **Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge** approx. 6 miles, moderate to strenuous in a few sections. Spectacular views. Covid precautions Contact Carol Ann Mitchell, Leader, at 423-772-4280, camitchell21@gmail.com or text 423-957-1207. No dogs.
- 22 **Tanawha Trail End-to-End:** 13.5 mi. from Beacon Heights to Julian Price Park. Ranges from easy to strenuous, about 8 hrs. Net elevation gain is about 800'. Bring plenty of water, snacks and lunch. Hiking sticks are strongly recommended. Meet at Price Park boat ramp nearest the Parkway. We will carpool to Beacon Heights. Cars can be spotted at several places along the trail for those who do not wish to do the entire Tanawha. No dogs. Contact hike leader, Bob Heath at 828-773-0471.
- 29 **Hawksbill Trail-** The hike to the top of Hawksbill Mountain, which stands at an elevation of 4,009 ft, is incredibly rewarding as it offers panoramic views of the Linville Gorge "canyon," with the valley floor situated below you. Moderate to strenuous with 670 ft. elevation gain. If the weather and more trails are open we can go to Table Rock. Bring hiking sticks. Call or text for time, Sheryl, at 908-797-4016.