

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2026 Hikes



### Monday Hikes

**April 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. **Bill Baker**

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

**April 20:** Cone Manor House to Blowing Rock Stables. Meet at Carriage Barn next to Cone Manor House on BRP Milepost 294.1 **Dave J**

**April 27:** 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. **Mike Lobban**

**May 4:** Bass Lake to Cone Manor Loop. Meet at Bass Lake lower parking area off 221 just south of Blowing Rock. **Linda Elksnin**

**May 11:** 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**

**May 18:** 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. **Skip Rackmill**

**May 25:** Green Knob Trail: This is a short trail with a bit of a climb. Meet at Sims Pond Overlook, BRP MP 295.9. **Eli Wettstein**

**June 1:** 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**

**June 8:** Boone Fork Trail to the new MST bridge and Old John's River Road. Meet at Price Picnic area. BRP MP 296.4. **Phillip Kagan**

**June 15:** Flat Top Observation Tower + Cone Memorial. Meet in front of the Carriage House by Cone Manor, BRP MP 294.1. **Phillip Kagan**

**June 22:** Mountain-to-Sea Trail: Meet at the Raven Rock Overlook, hiking south toward Thunder Hill and return. BRP MP 289.5. **Dave J**

**June 29:** Old John's River Road to Price Lake, and perhaps a visit to King's marker. Meet at Price Picnic area. BRP MP 296.4. **Dave J**

## Wednesday Hikes

### APRIL

**1 - Boone Fork Trail Loop** - scenic 5-mile moderate loop with a 554 ft elevation gain. The trail has several creek crossings and a few ladders to climb. Hiking poles are recommended. Please contact Philip Kagan email [pskagan@gmail.com](mailto:pskagan@gmail.com) or cell 828-386-8205. **Dave J**

**8 - China Creek-** Upper Thunder Hole Loop Includes easy water crossings and a little rock scrambling. Lunch by a lovely little waterfall before starting back up. Hike starts downhill across from stables, then back up to HWY 221 following an old logging road above a pretty stream with cascades. Opportunities to stop along the way. Moderate to Strenuous. 5-6 miles. elevation gain approx. 1700 feet. No Dogs. Bring sticks, water and lunch. Call Ingrid Schneider 919-931-5431 for meeting time, place and carpooling opportunities.

**15 - Hike the Paddy Mountain Section of the future Northern Peaks** Trail, connecting Boone to West Jefferson and Jefferson via the Amphibolite Mountains. Jordan Sellers, Northern Peaks State Trail Coordinator from the Blue Ridge Conservancy, will be hiking with us. He will share how the trail was built to minimize environmental impact and trail maintenance. The trail is a moderate rating, 3.6 miles long. After the hike, we can picnic at the trailhead shelter with picnic tables and bathrooms with running water and flush toilets. The trailhead is in West Jefferson near 792 Ridge Ave, West Jefferson, NC 28694. No dogs. Bring water and lunch. Contact Larry Calhoun at [Larrymcalhoun@gmail.com](mailto:Larrymcalhoun@gmail.com) or text/call 919-280-3686 for start time.

**22 - Carvers Gap on AT toward shelter Wildflower hike.** Approximately 5-8 miles (can turn around at any point), indescribably beautiful 5+ varieties of wildflowers. Moderate, a few strenuous areas. Carol Ann Mitchell/Lana Whigham hike leader no dogs, Covid precautions . Text iffy 423-957-1207, [camitchell21@gmail.com](mailto:camitchell21@gmail.com), landline 423-772-4280.

**29 - Linn Cove Visitor Center to Rough Ridge** - approx., 4 miles, moderate trail with lots of rocks and plenty of roots. Enjoy the spectacular mountain views of Grandfather Mountain and Linn Cove Viaduct. Bring water, lunch and wear appropriate footwear. Call or text Sheryl Yatsko for meeting time and carpooling at 908-797-4016.

### MAY

**6 - Hike along Jonas Ridge Trail in Linville Gorge** with stops at Celestial Point and Devils Cliff, offering great views into the Gorge. We will start at my house in Gingercake Acres. The hike is approximately 5 miles with an elevation gain of about 1,000 feet. Contact me at [nwriggsbee@gmail.com](mailto:nwriggsbee@gmail.com) or 704-517-2993.

**13 - Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge** 6 miles, moderate, strenuous in some parts. Beautiful 360-degree views Carol Ann Mitchell hike leader no dogs, Covid precautions . Text iffy 423-957-1207, [camitchell21@gmail.com](mailto:camitchell21@gmail.com), landline 423-772-4280.

**20 - Babel Tower** - approx. 3 miles, rated hard to strenuous. This impressive series of rock pulpits and cliffs serves as an unofficial dividing line between the snakelike north end of the gorge and the relatively straight southern course. During springtime, the trailside is adorned with beautiful wildflowers, and the views of the river from the tower are simply breathtaking. If you're standing on the ledge, you're about

400 feet high above the river. Bring water, lunch and wear appropriate footwear. Call or text Sheryl Yatsko for meeting time and carpooling at 908-797-4016

**27 - Cold Prong Pond to Storyteller Rock:** This hike will follow the Tanawha Trail from Cold Prong Pond parking area (MP 299 BRP) to the Nuwati Trail and Storyteller Rock. 7 mi. round trip; steady uphill with 1,489' elevation gain. Rated moderate. Bring lunch & water. Hiking sticks recommended. No dogs. Call or text Sheryl McNair 443-306-9933 or email at [sammcnair@yahoo.com](mailto:sammcnair@yahoo.com).

## **JUNE**

**3 - Bear Paw Natural Area, Dutch Creek Road.** Hike up to ridgeline for views of Seven Devils/Foscoe and Grandfather. 2.9 mi, 1177ft., rated challenging, but we will take it slow. 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.

**10 - Blue trail to Laurel Fork Falls.** 5 miles, varied, interesting habitat, easy, moderate. Spectacular waterfall. Carol Ann Mitchell hike leader no dogs, Covid precautions . Text iffy 423-957-1207, [camitchell21@gmail.com](mailto:camitchell21@gmail.com), landline 423-772-4280.

**17 - AT: Roaring Creek across Humps**– Approx. 9+ miles, moderate to strenuous. There are magnificent vistas with steep climbs up Little Yellow Mtn., Little Hump and Big Hump. (4 miles 1900') followed by a 5-mile 2713' rocky descent to 19E--hard on the knees, poles helpful, as well as knee strapping or group can choose to return from Big Hump to Roaring Creek road. Bring sticks, a hat (no trees) water and lunch. 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

**24 - Table Rock Gap trail to the Chimneys** - approx. 6.5 miles. The highlight of this route is the stunning views from Table Rock, Devil's Cellar and the Chimneys overlooking the Gorge. Trail is rated hard and can be rocky. Bring water, lunch and wear appropriate footwear. Call or text Sheryl Yatsko for meeting time and carpooling at 908-797-4016

## **Saturday Hikes**

### **April**

4. **Storyteller 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.
- 11 **Over Mountain Victory trail toward AT intersection** 5+ miles, moderate, strenuous at times. Climbing through 8 pastures, fantastic views then forest trail. Unfortunately, Birchfield trail back destroyed by the hurricane so it will be out and back. Carol Ann Mitchell, hike leader; no dogs, Covid precautions. Text iffy 423-957-1207, [camitchell21@gmail.com](mailto:camitchell21@gmail.com), landline 423-772-4280.
- 18 **Carvers Gap on AT toward shelter Wildflower hike.** Approximately 5-8 miles (can turn around at any point), indescribably beautiful 5+ varieties of wildflowers. Moderate, a few strenuous areas. Carol Ann Mitchell & Sheryl Yatsko, hike leaders; no dogs, Covid precautions. Text iffy 423-957-1207, [camitchell21@gmail.com](mailto:camitchell21@gmail.com), landline 423-772-4280. *(NOTE: Carol Ann will lead this same flower hike on both 4/18 and Wed. 4/22 so that anyone who would like to do the hike, but can't*

*on one day or the other, has the second option. Also, those who wish to do this hike on both dates are welcome to do so.)*

- 25 **Boone Fork Trail from Holloway Mtn Rd.:** Meet at the parking area at the halfway point on Holloway Mtn. Rd. Hike the Tanawha to Boone Fork Trl, loop containing rivers, rapids, waterfalls, meadows, water crossings (easy-difficult, depending on water levels), and rhododendron tunnels. Includes 2 trail ladders. Moderately strenuous, 7.4 mi. with 1,053' elevation gain. Hiking sticks strongly recommended for water crossings. Contact hike leader Mike Lobban at Call / text / email: 305-905-7000 / mjlobban@bellsouth.net. No dogs.

## **May**

- 2 **Table Rock and Shorthoff Mtn.:** Table Rock is 2 mi. of moderately strenuous hiking roundtrip. After returning to the parking area, hike the Mountains to Sea trail toward Shortoff Mountain which affords many beautiful views of the Linville Gorge. Stop at "The Amphitheater" for lunch then return. Total hike will be approximately 4-5 mi. No dogs. Contact hike leader Bob Heath at 828-773-0471.
- 9 **Hughes Gap to Cloudland** Steady climb up Beartown Mountain with rest stop and then final ascent to clearing at Cloudland. 8 miles, elevation gain 2158' rated moderate. Bring water and lunch. No Dogs. Email hike leader Juin Adams at juinadams@yahoo.com or call 828-295-9607 (landline-no texts) for meeting time, place and carpooling opportunities.
- 16 **Shortoff Mountain:** 7.5 mi., rated moderate-strenuous. Starting from Wolf Pit Road above Lake James the trail gains 1,321 feet in elevation. The first 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. We'll lunch at a rock outcropping with the best view of Table Rock Mtn. and the Linville Gorge. Hiking sticks suggested. No dogs. Contact Sheryl Yatsko text or call 908-797-4016.
- 23 **AT around Watauga Lake;** approx. 6 miles, moderate. Beautiful views. Carol Ann Mitchell, hike leader; no dogs, Covid precautions. Text iffy 423-957-1207, camitchell21@gmail.com, landline 423-772-4280.
- 30 **Bass Lake to Cone Manor Loop:** 4.6 miles, 465' elevation gain, 3 hrs. Rated easy. This hike is on carriage trails, circles Bass Lake, climbs through woods up to the Cone manor house and then winds back down to Bass Lake, making a beautiful loop. Meet at Bass Lake parking area off Rte. 221 in Blowing Rock. No dogs. Contact hike leader Jae Furman at jae\_furman@friendbrp.org .

## **June**

- 6 **Elk Knob:** 3.8 mi. round trip, with 900 ft. gain in elevation. Moderately strenuous. Spectacular views at the summit. The trails are mostly moderate, but steady incline, steep in some places. 2 ½ - 3 hrs. No dogs. Contact hike leader Bob Heath at 828-773-0471.
- 13 **Quarterly Meeting Hosts:** Mitch & Sherrey Murray

- 20 **Grandfather to Calloway Peak**: From Black Rock Parking area on Grandfather Mtn. 6 mi. round trip, this hike covers the three highest peaks of the Blue Ridge Mtns. Awesome views throughout the hike. Steep and rocky with ladders and cables, this is a highly strenuous, all-day hike for experienced hikers. No dogs. Contact Sheryl Yatsko text or call 908-797-4016.
- 27 **Jones Falls**. AT to Jones Falls. 4+ miles. A lot of ridge line trail, beautiful, then descent into gorge and waterfall. Easy/ Moderate. Carol Ann Mitchell hike leader no dogs, Covid precautions. Text iff 423-957-1207, camitchell21@gmail.com, landline 423-772-4280.