

### 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

### NBATC COVID-19 Response

NO carpools are allowed. Anyone feeling sick, coughing, sneezing, having a fever, muscle/joint aches, etc. is NOT allowed on the hike. NBATC hiking groups will be limited to 5 participants, including the hike leader. You must maintain at least 6 feet distance between hikers in your group and/or when passing other hikers on the trail. Face masks may be needed in larger group situations when maintaining 6 feet distance is not possible.

### 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 Height Lowe's** – This is the River James Shopping Center on Business-29. Meet on the far left side of the parking lot, close to the access road.

**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.

**Fairview Square Shopping Center** – Off Campbell Avenue just before the US 460 exit (turn at Burger King).

**Forest Square Shopping Center** – On Rt 221 in Forest. Meet near BB&T Bank.

**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, please contact Eric Anderson in Moneta at 540-721-1994 (eric.anderson.sml@gmail.com) or Trudy Phillips in Lynchburg at 434-384-4870 (trudyephillips@gmail.com).

**Thursday Hikes** - For easy-to-moderate hikes, contact Dot Craig at 540-586-0519 (dcspirit1@aol.com). For moderate-to-strenuous hikes, contact Patricia Held at 540-586-1051 (oldenacres@gmail.com).

**Friday Hikes** - If Friday is a more convenient day to go hiking, call Mary Jane Davis at 434-841-7630, Herb Vreeland at 434-219-9849 or Laura Jones at 434-221-1797. Hike with the "Day Flowers."

**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.

Apr 2021

**Thu Apr 01 Hike #6339(M)**  
**Early April Maintenance Hikes- Spring A.T.**  
**Walk-Through HD:TBD**  
**Leaders:Jason Hammer, 434-401-4204; Trudy Phillips, trudyephillips@gmail.com**  
**TBD Contact hike leader - See Section Leaders -**  
**<http://www.nbatc.org/maintenance.htm>**  
**(Local)**

There is a lot of work needed to make sure our whole 90+ miles of Appalachian Trail is ready for spring traffic. A.T. section maintainers should walk through their sections sometime during early April. Other members who would like to do trail maintenance should call Jason Hammer (434-401-4204) or Trudy Phillips (434-384-4870) to participate in a Wednesday or Saturday Work Hike. Also, you can call the maintainer of one of your favorite NBATC sections to help him or her get the trail ready for the A.T. thru-hikers.

**Sat Apr 03 Hike #6340(S)**  
**(88 Miler) Piney Ridge, AT, Sulphur Springs Lollipop HD:13**  
**Leader:Jim Grondin**  
**8:15 AM @ Hunting Creek Baptist Church - Meet other hikers at Piney Ridge Trailhead about 8:30 AM (Local)**

We will start by hiking Piney Ridge Trail to the A.T. (1970' elevation gain). Then hike north on the A.T. until we intersect with Sulphur Springs Trail. We will take Sulphur Springs Trail back to the Piney Ridge Trail, then hike down the Piney Ridge Trail to our cars at the trailhead. This is a great early spring trail with amazing views during the entire hike. Call the hike leader to reserve your place on the hike.

**Sun Apr 04 Hike #6341(M)**  
**Easter Sunday Hike HD:6**  
**Leaders:Laurel Foot, 434-942-2807; Gary Nero, 434-942-5667**  
**1:00 PM Contact hike leader - Snowflex Parking Lot, 4000 Candler Mountain Road (Local)**

Join our Easter Sunday afternoon hike as we explore the extensive trail system on Candler's Mountain. Enjoy a walk in the woods without driving to the mountains. We will combine various trails to make an approximately 6 mile loop. Meet Gary and Laurel at the kiosk on the far right side of the Snowflex parking lot, 4000 Candler's Mountain Road. Look for the graveled portion of the lot. Please call the hike leaders to join their hike.

**Sat Apr 10 Hike #6342(MS)**  
**Cove Mountain: Multi-Loop Hike HD:8**  
**Leader:Eric Anderson, 540-721-1994**  
**9:00 AM @ Peaks of Otter Visitor Center - Caravan from the Peaks of Otter Visitor Center about 9 AM (DD:70 MRT, share cost)**

The hike starts at the Little Cove Mountain trailhead on route 614 (Jennings Creek) and will use a hunter's trail, Glenwood Horse Trail, Buchanan Trail, A.T., and maybe a little easy bushwhacking. We will form at least 2 loops as we roam Cove Mountain and return to the starting point. Our route may introduce folks to some trails they may never have hiked before. Please call the hike leader to reserve your place on his hike and to let him know where you will meet the group.

**Sun Apr 11 Hike #6343(S)**  
**(88 Miler) Hunting Creek Trail, A.T., and Glenwood Horse Trail Loop HD:11**  
**Leaders:Bret Boman; Lisa Boman**  
**9:30 AM @ Hunting Creek Baptist Church - Church Address:15455 Big Island Hwy (Hwy 122), Big Island..Caravan to Trailhead (DD:40 MRT, share cost)**

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 call the hike leaders in advance (434-841-0554) to reserve your place on their hike.

**Sat Apr 17 Hike #6344(M)**  
**(88 Miler) Bearwallow Gap to Cove Mt. Shelter on the A.T. HD:7**  
**Leader:Coby Pieterman, 540-586-8464**  
**8:40 AM @ Peaks of Otter Visitor Center - Caravan to Bearwallow Gap, to meet other hikers, arriving about about 9 AM (DD:55 MRT, share cost)**

This hike will be limited to 5-hikers, including the hike leader. We will begin at Bearwallow gap, hiking north on the A.T. We'll enjoy many beautiful mountain and valley views during this moderate hike. Please contact Coby to let her know (1) you want to join her hike (2) where you will meet group and (3) give her your Emergency Contact Information.

**Sun Apr 18 Hike #6345(S)**  
**Gunter Ridge - Belfast Loop and Devils Marbleyard HD:9**

**Leader:Wilma Vargas, 908-268-5036**  
**8:00 AM @ James River Foot Bridge - Caravan to the Belfast Trailhead arriving about 8:30 AM (DD:65 MRT, share cost)**

This is an 9 mile loop hike will rise from 1000 to 2500 feet elevation. The hike will start at the Belfast Trailhead on Petites Gap Road. We will head north on the the Glenwood Horse Trail, then up the 19-switchbacks to Gunter Ridge and finally down the Belfast Trail back to the starting point. We will plan to have lunch on Gunter Ridge and break at Devil's Marbleyard on the way down. Please call the hike leader to reserve your place on the hike.

**Sat Apr 24 Hike #6346(M)**  
**Harkening Hill, Johnson Farm and Abbott Lake HD:6**

**Leader:Mahendra Punatar, 434-221-0792**  
**9:00 AM @ Peaks of Otter Visitor Center (DD:45 MRT, share cost)**

From the Peaks of Otter Visitor Center, we will climb Harkening Hill through woodland trails. At the top, we will take a short detour to Balance Rock, a huge boulder balanced on a small rock. After 3.3 miles, we will take the Johnson Farm loop trail. On the return, we will take a leisurely walk around Abbott Lake on a one-mile loop trail. The close-up views of Flat Top and Sharp Top mountain peaks are fantastic. Please contact the hike leader to join his hike.

**Sun Apr 25 Hike #6347(S)**  
**Hike Leader's Choice HD:10**  
**Leader:Herb Vreeland, 434-385-1826**  
**8:00 AM @ Madison Heights Lowes (DD:40 MRT, share cost)**

The hike leader will choose a hike based on trail conditions.

May 2021

**Sat May 01 Hike #6348(S)**  
**Spec Mine Trail & Hammond Hollow Trail Loop HD:10**

**Leaders:Bret Boman; Lisa Boman**  
**8:30 AM @ Peaks of Otter Visitor Center - Form caravan and drive to Montvale O/L (BRP MP 95.9) (Local)**

We'll hike down Spec Mine Trail to USFS 634, then hike up Hammond Hollow Trail before hiking south on the A.T. to the Montvale O/L and our cars. Call the hike leaders at (434-841-0554) to (1) reserve your place on the hike (2) to let them know where you will meet the group and (3) give them your Emergency Contact Information.

**Sun May 02 Hike #6349(S)**  
**Flat Top from Both Directions + Falling Water Cascades HD:12**

**Leader:Wilma Vargas, 908-268-5036**  
**9:00 AM @ Peaks of Otter Visitor Center (Local)**

We will start at the Peaks of Otter Visitor Center and hike to the Flat Top picnic area trailhead. Then follow Flat Top trail all the way to the Blue Ridge Parkway, cross the road and hike the Falling Waters Cascades trail. We will cross the parkway again to hike Flat Top in the opposite direction, back to the picnic area and our cars at the Visitor Center.

**Sat May 08 Hike #6350(MS)**  
**(88 Miler) Thunder Ridge Overlook to Parkers Gap Road & Return HD:8**  
**Leader:Jim Grondin**  
**8:45 AM Contact hike leader - Meet the hike leader at Thunder Ridge O/L (MP 74.7) at 8:45 AM (DD:60 MRT, share cost)**

Meet the hike leader at Thunder Ridge Overlook (BRP MP 74.7). We will start the hike at Thunder Ridge O/L, pass by Thunder Hill Shelter, go under the Guillotine and climb to the top of Apple Orchard Mountain (4225'). From there, we will descend to the intersection with Parkers Gap Road, then turn around and climb to the rocks at the top of Apple Orchard Mountain for lunch with a view. After lunch, we will continue north on the A.T. to our cars at Thunder Ridge O/L. Please call the hike leader to Join his hike.

**Sun May 09 Hike #6351(EM)**  
**Lady's Slippers on Cove Mountain HD:4**  
**Leader:Nora Cox, jimandnor3@gmail.com**  
**9:00 AM @ Forest Square Shopping Center (DD:70 MRT, share cost)**

This spring wildflower hike is an NBATC Mother's Day tradition. Come and count the lady's slippers on Cove Mountain. In some past years, we have found dozens of them on this beautiful section of the A.T. Please contact the hike leader to join her hike and to give her your Emergency Contact Information.

**Sat May 15 Hike #6352(MS)**  
**Apple Orchard Falls and Cornelius Creek Trail Loop HD:8**  
**Leader:Mike McCormack, 434-384-1944**  
**8:30 AM @ Peaks of Otter Visitor Center - Can meet other hikers at Sunset Field about 8:50 AM (DD:60 MRT, share cost)**

We will descend from Sunset Field (BRP Milepost 78.4) and go south on the A.T., before taking the trail to Cornelius Creek Trail. We will stay close to the beautiful flowing waters of Cornelius Creek then take the trail along North Creek before enjoying the spectacle of Apple Orchard Falls. Please bring hiking sticks and water shoes in case there is high water during the creek crossings. Please call the hike leader to join his hike and let him know where you will meet the group.

**Sun May 16 Hike #6353(S)**  
**Hoop Hole Trail...Combo Hike HD:10**  
**Leaders:Eric Anderson, 540-721-1994; Herb Vreeland, 434-385-1826**  
**8:30 AM @ Peaks of Otter Visitor Center - Can meet others in Buchanan at Lowe St 8:55 AM (DD:150 MRT, share cost)**

The Hoop Hole Trail is off Craig Creek Road west of Eagle Rock. The 3.8-mile lower loop has rhododendron groves, rock cliffs and 15-water crossings. The upper loop is 5.9-miles with both hardwood forests and rhododendron/mountain laurel groves. Our hike starts at 1300-feet, climbing to 2000-feet at the junction between the two loops, and reaches a high point of 3350-feet. Hiking sticks and Croc's or water shoes are highly recommended if the streams are running high. We can also offer a 2nd hike option on just the lower loop.

**Sat May 22 Hike #6354(M)**  
**Lower Terrapin Mountain HD:7**  
**Leader:Coby Pieterman, 540-586-8464**  
**8:35 AM @ Hunting Creek Baptist Church - Meet at the Hunting Creek Baptist Church at 8:35 and caravan to trailhead. (DD:40 MRT, share cost)**

This hike will be limited to 5-hikers, including the hike leader. We be hiking on an old woods road that generally follows a contour line near the base of Terrapin Mountain. There are several nice views along the way. We'll turn around at Reed's Creek, a beautiful trout stream, and return by the same route. We will meet at Hunting Creek Baptist Church (on Highway 122)...15455 Big Island Hwy, Big Island, VA. -or- you may go directly to the trailhead. Call Coby to sign up for her hike and tell her where you will meet the group.

**Sun May 23 Hike #6355(M)**  
**(88 Miler) Sunset Field to Cornelius Creek Shelter Spur Trail HD:6**  
**Leader:Angelo Mercado, 434-941-9843**  
**8:30 AM @ Peaks of Otter Visitor Center - drive north on the BRP to Sunset Field (MM 78.4), Arrive about 8:50 AM (DD:60 MRT, share cost)**

We will hike south on the A.T. from Sunset Field until we reach the spur trail to Cornelius Creek Shelter and return. This is a beautiful hike with many rhododendron tunnels, moss covered boulder fields, springs and interesting trail features. On our way back to Sunset Field, we will enjoy lunch with a view at Black Rock overlook. Please call Angelo to reserve your place on his hike.

**Sat May 29 Hike #6356(EM)**

**Appomattox Court House National Historical Park HD:6**

**Leader:Larry Scott, 434-525-7126**

**8:00 AM Contact hike leader - Caravan from Kohl's on Wards Road (DD:40 MRT, \$3)**

Take a hike along the historic trail and through the village of Appomattox Court House with a Park volunteer interpreter as your guide. Learn more about the village and the surrender of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia on April 9, 1865. Please call the hike leader to join his hike and give him your Emergency Contact Information. NOTE: Bring a face mask in case it must be worn inside the village area.

**Jun 2021**

**Sat Jun 05 Hike #6357(E)**

**Adopt-a-Highway HD:3**

**Leader:Angelo Mercado, 434-941-9843**

**8:30 AM @ Boonsboro Shopping Center - Arrive about 9 AM at the pull-off between the 501 Bridge and the Foot Bridge (DD:40 MRT, share cost)**

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! Please call Angelo to sign up for his hike, let him know where you will meet the group and give him your Emergency Contact Information.

**Sun Jun 06 Hike #6358(MS)**

**(88 Miler) Bobblets Gap to Black Horse Gap and Return HD:10**

**Leader:Roger Park, 434-228-5036**

**8:00 AM @ Peaks of Otter Visitor Center - Caravan to Bobblets Gap (MP 93.1) (DD:60 MRT, share cost)**

This hike is on the southernmost part of our club's maintained section of the A.T. The trail parallels the Blue Ridge Parkway and has lovely views. We will be caravanning to Bobblets Gap (MP 93.1) to start our hike. Please call Roger in advance to (1) join his hike and (2) let him know where you will meet the group.

**Sat Jun 12 Hike #6359(MS)**

**(88 Miler) Old Hotel Trail on a Stick HD:8**

**Leader:Mike McCormack, 434-384-1944**

**7:30 AM @ Madison Heights Lowes - Arrive at Long Mt. Wayside at 8:15 and caravan to the trailhead. (Local)**

We will start our hike by parking our cars at FR 520 (just off Wiggins Spring Road), then hike the fire road to the intersection with the A.T. We'll hike north on the A.T. to Cold Mountain and Hog Camp Gap. Then we will hike Old Hotel Trail to Cow Camp Gap and go south on the A.T., taking the Forest road back to our cars. This is a fun hike which approaches Cold Mountain and the Hotel Trail in a new way. Call the hike leader to join the hike and let him know where you will meet the group.

**Sun Jun 13 Hike #6360(S)**

**(88 Miler) Long Mt. Wayside to Pedlar River & Return HD:13**

**Leaders:Bret Boman; Lisa Boman**

**7:30 AM @ Madison Heights Lowes - Caravan to Rt. 60 Long Mt. Wayside, arriving about 8:15 AM (DD:70 MRT, share cost)**

We will hike south on the A.T. along historic Brown Mt. Creek to the Pedlar Reservoir and dam, and then cross over the Pedlar River foot bridge. After lunch we will return going north on the A.T. This beautiful trail follows Brown Mountain Creek and the Pedlar Reservoir for miles. Please call the hike leaders to reserve your place on their hike.

**Sat Jun 19 Hike #6361(MS)**

**(88 Miler) Hog Camp Gap - Tar Jacket Ridge - Wolf Rocks HD:9**

**Leader:Herb Vreeland, 434-385-1826**

**7:30 AM @ Madison Heights Lowes - Caravan to Long Mt. Wayside...arriving at 8:15, continue to the trailhead. (DD:75 MRT, share cost)**

This hike along the A.T. has gradual inclines, but parts of the trail are on rocky terrain. We will start our hike at the 3500' elevation Hog Camp Gap. Then explore the beautiful vistas and rocky formations on Tar Jacket Ridge, search for apple trees near Salt Log Gap, enjoy lunch with the valley views from Wolf Rocks, before returning by the same route.

**Sun Jun 20 Hike #6362(MS)**  
**Combo Hike: Flat Top and Falling Water Cascades Loop HD:5 / 7**  
**Leader:Herb Vreeland, 434-385-1826**  
**8:30 AM @ Peaks of Otter Visitor Center - Caravan to the Flat Top trailhead on the BRP (DD:50 MRT, share cost)**

The first 5 mile (Moderate) hike will start at the Blue Ridge Parkway access to Flat Top, up and back. We will add the additional 2 mile Falling Water Cascades loop for hikers wanting to hike the full 7 miles. We will stop for snacks on the Flat Top overlook and again on the rocks near the cascading waters. Please contact the hike leader to join the hike and to let him know if you are hiking one of both hikes.

**Sat Jun 26 Hike #6363(M)**  
**Holliday Lake State Park HD:8**  
**Leader:T. C. Harvey, 434-352-8763**  
**9:30 AM Contact hike leader - Meet Hike Leader at the Appomattox Kroger Shopping Center, Hwy. 460 (Local)**

Come out and enjoy this fairly level forest trail circling the lake through enjoyable rolling hills and scenery. We will cross over the rock dam walkway and enjoy looking at the lake from wooden piers built into the lake. The creek crossing could require hiking sticks and water shoes if running high. Please call the hike leader to join the hike.

**Sun Jun 27 Hike #6364(M)**  
**A.T. Hike (88 Miler): Bobblets Gap to Bearwallow Gap and Return HD:7**  
**Leader:Roger Park, 434-228-5036**  
**8:00 AM @ Peaks of Otter Visitor Center - Caravan to Bobblets Gap trailhead (Local)**

We will hike north on the A.T. starting at Bobblets Gap, climbing to the ridge line of the mountain. During our hike we will cross the Blue Ridge Parkway four times, enjoying the views from overlooks on both sides of road. After reaching Bearwallow Gap we will hike south on the A.T., climbing back to the ridge line. Please call the hike leader to reserve your place on his hike.

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

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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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