**Hiking Schedule: Jan - Mar, 2021**

**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Easy hike, 2-5 miles. Expect good trails, often old roads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EM</td>
<td>Easy to Moderate, 3-6 miles. Expect steeper trails and more hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Moderate, 5-8 miles. Trails may be difficult walking in places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS</td>
<td>Moderate to Strenuous. Expect longer hikes with more climbing, perhaps bushwacking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Strenuous. Expect long hikes and hill climbing with large elevation gains, bushwacking</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other standard acronym’s used in the hike descriptions are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HD</th>
<th>Hiking Distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DD</td>
<td>Driving Distance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRT</td>
<td>Miles Round Trip</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.

**RESPECTIBILITY 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 opportunies**

- **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.
Sat Jan 02 Hike #6312(M)
Harkening Hill, Balanced Rock & Johnson Farm HD:5
Leader: Jim Grondin
12:30 PM @ Peaks of Otter Visitor Center - Arrive at Peaks of Otter Visitor Center about 12:30 PM to start our hike (Local)
Join the first hike of the New Year! 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. Please call Jim at 540-425-5588 to reserve your place on his hike.

Sun Jan 03 Hike #6313(EM)
Blackwater Creek Trails HD:5
Leader: Larry Scott, 434-525-7126
1:00 PM Contact hike leader - Meet at the Linkhorne Middle School Entrance (Local)
The hike will include the blacktop portion, also the Freer Nature Trail and Beaver Trail. During the hike, we will be walking on a new section. Please call the hike leader to (1) join his hike...(2) receive parking area directions...and to (3) give him your Emergency Contact Information.

Sat Jan 09 Hike #6314(S)
(Combo Hike) Crabtree Falls to Pinnacle Ridge O/L -or- Priest O/L HD:9 / 11
Leaders: Herb Vreeland, 434-385-1826; Edward D. Wayland, 434-249-2870
9:00 AM @ Madison Heights Lowes - Caravan to Crabtree Falls to meet other hikers about 9:50 AM (Local)
We will start our hike on the 2.7 mile trail along side Crabtree Falls, then a mile on a gently rising trail to Crabtree Meadows and a forest road to both hike choices. (1) The bushwhack climb to the Pinnacle Ridge O/L, viewing The Priest above, will include an off-trail, steep elevation gain on rough terrain. Only strong hikers should join this adventure. (2) The hike to The Priest O/L, viewing Pinnacle Ridge below, includes a 600’ elevation gain on the A.T. There is a $3 parking fee -or- FREE if using a National Park Pass.

Sun Jan 10 Hike #6315(MS)
Reservoir Hollow Trail HD:6
Leader: Roger Park, 434-228-5036
9:00 AM @ James River Foot Bridge - Form caravan at Foot Bridge about 9:00 then drive to Buena Vista trailhead (Local)
This hike will begin in Buena Vista. There are 6 small creek crossings (each way) and we will be climbing a long hill up to the Blue Ridge Parkway. We’ll see many great winter views of the surrounding mountains. Giant boulders await us at Indian Gap on the BRP, where we will enjoy lunch before traveling back down the trail to our cars. Recommend you bring hiking sticks for the creek crossings.

Tue Jan 12 Hike #6316(S)
Flat Top from Both Directions + Falling Water Cascades HD:11
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 Jan 16 Hike #6317(S)
Cove Mountain Loop (88 Miler): Multiple Trail Hike with Amazing Views HD:10
Leaders: Bret Boman; Lisa Boman
9:00 AM @ Peaks of Otter Visitor Center - Meet hikers at Peaks Visitor Center at 9 AM, caravan to trailhead (Local)
Starting at Jennings Creek, we will go south on the A.T. and climb Cove Mountain past the shelter to the intersection with Little Cove Mt. Trail. We will take Little Cove Mt. Trail down the mountain with several creek crossings and connect with a "hunter's trail,” then hike past a waterfall and climb until we connect with the Glenwood Horse Trail. We will follow the contours of the mountain on Glenwood Horse Trail until it intersects with the A.T., then hike north on the A.T. to our cars. Call Bret at 434-841-0554 to join the hike.
Hiking Schedule: Jan - Mar, 2021

Sun Jan 17 Hike #6318(EM)
Chessie Trail HD:7
Leader: Angelo Mercado, 434-941-9843
9:00 AM @ James River Foot Bridge -
Caravan from Foot Bridge about 9 AM
(Local)
The Chessie Trail is a tree lined old railroad grade
along the Maury River, between Lexington and
Buena Vista. This in and out scenic hike, is a
moderately easy 7-mile walk along the river. Please
call the hike leader to join his hike and to let him
know where you will meet the group.

Sat Jan 23 Hike #6319(M)
Apple Orchard Falls HD:4 / 6
9:30 AM @ Peaks of Otter Visitor Center -
Form caravan at the Visitor Center and drive
to the trailhead (Local)
We'll caravan down a forest road to the trail head
at the end of North Creek Road and hike up to the
falls. The falls can be especially spectacular when
there is a significant ice buildup. We may go further
depending on trail and weather conditions. Please
call Eric to join his hike.

Sun Jan 24 Hike #6320(MS)
Hunting Creek Trail and the A.T. HD:8 / 10
Leader: Wilma Vargas, 908-268-5036
9:00 AM @ Boonsboro Shopping Center -
Meet other hikers at Hunting Creek Baptist
Church, arriving about 9:30 (Local)
The hike follows Hunting Creek Trail 1.9-miles to
the A.T. intersection (elevation gain 1280').
Depending on winter trail conditions, we could (1)
go south on the A.T., through the Guillotine to
Apple Orchard Mt. for Lunch and return. -or- (2)
go north on the A.T. to Thunder Ridge Overlook
for lunch and return. Hunting Creek Trail is a fun
winter hike. Hunting Creek Baptist Church address:
15455 Big Island Hwy (Hwy 122), Big Island,
VA...Call the hike leader to join her hike and to let
her know where you will meet the group.

Sat Jan 30 Hike #6321(M)
Otter Creek Trail and Canal Locks HD:7
Leader: Coby Pieterman, 540-586-8464
9:00 AM @ James River Visitor Center
(Local)
This beautiful trail follows Otter Creek past large
rock formations, an old homestead, under the Blue
Ridge Parkway and by a CCC constructed rock
dam which forms a fishing lake. We will turn
around after having lunch at Otter Creek
Campground. After returning to the trailhead, we
will cross the James River on a foot bridge and view
a historic canal lock from the days of the
pre-railroad Kanawa Canal. Hiking sticks and dry
socks are recommended due to multiple stepping
stone creek crossings.

Sun Jan 31 Hike #6322(S)
Piney Ridge, AT, Sulphur Springs Lollipop
HD:12
Leader: Edward D. Wayland, 434-249-2870
9:00 AM @ Boonsboro Shopping Center -
Meet other hikers at Piney Ridge Trailhead
about 9:30 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
winter trail with amazing views during the entire
hike. Call the hike leader to reserve your place on
the hike.

Feb 2021

Sat Feb 06 Hike #6323(MS)
(Bushwhack Hike) Old Hotel Trail on a Stick
HD:8
Leader: Mike McCormack, 434-384-1944
9:00 AM @ Madison Heights Lowes - Arrive
at Long Mt. Wayside at 9:45 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
wintertime hike which may help you understand
why our club calls it Cold Mountain. Call the hike
leader to join the hike and let him know where you
will meet the group.
Hiking Schedule: Jan - Mar, 2021

Sun Feb 07 Hike #6324(S)
Old Mine Hike HD:10
Leader:Roger Park, 434-228-5036
9:00 AM @ Peaks of Otter Visitor Center - Caravan down Rt. 43, go left onto Pico Road and left to the Glenwood Horse Tr. (Local)
We will start our IN and OUT hike at the Glenwood Horse Trail trailhead on Pico Road, off Route 43. We'll see the remains of old iron ore mining activity along the trail and bushwhack to a mine opening that is located just off the trail, however, not enter the mine. Please call the hike leader to join his hike and to let him know where you will meet the group.

Sat Feb 13 Hike #6325(MS)
A.T. Hike (88 Miler): Foot Bridge to Fullers Rocks HD:8
Leader:Jim Grondin
9:30 AM @ James River Foot Bridge (Local)
We will start at the Foot Bridge hiking north on the A.T. and take a scenic walk along Rocky Row Run, which is beautiful this time of year. Then enjoy the winter view of the mountain’s contours and the mountains in the distance as we gain altitude using the 20 switchbacks during our climb. Then we’ll enjoy lunch and the amazing river and mountain views from Fullers Rocks, before hiking south on the A.T. to the trailhead. Phone the hike leader at (540-425-5588) to reserve your place on the hike.

Sun Feb 14 Hike #6326(M)
Valentine’s Day Chocolate Hike 3 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 Valentine’s Day celebration as we explore the extensive trail system on Candler’s Mountain. Experience wilderness in winter without driving to the mountains! A We will combine various trails to make an approximately 6 mile loop. A 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 gravelled portion of the lot. Please call the hike leaders to join their hike.

Sat Feb 20 Hike #6327(M)
A.T. Hike (88 Miler): Bearwallow Gap to Rocky O/L & Return HD:8
9:00 AM @ Peaks of Otter Visitor Center - Meet the leader and caravan to Bearwallow Gap (Local)
Our hike begins at Bearwallow Gap and goes north on the A.T., past Little Cove Mt. Trail and Cove Mountain Shelter. Our destination is a Rocky O/L where we will enjoy lunch before hiking south on the A.T. and back to our cars. There are many wonderful mountain and valley views to see and enjoy on this fun trail. Please contact the hike leader to join his hike.

Sun Feb 21 Hike #6328(M)
A.T. Hike (88 Miler): Bobblets Gap to Montvale O/L and Return HD:7
Leader:Angelo Mercado, 434-941-9843
9:15 AM @ Peaks of Otter Visitor Center - Meet other hikers at 9:30...Bobblets Gap Trailhead (MP 93.1) (Local)
We’ll begin at the Bobblets Gap parking area (MP 93.1) and hike south on the A.T., past Harveys Knob O/L and turn around after reaching the Montvale Overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway. This gentle up and down hike will range in elevation between 2000 and 2500 feet. Please call the hike leader to join his hike and let him know where you will meet the group.

Sat Feb 27 Hike #6329(M)
A.T. Hike (88 Miler): Hercules Road to Matts Creek Shelter & Return HD:7
Leader:Coby Pieterman, 540-586-8464
9:00 AM @ James River Foot Bridge - Caravan from the Foot Bridge to the Hercules Road trailhead (Local)
Come join us on this wonderful A.T. hike with only a few hundred feet elevation rise and beautiful water views of Rocky Row Run, the James River and Matts Creek. The winter season will offer wonderful unrestricted views of the creeks, valleys and mountain contours. We will take time to enjoy the sights and sounds near Matts Creek Shelter while having lunch, before heading back on the A.T. and to cars at Hercules Road. Please call the hike leader to sign up for her hike.
Sun Feb 28 Hike #6330(VS)
Spec Mine (Bushwhack Hike) HD:6
Leader:Edward D. Wayland, 434-249-2870
12:09 AM @ Peaks of Otter Visitor Center -
We will caravan to the trailhead (Local)
We will start our hike from the Blue Ridge Parkway, descending 1300' to the ruins of the Spec Mine iron ore operation from the 1920's. This hike is on steep trails and will include bushwhacking. The mines are multi-level but we will not be venturing inside. After exploring the grounds, we will have to climb 1300' back to the trailhead before ending our hike.

Sat Mar 06 Hike #6331(MS)
(Bushwhack Hike) The Cardinal HD:9
Leader:Mike McCormack, 434-384-1944
9:00 AM @ Madison Heights Lowes - Arrange
at Long Mountain Wayside about 9:45 AM
and caravan to the trailhead (Local)
This is a great winter season hike. This distinctive bushwhack hike is challenging but rewarding with beautiful views along the way. Come along and see what is on top of one of the dominant peaks in the "Religious Range." Call the hike leader to join the hike and tell him where you will meet the group.

Sun Mar 07 Hike #6332(MS)
Hercules Mine, Slaty Gap, A.T., Saddle Gap Loop HD:8
Leaders:Bret Boman; Lisa Boman
9:00 AM @ James River Foot Bridge - Form
caravan and drive to Hercules Road trailhead
to meet other hikers (Local)
We'll hike through the old Hercules Mine to Slaty Gap and then take the Slaty Gap Trail up to Saltlog Gap. From there we'll take the A.T. back to Saddle Gap. Then we'll take the Saddle Gap trail back to the starting point. Call the hike leaders at (434-841-0554) to reserve your place on the hike and to let them know where you will meet the group.

Sat Mar 13 Hike #6333(M)
High Bridge Rail Trail 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 explore the historic High Bridge Trail near Farmville, VA. The civil war era railroad bridge is 1/2 mile long, stands 120 feet high and spans the beautiful and wide Appomattox River Valley. We will start at the parking area and hike across the bridge then down into the river valley to view the bridge's structure from below. After climbing back to the rail trail we will hike back to our starting point on the old railroad bed. Please call the hike leader to join the hike and to let him know where you will meet the group.

Sun Mar 14 Hike #6334(S)
A.T. Hike (88 Miler): The Priest: From
Both Directions...Rt. 56 Trailhead HD:9
Leader:Herb Vreeland, 434-385-1826
7:30 AM @ Madison Heights Lowes -
Caravan will arrive at the trailhead about
8:15 AM. (Local)
The hike will start at the Route 56 trailhead parking lot. We will hike to the top of The Priest taking time for a snack/lunch on the rock outcropping overlooking Pinnacle Ridge (January 9 hike) before descending to our cars at the Route 56 trailhead. This is a difficult hike which has a 3000 plus foot elevation rise and descent, with some rocky areas on the trail. Contact the hike leader to reserve your place on the hike and tell him where you will meet the group.

Sat Mar 20 Hike #6335(MS)
Sunset Field Loop Hike HD:5 / 6
9:00 AM @ Peaks of Otter Visitor Center -
Caravan to Sunset Field (Mile Post 78.4) to
meet other hikers about 9:20 AM (Local)
We will be exploring on the eastern side of the Blue Ridge Parkway, between Sunset Field and White Oak Ridge. We'll head east from Sunset Field to the Glenwood Horse Trail then take a forest path to a fire road on White Oak Ridge. We'll follow the fire road, back to the BRP where we will (1) hike on the A.T., through The Guillotine and over Apple Orchard Mountain (M/S hike rating) -or- (2) take a fire road back to the trailhead (Moderate hike rating)...depending on (winter) trail conditions. We will stop along our route for lunch.
Sun Mar 21 Hike #6336(E)
Percival’s Island HD:3 / 6
Leader: Jordan Welborn, 434-209-4935
1:30 PM @ Percival’s Island Parking Lot
(Local)
We’ll walk from the Percival’s Island parking lot to the end of the trail on the Amherst side and back. It is all blacktop, level, with various views of the James River. If you don’t want to walk the full 6 miles you can turn around at any time. All minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Please call Jordan to join her hike.

Sat Mar 27 Hike #6337(E)
Adopt-A-Highway HD:3
Leaders: Laurel Foot, 434-942-2807; Gary Nero, 434-942-5667
9:00 AM @ Boonsboro Shopping Center - Caravan to meet other hikers at pull-off near dam on US 501 / VA 130 about 9:30 (Local)
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 the hike leaders to (1) reserve your place on their work hike and (2) give them your Emergency Contact Info.

Sun Mar 28 Hike #6338(M)
A.T. Hike (88 Miler): Bearwallow Gap to Bobblets Gap Shelter and Return HD:7
Leader: Mahendra Punatar, 434-221-0792
9:00 AM @ Forest Square Shopping Center - Caravan to Visitor Center, arrive 9:30 to pick up hikers and drive to trailhead (Local)
We will hike south on the A.T. starting at Bearwallow Gap, climbing the switchbacks to the ridge line of the mountain. During our hike we will cross the Blue Ridge Parkway twice, enjoying the views from overlooks on both sides of road, before descending to Bobblets Gap Shelter to enjoy a snack. Afterwards, we will return by hiking north on the A.T., climbing back to the ridge line and down to our cars. Please call the hike leader to reserve your place on his hike and to let him know where you will meet the group.
Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club
P.O. Box 3012
Lynchburg, VA 24503

Address Service Requested

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
President Carol Caswell 434-907-5629
Vice President John Phillips 434-941-6046
Supervisor of Trails Jason Hammer 434-401-4204
Secretary Viki Gossen 434-239-0403
Treasurer David Helms 434-237-2180

NBATC Board of Directors
Past President Doug DeJarnette 434-942-0695

Committee Chairs
Adopt-A-Highway / Laurel Foot 434-384-0013
Member Comm. hapifeet@msn.com
Archives Mike McCormack 434-384-1944
Asst. Supervisor of Trails Norm Sykora 434-946-7084
Awards(88 Miler) Herb Vreeland 434-385-1826

Website: www.nbatc.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/nbatc.hiker
E-mail: hapifeet@msn.com

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LYNCHBURG,VA
PERMIT NO.348

Website: www.nbatc.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/nbatc.hiker
E-mail: hapifeet@msn.com