



FIRST QUARTER 2026 Quarterly Hike Schedule



P.O. Box 68, Asheville, NC 28802 • www.carolinamountainclub.org • e-mail: cmcinfo@carolinamountainclub.org

HIKE RATINGS

First Letter	Second Letter
Distance	Elevation Gain
AA: Over 12 miles	AA: Over 2,000 ft.
A: 9.1-12 miles	A: 1,501-2,000 ft.
B: 6.1-9 miles	B: 1,001-1,500 ft.
C: Up to 6 miles	C: 1,000 ft. or less

If it's not possible to go on the regularly scheduled hike, it may be possible to accompany the leader when the hike is scouted. Hike cancellations are announced on the CMC website in the Breaking News box. Hike Leaders will announce a cancellation or significant change at least a few hours before the hike. Hikers that do not have internet access or live hours away: call the hike leader to ensure that you are informed about hike changes. See the Hike Schedule on the CMC website for more complete and timely information at www.carolinamountainclub.org.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

All members are encouraged to participate in trail maintenance activities. Non-members are invited to try it a few times before deciding if they want to join the Club and be a regular part of a crew. We train and provide tools.

Below is a general schedule of work days. Exact plans often are not made until the last minute, so contact crew leaders for details. MST and A.T. section maintainers work on their own schedule.

Burnsville Monday Crew

John Whitehouse,
johnwhitehouse@icloud.com

Art Leob Monday Crew

Dan Sanford, sanford.danielj@gmail.com

Waynesville Wednesday Crew

Chris Werbylo, jcw402@aol.com

Asheville Thursday Crew

Dale Gerhardt, patchwrk18@gmail.com
Ken Hummel, kenhummel60@gmail.com
David Pizzolato, pizzolato957@gmail.com

Asheville Friday crew

Paul Curtin, pmcurtin@hotmail.com
Chris Werbylo, jcw402@aol.com

Pisgah Friday Crew

Don Cooper, dncpr47@gmail.com
Robert Bolt, otherob@inbox.com

Quarterly Saturday Crew

Les Love, leslove55@gmail.com
Chris Werbylo, jcw402@aol.com

Free Rangers Crew

John Busse, jfbusse@hotmail.com

Remote Overnight Crew

Paul Curtin, pmcurtin@hotmail.com

Section Rovers Crew

Jan Onan, janonan59@gmail.com

Wilderness Response Crew

Paul Dickens, psdicken@gmail.com

A.T. Section Maintainers Supervisor

Paul Curtin, pmcurtin@hotmail.com

MST Maintainers (South to North)

Oconaluftee River to Old Bald

Chris Werbylo, jcw402@aol.com

Old Bald to Hwy 215

Robert Bolt, otherob@inbox.com

Hwy 215 to Big Ridge O/L

Available

Big Ridge O/L to BRP Visitor Center

Les Love, leslove55@gmail.com

BRP Visitor Ctr to Greybeard O/L

John Busse, jfbusse@hotmail.com

Greybeard O/L to Black Mtn Campground

John Whitehouse,
johnwhitehouse@icloud.com

Secondary Trails Maintainers Supervisor

Les Love, leslove55@gmail.com

CHALLENGE PROGRAMS

A.T.-MST For hiking the 228 miles of the A.T. and MST on CMC maintained sections. Contact ATMST@CarolinaMountainClub.com

FH100 For hiking all 100 trails in the "100 Favorite Trails of the Smokies and Carolina Blue Ridge." Contact Marie Chamberlin at marie.m.chamberlin@gmail.com

LTC For hiking all 24 lookout towers in WNC. Contact LTC@carolinamountainclub.org

P400 For hiking every trail in Pisgah Ranger District. Contact P400@CarolinaMountainClub.org

SB6K For hiking all 40 peaks above 6000'. Contact SB6K@carolinamountainclub.org

WC100 For hiking to the 100 best waterfalls in the area. Contact w100@carolinamountainclub.org

YPC For hiking eight different Land Management areas with youth 17 and under. Contact Kay Shurtleff at kshurtleff@msn.com

900M For hiking every trail in GSMNP. Contact Steve Pierce, stevepierce50@gmail.com

NOTICE

Hikers who select a hike from this hike schedule should also check "Breaking News" and the hike schedule on the CMC website for changes that may have been made after this issue of *Let's Go* has been published.

LEISURE HIKES

Leisure hikes submitted by Jeff Wilcox, 828-989-8755, jwilcox@unca.edu. Leisure hikes are designed to provide more hiking opportunities for beginners, youth, or anyone else looking for a shorter, slower-paced CMC hike. The hikes are open to CMC members as well as families and newcomers. Please contact the hike leader to reserve your space.

Saturday No. L2601-0346

Jan. 24

Folk Art Center

to Haw Creek Overlook

10:00 AM

Hike 2.8, Drive 2, 525 ft. ascent, Rated C-C,

A.T.-MST

Jeff Wilcox, 828-989-8755, jwilcox@unca.edu

NEXT CMC

COUNCIL MEETING

When: Tuesday, Jan. 20, noon-4 p.m.
and Tuesday, Feb. 17, noon-4 p.m.

Where: Reynolds Village YMCA, 3rd floor conference room

Info: Call Karen at 703-395-5879 if you would like to attend. All CMC members are welcome.

SATURDAY WORKDAYS

The first Quarterly Saturday Trail Maintenance Workday for 2026 is April 25. We meet at 8:30 and return to Asheville by 3:00. Contact Les Love (leslove55@gmail.com, 828-230-1861) or Chris Werbylo (jcw402@aol.com) for details and where to meet.

Only Meeting Place: Back parking lot of Folk Art Center. Contact leader via email for reservation. This favorite moderate hike on the Mountains-to-Sea Trail rewards hikers with great views of the Haw Creek Valley. From the back parking lot of the Folk Art Center, we'll drive just north to the MST crossing (If the BRP is closed, we will walk up the Parkway, adding about a half-mile each way).
Topo(s): Oteen

Saturday No. L2601-0630 **Feb. 7**
Bent Creek River Park #2 -
Shut-in & Hard Times Rd. 9:30 AM
Hike 3, Drive 15, 550 ft. ascent, Rated C-C,
P400

Judy Magura, 828-606-1490,
quilter290@gmail.com and Jim Magura,
828-606-3989, jqs290@gmail.com
Only Meeting Place: Tanger Outlets parking lot behind Waffle House off Exit 33 of I-26. Contact leader via email for reservation. This hike is a variation of hike #0630. We will start from Bent Creek River Park, or from the first parking lot inside the Arboretum if hikers have sufficient Arboretum passes for the group. The hike follows the Shut-in section of the MST with a 500' uphill climb. We will take our time and take rest stops along the way. We will continue on the MST until we reach an unnamed trail that leads downhill to Hard Times Road to take us out through the Arboretum entrance to our cars.
Topo(s): Asheville, Skyland

Saturday No. L2601-1020 **March 7**
Bell Park 10:00 AM
Hike 2.5, Drive 10, 400 ft. ascent, Rated C-C
Bruce Bente, 828-692-0116,
cell: 828-567-9443, bcb28791@gmail.com

Only Meeting Place: Cracker Barrel Restaurant off Exit 53 of I-26 in parking lot close to I-26. Contact leader via email for reservation. This first-time CMC hike will cover the recently-completed Bell Park, south of Hendersonville. Although the distance and climb numbers seem easy, the uphill on these trails are attention-getters. We'll start uphill on the Overlook Trail to its end on an impressive wooden platform overlooking the Green River. From there, we'll backtrack to the intersection and continue uphill on Nature Trail Connector and both loops of the Nature Trail, then return via almost the same route. Topo(s): Zirconia

Saturday No. L2601-0993 **March 21**
Pisgah Ranger District Romp 9:30 AM
Hike 3.2, Drive 45, 512 ft. ascent, Rated C-C,
P400

Jeff Wilcox, 828-989-8755, jwilcox@unca.edu
First Meeting Place: Tanger Outlets parking lot behind Waffle House off Exit 33 of I-26.
Second Meeting Place: Pisgah Ranger Station off US 276 at 10:00 AM - but contact leader first.

Contact leader via email for reservation. In this shortened version of Hike #0993 (full 6-mile length is offered on 3/4), we will hike from the Pisgah Ranger Station along the Black Mountain Connector Trail over to Thrift Cove, Grassy Road, and Sycamore Cove Trails for what should be a pleasant walk through the woods. Topo(s): Pisgah Forest

WEDNESDAY HIKES

Wednesday hikes submitted by Judy Magura, 828-606-1490, quilter290@gmail.com. Driving distance is round trip from the first meeting place. Hikes assemble at the location described for that hike. Some hikes will have second meeting places as described in the schedule; start times vary. *Times listed are departure times - arrive early.*

Thursday No. W2601-0893 **Jan. 1**
Green River Game Lands -
West Side 8:00 AM

Hike 7.5, Drive 60, 1200 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Kathy Cornn/Kyle, 828-458-1282,
katherinenkyle@gmail.com and
Michael Cornn, 828-458-1281,
mwcornn@gmail.com

Only Meeting Place: Cracker Barrel restaurant off Exit 40 of I-26. Annual New Year's Day hike. Contact leaders for reservation and include whether you will meet for breakfast before the hike. Join us for breakfast at Cracker Barrel at 8:00 AM or at 9:15 AM in the parking lot to leave for our traditional New Year's Day hike in the Green River Game Lands. We will follow the shorter route on the west side of the Game Lands, using the Bishop Branch and Bear Branch Trails, then hike down the Green River Cove Trail for lunch by the big rocks. After hiking back up, we'll return on the Pulliam Creek Trail, with a short walk on the road back to our cars. Possible wet creek crossing towards the end. This is the last day of hunting season. EVERYONE PLEASE WEAR BLAZE ORANGE!
Topo(s): Cliffield Mtn.

Wednesday No. W2601-0532 **Jan. 7**
Sassafras Mountain 8:30 AM

Hike 9, Drive 85, 2400 ft. ascent, Rated B-AA
Vonnice Gamble, 410-375-7764,
ygamble99@yahoo.com and Bob Smith,
828-696-6185, wncnites@gmail.com

First Meeting Place: Tanger Outlets parking lot behind Waffle House off Exit 33 of I-26.
Second Meeting Place: Pisgah Forest Walmart parking (back of center aisles close to Taco Bell) at 9:00 AM.

Contact leader by email for reservation. Form carpools and meet leader at second meeting place. This is a pleasant but challenging out-and-back hike on the Foothills Trail from US 178 up to the highest peak in South Carolina.

We will hike through the woods which provide a diverse terrain experience and enjoy the view from the observation deck at the summit.
Topo(s): Eastatoo Gap

Wednesday No. W2601-0588 **Jan. 7**
Coontree Loop Extended 8:30 AM

Hike 8.7, Drive 60, 2200 ft. ascent,
Rated B-AA, **P400**

Marie Chamberlin, 678-492-6718,
marie.m.chamberlin@gmail.com

First Meeting Place: Tanger Outlets parking lot behind Waffle House off Exit 33 of I-26.

Second Meeting Place: Pisgah Forest Walmart parking (back of center aisles close to Taco Bell) at 9:00 AM.

Contact leader by email for reservation. Trailhead is on other side of US 276 from parking area. Hike up the left leg of the Coontree loop; L onto Bennett Gap Trail; continue 1/4 mile past Perry Cove Trail intersection to overlook at top of ridge (good lunch location on rocks); return to Perry Cove Trail intersection; turn L and continue down Perry Cove Trail; L at a woods road at the bottom of the cove; R onto FS 477 and walk about 1/2 mile; on other side of concrete bridge, R onto Bennett Gap Trail; L onto right leg of Coontree Loop and back down to trailhead.
Topo(s): Shining Rock

Wednesday No. W2601-0504 **Jan. 14**
Lane Pinnacle from
Rattlesnake Lodge Trailhead 8:30 AM

Hike 10, Drive 15, 2900 ft. ascent,
Rated A-AA, **A.T.-MST**

Diane Saccone, 703-283-1068,
grdngr154@gmail.com

Only Meeting Place: Back parking lot of Folk Art Center. Contact leader for reservation. This hike on the MST from Bull Gap includes a gentle climb through a system of switchbacks leading past the Rattlesnake Lodge site, and further ascends to Rich Knob and Wolfden Knob before arrival at our lunch spot just past Lane Pinnacle with incredible views. We will return to our cars via the same trail. This hike meets/exceeds the requirements of #83 of the 100 Favorite Trails.
Topo(s): Craggy Pinnacle

Wednesday No. W2601-0420 **Jan. 14**
Allen Gap to Tanyard Gap 8:30 AM

Hike 8.8, Drive 60, 2100 ft. ascent,
Rated B-AA, **A.T.-MST, LTC**

Tish Desjardins, 828-380-1452,
tishdesjardins8@gmail.com

First Meeting Place: 160 Zillicoa St. (USFS parking lot) off Exit 25 of I-26.

Second Meeting Place: Corner of US 25/70 & NC 208 at 9:15 AM.

No reservation needed. Form carpools and meet leader at second meeting place. This will be a moderately-paced hike. This is one of the

prettiest sections of the A.T. in our area. We will take a side trip to the Rich Mountain fire tower and visit the Spring Mountain shelter. Please bring enough cars so that all hikers can be safely belted in for the car shuttle. This hike is #42 of the 100 Favorite Trails.

Topo(s): Hot Springs

Wednesday No. W2601-0019 **Jan. 21**

French Broad River to

Walnut Cove Overlook 9:00 AM

Hike 7, Drive 25, 1500 ft. ascent, Rated B-B, **A.T.-MST, P400**

Virginia Bower, 828-273-2486,
clabbergirl57@gmail.com

Only Meeting Place: Bent Creek River Park off NC 191 1610 Brevard Rd. Asheville. Contact leader by email for reservation. The Shut-In Trail from the FBRP to Walnut cove is a section of the MST that spans mileposts 393.7 to 396.4 of the BRP. This segment of the longer trail starts at the Shut-In Trail just beyond the Arboretum entrance. We'll hike through hardwood forests, hoping for some views until we reach Walnut Cove of the BRP. We'll take in the view there before heading back.

Topo(s): Skyland

Wednesday No. W2601-0330 **Jan. 28**

Raven Cliff Falls 8:30 AM

Hike 8.5, Drive 95, 1600 ft. ascent, Rated B-A, **WC100**

Kelly O'Rourke, 434-249-5176,
kellyleann@comcast.net

First Meeting Place: Tanger Outlets parking lot behind Waffle House off Exit 33 of I-26.

Second Meeting Place: Pisgah Forest Walmart parking (back of center aisles close to Taco Bell) at 8:45 AM.

Contact leader via email for reservation. Follow Raven Cliff Falls Trail (red blaze); R onto Gum Gap Trail (blue blaze); L onto Naturaland Trail (pink blaze) to bridge; return on pink and blue-blaze trails to jct. with red-blaze trail; R for in-and-out to overlook looking across valley to waterfall; return on red-blaze trail to parking lot. SC park fee \$3.75 for SC residents, \$6.00 all others

Topo(s): Table Rock

Wednesday No. W2601-0587 **Jan. 28**

Catawba Falls 9:00 AM

Hike 3.6, Drive 40, 800 ft. ascent, Rated C-C, **WC100**

Bev MacDowell, 828-777-5806,
bevmacdowellhappy@gmail.com

Only Meeting Place: Ingles off Exit 64 of I-40 (Black Mountain). Contact leader via email for reservation. This loop trail features a variety of terrains, including rolling hills, stairs and boardwalk sections. A highlight of this hike is the stunning view of the upper falls. There are two main trails forming a loop and either direction is well worth it. We will start on the

Ridge Trail which takes us up to the upper falls, and then return on the river trail leading to the lower falls and main area. The River Trail has 580 steps and an observation tower, with many rest stops along the way. We plan an optional lunch at Hillman Brewery in Old Fort after the hike.

Topo(s): Black Mtn.

Wednesday No. W2601-0589 **Feb. 4**

Bent Creek River Park #4 -

Shut in - Lake Powhatan 8:30 AM

Hike 11, Drive 10, 1600 ft. ascent, Rated A-A, **A.T.-MST, P400**

Connie Corn, 828-684-1202,

cell: 828-674-0248, cornconnie@yahoo.com

First Meeting Place: Tanger Outlets parking lot behind Waffle House off Exit 33 of I-26.

Second Meeting Place: Bent Creek River Park off NC 191 1610 Brevard Rd. Asheville at 8:45 AM.

Contact leader by email for reservation. Limit of 12 hikers. The first 5 miles of this loop hike are on the Shut-In section of the MST from NC 191 outside the NC Arboretum to Sleepy Gap. Expect a steady climb to start, then levels, then ups and downs over Lance and Walnut Mountains around Grassy Knob to reach Sleepy Gap. After a break at Sleepy Gap, we will descend down Sleepy Gap Trail into Bent Creek on a series of trails to Lake Powhatan. We will take Homestead Trail to Bent Creek Road and walk out through the Arboretum and back to our cars. This hike is #75 of the 100 Favorite Trails.

Topo(s): Asheville

Wednesday No. W2601-0976 **Feb. 4**

Biltmore Lake -

Pisgah National Forest Ramble 10:00 AM

Hike 7.5, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated B-B

Paul Benson, 828-273-2098,
PDBenson@charter.net

Only Meeting Place: Biltmore Lake Clubhouse. For reservation, sign up on the CMC Meetup site: <https://www.meetup.com/Carolina-Mountain-Club>. Meeting and beginning the hike at the Biltmore Lake Clubhouse, we'll follow Biltmore Lake trails around scenic Enka Lake to the Baldwin Field Branch valley of the Pisgah National Forest. Then we'll loop back on old logging roads that will take us to the summit of Scott Mountain with long range views on our way back to the starting point.

Wednesday No. W2601-0924 **Feb. 11**

Whitehouse Cliffs -

Rocky Fork Loop Hike 8:30 AM

Hike 8.8, Drive 70, 1500 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Diane Saccone, 703-283-1068,
grdngrl54@gmail.com

First Meeting Place: 160 Zillicoa St. (USFS parking lot) off Exit 25 of I-26.

Second Meeting Place: Publix at 165 Weaver

Blvd. Weaverville lower end of parking lot off Exit 19 of I-26 at 8:45 AM.

Contact leader for reservation. Winter is a great time to explore this 8.8-mile loop trail which meanders up and down and then finishes along a babbling (or maybe frozen) stream with beautiful rock outcroppings. Generally considered a moderately challenging route, I find it in the moderate range with incredible opportunities for taking photos.

If we are feeling frisky, we will scamper up the Whitehouse Cliffs Trail to finish off our day, which will make the hike close to 11 miles with an additional 950-foot elevation gain and 360-degree views. This hike is #45 of the 100 Favorite Hikes. Topo(s): Flag Pond

Wednesday No. W2601-0324 **Feb. 11**

Hard Times P.L. #2 -

Pine Tree Loop 9:00 AM

Hike 6, Drive 15, 600 ft. ascent, Rated C-C, **P400**

Judy Magura, 828-606-1490,
quilter290@gmail.com and Jim Magura,
828-606-3989, jqs290@gmail.com

Only Meeting Place: Tanger Outlets parking lot behind Waffle House off Exit 33 of I-26. Contact the hike leader via email for reservation. This is a variation of hike #0324. A pleasant, moderate loop hike utilizing several trails starting at Hard Times trailhead, South Ridge Road, Sleepy Gap Trail, Explorer Loop, Pine Tree Loop, Homestead Trail back to Hard Times Road.

Topo(s): Skyland

Wednesday No. W2601-0778 **Feb. 18**

Bracken Mountain -

Brushy Creek Trails 8:30 AM

Hike 8.5, Drive 60, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Brenda Worley, 828-684-8656,

cell 828-606-7297, bjdworley@gmail.com

First Meeting Place: Tanger Outlets parking lot behind Waffle House off Exit 33 of I-26. Form carpools and meet leader at second meeting place.

Second Meeting Place: Pisgah Forest Walmart parking (back of center aisles close to Taco Bell) at 9:00 AM.

Contact leader via email for reservation. This hike will include the Bracken Mtn. and Brushy Creek Trails, and is a great winter hike with good views. This hike is #60 of the 100 Favorite Trails.

Topo(s): Rosman, Shining Rock

Wednesday No. W2601-1007 **Feb. 25**

Winding Stair Gap to

Siler Bald via the A.T. 8:00 AM

Hike 8.9, Drive 150, 1800 ft. ascent, Rated B-A, **A.T.-MST**

Thomas Butler, 361-484-3381,
butler.tom3381@gmail.com

First Meeting Place: Home Depot off Exit

44 of I-40. Form carpools and meet leader at second meeting place.

Second Meeting Place: Waynesville Publix parking lot east end off Exit 102 of US 23/74 at 8:30 AM.

Contact leader via email for reservation. This is a very enjoyable in-and-out hike on the A.T. near Franklin, NC. We will lunch at the top, where we will enjoy the great Siler Bald views. Topo(s): Rainbow Springs, Wayah Bald

Wednesday No. W2601-0993 **March 4**
Pisgah Ranger District Romp 8:30 AM
Hike 6, Drive 48, 575 ft. ascent, Rated C-C,
P400

Marie Chamberlin, 678-492-6718,
marie.m.chamberlin@gmail.com

First Meeting Place: Tanger Outlets parking lot behind Waffle House off Exit 33 of I-26.

Second Meeting Place: Pisgah Ranger Station off US 276 at 9:00 AM.

Contact hike leader by email for reservation. Limit of 10 hikers. We will hike the relatively new Black Mountain Connector Trail over to the Thrift Cove and Sycamore Cove Trails. Then we'll cross the road and journey down the Estatoe Trail where it coincides with the Art Loeb, and maybe even a bit further before retracing our steps back across the road to the ranger station. Topo(s): Pisgah Forest

Wednesday No. W2601-0487 **March 11**
Hard Times P.L. #4 – Sidehill 8:00 AM
Hike 6.6, Drive 7, 626 ft. ascent, Rated B-C,
P400

Diane Saccone, 703-283-1068,
grdngrl54@gmail.com

First Meeting Place: 160 Zillicoa St. (USFS parking lot) off Exit 25 of I-26.

Second Meeting Place: Tanger Outlets parking lot behind Waffle House off Exit 33 of I-26 at 8:30 AM.

Contact leader by email for reservation. This is a variation of hike #0487. With spring just around the corner, this hike combines a series of trails within Bent Creek. We should see the first of the spring wildflowers come up, perhaps some witch hazel and other medicinal beauties full of beneficial properties that detoxify the body and especially the liver to get our bodies out of hibernation. The terrain is a mix of single track and packed gravel, with a paved road towards the end. There are several switchbacks along the way to assist with the small elevation changes. If we are feeling like exploring more, we can take a few side trails that I will scout beforehand to offer options.

Topo(s): Skyland

Wednesday No. W2601-0423 **March 18**
Pilot Rock, Laurel Mountain and Slate Rock Creek Trails 8:00 AM
Hike 7, Drive 50, 1600 ft. ascent, Rated B-A,
P400, WC100

Henry Kassell, 845-656-5528,
hkassell@gmail.com

First Meeting Place: Tanger Outlets parking lot behind Waffle House off Exit 33 of I-26.

Second Meeting Place: Ingles on NC 191/280 at N end of parking lot in front of Pardee Urgent Care (Mills River) at 8:15 AM.

Contact the leader by email for reservation. Limit of 15 hikers. We will begin this hike at the Pilot Cove-Slate Rock trailhead. The trail winds through a beautiful and diverse forest, along a mellow stream before we get to the falls. Slate Rock Creek Falls, about 3/4-mi. from the trailhead, is considered the prettiest falls in the area. We should see a variety of wildflowers on this hike. Note: creek crossings may be wet if it has rained recently. After our visit to the falls, we will continue to a steep connector trail taking us up to the Laurel Mountain Trail at Sassafras Gap. We will hike to a great viewing spot just before we start down the Pilot Rock Trail. Expect beautiful views of Pilot Cove, Pilot Rock and Pink Beds. Five mile roundtrip car shuttle.

Topo(s): Dunsmore Mtn.

Wednesday No. W2601-0762 **March 25**
Mt. Cammerer from Davenport Gap 8:00 AM

Hike 11.4, Drive 100, 3000 ft. ascent,
Rated A-AA, **LTC, 900M**

Mike Knies, 828-253-6114, knies06@att.net

Only Meeting Place: Home Depot off Exit 44 of I-40. Contact hike leader via email for reservation. This hike follows the A.T. from Davenport Gap to the historic fire lookout atop Mt. Cammerer. This is a strenuous hike, but the payoffs are a good workout and what *Backpacker* magazine calls the best Tennessee view in the Smokies. NOTE: This hike is in the Smokies and all cars require a parking pass. For more information: <https://www.nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/fees.htm>. *The approach and departure to the trailhead will be a bit slower due to the closure of one lane of Interstate 40 for 6 miles at Harmon Den.*

Topo(s): Waterville

Wednesday No. W2601-0182 **March 25**
Green River Cove Trail 8:30 AM

Hike 7, Drive 75, 1000 ft. ascent, Rated B-C
Karen Lachow, 703-395-5879,
heyk127@hotmail.com

First Meeting Place: Tanger Outlets parking lot behind Waffle House off Exit 33 of I-26.

Second Meeting Place: Cracker Barrel restaurant off Exit 40 of I-26 at 9:00 AM.

Contact the leader by email for reservation. Limit of 12 hikers. Hike the Green River Cove Trail from the bridge to its end at the big rocks on the Green River where we will have lunch and then return on the same trail. The upper end of the hike is near the bottom of the Narrows section of the gorge that kayakers like to run.

Expect a few early wildflowers and maybe even kayakers on the river. This hike exceeds the requirements of #72 of the 100 Favorite Trails.

Topo(s): Cliffield Mtn.

ALL-DAY WEEKEND HIKEs

All-day weekend hikes submitted by Karen Lachow, 703-395-5879, heyk127@hotmail.com. Driving distance is round trip from the first meeting place. All hikes assemble at the location described for that hike. Some hikes will have second meeting places, and starting times may vary.

Sunday No. A2601-0892 **Jan. 4**
NC 191 to Folk Art Center 9:00 AM

Hike 14, 2050 ft. ascent, Rated AA-AA,

A.T.-MST

Les Love, 828-230-1861,

lesrlove55@gmail.com and Catherine Love,
828-658-1489, catmlove2@gmail.com

Only Meeting Place: Back parking lot of Folk Art Center. Contact either leader by email for reservation. Join us for this annual tradition. This is a great winter workout hike on the MST through the Asheville corridor that everyone has had so much fun doing in previous years. The hike will begin at the French Broad Overlook near the NC Arboretum, hike through the rolling Biltmore section of the MST and end at the Folk Art Center. We'll hike over the brand new Blue Ridge Parkway bridge spanning I-26 and be wowed by all the impressive work done by the CMC crews to clear the trails following the hurricane. There will be a much-anticipated stop along the way for lunch and warmup at the Fresh Market. Car shuttle.

Topo(s): Asheville

Saturday No. A2601-0064 **Jan. 10**
Fletcher Creek

via Spencer Branch 9:30 AM

Hike 6, Drive 33, 800 ft. ascent, Rated C-C,
P400

Karen Schultz, 312-241-3329,
schultz.karenj@gmail.com and
Ken Scharmann, 847-772-4693,
kennethscharmann@gmail.com

First Meeting Place: Tanger Outlets parking lot behind Waffle House off Exit 33 of I-26.

Second Meeting Place: Ingles on NC 191/280 at N end of parking lot in front of Pardee Urgent Care (Mills River) at 9:45 AM - but contact leader first.

Contact leader by email for reservation. This hike begins from the Trace Ridge trailhead in the North Mills River area. We will hike in a moderate loop along the Big Creek Trail, past the Hendersonville Reservoir, and along the Spencer Branch, Middle Fork and Fletcher

Creek Trails. There may be a few stream crossings.

Topo(s): Dunsmore Mtn.

Sunday No. A2601-0548

Jan. 11

**Sams Gap to Low Gap
on the A.T.**

9:00 AM

Hike 7.5, Drive 50, 1700 ft. ascent, Rated B-A,
A.T.-MST

Becky Smucker, 828-231-2198,
bjsmucker@gmail.com

Only Meeting Place: 160 Zillicoa St. (USFS parking lot) off Exit 25 of I-26. Contact hike leader by email for reservation. This abbreviated version of hike #0548 will follow the A.T. north along the TN/NC border from Sams Gap to Low Gap, then reverse direction to the starting point. On the way in there is one long climb that opens onto a meadow with a killer view of Big Bald on clear days. Climbs are otherwise fairly split between the trips out and back. The high point is at about 4500', and this mostly ridge trail often has some snow and ice in the winter.

Topo(s): Sams Gap

Sunday No. A2601-0946

Jan. 18

**Overmountain Victory Trail
to MST to Linville Pinnacle**

8:30 AM

Hike 9.2, Drive 70, 1700 ft. ascent, Rated A-A
Henry Kassell, 845-656-5528,
hkassell@gmail.com

Only Meeting Place: Ingles off Exit 64 of I-40 (Black Mountain). Contact hike leader by email for reservation. This hike has a steady uphill in the beginning to warm you up, a rocky outcrop with 360-degree views for lunch, and a mostly-downhill back to the cars. The hike begins on the Overmountain Victory Trail in the North Cove area off US 221 (north of Marion). The trail merges with the MST before climbing to the Kistler Highway on the western rim of Linville Gorge. We'll walk along the road for about a half mile and take the short Pinnacle Trail to an impressive rock outcrop and winter views across the gorge toward Lake James and Shortoff Mountain.

Saturday No. A2601-0475

Jan. 24

**Hump Mountain and
Yellow Mountain Area**

8:00 AM

Hike 8.4, Drive 133, 2400 ft. ascent,

Rated B-AA, **A.T.-MST**

David Huff, 828-712-6712,
davidhuffmc@gmail.com

Only Meeting Place: 160 Zillicoa St. (USFS parking lot) off Exit 25 of I-26. Contact leader by email for reservation. Join us along one of the most scenic areas on the A.T. near Roan Mountain (Roan-Unaka Range). We will hike from Roaring Creek Road to Yellow Mountain Gap, joining the A.T. along an open ridge to Little Hump Mtn. and Hump Mtn. We will have lunch on a grassy bald at 5587 ft. and return to Yellow Mtn. Gap, then take the Overmountain Victory Loop back to the trailhead. Hikers will need to be prepared for snow and ice and have micro-spikes. This hike is #99 of the 100 Favorite Trails.

Topo(s): Carvers Gap

Sunday No. A2601-0924

Jan. 25

**Whitehouse Cliffs -
Rocky Fork Loop Hike**

8:30 AM

Hike 9.7, Drive 70, 2040 ft. ascent,
Rated A-AA
Susan Murphy, 703-507-7668,
susan.m.murphy.6@gmail.com and
Brian Murphy, 703-593-6702,
bkmurphy2@gmail.com

First Meeting Place: 160 Zillicoa St. (USFS parking lot) off Exit 25 of I-26.

Second Meeting Place: Publix at 165 Weaver Blvd. Weaverville lower end of parking lot off Exit 19 of I-26 at 8:45 AM.

Contact Susan Murphy by email for reservation. From the parking lot, we will do an out-and-back up to Whitehouse Cliffs. The trail climbs approx. 940 feet in one mile and culminates in 360-degree views. After returning from the White Cliffs Trail, we will complete a lollipop loop along the Rocky Fork, Flint Creek, and Blockstand Creek Trails. This second part of the hike is about 8.7 miles and 1100 feet of mostly gradual elevation gain. This hike fulfills the requirements for hike #45 of the 100 Favorite Trails.

Sunday No. A2601-1019

Feb. 1

Stool Mountain Trail

at Table Rock State Park

8:30 AM

Hike 5.4, Drive 112, 1500 ft. ascent, Rated C-B
Norm Sharp, 864-268-9409,
cell: 864-609-7182, norm.Sharp@att.net

First Meeting Place: Tanger Outlets parking lot behind Waffle House off Exit 33 of I-26. Form carpools and meet leader at Table Rock Nature Center.

Second Meeting Place: Table Rock State Park at 9:45 AM.

Contact the leader for reservation. Limit of 15 hikers. The Stool Mountain Trail is a new trail in Table Rock State Park, just to the side of Table Rock. A less technical trail than Table Rock, it is still a strenuous hike, gaining over 1,500 feet in elevation over 2.7 miles as it climbs through

stream valleys, boulder fields, and rock overhangs to the summit of Stool Mountain. The trail features spectacular views of Table Rock itself, the South Carolina piedmont below, and Table Rock Reservoir. We will see evidence of the Table Rock fire which burned almost 16,000 acres in April 2025. NOTE: \$6 admission fee per person.

Saturday No. A2601-0172

Feb. 7

John Rock Loop Hike

9:30 AM

Hike 6.2, Drive 60, 1300 ft. ascent, Rated B-B,
P400, WC100

Marcia Bromberg, 860-798-9905,
mwbromberg@yahoo.com

First Meeting Place: Tanger Outlets parking lot behind Waffle House off Exit 33 of I-26.

Second Meeting Place: Pisgah Forest Walmart parking (back of center aisles close to Taco Bell) at 10:00 AM - but contact leader first.

Contact leader for reservation. This moderate hike starts at the Fish Hatchery parking lot, following a loop using the Cat Gap and John Rock Trails. We can expect to enjoy good views from John Rock. This hike is #61 of the 100 Favorite Trails.

Topo(s): Shining Rock

Sunday No. A2601-0778

Feb. 8

Bracken Mountain -

Brushy Creek Trails

8:30 AM

Hike 8.5, Drive 60, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Victor Zona, 248-767-2651,
victor.zona@sbcglobal.net

First Meeting Place: Tanger Outlets parking lot behind Waffle House off Exit 33 of I-26. Form carpools and meet leader at second meeting place.

Second Meeting Place: Pisgah Forest Walmart parking (back of center aisles close to Taco Bell) at 9:00 AM - but contact leader first.

Contact leader by email for reservation. Limit of 10 hikers, due to the limited parking at the trailhead. This lollipop hike will include the Bracken Mountain and Brushy Creek Trails. The trail starts off with a steep uphill from the parking lot but changes to a series of gradual ups and downs that includes many switchbacks. A great winter hike with good views. This hike is #60 of the 100 Favorite Trails.

Topo(s): Rosman, Shining Rock

Sunday No. A2601-0224

Feb. 15

Table Rock - Pinnacle Loop

8:00 AM

Hike 11.2, Drive 110, 3700 ft. ascent,
Rated A-AA+

Thomas Butler, 361-484-3381,
butler.tom3381@gmail.com

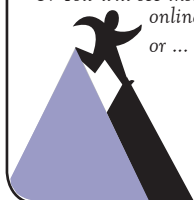
First Meeting Place: Tanger Outlets parking lot behind Waffle House off Exit 33 of I-26.

Second Meeting Place: Cracker Barrel Restaurant off Exit 53 of I-26 in parking lot close to I-26 at 8:15 AM but contact leader first. Contact hike leader by email for reservation.

How to join the CMC

1. Go to www.carolinamountainclub.org
2. Click **Join CMC** (on the top menu).
3. You will see instructions for joining online or via mail.

or ... write to us at CMC,
PO Box 68, Asheville,
NC 28802 and we'll
mail you an application



This is a great hike with good views and (hopefully) warmer weather in South Carolina. We will start at the Nature Center parking lot at Table Rock State Park. Our first objective will be Bald Rock near Pinnacle Mountain with glorious views. After a climb to Pinnacle Mountain for lunch, we will walk the ridgeline to Table Rock with more great views, then hike steeply down to our cars. NOTE: \$6 admission fee per person.

Topo(s): Table Rock

Saturday No. A2601-0328 **Feb. 21**
Hard Times P.L. #3 Ingles Field **9:00 AM**
 Hike 8, Drive 10, 1200 ft. ascent, Rated B-B,
P400

Judy Magura, 828-606-1490,
 quilter290@gmail.com and Jim Magura,
 828-606-3989, jqs290@gmail.com

Only Meeting Place: Tanger Outlets parking lot behind Waffle House off Exit 33 of I-26. Contact Judy by email for reservation. Come out to enjoy this moderate hike in the Bent Creek area. This hike is a variation from the original published description. Our trailhead will be on Bent Creek Rd at the Campground Connector. We will hike up Boyd Branch Rd to Little Hickory Top, which will bring us to Ingles Field Gap. It is a very reasonable climb which levels out for the last mile to the Gap. The return is down Ingles Field Gap Trail to Ledford Branch Rd. We will follow Ledbetter Branch Rd. to Boyd Branch Rd, and finally to Boyd Branch Trail back to our cars.
 Topo(s): Dunsmore Mtn.

Sunday No. A2601-0349 **Feb. 22**
Buck Spring Trail to Pisgah Inn **8:30 AM**
 Hike 12, Drive 67, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated A-B,
A.T.-MST, P400

Victor Zona, 248-767-2651,
 victor.zona@sbcglobal.net

First Meeting Place: Tanger Outlets parking lot behind Waffle House off Exit 33 of I-26. Form carpools and meet leader at second meeting place.

Second Meeting Place: Pisgah Forest Walmart parking (back of center aisles close to Taco Bell) at 9:00 AM.

Contact leader by email for reservation. This lovely hike is an out-and-back starting from the Buck Spring trailhead on US 276. The trail joins the MST, then gradually switchbacks up the mountain, with a stronger grade toward the top. There are several easy creek crossings. We will have lunch behind the Pisgah Inn to enjoy the winter views. After lunch, we will reverse direction and return the same way back downhill to our cars.

Topo(s): Cruso, Shining Rock

Sunday No. A2601-0636 **March 1**
Coontree, Bennett Gap,
Pressley Cove Trails **8:00 AM**

Hike 8.4, Drive 60, 2550 ft. ascent,
 Rated B-AA, P400

Marie Chamberlin, 678-492-6718,
 marie.m.chamberlin@gmail.com

First Meeting Place: Tanger Outlets parking lot behind Waffle House off Exit 33 of I-26.

Second Meeting Place: Pisgah Forest Walmart parking (back of center aisles close to Taco Bell) at 8:30 AM - but contact leader first.

Contact hike leader for reservation. Limit of 12 hikers. This hike is an extension of the popular Coontree Loop hike in Pisgah National Forest. We ascend the left branch of Coontree Trail, proceed in-and-out on Bennett Gap and Pressley Cove Trails, and descend on the right branch of Coontree Trail to the cars. We will visit an old homestead chimney, a remnant of the farming community between Pressley Cove and Maxwell Cove.

Topo(s): Pisgah Forest, Shining Rock

Sunday No. A2601-0530 **March 8**
Rice Pinnacle P.L. #2 -
Ingles Field Gap **8:30 AM**

Hike 8.8, Drive 10, 1100 ft. ascent, Rated B-B,
P400

Karen Lachow, 703-395-5879,
 heyk127@hotmail.com

Only Meeting Place: Tanger Outlets parking lot behind Waffle House off Exit 33 of I-26.

Note: First day of DST. Contact the leader by email for reservation. Limit of 12 hikers. This variation will be a moderate loop hike on the sunny side of Bent Creek, featuring great views of Hominy Valley. We will hike in a clockwise direction, taking the Deer Lake Lodge Trail to Ledford Branch Rd. to avoid vehicles, then follow this to Boyd Branch Rd. and the Ingles Field Connector to Ingles Field Gap Trail. On the return we will hike along the North Boundary Road, an old forest road along the

ridge with long-distance views of the Hominy Valley. This takes us to the Ledford and Wolf Branch Trails back to the trailhead. Trails are either lovely single track or old forest roads.

Topo(s): Skyland

Saturday No. A2601-0236 **March 14**
Fawn Lake P.L. #1 **9:30 AM**

Hike 6, Drive 72, 740 ft. ascent, Rated C-C,
WC100

Deborah Desocio, 919-306-0876,
 DebKayKin@gmail.com

First Meeting Place: Tanger Outlets parking lot behind Waffle House off Exit 33 of I-26. Form carpools and meet leader at second meeting place.

Second Meeting Place: Pisgah Forest Walmart parking (back of center aisles close to Taco Bell) at 10:00 AM - but contact leader first.

Contact leader by email for reservation. Limit of 12 hikers. This is a moderate variation of hike #0236. From the Fawn Lake parking area, we'll do a lollipop loop on the Mine Mountain, Laurel Ridge, and Corn Mill Shoals Trails. Highlights include beautiful forest scenery, well-constructed trails, and expansive views in winter. We'll hope for some early signs of spring wildflowers.

Topo(s): Standingstone Mtn.

Sunday No. A2601-0151 **March 15**
Big East Fork to Shining Rock
via Old Butt #2 **8:00 AM**

Hike 8.5, Drive 60, 3100 ft. ascent, Rated B-AA+, *Wilderness hike, limited to ten hikers, contact leader for reservation.* **P400, SB6K**

Thomas Butler, 361-484-3381,
 butler.tom3381@gmail.com

First Meeting Place: Food Lion - 35 Westridge Market Pl. Candler. Form carpools and meet leader at second meeting place.



Buck Spring hike in February 2025. Photo by Tom Butler.

Second Meeting Place: Big East Fork large parking area on US 276 at 8:45 AM - but contact leader first.

Contact leader for reservation. We will hike from the Big East Fork parking lot up the very steep Chestnut Ridge Trail, over Dog Loser and Old Butt Knobs, and on to Shining Rock (6040-ft.), then return via a steep descent to the North Fork of Shining Creek. This is a true wilderness hike - steep climbs, challenging terrain and lots of solitude. We will lunch at Shining Rock, named for its unique giant outcrops of brilliant white quartz scattered about its summit, and enjoy the views of the other Black Balsam peaks.

Topo(s): Shining Rock

Sunday No. A2601-0068

March 22

Big Butt from

Walker Knob Overlook

8:00 AM

Hike 6, Drive 45, 1650 ft. ascent, Rated C-A

Lorraine Bernhardt, 828-699-8857,

lsbernhardt50@gmail.com

Only Meeting Place: Back parking lot of Folk Art Center. Contact the hike leader for reservation. This moderate in-and-out hike will be at over 5000 feet elevation. We'll take the Big Butt Trail and ascend to Point Misery, Little Butt and then to Big Butt, at just under 6000 ft. The hike goes through a northern hardwood/spruce forest with excellent views of the Black Mountains. This hike is #86 of the 100 Favorite Trails.

Topo(s): Montreat

Saturday No. A2601-0642

March 28

Smokemont Loop

8:30 AM

Hike 8, Drive 110, 1300 ft. ascent, Rated B-B,

900M

Danny Bernstein, 828-450-0747,

dannyhiker@gmail.com

Only Meeting Place: Food Lion - 35 Westridge Market Pl. Candler. Contact the leader for reservation. We will hike the Smokemont Loop Trail in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. We will go clockwise, starting in the Smokemont Campground and climbing steadily up Richland Mountain before descending to Bradley Fork. The Bradley Fork Trail follows the water along an old roadbed. We will take an in-and-out detour up the Chasteen Creek Trail to the cascade before returning and continuing down the Bradley Fork Trail to the cars at Smokemont. This hike is #28 of the 100 Favorite Trails. This hike is in the Smokies and all cars require a parking pass. For more information: <https://www.nps.gov/grsm/plan-yourvisit/fees.htm>.

Topo(s): Smokemont

Sunday No. A2601-0606

March 29

Mt. Sterling Gap to Mt. Sterling,

Down Baxter Creek Trail

8:00 AM

Hike 8.7, Drive 98, 2000 ft. ascent, Rated B-A,

900M

Mike Knies, 828-253-6114, knies06@att.net

First Meeting Place: Home Depot off Exit 44 of I-40.

Second Meeting Place: Pilot Truck Stop off Exit 24 of I-40 at 8:30 AM - but contact leader first.

Contact leader for reservation. We will hike the "easier" way up to the summit of Mt. Sterling from the Mt. Sterling Gap Trail, take in the amazing views at the top of the Mt. Sterling fire tower, and hike down the beautiful Baxter Creek Trail to our cars. Lengthy car shuttle. This hike fills the requirement for #31 of the 100 Favorite Trails. This hike is in the Smokies and all cars require a parking pass. For more information: <https://www.nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/fees.htm>. *Note: Construction on I-40 may cause a short driving delay.*

Topo(s): Waterville

HALF-DAY SUNDAY HIKES

Newcomers are welcome, but non-members MUST call the leader before the hike to determine the requirements. Half-day hikes submitted by Lee Silver, 828-668-7147, mhsrunning@yahoo.com. Driving distance is round trip from the first meeting place. Hikes assemble at the location described for that hike. Some hikes will have second meeting places, and starting times may vary. *Times listed are departure times - arrive early.*

Sunday No. H2601-0463

Jan. 4

Big Ridge Overlook

to Elk Pasture Gap

10:00 AM

Hike 4.4, Drive 40, 750 ft. ascent, Rated C-C,

A.T.-MST, P400

Marie Chamberlin, 678-492-6718,

marie.m.chamberlin@gmail.com

Only Meeting Place: Tanger Outlets parking lot behind Waffle House off Exit 33 of I-26. Contact hike leader for reservation. Limit of 10 hikers. An in-and-out hike on part of the Shut-in Trail along the MST between two overlooks on the Parkway.

Topo(s): Dunsmore Mtn.

Sunday No. H2601-0602

Jan. 11

NC Arboretum

10:00 AM

Hike 5, Drive 8, 400 ft. ascent, Rated C-C

Marielle DeJong, 828-553-7027,

maredejong4@gmail.com

Only Meeting Place: Tanger Outlets parking lot behind Waffle House off Exit 33 of I-26. Contact leader via email for reservation. A pleasant loop hike through the Arboretum. We will start from the Baker Visitor Center and hike the Wesley Branch Trail, Old Mill Trail, Hard Times Road, Owl Ridge Road, Rocky Cove Road, Bent Creek Road, and return to the trailhead via the Carolina Mountain Trail.

Topo(s): Skyland

Sunday No. H2601-0974

Jan. 18

Bernard Mountain Trail

11:45 AM

Hike 6.2, Drive 20, 1000 ft. ascent, Rated B-C

Lee Silver, 828-442-6549,

mhsrunning@yahoo.com

Only Meeting Place: Ingles off Exit 64 of I-40 (Black Mountain). Contact hike leader via email for reservation. This multi-use trail offers a great outdoor experience in an area renowned for its trails. We will start from the Point Lookout Greenway near the Old Fort Picnic Area, hiking up to Bernard Mountain, then returning. We will see rocky features and all-season views while hiking through forests.

Sunday No. H2601-0429

Jan. 25

Bent Creek River Park #3

Hard Times - Rocky Cove

10:00 AM

Hike 5, Drive 10, 500 ft. ascent, Rated C-C,

P400

Judy Magura, 828-606-1490,

quilter290@gmail.com and Jim Magura,

828-606-3989, jqs290@gmail.com

Only Meeting Place: Tanger Outlets parking lot behind Waffle House off Exit 33 of I-26. Contact the leader for reservation. We will start from Bent Creek River Park, or from the first parking lot inside the Arboretum if hikers have sufficient Arboretum passes for the group. This is an easy loop on wide, firm trails covering Hard Times Road, Rocky Cove Road and Old Bent Creek Gap Road.

Topo(s): Asheville, Skyland

Sunday No. H2601-1013

Feb. 1

Boyd Branch P.L. #6 -

Boyd Logging Rd.

10:30 AM

Hike 4.2, Drive 10, 800 ft. ascent, Rated C-C,

P400

Carroll Koepplinger, 828-231-9444,

cakoep29@gmail.com

First Meeting Place: Tanger Outlets parking lot behind Waffle House off Exit 33 of I-26.

Second Meeting Place: Pisgah Forest Walmart parking (back of center aisles close to Taco Bell) at 10:30 AM.

Contact leader by email for reservation. No limit on the number of hikers. This new CMC hike in Bent Creek will begin at the parking area just before Boyd Branch Rd. off Bent Creek Rd. We will take the Boyd Branch Trail, then continue on the Boyd Logging Rd. and Little Hickory Trail to Ingles Field Gap. Our descent will either be on the same route, or on Ingles Field Gap and Connector Trails, followed by Boyd Branch Road and Trail back to our cars.

Sunday No. H2601-0587

Feb. 8

Catawba Falls

10:00 AM

Hike 3.6, Drive 20, 800 ft. ascent, Rated C-C,

WC100

Lee Belknap, 828-674-3631,



Paris Mountain, February 2025. Photo by Tom Butler.

rivergypsy@sprintmail.com

Only Meeting Place: Ingles off Exit 64 of I-40 (Black Mountain). Contact hike leader via email for reservation. Limit of 15 hikers. The loop trail has beautiful bridges, boardwalks, and a staircase (on the River Trail) leading to the lower and upper falls. We will go up the River Trail with great views of the falls and an amazing stair system with 580 steps. We will see the upper falls and complete the loop by way of the Ridge Trail.

Topo(s): Black Mtn.

Sunday No. H2601-0522

Feb. 15

Van Cliff Loop and Spring Creek Loop

10:00 AM

Hike 4.5, Drive 75, 900 ft. ascent, Rated C-C Philip Walton, 925-324-3805, fourlo.at@gmail.com

First Meeting Place: Publix at 165 Weaver Blvd. Weaverville lower end of parking lot off Exit 19 of I-26. Form carpools and meet leader at second meeting place.

Second Meeting Place: Parking lot behind Big Pillow Brewery in Hot Springs at 10:45 AM.

Contact leader via email for reservation. From there we will carpool to the trailhead at the Rocky Bluff Recreational Area. Parking at the trailhead is very limited. CMC hasn't led a hike on these trails in a few years. There have been more than a hundred hours of trail maintenance over the last few years to get both loops back into good hiking condition! The Van Cliff Trail ascends to nice views and then returns to the campground. The second loop will be the Spring Creek Nature Trail, which leaves from the campground and follows along Spring Creek. Finally, we will ascend to the overlook that is above the Spring Creek loop.

Topo(s): Spring Creek

Sunday No. H2601-0153

Feb. 22

Caney Bottom - Cove Creek

9:00 AM

Hike 5.2, Drive 61, 1300 ft. ascent, Rated C-B, **P400, WC100**

Claudette Roberge, 860-205-4473, Croberge0329@gmail.com

First Meeting Place: Tanger Outlets parking lot behind Waffle House off Exit 33 of I-26. Form carpools and meet leader at the second meeting place.

Second Meeting Place: Pisgah Forest Walmart parking (back of center aisles close to Taco Bell) at 9:30 AM.

Contact leader for reservation. This is a pleasant walk in the valley below Looking Glass Rock. The trail follows a moderate grade as it wanders through the woods along a number of streams and cascades and includes Cove Creek Falls as its feature attraction.

Topo(s): Shining Rock

Sunday No. H2601-0550

March 1

Paris Mtn.

9:00 AM

Hike 5, Drive 130, 1200 ft. ascent, Rated C-B Thomas Butler, 361-484-3381, butler.tom3381@gmail.com

First Meeting Place: Tanger Outlets parking lot behind Waffle House off Exit 33 of I-26.

Second Meeting Place: Cracker Barrel Restaurant off Exit 53 of I-26 in parking lot close to I-26 at 9:30 AM - but contact leader first.

Contact the leader for reservation. This is a shortened version of hike #0550. Located between Traveler's Rest and Greenville, Paris Mountain State Park is one of the oldest protected areas in South Carolina. Originally, the lakes were the source of Greenville's water supply. We will walk on well-maintained trails, enjoying good winter views and warmer weath-

er than in Asheville. We will cross the road at the parking area for shelters #5-6 and take the Sulphur Springs Hikers-Only Trail up to the pretty Mountain Lake and on to the Fire Tower Trail. We will check out the remains of the fire tower attendant's house and return to the regular Sulphur Springs Trail back to our cars. Poles are recommended for the hikers-only trail. \$6/person entrance fee.

Topo(s): Paris Mtn.

Sunday No. H2601-0346

March 8

Folk Art Center to

Haw Creek Overlook

10:00 AM

Hike 5, 850 ft. ascent, Rated C-C, **A.T.-MST**

Judy Magura, 828-606-1490, quilter290@gmail.com and Jim Magura, 828-606-3989, jqs290@gmail.com

Only Meeting Place: Back parking lot of Folk Art Center. Contact Judy for reservation. *Note:* *First day of DST.* This favorite moderate hike on the Mountains-to-Sea Trail goes through a beautiful section of forest and up to Lunch Rock just above Haw Creek Overlook. We will have lunch on the rocks with great views of the Haw Creek Valley and Asheville.

Topo(s): Oteen

Sunday No. H2601-0867

March 15

Hooker Falls P.L. #5 -

Hooker, Triple & High Falls

9:00 AM

Hike 5, Drive 55, 500 ft. ascent, Rated C-C, **WC100**

Danny Bernstein, 828-450-0747, dannyhiker@gmail.com

First Meeting Place: Tanger Outlets parking lot behind Waffle House off Exit 33 of I-26. Form carpools and meet leader at second meeting place.

Second Meeting Place: Pisgah Forest Walmart parking (back of center aisles close to Taco Bell) at 9:30 AM.

Contact leader by email for reservation. From the Hooker Falls Access Area in DuPont State Recreational Forest, we will walk down to Hooker Falls, passing a cemetery along the way and then crossing the bridge and taking a steep but short uphill to Triple Falls and stroll to High Falls. After returning to Hooker Falls and our cars, we will then drive to Lake Imaging Access Area for a short stroll to Lake Imaging and back.

Topo(s): Standingstone Mtn.

Sunday No. H2601-0918

March 22

Chestnut Ridge Heritage

Preserve Wildflower Hike

10:00 AM

Hike 5.6, Drive 100, 1050 ft. ascent, Rated C-B

Marcia Bromberg, 860-798-9905, mwbromberg@yahoo.com

Only Meeting Place: Tanger Outlets parking lot behind Waffle House off Exit 33 of I-26. Contact hike leader via email for reservation.

Limit of 12 hikers. This new spring hike offers the opportunity for early wildflower viewing. The 2.8 mile in/out trail near Landrum in South Carolina will take us up the south side of Squirrel Mountain, then down to the South Pacolet River. This hike is a haven for trillium and other early spring wildflowers.

Sunday No. H2601-0608 **March 29**

Pink Beds - Barnett Branch -

Cradle of Forestry Loop 10:00 AM

Hike 5.6, Drive 60, 550 ft. ascent, Rated C-C, **P400**

Deborah Desocio, 919-306-0876,

DebKayKin@GMail.com

First Meeting Place: Tanger Outlets parking lot behind Waffle House off Exit 33 of I-26.

Second Meeting Place: Pisgah Forest Walmart parking (back of center aisles close to Taco Bell) at 10:30 AM.

Contact leader via email for reservation. Limit of 10 hikers. A loop involving a part of Pink Beds Trail, Barnett Branch Trail over the boardwalk, Soapstone Ridge and Cradle of Forestry. Topo(s): Shining Rock

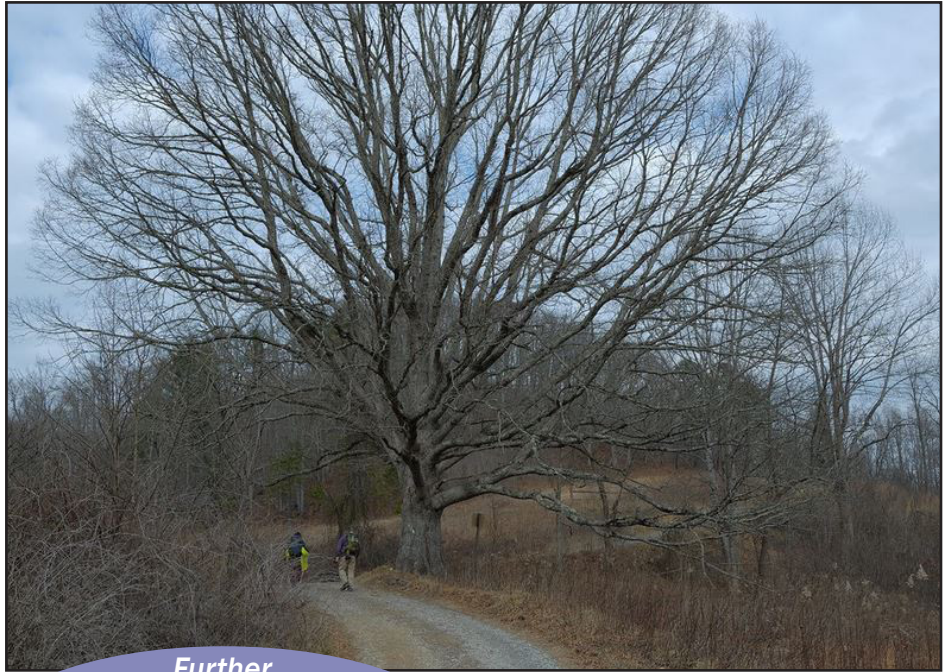
HIKING INFORMATION: CMC hikes are open to all and we welcome guests. Non-members need to call or email the hike leader to introduce themselves and find out more about the hike. Hikes may be canceled by the leader due to adverse weather or dangerous roads. Minors are welcome on CMC hikes, if accompanied by a responsible adult. Pets are not allowed on CMC hikes.

Hikers will carpool from the meeting places to the trailhead and back. Passengers are expected to contribute 10 cents per mile towards the driver's operating expenses. Some CMC hikes require reservations. Check the hiking schedule to determine whether a reservation is required, and if so, call or e-mail the leader to reserve your space.

Hike leaders have the right to reject participants who are not properly equipped for the hike or who are unlikely to be able to complete the hike. All hikers are expected to follow the leader's instructions. No one should get ahead of the leader, or lag behind the sweep, without specific permission. Hikers should obtain the leader's permission if they wish to leave the hike before its completion.

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT: CMC's website (www.carolinamountainclub.org, click on Hiking) has a full list of day hiking needs. Most critical are water, footwear, rain gear and a first aid kit. Carry at least two quarts of liquid (water, Gatorade, juice) for a full day hike, no matter what time of year. Hiking boots are recommended for all hikes. They should be broken in before the hike. Weather changes quickly in the mountains. Even if there is no sign of rain in the morning, you need to be prepared for an afternoon shower. Your first aid kit should include any personal medication, including allergy medication, if needed. Wear layered clothing – you'll want to take layers off during a strenuous climb or as the day proceeds, then put them back on in cooler conditions.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFETY: Each CMC member and guest agrees to accept personal responsibility for his or her own safety and for the safety of accompanying minors. The Club cannot ensure the safety of any participant on hikes or trail maintenance activities. Each participant agrees to hold harmless and free from blame event leaders and the CMC, its officers and members, for any accident, injury or illness which might be sustained from participating in Club hikes and other activities.



Further
information about
regulations is available at www.carolinamountainclub.org

Pump Gap, January 2025. Photo by Tom Butler

CONSERVATION: CMC works with other organizations concerned about the protection of our natural heritage to protect trails and the hiking experience in our hiking area. Phone the Councilor for Conservation for details.

MEMBERSHIP: Everyone is eligible for CMC membership by joining and paying dues. To join online or by paper application, go to www.carolinamountainclub.org and click on the green Join button just below the Member Login. Choose either Join CMC online or CMC application form (pdf). Don't have internet access? Mail a note to the CMC address requesting an application form be mailed to you. Annual dues are \$20 for individuals and \$30 for families. Hikers are expected to join CMC after participating in a few hikes. Some trail maintenance activities are only open to members.

CAROLINA MOUNTAIN CLUB OFFICERS

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