

Brushy Mountain (U.S. 52) to Garden Mountain (Va. 623)

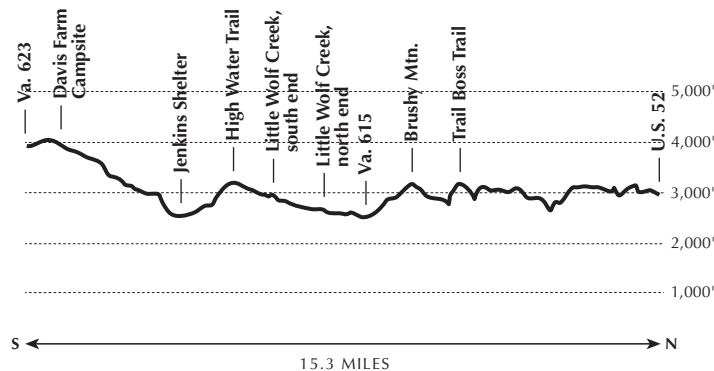
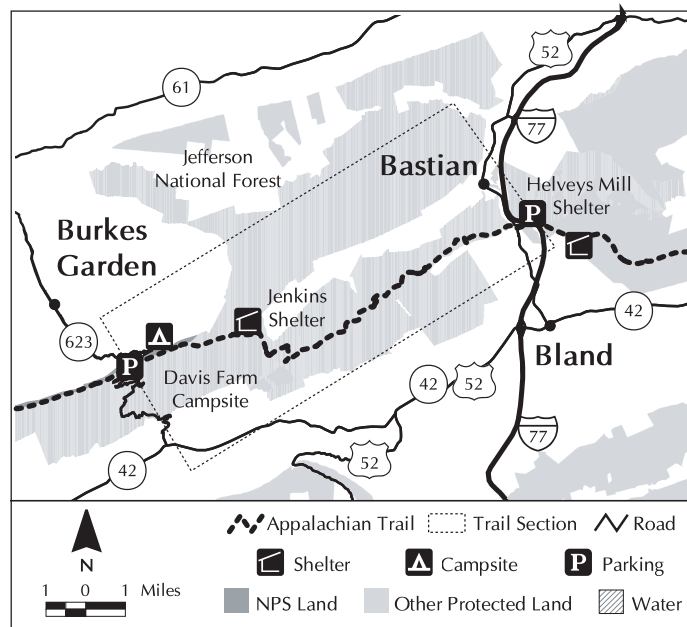
15.3 MILES

The route in this section begins and ends on ridgecrests; in between are remote valleys and a scenic creekside walk. The Trail traverses Brushy Mountain in the northern part of the section (maintained by Piedmont A.T. Hikers) and Garden Mountain in the southern part (maintained by the Outdoor Club at Virginia Tech). The most interesting feature of the section is Burkes Garden, an enormous mountain cove and secluded agricultural valley at the southern end of the section. The route crosses the undisturbed upper reaches of Hunting Camp Creek and follows Little Wolf Creek for about three miles, fording it many times and passing through rhododendron thickets. The route is well graded, as it follows old woods roads, long stretches of sidehill trail, and even an old logging-railroad bed. The ridges in the section have no water. Water is abundant in the valleys.

Road access—Both the northern and southern ends of this section are accessible by vehicle, and road access is also possible at the crossing of Va. 615 (mile 6.9/8.4 below). Parking is available near all three road crossings.

Maps—Refer to ATC's Virginia Map 3, Wythe Ranger District. For area detail, refer to the following USGS topographic quadrangles: Bland, Bastian, Big Bend, and Garden Mountain.

Shelters and campsites—There is one shelter (Jenkins Shelter, mile 11.5/3.8 below) and one designated campsite (Davis Farm Campsite, mile 14.5/0.8 below) in this section. The Trail corridor here lies in the Jefferson National Forest, so camping is permitted except where noted otherwise. Campfires should be attended at all times and completely extinguished when you leave a campsite.



SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

Northern end of section →

On U.S. 52, 2.5 miles compass-north of Bland, 1.8 miles compass-south of Bastian. Ample parking here and across the Interstate-77 overpass at mile 13.1 in Virginia Section Thirty-six, above. Groceries, meals, motels, a hardware store, a coin laundry, and a post office (ZIP Code 24315) are available in Bland, east *via* U.S. 52. Limited supplies and a post office (ZIP Code 34314) are available in Bastian, west *via* U.S. 52. Greyhound bus service is available in Bluefield, West Virginia, 12 miles north, and Max Meadows, Virginia, 20 miles south.

USFS 282 →

Parallels the A.T., above and on the other side of rhododendron thickets, along the Brushy Mountain ridgetop, for most of the way between the northern end of the section and the Trail Boss Trail intersection at mile 4.8/10.5 below.

Hunting Camp Creek Valley →

Most of the Trail in Virginia Sections Thirty-six through Thirty-nine was relocated in the late 1970s from a route along Walker Mountain. Consolidation Coal Company owned much of the land here and began selling off large tracts in the 1970s. The USDA Forest Service, urged on by A.T. supporters, purchased many of those tracts, and eventually tens of thousands of acres in what is now Beartown Wilderness, Garden Mountain, Hunting Camp Creek Valley, and the Brushy Mountain Roadless Area were added to the Jefferson National Forest. The A.T. route through those newly public lands opened in 1981, and today this section of Trail offers hikers some of the most remote and unspoiled miles of the entire A.T.

Trail Boss Trail →

This trail, formerly the A.T. route, leads west 2.0 miles to Va. 615 at Little Wolf Creek. It is named for Keith "Trail Boss" Smith, a former member of the Outdoor Club of Virginia Tech and long-time leader of the Konnarock Trail crew.

N-S

TRAIL DESCRIPTION

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| 0.0 | High point (elev. 2,920 ft.) on Brushy Mountain where a Forest Service road, USFS 282, intersects on the west side of U.S. 52 at the northern end of section . ■ SOUTHBOUND hikers follow gravel USFS 282 right (compass-west) along the crest, near some buildings. ■ NORTHBOUND hikers follow U.S. 52 to the left (downhill), toward Interstate-77 overpass. (Virginia Section Thirty-six above). Beware of traffic along this busy roadwalk. | 15.3 |
| 0.3 | Cross a powerline right-of-way that affords open views of Wolf Creek Valley, Hunting Camp Creek Valley, Round Mountain, and Garden Mountain to compass-southwest. | 15.0 |
| 0.5 | A.T. intersects with gravel USFS 282 . ■ SOUTHBOUND hikers bear right into woods on graded footpath. The Trail follows both woods roads and graded trail as it traverses the northern side of the crest of Brushy Mountain. ■ NORTHBOUND hikers turn left onto USFS 282. | 14.8 |
| 3.0 | An overgrown woods road leads east to USFS 282. | 12.3 |
| 4.1 | Pass a limited view of Brushy Mountain to north; 250 feet farther, the A.T. (now on graded trail) crosses an old road leading west down the spine of a spur ridge toward Hunting Camp Creek Valley . | 11.2 |
| 4.8 | The Trail route intersects with blue-blazed Trail Boss Trail on the west side of a section of old roadbed. ■ SOUTHBOUND hikers leave the roadbed and follow a section of sidehill downhill. ■ NORTHBOUND hikers follow the route of the old roadbed. | 10.5 |
| 5.7 | Cross drainage on rock steps. | 9.6 |
| 5.9 | A.T. traverses a series of ten switchbacks with good views of the valley. ■ SOUTHBOUND hikers descend <i>via</i> switchbacks. ■ NORTHBOUND hikers ascend and turn left onto a section of sidehill Trail at the end of the last switchback. | 9.4 |

S-N