



Lone cypress at Jones Lake
Photo by PJ Wetzel, www.pjwetzel.com

Carolina Bay Country—MST Segment 13

SUGGS MILL POND GAME LAND TO SINGLETARY LAKE STATE PARK

By Jim Grode and Kate Dixon

This 39-mile segment allows hikers to explore one of the most diverse and intriguing ecological areas in the nation as well as a Revolutionary War site and the resort community of White Lake.

The route traverses public lands that protect many “Carolina Bays,” elliptical depressions all aligned in a northwest to southeast direction. The bays provide habitat for many rare and endangered species, and theories abound about how they were originally formed. Some of the more famous bays

along the trail route, including Jones, White, and Singletary, are large lakes. In other places, hikers should look for bays without standing water—still with the same shape and directional alignment. The bays are named for the bay tree which grows in many of them.

At Turnbull Creek Educational State Forest, hikers can also learn about the naval stores industry, which tapped longleaf pine for tar and turpentine until the Civil War, and about the role that public-land managers in Bladen County are playing today to revive the population of endangered Red-cockaded Woodpeckers.

This segment includes several stretches through game lands and state forests that may be closed to hikers because of hunting, timbering, or burning. See the “Hunting” and “Special Considerations” sections and hiking directions for this segment for more information about possible closures and alternate routes.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE

- Carolina Bays at Suggs Mill Pond Game Land, Jones Lake State Park, the town of White Lake, and Singletary Lake State Park
- Harmony Hall Plantation, one of the oldest residences in North Carolina, built before the Revolutionary War
- Jones Lake State Park with its beautiful bay-forest ecosystem
- Interpretive signs at Turnbull Creek Educational State Forest about the ecology and history of the area
- The town of White Lake, a resort community where hikers can take a break to swim and sun or play putt-putt and ride a Ferris wheel!
- Interpretive signs at Singletary Lake State Park exploring some of the theories of the origins of the Carolina Bays

Total Distance: 38.9 miles (1.9 on singletrack trail, 11.7 on unpaved or forest roads, some of which may be closed to traffic, and 25.3 on paved roads)

Difficulty: Easy

Certain sections of the main route may be closed for hunting, timbering, or burning; we suggest three alternate routes in these situations. One of the alternate routes has 10.7 miles of paved road; the second has 3.6 miles of paved road, 1.2 of trail, and 0.8 of unpaved road; and the third has 2.9 miles of paved road.

Trail Updates

When planning your trip using this guide, take a moment to see whether Friends has posted any updates about the trail route by visiting Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail (Friends) “Trail Updates” page at MountainstoSeaTrail.org/updates.

Trail Angels

The MST is fortunate to have many Trail Angels: friendly people who have volunteered to provide assistance to long-distance hikers ranging from local information to lodging and food. We greatly appreciate our Trail Angels’ willingness to give back to the hiking community and the MST. For information about Trail Angels in Segment 13 and the services they can provide, see MountainstoSeaTrail.org/the-trail/trail-angels.

Camping/Lodging

Note: All prices listed in this guide are for comparison only and are subject to change at any time.

EB Mile 11.2; WB Mile 27.7

Harmony Hall Plantation Historic Site, 1615 River Rd., White Oak, 28399. If you wish to camp here, please call Harry La Rock at 910-866-4113 to let him know. Please set up your tent between the fire pit and the restroom after you enter the gate in front of the house. If you use a camp stove, please place it on the fire pit. Donations to this historic site are greatly appreciated. Please look for the donation box/jug near the entrance.

EB Mile 22.7; WB Mile 16.2

Jones Lake State Park, 4117 NC 242 North, Elizabethtown, 28337, 910-588-4550. Tent campsites have access to a shower and restrooms and cost \$17 for up to six people. The park asks that you make a reservation by calling 1-877-722-6762 or online at northcarolinastateparks.reserveamerica.com.

EB Miles 31.7-34.5; WB Miles 4.4-7.1

This part of the MST follows the main street of the resort town of White Lake. There are many lodging options here, although not all are open year-round. Many can be found on this webpage: www.whitelakenc.com/placestostay.html. The White Lake Motel and Campground and Camp Clearwater are open year-round.

EB Mile 38.9; WB Mile 0.0

Singletary Lake State Park has a primitive camping site with a fire ring, water, and restroom facilities that may be available for long-distance MST hikers. Contact the park office at 910-669-2928 for more information.

Also check Friends' "Trail Angels" page at MountaintoSeaTrail.org/the-trail/trail-angels for additional camping and lodging options.

Food/Supplies/Post Office

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| EB Mile 9.1; WB Mile 29.7 | White Oak post office |
| EB Mile 9.3; WB Mile 29.5 | Kaid's Grocery and Cain's Grill |
| EB Mile 22.7; WB Mile 16.2 | Jones Lake State Park visitor center has refreshments in season. |

Thanks to Duke Energy Foundation for a generous grant that allowed Friends to develop this and other trail guides for MST Segments 12 to 15 in Johnston, Sampson, Cumberland, Bladen, Pender, and Onslow Counties.

Thanks also to PJ Wetzels who helped develop the MST route in this area and was the first person to hike it in March and April 2014.

EB Mile 28.6; WB Mile 10.3	Family Dollar
EB Mile 30.0; WB Mile 8.9	Sunoco gas station and convenience store
EB Miles 31.7-34.5; WB Miles 4.4-7.1	The town of White Lake has numerous supply options.
EB Mile 33.5; WB Mile 5.3	White Lake post office

Water/Restrooms

In addition to bottled water from stores listed above, water and restrooms are available at the state parks below. Avoid drinking surface water.

EB Mile 22.7; WB Mile 16.2	Jones Lake State Park visitor center  
EB Mile 38.9; WB Mile 0.0	Singletary Lake State Park office  

Hunting

Hunting is permitted in the Suggs Mill Pond Game Land and Bladen Lakes State Forest. Hunting in the Suggs Mill Pond Game Land is by permit only, and when scheduled hunts are occurring, the game land is closed to the public including hikers. Information about hunt schedules can be found online at www.ncwildlife.org/Licensing/PermitHuntingOpportunities.aspx and particularly in the “permit hunt publication” in the quick reference box. Hunting may occur at any time during hunting season on the Bladen Lakes State Forest. Always wear blaze orange when walking in these areas, and learn more about hunting seasons and regulations before your trip at www.ncwildlife.org/Hunting.aspx.

Signs/Blazing

The trail through Bladen Lakes State Forest, Jones Lake State Park, and Singletary Lake State Park (EB Miles 17.7-22.7 and 35.7-38.8; WB Miles 0.0-3.2 and 16.2-21.2) is marked with blazes and signs for park trails, and with the MST blaze—a 3-inch white circle (in some places, a white diamond may have been used temporarily).

Road portions of this segment are marked with blazes and signs. Blazes are on the left shoulder of the road in the direction of travel, and signs are on the right side. Note that signs are often a target of theft and vandalism, and should not be relied upon exclusively for wayfinding.

The trail in and near Suggs Mill Pond Game Land (EB Miles 0.0-9.1; WB Miles 29.8-38.9) is not currently marked.

Special Considerations

Portions of the route through Suggs Mill Game Land and Bladen Lakes State Forest may be temporarily closed for scheduled permit hunts or for logging or prescribed burn operations. At the end of the directions for both east and westbound hiking, look for alternative route directions in the event of closure. See the “Hunting” section for more information about how you can learn about scheduled permit hunts at Suggs Mill Pond so you can try to time your trip to avoid them.

Throughout this segment, avoid drinking surface water. On road sections, watch for traffic and narrow shoulders.

Dogs are permitted on this segment of the MST, but should be on a leash at all times.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Friends office: 919-825-0297 or info@MountainstoSeaTrail.org

Town of White Lake Tourism: www.whitelakenc.com

Elizabethtown-White Lake Chamber of Commerce:
www.elizabethtownwhitelake.com

Trail Maps

Google map of the entire MST: MountainstoSeaTrail.org/map

Suggs Mill Pond Game Land: www.ncwildlife.org/Portals/0/Hunting/Game-Land-Maps/Coastal/Suggs-Mill-Pond.pdf

Bladen Lakes State Forest, Jones Lake State Park, and Singletary Lake State Park: www.ncwildlife.org/Portals/0/Hunting/Game-Land-Maps/Coastal/Bladen-Lakes.pdf

Jones Lake State Park: files.nc.gov/ncparks/maps-and-brochures/jones-lake-park-map.pdf

Singletary Lake State Park: files.nc.gov/ncparks/maps-and-brochures/singletary-lake-park-map.pdf

Other Valuable Links

Carolina Bays: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carolina_Bay

Cape Fear Arch Conservation Collaborative: capefeararch.org

Harmony Hall Plantation: harmonyhallplantationvillage.com

Bladen Lakes State Forest:
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bladen_Lakes_State_Forest

Jones Lake State Park: www.ncparks.gov/jones-lake-state-park

Turnbull Creek Educational State Forest: www.ncesf.org/turnbull.html

Singletary Lake State Park: www.ncparks.gov/singletary-lake-state-park

PRIMARY PARKING LOCATIONS

Walter West Rd. at Entrance to Suggs Mill Pond Game Land

EB Mile 0.0; WB Mile 38.9



N34.83428, W78.63211

Harmony Hall Plantation Historic Site

EB Mile 11.2; WB Mile 27.7



N34.74064, W78.73820

Jones Lake State Park Visitor Center

EB Mile 22.7; WB Mile 16.2



N34.68301, W78.59590

Turnbull Creek Educational State Forest Office

EB Mile 23.4; WB Mile 15.5



N34.68948, W78.59069

Multiple Options Within Town of White Lake

EB Miles 31.7-34.4; WB Miles 4.4-7.1



N34.65487, W78.49527

Singletary Lake State Park Office

EB Mile 38.9; WB Mile 0.0



N34.58171, W78.44876



Camping



Lodging



Parking



Food



Restrooms



Supplies



Water



Picnic

Hiking Directions, Eastbound

MAIN ROUTE

- 0.0 Begin Segment 13 by walking around the gate at end of Walter West Rd. to enter Suggs Mill Pond Game Land on sandy trail/road. *Note:* Suggs Mill Pond Game Land hosts scheduled permit hunts throughout the year during which the game land is closed to public access. During these closures, hikers should follow the “Alternate Route A” directions at the end of this section. Information about hunt schedules can be found online at www.ncwildlife.org/Licensing/PermitHuntingOpportunities.aspx and particularly in the “permit hunt publication” in the quick reference box. To reach the trailhead by vehicle, head south from Roseboro on NC 242, then turn right at Ammon onto Old Fayetteville Rd. After 3.8 miles, turn left on unpaved Walter West Rd. **P**
- 0.5 Just past a large oak tree, a power-line road veers to the left. Stay to the right to stay on the sandy road/trail.



Old homestead in Suggs Mill Pond Game Land
Photo by PJ Wetzel, www.pjwetzel.com

- 0.7 Walk around two orange gates (about 50 yards apart) and continue straight on sandy road/trail.
- 1.8 Walk around the orange gate and go straight on gravel road; this is Lake Rd., shown on some maps as Campground Rd. (Do not turn right to follow the road.)
- 2.2 Continue straight past Sand Ridge Rd. Sign is on left.
- 2.6 Walk through orange gate and see Horseshoe Lake on your immediate right.
- 2.7 Continue straight past shed and gray hunting lodge, which looks like a modern home, on left.
- 3.3 Turn left on Campground Rd. at complex of maintenance buildings surrounded by chain-link fence.
- 3.4 Bear right at the Dohn Broadwell plaque/monument.
- 3.6 Where road continues into orange gate and Quail Rd. sign is on your right, bear left to stay on Campground Rd. The ground between Quail Rd. and Campground Rd. is designated as a hunter campsite.
- 4.5 Bear right at Y-intersection.
- 4.6 Leave Suggs Mill Pond Game Land and turn left on Live Oak Methodist Church Rd.
- 5.4 At T-intersection, turn right on Gum Spring Rd. (SR 1235).
- 9.1 At T-intersection, turn left on NC 53 at the town of White Oak. Post office is on right before turn.
- 9.3 Pass Kaid's Grocery and Cain's Grill.
- 9.4 Turn right on River Rd. (SR 1318).
- 10.7 Continue straight on River Rd. through flashing yellow lights at Burney Rd.
- 11.0 Turn left into Harmony Hall Plantation Historic Site.
- 11.2 At the end of the lane is the historic home built ca. 1760 by Revolutionary War figure Col. James Richardson. This is one of the oldest surviving houses in North Carolina. Turn around and retrace steps to River Rd. *Note:* Camping is available here; see the "Camping/Lodging" section for this segment for details.  
- 11.4 Turn right on River Rd. (returning back in direction you came).
- 11.7 Turn right on Burney Rd. at flashing yellow lights.
- 12.8 Pass White Oak Family Worship Center on left.
- 13.0 Continue straight past Hoover Rd. on left.



Camping



Lodging



Parking



Food



Restrooms



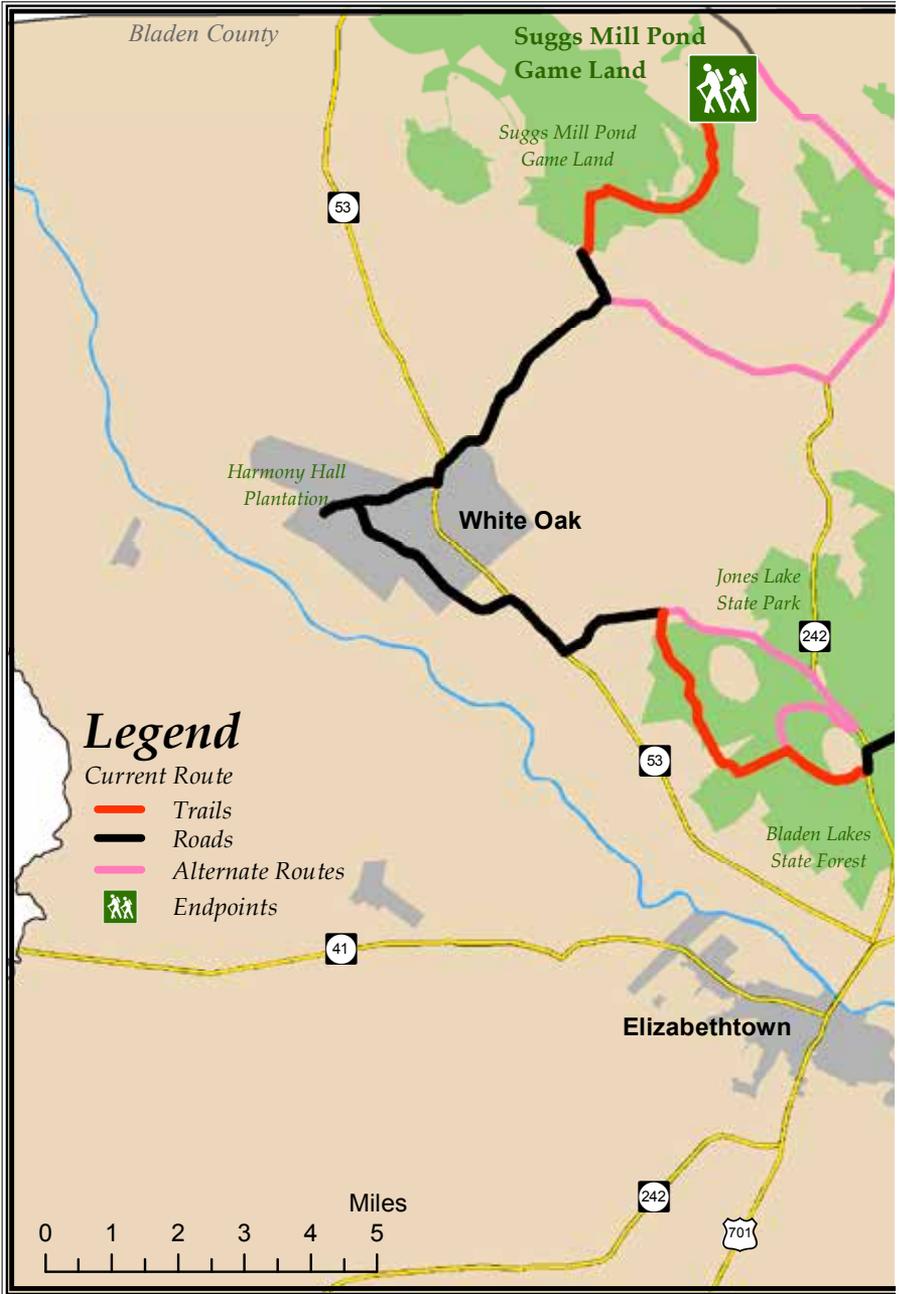
Supplies



Water



Picnic



Map produced for Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail by Curtis Belyea, 2018.





Harmony Hall Plantation in the snow
Photo courtesy of Harmony Hall Plantation Village

- 14.8 At T-intersection, turn right on NC 53.
- 15.9 Turn left on Gum Shaw Rd. (There is a sign for Ruskin.)
- 16.7 Turn right on Ruskin Rd.
- 17.7 Turn right on unpaved Salters Lake Trail. *Note:* The trail beyond here through the Bladen Lakes State Forest may be closed for timbering or burning. If you see a closure sign, return to this point and follow the “Alternate Route B” directions at the end of this section.
- 17.8 Keep right at Y-intersection.
- 18.4 At Y-intersection, continue straight on Salters Lake Trail, which is the left fork where another dirt road comes in from right.
- 20.0 The trail is washed out here from the overflow of Salters Lake. Repairs are planned but will not be in place until 2019 or later. In the meantime, hikers will need to bushwhack around the washout.
- 20.5 Turn left at T-intersection onto dirt road.
- 20.6 Continue straight where road comes in from right.
- 21.4 Go past locked gate and turn right on dirt road, then left into woods onto Bay Trail, blazed with white diamonds.
- 21.7 The Bay Trail rejoins the road near a silver painted gate on the right. Bear left onto the road.

- 22.3 Turn left into the woods to remain on Bay Trail.
- 22.4 Continue on Bay Trail past Campground Trail on right. 
- 22.6 Emerge from the woods near large picnic pavilion and continue around the lakeshore toward visitor center.
- 22.7 Pass Jones Lake State Park visitor center, with restrooms and water; refreshments and showers in season. *Note:* Camping is available at state park campground; see the “Camping/Lodging” section for this segment for details.      
- 22.8 Turn left on NC 242.
- 23.1 Turn right on Sweet Home Church Rd.
- 23.4 A sign on the right for the Turnbull Creek Educational State Forest marks the beginning of an optional, highly scenic, and educational 1.9-mile trail through Turnbull Creek Educational State Forest (0.5 mile longer than the main route). The forest is officially closed from mid-November to mid-March and on weekends. Weekdays it is open from 8 AM to 5 PM. From December through February, the NC Forest Service conducts prescribed burning for forest management and is particularly concerned about people being in the area. Additionally, an unbridged creek after approximately 0.3 mile requires either fording or crossing on a tree, either of which may be difficult or impossible. If you have questions about whether this route is open and safe, call the TCESF office at 910-588-4161. 
- 24.1 Pass Sweet Home Holiness Church on right.
- 24.8 Turnbull Creek Trail rejoins main route.
- 25.0 Continue straight past unpaved Fred Poole Trail on left.
- 25.6 Pass Susanna Pl. on left.
- 26.4 Pass Old Hoover Bridge Rd. on right.
- 26.9 Pass entrance to Camp Chamblee and Bladen Lakes State Forest on right.
- 27.7 Pass Glen Mar Rd. on left and Hocut Ln. on right.
- 28.3 Turn left on US 701.
- 28.6 Pass Dollar General store on right. 
- 30.0 Continue straight on US 701 where road divides and NC 53 comes in from right. *Note:* There is a Sunoco gas station and convenience store at this intersection. 
- 30.7 Pass Gray’s Ln. (entrance to Turtle Cove) on right.



The attractions of White Lake
Photo by Heather Houskeeper

- 31.7 Leaving US 701, continue straight past White Lake Motel and Campground, then turn right onto unmarked street in front of gas station and convenience store. The town of White Lake, which you are entering, has multiple lodging, parking, and supply options. 
-    
- 31.9 Just beyond gas station, where Intersection Rd. comes in from left, bear right. To the left are a laundromat and ice. 
- 33.6 Pass White Lake police department, fire department, post office, and town hall on left.
- 33.8 Pass entrance to Camp Clearwater on right. 
- 34.5 Turn left on NC 53.
- 35.7 Turn left on Singletary Lake Trail (unpaved road). *Note:* The trail beyond here through the Bladen Lakes State Forest may be closed for timbering or burning. If you see a closure sign, return to this point and follow the “Alternate Route C” directions at the end of this section.

- 35.8 At first Y-intersection, where right fork is fainter, keep left.
- 36.0 At second Y-intersection, take right fork.
- 37.5 At Y-intersection, continue straight through green gate marking boundary between Singletary Lake State Park and Bladen Lakes State Forest Game Land.
- 38.2 Cross a wooden foot bridge over Singletary Lake's outlet regulating dam and stream and turn right onto gravel trail in front of a small "nature building."
- 38.5 Turn left onto paved trail at long wooden pier and canoe landing.
- 38.6 Cross paved road and continue up the driveway to staff cabin.
- 38.7 Go left of staff cabin then follow sandy road to the right.
- 38.8 At wooden fence, turn left onto paved road, then pass through campground gate.
- 38.9 Reach side road to Singletary Lake State Park office on right and eastern end of Segment 13. *Note:* Water and restrooms are available at the park office from 8 AM to 5 PM, when the office is open. The group camping facilities at Singletary Lake State Park are exclusively for groups with reservations; however, long-distance MST hikers needing a place to camp are encouraged to contact park staff. See the "Camping/Lodging" section for this segment for more information. To reach the trailhead by vehicle, drive north from Elizabethtown on US 701/NC 41/NC 242. After about 1.3 miles, NC 53 joins the road and the divided highway ends. Continue another 4.1 miles to an intersection where the highway divides again and NC 53 goes to the right. Turn right on NC 53 here and follow the road about 6.7 miles to the entrance to the Singletary Lake Group Camp and turn left, then left again into the park headquarters.   

ALTERNATE ROUTE A

- 0.0 At Mile 0.0 of the main route, instead of going through the gate into the Suggs Mill Pond Game Land, return on Walter West Rd. back toward Old Fayetteville Rd. to begin "Alternate Route A." 
- 0.6 At T-intersection, turn right on Old Fayetteville Rd.
- 1.8 Continue straight past Braxton Edge Rd. on right.
- 4.4 At Y-intersection, in front of Ammon Community Club, stay right.
- 4.5 At T-intersection, turn right on NC 242.

- 4.7 Pass Windsor United Methodist Church on right.
- 7.0 Turn right on Gum Spring Rd.
- 10.7 At intersection with unpaved Live Oak Methodist Church Rd., continue straight on Gum Spring Rd. and resume following main route directions at Mile 5.4.

ALTERNATE ROUTE B

- 0.0 At Mile 17.6 of the main route, instead of turning right on Salters Lake Trail, continue straight on Ruskin Rd. to begin “Alternate Route B.”
- 2.6 At T-intersection, turn right on NC 242.
- 3.1 Pass a prominent gravel road on right.
- 3.2 Pass a gated dirt road on left.
- 3.3 Pass state park boundary marker on right.
- 3.4 Pass a narrow dirt road heading into woods on right.
- 3.6 Pass a drainage ditch followed by a telephone pole on right, and then walk to the woods line on the right and look for a game trail headed into the woods. Follow that game trail about 20 feet to reach the Bay Trail. Turn right on the Bay Trail. *Note:* If you reach a “trucks entering highway” sign on NC 242, you have walked about 0.1 mile too far.
- 4.8 At T-intersection, turn left on gravel road.
- 5.6 Pass a locked gate on the right, beyond which J.C. Butler Trail (there is a small sign on right past gate) continues into the Bladen Lakes State Forest, and resume following main route directions at Mile 21.4, continuing straight on the dirt road, then left into woods onto Bay Trail, blazed with white diamonds.

ALTERNATE ROUTE C

- 0.0 At Mile 35.6 of the main route, instead of turning left on Singletary Lake Trail, continue straight on NC 53 to begin “Alternate Route C.”
- 2.8 Turn left on paved entrance road to Singletary Lake Group Camp.
- 2.9 Reach side road to Singletary Lake State Park office on left and the eastern end of Segment 13.   



White sand ridge along Singletary Lake Trail
Photo by PJ Wetzel, www.pjwetzel.com

Hiking Directions, Westbound

MAIN ROUTE

- 0.0 Begin Segment 13 at side road to Singletary Lake State Park office. *Note:* The trail beyond here through the Bladen Lakes State Forest may be closed for timbering or burning. If you see a closure sign, return to this point and follow the “Alternate Route C” directions at the end of this section. Water and restrooms are available at the park office from 8 AM to 5 PM, when the office is open. The group camping facilities at Singletary Lake State Park are exclusively for groups with reservations; however, long-distance MST hikers needing a place to camp are encouraged to contact park staff. See the



A foggy morning at the entrance to Suggs Mill Pond Game Land

Photo by Shawna Huffman

“Camping/Lodging” section for this segment for more information. To reach the trailhead by vehicle, drive north from Elizabethtown on US 701/NC 41/NC 242. After about 1.3 miles, NC 53 joins the road and the divided highway ends. Continue another 4.1 miles to an intersection where the highway divides again and NC 53 goes to the right. Turn right on NC 53 here and follow the road about 6.7 miles to the entrance to the Singletary Lake Group Camp and turn left, then left again into the park headquarters.   

- 0.1 Cross through gate, then, just before roadside wooden fence, bear right off pavement and onto white sandy fire-break road that parallels a power line.
- 0.2 Just past staff cabin on left, turn left onto staff cabin driveway.
- 0.3 Cross paved road with pay phone on right just before road, continue on paved walkway toward lake, with large education building on right just after the paved road crossing.

- 0.4 Reach Singletary Lake at long wooden pier and canoe landing. Bear right along lakeshore onto gravel foot trail blazed with orange circles with hiker icon.
- 0.7 Return to paved road and small “nature building” at the paved road’s end. Bear left across a wooden footbridge over Singletary Lake’s outlet regulating dam and stream and continue on orange-blazed trail. In 50 yards, bear left onto old sandy woods road.
- 1.4 Pass through green gate at the boundary between Singletary Lake State Park and Bladen Lakes State Forest Game Land. Continue straight onto game land road called Singletary Lake Trail.
- 2.9 Continue past sandy road on right.
- 3.1 At T-intersection, turn right on sandy road.
- 3.2 Turn right on NC 53.
- 4.4 Turn right onto White Lake Rd. The town of White Lake, which you are entering, has multiple lodging, parking, and supply options. 
-    
- 5.1 Pass entrance to Camp Clearwater on left. 
- 5.3 Pass White Lake post office, town hall, fire department and police department on right.
- 7.0 At Y-intersection, bear left toward gas station and convenience store. To the right are a laundromat and ice. 
- 7.1 Continue westerly past gas station and convenience store, then past White Lake Motel and Campground onto divided US 701.
- 8.2 Pass Gray’s Ln (entrance to Turtle Cove) on left.
- 8.9 Continue straight on US 701 where road divides and NC 53 comes in from left. *Note:* There is a Sunoco gas station and convenience store at this intersection. 
- 10.3 Pass Dollar General store on left. 
- 10.6 Turn right on Sweet Home Church Rd.
- 11.2 Pass Hocut Ln. on left and Glen Mar Rd. on right.
- 12.0 Pass entrance to Camp Chamblee and Bladen Lakes State Forest on left.
- 12.5 Pass Old Hoover Bridge Rd. on left.
- 13.3 Pass Susanna Pl. on right
- 13.9 Where unpaved Fred Poole Trail comes in from right, continue straight on Sweet Home Church Rd.

- 14.1 A dirt road with no sign and no gate comes in from the left. This is the beginning of an optional, highly scenic, and educational 1.9-mile trail through Turnbull Creek Educational State Forest (0.5 mile longer than the main route). The forest is officially closed from mid-November to mid-March and on weekends. Weekdays it is open from 8 AM to 5 PM. From December through February, the NC Forest Service conducts prescribed burning for forest management and is particularly concerned about people being in the area. Additionally, an unbridged creek after approximately 0.3 mile requires either fording or crossing on a tree, either of which may be difficult or impossible. If you have questions about whether this route is open and safe, call the TCESF office at 910-588-4161.
- 14.7 Pass Sweet Home Holiness Church on left.
- 15.5 Turnbull Creek Trail rejoins main route. 
- 15.8 Turn left onto NC 242.
- 16.1 Turn right at main gate into Jones Lake State Park.
- 16.2 Pass Jones Lake State Park visitor center, with restrooms and water; refreshments and showers in season. Follow sidewalk to left of visitor center toward large picnic pavilion. *Note:* Camping is available at state park campground; see the “Camping/Lodging” section for this segment for details.      
- 16.3 At a kiosk at the edge of the woods just beyond picnic pavilion, begin hiking the Bay Trail, blazed with white diamonds.
- 16.5 Continue on Bay Trail past Campground Trail on left. 
- 16.6 Bay Trail joins road. Continue on Bay Trail.
- 17.2 At silver painted gate on left, Bay Trail diverges from road, into woods to right. Continue ahead on Bay Trail.
- 17.5 Bay Trail returns to the road just before another silver painted gate on left. Turn left through gate into Bladen Lakes State Forest Game Land on J.C. Butler Trail. (There is a small sign on right after passing gate.) *Note:* The trail beyond here through the Bladen Lakes State Forest may be closed for timbering or burning. If you see a closure sign, return to this point and follow the “Alternate Route B” directions at the end of this section.
- 18.2 Continue straight where another road intersects from the left.
- 18.3 Turn right on next road, which is Salters Lake Trail (no sign).



Patriots' Day at Harmony Hall Plantation
Photo courtesy of Harmony Hall Plantation Village

- 18.9 The trail is washed out here from the overflow of Salters Lake. Repairs are planned but will not be in place until 2019 or later. In the meantime, hikers will need to bushwhack around the washout.
- 20.5 Continue straight on Salters Lake Trail where another dirt road comes in from left.
- 21.1 Continue straight on Salters Lake Trail where another dirt road comes in from right.
- 21.2 Turn left on paved Ruskin Rd.
- 22.2 At T-intersection, turn left on Gum Shaw Rd.
- 22.9 Turn right onto NC 53.
- 24.1 Turn left on Burney Rd.
- 25.9 Continue straight past Hoover Rd. on right.



Camping



Lodging



Parking



Food



Restrooms



Supplies



Water



Picnic



Black bear print in Bladen Lakes State Forest
Photo by Heather Houskeeper

- 26.1 Pass White Oak Family Worship Center on right.
- 27.2 Turn left on River Rd. at T-intersection with flashing lights.
- 27.5 Turn left into Harmony Hall Plantation Historic Site.
- 27.7 At the end of the lane is the historic home built ca. 1760 by Revolutionary War figure Col. James Richardson. This is one of the oldest surviving houses in North Carolina. Turn around and retrace steps to River Rd. *Note:* Camping is available here; see the “Camping/Lodging” section for this segment for details.  
- 27.9 Turn right on River Rd. (returning back in direction you came).
- 28.2 Continue straight on River Rd. through flashing yellow lights at Burney Rd.
- 29.5 Turn left onto NC 53.
- 29.6 Pass Kaid’s Grocery and Cain’s Grill.

- 29.8 At White Oak post office, turn right onto Gum Spring Rd.
- 33.5 Turn left onto unpaved Live Oak Methodist Church Rd. *Note:* Suggs Mill Pond Game Land, ahead on the main route, hosts scheduled permit hunts throughout the year during which the game land is closed to public access. During these closures, hikers should follow the “Alternate Route A” directions at the end of this section. Information about hunt schedules can be found online at www.ncwildlife.org/Licensing/PermitHuntingOpportunities.aspx and particularly in the “permit hunt publication” in the quick reference box.
- 34.3 Reach entrance to Suggs Mill Pond Game Land and turn right onto gravel Campground Rd. into the game land.
- 34.4 Where a lesser-used road comes in from the right, bear left to stay on Campground Rd.
- 35.2 At an orange gate on left and a fork in the road where Quail Rd. continues straight, turn right to stay on Campground Rd. The ground between Quail Rd. and Campground Rd. is designated as a hunter campsite.
- 35.5 Curve left past the Dohn Broadwell plaque/monument. Turn right on Lake Rd. (also shown as Campground Rd. on some maps) at complex of maintenance buildings surrounded by chain-link fence.
- 36.2 Continue straight past shed and gray hunting lodge, which looks like a modern home, on right.
- 36.3 Reach Horseshoe Lake on left with gate beyond. Continue straight through gate, remaining on Lake Rd.
- 36.6 Continue straight past Sand Ridge Rd. A sign is on right.
- 37.1 Reach a gate where gravel Lake Rd. veers left. Bear right past gate and take up a little-used sandy track.
- 38.2 Walk around two orange gates (about 50 yards apart) and continue straight on sandy road/trail.
- 38.4 After emerging from the woods, continue along the path near the edge of the field, keeping the pine plantation to your left, then continue straight.
- 38.9 Reach an orange gate beyond which Walter West Rd. continues straight and Indian Wells Circle (sign) intersects from left. This is the western end of Segment 13. *Note:* To reach the trailhead by vehicle, head south from Roseboro on NC 242, then turn right at



Camping



Lodging



Parking



Food



Restrooms



Supplies



Water



Picnic

Ammon onto Old Fayetteville Rd. After 3.8 miles, turn left on unpaved Walter West Rd. 

ALTERNATE ROUTE A

- 0.0 At Mile 33.4 of the main route, instead of turning left onto unpaved Live Oak Methodist Church Rd., continue straight on Gum Spring Rd. to begin “Alternate Route A.”
- 3.7 At T-intersection, turn right on NC 242.
- 6.0 Pass Windsor United Methodist Church on left.
- 6.2 At Y-intersection bear left on Ammon Community Center Rd.
- 6.3 Continue straight past Ammon Community Club where CR 1002 comes in from right.
- 8.9 Continue straight past Braxton Edge Rd. on left.
- 10.1 Turn left on unpaved Walter West Rd. *Note:* If you are thru-hiking and intend to continue directly to Segment 12, continue straight here to avoid a 1.2-mile out-and-back walk down Walter West Rd. Begin following the Segment 12 directions at Mile 0.6.
- 10.7 Reach an orange gate at the Suggs Mill Pond Game Land to complete Segment 13 and “Alternate Route A.” 

ALTERNATE ROUTE B

- 0.0 At Mile 17.4 of the main route, instead of going through the gate onto J.C. Butler Trail, continue straight on the Bay Trail to begin “Alternate Route B.”
- 0.8 Turn right off gravel road onto foot trail to stay on Bay Trail.
- 2.0 About 1.2 miles after leaving the gravel road, listen for road traffic and watch for a game trail leading off to the left toward NC 242. Follow that game trail about 20 feet through the woods to reach the highway, then turn left. *Note:* If you reach boardwalks on the Bay Trail, you have gone too far.
- 2.2 Pass a narrow dirt road heading into woods on left.
- 2.3 Pass state park boundary marker on left.
- 2.4 Pass a gated dirt road on right.
- 2.5 Pass a prominent gravel road on left.
- 3.0 Turn left on Ruskin Rd.
- 5.6 Where Salters Lake Trail comes in from left, continue straight on Ruskin Rd. and resume following main route directions at Mile 21.2.



Carolina Jessamine along Singletary Lake Trail
 Photo by PJ Wetzel, www.pjwetzel.com

ALTERNATE ROUTE C

- 0.0 At Mile 0.0 of the main route, instead of turning north on the main park road to begin Segment 13, head south toward NC 53 to begin "Alternate Route C."   
- 0.1 At T-intersection, turn right on NC 53.
- 2.9 Where Singletary Lake Trail comes in from the left, continue straight on NC 53 and resume following main route directions at Mile 3.2.



Camping



Lodging



Parking



Food



Restrooms



Supplies



Water



Picnic