



The 1850s Burgaw Train Depot
Photo courtesy of town of Burgaw

Land of History—MST Segment 14

SINGLETERY LAKE STATE PARK TO HOLLY SHELTER GAME LAND

By Kate Dixon and Jim Grode

Explore an area rich in history—from the Revolutionary War to the New Deal and beyond—on this 66-mile route through Bladen and Pender Counties.

Unique among segments of the MST, Segment 14 also includes a short section of river that requires a boat or ferry ride. If you have access to a kayak, canoe, or SUP, you can paddle the river yourself, or see the “North-

east Cape Fear River” section later in this chapter for information about how to find someone to ferry you.

This segment is a great place to explore by bicycle as well as on foot as all but the river section and a one-mile loop trail in Moores Creek National Battlefield is on roads and multi-use trails.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE

- Singletary Lake State Park, which began its life as a park in 1936 when the National Park Service bought land for a federally financed work program and recreational demonstration project
- The Elwell Ferry, one of three remaining river ferries in North Carolina
- The Kelly Historical Museum, which shares the history of a community built when the Cape Fear River was the main transportation corridor in this area
- The Canetuck Community Center, which is housed in a two-room school built in 1921-22 with help from the Rosenwald Fund, which funded schools for African Americans throughout the southeast United States
- Moores Creek National Battlefield, the site of the first patriot victory in the American Revolution
- Burgaw, the Pender County seat, whose many historic buildings include the oldest train depot in North Carolina
- The gently flowing water and abundant wildlife along a 4.5-mile stretch of the Northeast Cape Fear River

Thanks to Duke Energy Foundation for a generous grant that allowed Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail (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 Wetzel, who helped develop the MST route in this area and was the first person to hike it in March and April 2014.

Total Distance: 65.8 miles (57.5 road; 1.4 trail; 2.3 paved greenway; 4.6 river)

Difficulty: Easy

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' "Trail Updates" page at MountainstoSeaTrail.org/updates.

Northeast Cape Fear River

EB Miles 60.8-65.4; WB Miles 0.5-5.1

As noted, this section of the trail is on the Northeast Cape Fear River. Three options are available for the river section:

Experienced paddlers can kayak or canoe the river section in either direction. If you plan to paddle this stretch, we recommend carrying and using a good GPS device loaded with the route, as navigation on the river can be difficult.

Alternatively, local boaters are available to provide river shuttle services for long-distance MST hikers. Contact Pender County Tourism at 910-259-1278 to make arrangements.

Finally, when paddling is impossible or unsafe, an alternate road route is available. However, this route is recommended as a last resort only, as it is much busier and less pleasant than the main route. For this route, use the "Alternate Road Route" directions at the end of the main directions.

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 14 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 0.0; WB Mile 65.8

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.

EB Mile 30.9; WB Mile 33.8

Moores Creek National Battlefield, 40 Patriots Hall Drive, Currie, 28435. Tent camping with access to restroom. To camp here, call 910-283-5591 a couple of days in advance and ask for the permit office.

EB Mile 52.7; WB Mile 13.2

Burgaw Motel, 605 117 North, Burgaw, 28425, 910-259-4550; burgaw-motel.wixsite.com/burgaw-motel. \$49 room rate on weekdays; \$59 on weekends. About 0.5 mile from trail: head northeast on NC 53 (Jacksonville Hwy.), turn left on US 117.

Seasonal Campsites

EB Mile 65.8; WB Mile 0.0

Holly Shelter Game Land. These campsites are on Lodge Rd. just east of where this MST segment ends on Shaw Hwy. They are open only during hunting season, and only for people with hunting licenses. Information about the dates of the hunting seasons is available at www.ncwildlife.org/Hunting.aspx; please do not call the Wildlife Resources Commission for information, as the phones at the local office are not staffed.

Other Lodging

There are many lodging options in the resort town of White Lake, 4.4 miles west of Singletary Lake State Park on NC 53. See www.whitelakenc.com/placestostay.html 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 12.7; WB Mile 53.1 | Kelly convenience store (not open on Sunday). Post office is at same intersection. |
| EB Mile 27.7; WB Mile 38.2 | Convenience store 0.2 mile from trail |
| EB Mile 32.5; WB Mile 33.3 | Convenience store |

EB Mile 32.6; WB Mile 33.2	Currie post office
EB Mile 37.0; WB Mile 38.8	Lewis Market on Bell Williams Rd.
EB Mile 40.3; WB Mile 25.5	US 421/Piney Woods Rd. convenience store
EB Mile 50.5; WB Mile 15.2	Downtown Burgaw with grocery store and restaurants
EB Mile 52.7; WB Mile 13.2	US 117/NC 53 intersection with grocery store, restaurants, and convenience store
EB Mile 52.9; WB Mile 13.0	Wal-Mart
EB Mile 55.8; WB Mile 10.1	Bannerman Vineyard & Winery

Water/Restrooms

The best sources of water on this section are water fountains, well water from spigots and bottled water from convenience stores (see list of stores above). Avoid drinking surface water.

EB Mile 0.0; WB Mile 65.8	Singletary Lake State Park  
EB Mile 1.8; WB Mile 64.0	Home of Ricky Smith, aqua blue house at 8406 NC 53 East. Mr. Smith will allow hikers to get water from his spigot if they call him at 910-874-5678. 
EB Mile 12.9; WB Mile 52.9	Kelly Historical Museum. For water and restroom, call Richard Smith at 910-991-2207. If you do not reach Richard, call Linda Robins at 910-612-8235.  
EB Mile 21.8; WB Mile 44.0	Canetuck Missionary Baptist Church. MST hikers are permitted to take water from spigot on left-hand side of church. 

EB Mile 30.9; WB Mile 33.8 Moores Creek National Battlefield
 

EB Mile 55.8; WB Mile 10.1 Bannerman Vineyard & Winery
 

Hunting

In this segment, the trail is not on any land that is open for hunting.

Signs/Blazing

The Osgood Canal Greenway and Urban Trail in Burgaw has mileposts every quarter mile but is not marked with the MST blaze. Road portions of this segment are marked with MST blazes (a 3-inch white circle) 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.

Special Considerations

This segment is a great place to explore by bicycle as well as on foot. All but the river section and a short segment of trail at Moores Creek National Battlefield is on road or trail open to bikes. At the battlefield, you can park your bike at the visitor center, walk the trails, explore the park, and then continue your journey.

Avoid drinking surface water.

Watch for traffic and narrow shoulders throughout the route.

Dogs are allowed 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

Elizabethtown-White Lake Chamber of Commerce:

www.elizabethtownwhitelake.com

Pender County Tourism: www.visitpender.com

Trail Maps

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

Moore's Creek National Battlefield:

www.nps.gov/mocr/planyourvisit/maps.htm

Osgood Canal Greenway: www.townofburgaw.com/Data/Sites/1/media/residents/osgood-canal-trail_map-with-streets-and-legend.pdf

Links for Parks and Historic Sites Along the Route

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

Elwell Ferry: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elwell_Ferry

Moore's Creek National Battlefield: www.nps.gov/mocr/index.htm

Town of Burgaw: www.townofburgaw.com

Pender County Museum: pendercountymuseum.webs.com

Burgaw Train Depot: www.townofburgaw.com/depot

PRIMARY PARKING LOCATIONS

Singletary Lake State Park Office

EB Mile 0.0; WB Mile 65.8



N34.58171, W78.44876

Moores Creek National Battlefield

EB Mile 30.9; WB Mile 0.0



N34.45795, W78.10908

Downtown Burgaw

EB Mile 50.5; WB Mile 15.2



N34.55090, W77.92814

Sawpit Landing Parking

EB Mile 60.8; WB Mile 5.1



N34.58658, W77.82221

Holly Shelter Boat Access Area Parking

EB Mile 65.4; WB Mile 0.5



N34.54822, W77.81593








Lodge Rd., Entrance to Holly Shelter Game Land

EB Mile 65.8; WB Mile 0.0



N34.55186, W77.81135

Hiking Directions, Eastbound

- 0.0 Turn right from Singletary Lake State Park office onto park entrance road to begin Segment 14. *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 into the park headquarters.   
- 0.1 At T-intersection, turn left on NC 53.
- 1.8 Continue straight past home of Ricky Smith, aqua blue house on right at 8406 NC 53 East. *Note:* Mr. Smith has offered to allow hikers to get water from his spigot if they call him at 910-874-5678. 
- 2.4 Pass Apostolic Way Church on left.
- 2.7 Go straight past Bivens Bridge Rd. on left.
- 3.8 Pass first of three entrances to Whitehall Plantation Game Land on right.
- 4.2 Pass second entrance.
- 5.4 Pass third entrance.
- 9.8 Turn right on Elwell Ferry Rd.
- 10.1 Turn left on Cassius Smith Rd. *Note:* A 0.9-mile side trip straight down Elwell Ferry Rd. leads to one of three remaining river ferry crossings in North Carolina.
- 11.5 Turn left on White Oak Rd.
- 12.4 At T-intersection, turn right on NC 53.
- 12.7 Turn right on Natmore Rd.; Kelly General Store and Kelly post office are at intersection. 
- 12.9 Pass Kelly Historical Museum on right.  
- 14.1 Pass Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church on right.



Canetuck Rosenwald School
Photo by Mary Stewart

- 16.9 Pass Natmoore Baptist Church on left.
- 18.4 Continue straight across NC 11.
- 19.0 At Bladen-Pender county line, road changes name from Natmore Rd. to Sykestown Rd.
- 20.5 At T-intersection, turn right on Canetuck Rd. (There is no road sign.)
- 21.6 Pass Canetuck Community Center (also called Canetuck Rosenwald School) on left. *Note:* The community center is in a restored school, built in 1921-22 by African Americans in this community with seed funding from the Rosenwald Fund.
- 21.8 Pass Canetuck Missionary Baptist Church on left. MST hikers have permission to take water from spigot on left-hand side of church. 💧
- 22.4 Cross bridge over Lyon Creek.
- 23.1 Pass Canetuck Baptist Church on right.
- 24.7 Continue straight past Heading Bluff Rd. on right, then cross another bridge over Lyon Creek. *Note:* Heading Bluff Rd. makes a loop; you will pass it again in about 2.2 miles.



Camping



Lodging



Parking



Food



Restrooms



Supplies



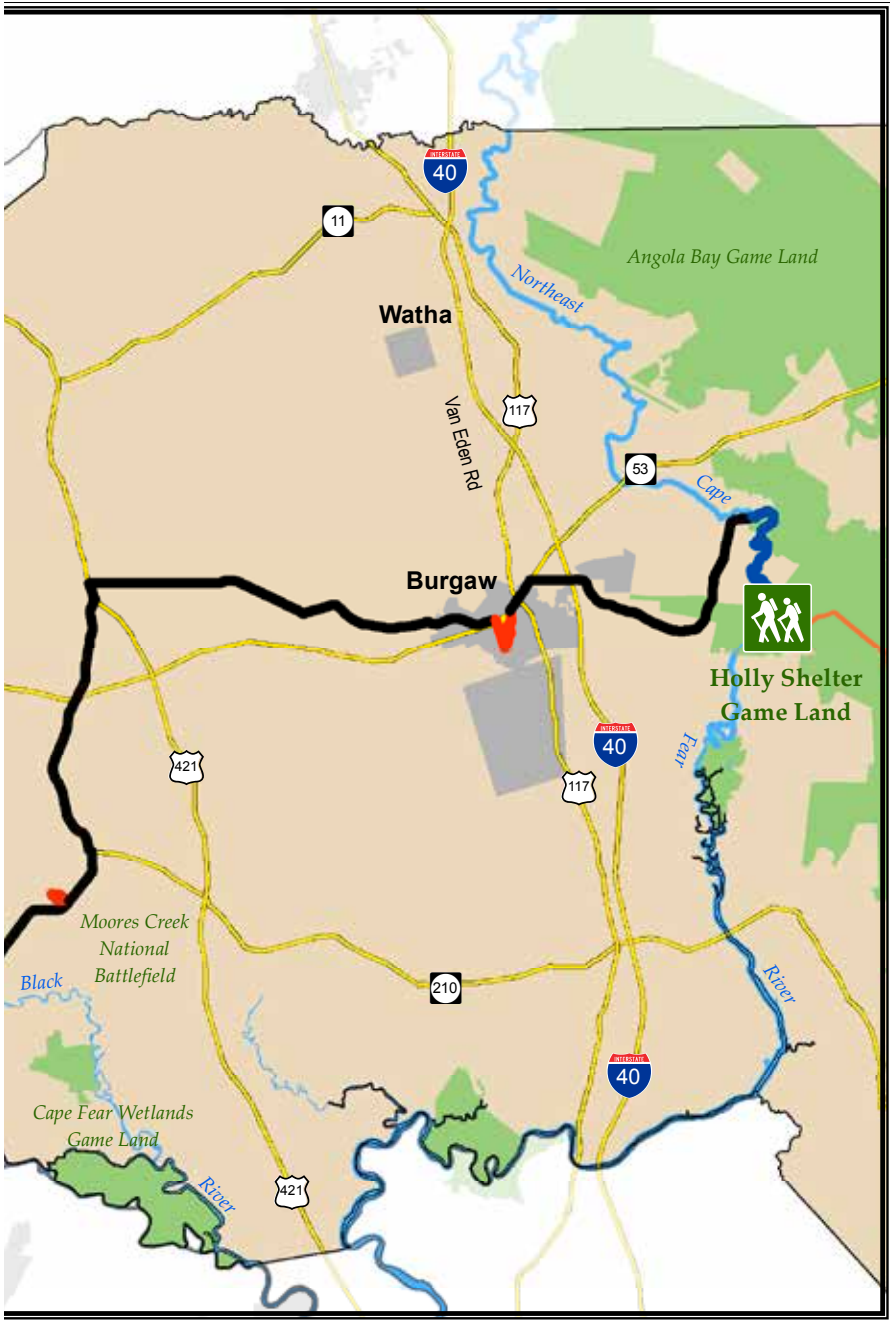
Water










Picnic



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



- 26.9 Go straight past Heading Bluff Rd. on right.
- 27.7 At T-intersection, turn right on NC 210. *Note:* There is a convenience store 0.2 mile from the trail. To reach it, turn left on NC 210 instead of right. 
- 27.9 Cross bridge over Black River.
- 28.2 Cross second bridge over Black River.
- 29.3 Continue straight past Point Caswell Rd. on left.
- 30.2 Cross bridge over Moores Creek.
- 30.9 Turn left at entrance to Moores Creek National Battlefield. Just before the paved entrance road, turn onto a mowed grassy trace with upright posts at the entrance. This historic trace is part of the 1700s Negro Head Point Rd. Signs will identify it, but there are none at the entrance. *Note:* This 87-acre national park is open from 9-5 every day except federal holidays. Parking, restrooms, water fountains, vending machines, and picnic areas are available. See the “Camping/Lodging” section for this segment for information about camping.   
  
- 31.0 Continue across entrance road at the flagpole, with parking lot just to the left, then follow the grassy trace down the slope.
- 31.1 Shift to the left off Negro Head Point Rd. and take up the History Trail, which is “paved” with shredded tire fragments.
- 31.2 Turn left onto an asphalt trail. A dirt trail to the right—Negro Head Point Rd. again—leads to the Patriots Hall pavilion, picnic, and (with permission) camping area. Just ahead is the Stage Road monument.
- 31.3 After a hundred yards, bear right at a fork in the trail, descending toward Moores Creek. Continue as the trail changes to a boardwalk through a cypress wetland and crosses Moores Creek, before becoming an asphalt trail again.
- 31.4 Bear left onto gravel trail, then cross the 1999 reconstruction of the historic bridge over Moores Creek.
- 31.5 Keep right at trail intersection and follow the “rubber road” past several impressive monuments and specimen trees.
- 31.7 Turn right onto the Tarheel Trail, another rubber-paved walking trail, just before reaching visitor center parking lot. Follow this trail to its end at the visitor center parking lot.

- 31.9 Go right on visitor center parking lot loop, then right on Negro Head Point Rd. and retrace your steps to NC 210.
- 32.1 Turn left on NC 210.
- 32.5 Continue straight past convenience store on right at intersection with Blueberry Rd. 🏪
- 32.6 Pass Currie post office on left.
- 33.5 Go left on Bell Williams Rd. (SR 1121).
- 34.3 Pass Goose Haven Farm on left.
- 35.8 Cross intersection of John Henry Store Rd. and Union Chapel Rd.
- 37.0 Pass Lewis Grocery on right. 🏪
- 37.5 Cross NC 53/NC 11 with West Pender Middle School on the left.
- 39.9 At T-intersection, turn left on US 421 (no road sign).
- 40.3 Turn right on Piney Woods Rd. There is a gas station with convenience store at corner on left. 🏪
- 43.5 Cross bridge over Cypress Creek.
- 44.8 Pass New Hope Missionary Baptist Church on left.
- 45.6 Continue straight across Horse Branch Rd.





















Ferrying on the Northeast Cape Fear River
Photo by Betsy Brown

- 47.2 Continue straight across New Savannah Rd.
- 48.9 Henry Brown Rd. (SR 1343) comes in from right. Road changes name from Piney Woods Rd. to Henry Brown Rd.
- 49.7 Where Giles Marshburn Rd. comes in from right, road changes name from Henry Brown Rd. to W. Bridgers St. *Note:* W. Bridgers is also called W. Bridger and W. Bridges St., depending on the sign. Continue straight on W. Bridgers St. to enter the town of Burgaw.
- 49.8 Pass Burgaw Seventh-Day Adventist Church on right.
- 50.1 At T-intersection, turn right to stay on W. Bridgers St.
- 50.4 Pass Pender County Museum on left. Cross N. Dudley St. Turn right on N. Dickerson St. and walk on the sidewalk. *Note:* You are now on the Osgood Canal Greenway and Urban Trail, a 2.6-mile loop around the Burgaw Historic District. The trail has mile markers every $\frac{1}{4}$ mile and is all sidewalk or asphalt greenway.



Osgood Canal Greenway and Urban Trail in Burgaw
Photo by Roger Ball, courtesy of Duke Energy

- 50.5 Cross W. Wilmington St. Piggly Wiggly is on right. *Note:* Numerous restaurants and stores, as well as on-street parking, are available near here in the Burgaw Historic District.    
- 50.6 Continue on S. Dickerson St. past mile marker 1¼ for Osgood Canal Greenway and Urban Trail in front of historic Burgaw train depot, just before reaching W. Fremont St. *Note:* The train depot contains a transportation museum along with the chamber of commerce.
- 50.7 Continue straight past E. Satchwell St. *Note:* The Burgaw post office is one block to your right.
- 51.1 Just past Burgaw Middle School, pass mile marker 1¼. Sidewalk changes to asphalt and takes a sharp left near Industrial Dr. Follow the asphalt path towards Rotary Park with colorful playground equipment, restrooms, and running water.  
- 51.4 Pass mile marker 1.
- 51.5 Cross Hayes St. (no street sign) into Johnson Park. At a dedication plaque and a large oak tree surrounded by benches, bear right onto concrete sidewalk.
- 51.6 Go right on S. Walker St. at mile marker ¾.
- 51.7 Turn left on S. Cowan St.
- 51.9 Cross E. Fremont St. and turn right to follow sidewalk.
- 52.0 The sidewalk bears left, changes to asphalt, and winds through Fremont Street Park and Wilmington Street Park.
- 52.1 Cross E. Wilmington St., following white hash marks to jog right and then left to stay on the asphalt path. Pass mile marker ¼.
- 52.3 Turn right on NC 53 near an acutely angled road intersection.
- 52.7 Continue straight through intersection with US 117. *Note:* A grocery store, several restaurants, and a convenience store are clustered around this intersection. The Burgaw Motel is approximately 0.1 mile to the left on US 117. See the “Camping/Lodging” section for this segment for more information.   
- 52.9 Pass Wal-Mart on left. 
- 53.2 Turn right on Stag Park Rd. *Note:* The Alternate Road Route eliminating the river section begins here. See directions at the end of this section.
- 54.1 Cross bridge over I-40.
- 55.8 Pass Bannerman Vineyard & Winery on right.    

- 57.3 Continue straight through intersection where Stag Park Rd. turns right. The road continues as Whitestocking Rd.
- 60.2 At T-intersection, turn right on Whitestocking Rd. Ext.
- 60.8 Reach the end of the road and the Sawpit Landing (also known as the Whitestocking Boat Landing). From here, the route continues down the Northeast Cape Fear River. If needed, review the “North-east Cape Fear River” section for this segment for information about boat rentals or river shuttles. 
- 65.4 Leave the river at the first landing on the left bank, the Holly Shelter Boat Access Area. Continue straight on the boat landing driveway. 
- 65.6 At T-intersection, turn left on Shaw Hwy.
- 65.8 Reach Lodge Rd. entrance to Holly Shelter Game Land at prominent NCWRC entrance sign. This is the end of Segment 14. *Note:* Parking is available on Lodge Rd. See the “Seasonal Campsites” section for this segment for information about camping here during hunting season. To reach the Lodge Rd. entrance by car, drive northeast from Bur-gaw on Jacksonville Hwy. (NC 53) about 8.5 miles, then turn right on Shaw Hwy. The entrance is 5.2 miles ahead on the left.  

ALTERNATE ROAD ROUTE

- 0.0 At Mile 53.2, instead of turning right on Stag Park Rd., continue straight on NC 53.
- 1.1 Cross bridge over I-40.
- 3.2 Cross bridge over Northeast Cape Fear River.
- 6.0 Continue straight past Croomsbridge Rd. on left.
- 7.6 Turn right on Shaw Hwy.
- 7.9 Pass King’s Chapel Community Church on right.
- 8.1 Pass Shelter Creek boat access on left, then cross bridge over Shelter Creek.
- 9.8 Cross bridge over Ashes Creek.
- 12.9 Reach Lodge Rd. entrance to Holly Shelter Game Land at prominent NCWRC entrance sign. This is the end of Segment 14.



Camping



Lodging



Parking



Food



Restrooms



Supplies















Water



Picnic

Hiking Directions, Westbound

- 0.0 From Lodge Rd. and Holly Shelter Game Land, turn left (south) on Shaw Hwy. to begin Segment 14. *Note:* If using the Alternate Road Route eliminating the river portion, follow the alternate directions below. Parking is available on Lodge Rd. See the “Seasonal Campsites” section for this segment for information about camping here during hunting season. To reach the Lodge Rd. entrance by car, drive northeast from Burgaw on Jacksonville Hwy. (NC 53) about 8.5 miles, then turn right on Shaw Hwy. The entrance is 5.2 miles ahead on the left.  
- 0.3 Take first right onto driveway for Holly Shelter Boat Access Area.
- 0.5 Reach the Holly Shelter Boat Access Area. From here, the route continues up the Northeast Cape Fear River, a blackwater river that can be paddled upstream. Stay in the main channel of the river until reaching a wide area where a boat landing is visible in the smaller channel to the left. If needed, review the “Northeast Cape Fear River” section for this segment for information about boat rentals or river shuttles. 
- 5.1 Reach the Sawpit Landing (also known as the Whitestocking Boat Landing) and continue straight on Whitestocking Rd. Ext. 
- 5.6 Just before Sand Hill AME Church, turn left on Whitestocking Rd.
- 8.5 Continue straight through intersection with Stag Park Rd. on left. The road you are on becomes Stag Park Rd. as well.
- 10.1 Pass Bannerman Vineyard & Winery on left.    
- 11.7 Cross bridge over I-40.
- 12.7 At T-intersection, turn left on NC 53.
- 13.0 Pass Wal-Mart on right. 
- 13.2 Continue straight through intersection with US 117. *Note:* A grocery store, several restaurants, and a convenience store are clustered around this intersection. The Burgaw Motel is approximately 0.1 mile to the right on US 117. See the “Camping/Lodging” section for this segment for more information.   
- 13.5 Just before reaching an acutely angled intersection with US 17 Business, turn right onto a paved path. *Note:* You are now on the Osgood Canal Greenway and Urban Trail, a 2.6-mile loop around the



Camping



Lodging



Parking



Food



Restrooms











Supplies



Water



Picnic

- Burgaw Historic District. The trail has mile markers every $\frac{1}{4}$ mile and is all sidewalk or asphalt greenway.
- 13.7 Cross E. Wilmington St., following white hash marks to jog right and then left to stay on the asphalt path. Pass mile marker $\frac{1}{4}$.
 - 13.8 Turn right on E. Fremont St. (There is no sign.)
 - 13.9 Turn left on S. Cowan St. (Use crosswalks across Cowan St., then Fremont St.)
 - 14.1 At T-intersection, turn right on S. Walker St. sidewalk.
 - 14.2 Cross S. Walker St. at mile marker $\frac{3}{4}$ and continue on sidewalk.
 - 14.3 In Johnson Park, at a dedication plaque and a large oak surrounded by benches, follow the Osgood Canal Trail left on an asphalt path, then cross Hayes St. (no street sign) and continue on asphalt path.
 - 14.5 Pass mile marker 1.
 - 14.7 After passing Rotary Park with colorful playground equipment, restrooms, and running water, make a sharp right onto sidewalk along the right side of Dickerson St. near the intersection with Industrial Dr. Mile marker $1\frac{1}{4}$ is just before Burgaw Middle School.  
 - 15.1 Continue straight past E. Satchwell St. *Note:* The Burgaw post office is one block to your left.
 - 15.2 Continue on S. Dickerson St. past mile marker $1\frac{3}{4}$ for Osgood Canal Greenway and Urban Trail in front of Burgaw train depot just after W. Fremont St. *Note:* The train depot contains a transportation museum along with the chamber of commerce. Numerous restaurants and stores, as well as on-street parking, are available near here in the Burgaw Historic District.    
 - 15.3 After passing the historic Burgaw Train Depot, cross W. Wilmington St. Piggly Wiggly is on left.  
 - 15.4 Turn left on W. Bridgers St., leaving the Osgood Canal Trail. *Note:* W. Bridgers is also called W. Bridger and W. Bridges St., depending on the sign.
 - 15.5 Pass Pender County Museum on right.
 - 15.7 Turn left to remain on W. Bridgers St. where Penderlea Hwy. bears right.
 - 16.0 Pass Burgaw Seventh-Day Adventist Church on left.



Camping



Lodging



Parking



Food



Restrooms



Supplies





Water



Picnic



An exhibit at the Kelly Historical Museum
Photo by Heather Houskeeper

- 16.1 Where Giles Marshburn Rd. comes in from left, road changes name from W. Bridgers St. to Henry Brown Rd. Continue straight on Henry Brown Rd.
- 16.9 Continue straight on Piney Woods Rd. where Henry Brown Rd. turns left.
- 18.7 Continue straight across New Savannah Rd.
- 20.3 Continue straight across Horse Branch Rd.
- 21.0 Pass New Hope Missionary Baptist Church on right.
- 22.4 Cross bridge over Cypress Creek.
- 25.5 Turn left on US 421. There is a gas station with convenience store across the highway on right. 
- 25.9 Turn right on Bell Williams Rd.
- 28.3 Cross NC 53/NC 11 with West Pender Middle School on the right.
- 28.8 Pass Lewis Grocery on left. 
- 30.0 Cross intersection of John Henry Store Rd. and Union Chapel Rd.
- 31.6 Pass Goose Haven Farm on right.
- 32.4 Turn right on NC 210.



Pender County Farm Scene

Photo by Mary Stewart

- 33.2 Pass Currie post office on right.
- 33.3 Continue straight past convenience store on left at intersection with Blueberry Rd. 🏪
- 33.8 Turn right at entrance to Moores Creek National Battlefield. Just beyond the paved entrance road, turn onto a mowed grassy trace with upright posts at the entrance. This historic trace is part of the 1700s Negro Head Point Rd. (Signs will identify it, but there are none at the entrance.) *Note:* This 87-acre national park is open from 9-5 every day except federal holidays. Parking, restrooms, water fountains, vending machines, and picnic areas are available. See the “Camping/Lodging” section for this segment for information about camping. 🅅 🚻 💧 🍴 🏠 🏡
- 33.9 Continue across entrance road at the flagpole, with parking lot just to the left, then follow the grassy trace down the slope.
- 34.0 Shift to the left off Negro Head Point Rd. and take up the History Trail, which is “paved” with shredded tire fragments.
- 34.1 Turn left onto an asphalt trail. A dirt trail to the right—Negro Head Point Rd. again—leads to the Patriots Hall pavilion, picnic,

- and (with permission) camping area. Just ahead is the Stage Road monument. After a hundred yards, bear right at a fork in the trail, descending toward Moores Creek. Continue as the trail changes to a boardwalk through a cypress wetland and crosses Moores Creek before becoming an asphalt trail again.
- 34.3 Bear left onto gravel trail, then cross the 1999 reconstruction of the historic bridge over Moores Creek.
 - 34.4 Keep right at trail intersection and follow the “rubber road” past several impressive monuments and specimen trees.
 - 34.6 Turn right onto the Tarheel Trail, another rubber-paved walking trail, just before reaching visitor center parking lot. Follow this trail to its end at the visitor center parking lot.
 - 34.8 Go right on visitor center parking lot loop, then right on Negro Head Point Rd. and retrace your steps to NC 210.
 - 35.0 Turn right on NC 210.
 - 35.7 Cross bridge over Moores Creek.
 - 36.6 Continue straight past Point Caswell Rd. on right.
 - 37.7 Cross bridge over Black River.
 - 37.9 Cross second bridge over Black River.
 - 38.2 Turn left on Canetuck Rd. *Note:* There is a convenience store 0.2 mile from the trail. To reach it, continue straight on NC 210 instead of turning left. 🏠
 - 39.0 Go straight past Heading Bluff Rd. on left. *Note:* Heading Bluff Rd. makes a loop; you will pass it again in about 2.2 miles.
 - 41.1 Cross bridge over Lyon Creek.
 - 41.2 Go straight past Heading Bluff Rd. on left.
 - 42.7 Pass Canetuck Baptist Church on left.
 - 43.5 Cross another bridge over Lyon Creek.
 - 44.0 Pass Canetuck Missionary Baptist Church on right. MST hikers are permitted to take water from spigot on left-hand side of church. 💧
 - 44.2 Pass Canetuck Community Center (also known as Canetuck Rosenwald School) on right. *Note:* The community center is in a restored school, built in 1921-22 by African Americans in this community with seed funding from the Rosenwald Fund.
 - 45.4 At the first paved road after passing Canetuck Community Center, turn left on Sykestown Rd. (There is no road sign.)



Camping



Lodging



Parking



Food



Restrooms



Supplies



Water



Picnic



A Red-shouldered Hawk along the MST

Photo by PJ Wetzel, www.pjwetzel.com

- 46.8 At Pender-Bladen county line, road changes name from Sykestown Rd. to Natmore Rd.
- 47.4 Continue straight across NC 11.
- 48.9 Pass Natmoore Baptist Church on right.
- 51.8 Pass Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church on left.
- 52.9 Pass Kelly Historical Museum on left. 💧 🚻
- 53.1 Turn left on NC 53. Kelly General Store and Kelly post office are at intersection. 🏪
- 53.4 Take the first left onto White Oak Rd.
- 54.3 At T-intersection, turn right on Cassius Smith Rd.
- 55.7 At T-intersection, turn right on Elwell Ferry Rd. *Note:* A 0.9-mile side trip to the left on Elwell Ferry Rd. leads to one of three remaining river ferry crossings in North Carolina.
- 56.0 At T-intersection, turn left on NC 53.
- 60.4 Pass first of three entrances to Whitehall Plantation Game Land on left.

- 61.7 Pass second entrance.
- 62.0 Pass third entrance.
- 63.2 Continue straight past Bivens Bridge Rd. on right.
- 63.5 Pass Apostolic Way Church on left.
- 64.0 Go straight past home of Ricky Smith, aqua blue house on left at 8406 NC 53 East. *Note:* Mr. Smith has offered to allow hikers to get water from his spigot if they call him at 910-874-5678. 💧
- 65.7 Turn right onto paved entrance road to Singletary Lake Group Camp.
- 65.8 Reach side road to Singletary Lake State Park office on left. This is the end of Segment 14. *Note:* Water and restrooms are available at the office from 8 AM to 5 PM, when the park 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 into the park headquarters. 🅅️ 💧 🚻

ALTERNATE ROAD ROUTE

- 0.0 From Lodge Rd. and Holly Shelter Game Land, turn right on Shaw Hwy. to begin the Segment 14 Alternate Road Route.
- 3.1 Cross bridge over Ashes Creek.
- 4.8 Cross bridge over Shelter Creek, then pass Shelter Creek boat access on right.
- 5.0 Pass King’s Chapel Community Church on left.
- 5.3 At T-intersection, turn left onto NC 53 (Burgaw Hwy.).
- 6.9 Continue straight past Croombsbridge Rd. on right.
- 9.7 Cross bridge over Northeast Cape Fear River.
- 11.8 Cross bridge over I-40.
- 12.9 Continue straight past Stag Park Rd. on left and resume main route directions at Mile 12.7.