

# The Blue Wall Weekly

Your Source For Outdoor Activities  
Along The Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment

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## Greetings!

Welcome to the Blue Wall Weekly, your source for what's going on outside along the Southern BlueRidge Escarpment. Feel free to share your own photos, videos, and adventures along the Blue Wall by sending them to the email address at the bottom of the page, and we'll do our best to make you (locally) famous!

## Rain, Wind, Repeat

The rain moves on; the wind moves in. Gusty and rambunctious, this springtime wind is a force of nature that prunes dead limbs, twists and topples entire trees. Dog and I stay off our neighborhood walking trail on windy days; our woods here at the base of the Blue Wall are still trying to recover from a clearcut some four decades ago, and these trees are not in the greatest health: too many are of equal age, competing for light and nutrients with no elders left to nurture the young and maintain

balance. We'll be scanning for widow makers—broken limbs that dangle precariously from other limbs—and giving the side-eye to trees leaning precariously towards Jocassee Lake Road. It will take another four decades, and another four after that, before these woods regain some semblance of a healthy forest, and a century beyond that before the ecology is truly restored. Happily, this land is owned by a conservancy that will protect it, and someday, there will be old trees living here again. ~K



These youngsters are much prettier than the ones with broken limbs!

**SPECIAL EVENTS  
WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS**

Photography Tour with Pam Barbour [Book Now!](#)  
April 19: 6:30-9:30 AM

Full (Pink) Moon Rising Tour [Book Now!](#)  
April 23: 6:30-8:30 PM

Sunset Lake Tour [Book Now!](#)  
May 4: 6:30-8:30 PM

**CALL OR BOOK ONLINE TO RESERVE  
SEATS**  
[www.jocasselaketours.com](http://www.jocasselaketours.com)

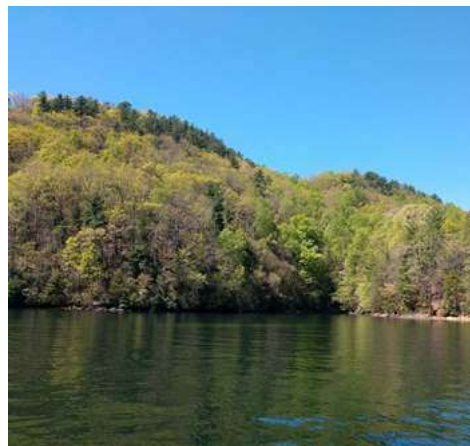
**WEEKLY EVENTS  
WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS**

Cool Season Lake Tours  
Tues., Thurs., & Sat.: 11:00 AM-2:00 PM [Book Now!](#)

Sunday Afternoon Tour: 2:00-5:00 PM [Book Now!](#)

FISHING ADVENTURES WITH CAPT. ZACH  
8:00 AM-12:00 PM  
Call (864) 280-5501 to Book!

**PRIVATE TOURS ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE!**  
[Book online](#) or call 864-280-5501



Spring on Jocassee

**THIS WEEK!  
APRIL 15, 2024**

**STATE PARK EVENTS**

[Oconee Station State Historic Site](#)  
[Park Grounds Open Daily: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM](#)

Originally a military compound and later a trading post, this Historic Site offers both recreational opportunities and a unique look at 18th and 19th century South Carolina. A self-interpretation station is available at the park office.

[Table Rock State Park](#)  
April 18: 10:00-11:30 AM

**THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE  
APRIL 15, 2024**

Rain fell peacefully and at times abundantly on Jocassee earlier this week- which kept most folks inside and dry. The system was pushed out Friday with 18-21 mph winds and occasional 40 mph gusts. After 3' waves in the main basin the day before, Saturday started clear and breezy with 10 mph winds and lots of sunshine which brought people out in force. From paddlers and kayakers in the lower lake, a local county dive team training; to even a wedding up lake near the Horsepasture basin. In addition to humans, there were tons of eastern tiger swallowtail butterflies, several rafts of common loons and horned grebes (some in spectacular breeding plumage), kingfishers, rushing streams and waterfalls and brilliant hues of greens, yellows and white, as trees along the escarpment and shoreline are leafing out. Deciduous magnolias, Horse sugar, dogwoods, tulip poplars, oaks, etc....If you grew up watching Bob Ross paint "happy little trees", then you get the idea!

It's not easy finding enough adjectives to describe the beauty of the Jocassee Gorges in springtime, so don't take my words for it, just come, see for yourself. Regardless of the weather, you'll walk away amazed. ~Sheryl White, JLT guide

**COMING SOON!  
APRIL/MAY**

**STATE PARK EVENTS**

[Gorges State Park](#)

### **Spring Wildflower Walk**

Join us for a beautiful morning walk around the Lakeside Trail and explore the area in search of native wildflowers. Learn how to identify some of the more common varieties, and maybe snap a photo or two!



*Tiarella* aka Foamflower,  
Photo by Bill Robertson

**Table Rock State Park**  
April 20: 2:45-10:00 AM  
Sunrise Hike-Bald Knob

After experiencing the nocturnal aspects of the forest we will enjoy the pre-dawn sky from the outcrop as we anticipate the beauty of a new sunrise.

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### **OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS**

**Conserving Carolina**  
April 16: 6:00-7:30 PM  
Landrum Library Speaker Series – Historic Native American Paths and a Revolutionary Battle Site in the Landrum Area

Join Dennis Chastain for “The stories of two ancient Native American paths (the Tugaloo Path and the historic Blackstock Road) and the battle of Earle’s Ford which are largely untold. The way to preserve the legacy of these old stories is for folks to learn them and pass them along to the next generation.”

**Upstate SCNPS**  
April 16: 6:30-8:00 PM  
Native Plants for the Vegetable Garden w/ Adam Bigelow

Adam’s talk will cover the importance and impacts of using native plants in our landscapes and gardens, and how most every role of a plant in a garden could be filled by a native plant that also helps benefit the ecosystem and surrounding environment.

**Mushroom Mountain**  
April 18: 2:00-3:30 PM  
MM Farm Tour

Tours of MM includes an introduction to fungal ecology and life cycles, laboratory overview, tour of the greenhouse fruiting room, and if there is anything fruiting on the trail, you will get to experience it.

April 22: 10:00-11:30 AM  
Earth Day: Volunteer Event

**Oconee State Park**  
April 23: 8:00-9:30 PM  
Full-moon Hike

**Table Rock State Park**  
April 25-28  
Blue Wall Birding Festival

**Gorges State Park**  
April 28: 10:00-10:30 AM  
Spring is HERE!

**Table Rock State Park**  
May 4: 2:00-10:00 AM  
Sunrise Hike: Table Rock

**Oconee State Park**  
May 4: 10:00-11:30 AM  
CCC History Stroll

**Table Rock State Park**  
May 11: 2:00-6:00 PM  
Music on the Mountain

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### **OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS**

**Mushroom Mountain**  
April 22: 2:00-4:00 PM  
Mushrooms and Sustainability Clinic

**Conestee Nature Preserve**  
April 25 4:00-5:30 PM  
Nature Discovery After School Club-Middle School, Earth Impact Day

**Mushroom Mountain**  
April 25: 6:00 PM  
Taste of the Forest w/Shawn Thompson

**Upstate SCNPS**  
April 27: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM  
Greater Greenville Master Gardeners Association Plant Sale

**Friends of Jocassee (FOJ)**  
April 27: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM  
Fishing with Friends Trout Tournament

**Conestee Nature Preserve**  
April 27: 5:30-8:00 PM  
Great Blue Gathering and Silent Auction

**Hagood Mill Historic Site**  
April 28: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM  
Old-Time Cooking: Cooking with Fire

**Mushroom Mountain**  
May 2: 2:00-3:30 PM  
MM Farm Tour

**Conestee Nature Preserve**  
May 2: 3:00-4:30 PM  
Nature Discovery After School Club- Elementary

**GNHA**  
May 4: 8:30 AM-3:30 PM  
Gorges SP – Upper Bearwallow, Rainbow, Turtleback, and Drift Falls

**GNHA**  
May 4: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM  
Oconee SP - Hidden Falls via the Back Trail

**Mushroom Mountain**  
May 9: 2:00-4:00 PM  
Medicinal Mushroom Mini Clinic

**Conestee Nature Preserve**  
May 9: 4:00-5:30 PM



*Morchella Morel,*  
Photo by Olga Katic

**Conestee Nature Preserve**

April 18: 3:00-4:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School Club-Elementary

Child(ren) will discover the Preserve as young naturalists, letting their curiosity guide their hands-on exploration.

**Sierra Club South Carolina**

April 18: 6:00-8:00 PM

Foothills Group monthly meeting: "The Incredible Palmetto Trail"

Rob Achenberg, Upstate Regional Coordinator of the Palmetto Trail Conservation, will speak about the Palmetto Trail.

**Hagood Mill Historic Site**

April 19: 12:00 PM-April 21: 12PM

Old Time Jam & Camping Weekend

Concerts will feature the Tennessee Hillbuddies and Timber Doodle, David White & the Cornbread Heads, Blue Ridge Gathering, Bob Buckingham, Bailey George & the Oscillators plus open jams going on around the site both Friday night and Saturday. The Pickens County Library System will have their telescopes for you to view the night sky.

**Greenville County Bird Club**

April 20: 7:00 AM-2:00 PM (Longer Walk)

April 20: 8:00-10:30 AM (Shorter Walk)

Conestee Nature Preserve

**Oconee History Museum**

April 20: 2:00 PM

*My Place Among Them*, Book Talk and Signing w/ Gwen McPhail

Join Gwen as she shares the story her great grandfather, J. Stanion. The story follows the path of John Iron Horse, a twelve year old survivor of the massacre of members of the Lakota tribe at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, in 1890.

**Mushroom Mountain**

April 20: 9:00 AM-April 21: 5:00 PM

Wild Mushroom Food Safety Certification – South Carolina

This 5 year mushroom foraging permit meets the criteria required by the state health departments and formally approved for the foraging and selling of wild mushrooms in the

Nature Discovery After School Club- Middle School, Student's Choice

**Conestee Nature Preserve**

May 11: 8:00-10:00 AM

Birding 101: Spring Migration

**GNHA**

May 11: 8:00 AM-3:00 PM

Silver Springs/Jones Gap/Tom Miller Loop

**Upstate SCNPS**

May 11: 9:00-11:00 AM

Upstate Spring Native Plant Sale at Conestee Park

**GNHA**

May 11: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

East Fork to Spoonaugher

**Hagood Mill Historic Site**

May 11: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Plants are Medicine: Early Spring Wild Edibles & Medicinals

**Conestee Nature Preserve**

May 11: 10:30 AM-12:30 PM

History Hike Part 2- A Naturalist-led Walk and Talk about Conestee's Past

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**SC BOTANICAL GARDEN EVENTS**

April 26: 10:00-11:30 AM

Monthly Garden Walks Spring 2024

April 30: 1:30-3:30 PM

Garden Naturalist: Birds in the Garden

May 4: 10:30-11:30 AM

Saturday Garden Tours

May 10: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

SCNP Elective: Ferns

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READY TO RAMBLE A LITTLE FURTHER? CHECK OUT WHAT THESE FRIENDS HAVE TO OFFER!

SC Botanical Garden

Highlands Biological Station

Alarka Institute

Conserving Carolina

Bigelow's Botanical Excursions

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**Borrowed Glimpses**



Moonlit evening on Jocassee  
Photo by Zach Maddox



following states: South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, Alabama, Pennsylvania, New York & Rhode Island.

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### SC BOTANICAL GARDEN EVENTS

April 20: 9:00 AM-1:00 PM  
Second Chance Spring Plant Sale

Take home beautiful plants to enjoy while supporting the SCBG! We have a wonderful selection to choose from- natives, tons of perennials, fruit trees and shrubs, colorful annuals, vegetables and more!



SCBG Photo

April 20: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM  
SCNP Elective: Native Plants for Pollinators

Join Dr. Lee Morris and discover the vast diversity of our native bees, the beauty of our butterflies (and the pollinators who are often overlooked) and how to support this biodiversity.

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[Current conditions at Lake Jocassee via Devils Fork State Park webcam](#)  
[Sponsored by Friends of Jocassee!](#)

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### DID YOU KNOW?

Old-growth forests include tree-related structures that provide diverse wildlife habitats, which increases the biodiversity of the forested ecosystem. Virgin or first-growth forests are old-growth forests that have never been logged. The concept of diverse tree structure includes multi-layered canopies and canopy gaps, greatly varying tree heights and diameters, and diverse tree species and classes and sizes of woody debris.

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### ABOUT THE BLUE WALL

Spanning three states (North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia) and encompassing 859,000 acres, the Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment, known as the 'Blue Wall' by Native Americans, contains some of the highest natural diversity of rare plants and animals found anywhere in the world.

Your support makes  
**Jocassee Wild Child Adventures**  
happen!



A recent Wild Child outing with Blue Ridge Elementary,  
Photo by Debra Girard

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on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/jocasseewild>

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Thanks to Sheryl White for compiling the Blue Wall Weekly calendar,  
and to all JLT GUIDES for photos and continuous inspiration!

Phone: 864-280-5501

Jocassee Lake Tours Depart from the Main Dock at Devils Fork State Park

**PLEASE CALL 864-280-5501 AT LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE TO RESERVE YOUR SEATS!**



Enjoy this Lake  
Jocassee peaceful  
hideaway.  
**CAMP GLAMP!**



Love Jocassee?  
Join FOJ!



Visit Oconee  
Convention and  
Visitors Bureau



Your Portal to  
Paradise!



The Cottages at  
Jocassee are now  
available!