

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 Blue Ridge 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!

Flowers

Hard though it may be to describe a scent, other than comparing it to another scent, the past week has been one of olfactory sensation. Perhaps I'm dizzy from gazing into the treetops, seeking the source of such sweet satisfaction. I'll deal with the pollen if the reward is these smells... is it the tulip poplar, with its cupped orange and yellow flowers, or the black locust, hanging heavy with clusters of white blooms? Not the honeysuckle, for sure, as it has only just begun to open its fragrant flowers. I sometimes feel like an insect must, swooning, intoxicated, seduced. ~K



Robinia pseudoacacia, a.k.a Black locust
Photo courtesy of [gardenia.net](#)

SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

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

Sunset Lake Tour [Book Now!](#)

WEEKLY EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

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

May 4: 6:30-8:30 PM
May 11: 6:30-8:30 PM
May 18: 6:30-8:30 PM

"All the Falls Tour" [Book Now!](#)
May 11: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Kayak Tours [Book Now!](#)
May 19: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

CALL OR BOOK ONLINE TO RESERVE SEATS
www.jocasselaketours.com



This. A true Jocassee Wild Child!

THIS WEEK!
APRIL 22, 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.

[Gorges State Park](#)
April 22: 10:00-11:30 AM
[Earth Day-Volunteer Event](#)

Come and celebrate Earth Day by joining Gorges State Park and the Friends of Gorges for a family friendly volunteer event planting native milkweed plants.

[Oconee State Park](#)
April 23: 8:00-9:30 PM
[Full-moon Hike](#)

Join our ranger to explore OSP after dark. Enjoy a casual one-mile hike around the lake as the sun sets and the moon rises.

[Table Rock State Park](#)
April 25-28
[Blue Wall Birding Festival](#)

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

THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE
APRIL 22, 2024

MUDDY KIDS. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOWS. It must be spring on Jocassee. What a lovely Tuesday morning it was, as we waited for a small herd of young'uns from Powdersville Elementary to arrive. The Devils Fork basin was full of hooting loons and Bonaparte's gulls, just when I thought spring loon migration was done. And northern rough-winged swallows, a bird whose arrival is a sure signal of spring. They are the one swallow that nests in hollows along the cut banks of Jocassee, often in abandoned Kingfisher excavations. The sky over the dock was full of them, in darting pursuit of flying insects. Later in the day, as the boats came in, depositing the kids in a much more wet and muddy condition than when they left, many sightings were reported of big puddles of tiger swallowtail butterflies, feeding on, well, often unpleasant to describe items, fueling up on the essential minerals they need. Boats full of muddy kids, the sky, the water and the shore full of birds and butterflies. What a wonderful day.

COMING SOON!
APRIL/MAY

STATE PARK EVENTS

[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](#)

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

[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 5: 10:30 AM-2:30 PM
[Ashmore Heritage Preserve](#)

[Mushroom Mountain](#)
May 9: 2:00-4:00 PM
[Medicinal Mushroom Mini Clinic](#)

[Conestee Nature Preserve](#)
May 9: 4:00-5:30 PM

Experienced birders will guide small groups to a variety of habitats within the mountains and upper piedmont. Table Rock State Park will serve as our birding hub during this multi-day event.

Gorges State Park

April 27: 8:00-9:00 PM

Night Hike at Gorges- NC Science Festival Program

We will be exploring the trail after dark with flashlights to look for animal eye-shine and to listen for sounds in the night.

Gorges State Park

April 28: 10:00-10:30 AM

Spring is HERE!

Join us at GSP to learn about our springtime plants!



Chrysogonum repens, Carolina green and gold,
Photo by Dan Whitten

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Mushroom Mountain

April 22: 2:00-4:00 PM

Mushrooms and Sustainability Clinic

Join us as we take you on a journey and fill you in on all the things that mushrooms and fungi have done to preserve planet Earth for millions of years. We will also explore some innovative mushroom products that put Mother Earth First.

Conestee Nature Preserve

April 25 4:00-5:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School Club-Middle School, Earth Impact Day

Want to make a lasting difference at CNP? We'll take on a project in honor of Earth Day.

Mushroom Mountain

April 25: 6:00 PM

Taste of the Forest w/Shawn Thompson

Crafted by the owner of Seasonal Bites LLC, Chef Shawn Thompson, this immersive 10-course dinner is a celebration of his deep-rooted passion for homegrown, hyper-local, and wild-sourced ingredients.

Upstate SCNPS

April 27: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM

Greater Greenville Master Gardeners Association Plant Sale

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

GNHA

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

Silver Springs/Jones Gap/Tom Miller Loop

KOBA

May 11: 9:00-11:00 AM

2nd Saturday Litter PickUp

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 Spoonaugh

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

Sierra Club of South Carolina

May 11: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

Hike: Eastatooe Passage of the Palmetto Trail

Mushroom Mountain

May 16: 2:00-3:30 PM

MM Farm Tour

Foothills Trail Conservancy

May 18: 9:00 AM

FTC Hike w/ Bill Ranson

GNHA

May 18: 9:00-11:00 AM

Foothills Trail Conference Trail Maintenance Hike

Conestee Nature Preserve

May 18: 7:30-9:30 PM

Night Hike

Holly Springs Center

May 18-19: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Pickens County Ag + Art Tour

SC BOTANICAL GARDEN EVENTS

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

May 18: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Sustainable Landscaping

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

This event is a prime opportunity for garden enthusiasts to find a wide variety of trees, shrubs, perennials, and more at reasonable prices. It's the perfect way to support our community and add some greenery to your life!

Friends of Jocassee (FOJ)

April 27: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM

Fishing with Friends Trout Tournament

Entry fee- \$40.00 per person. 100% payout (1st-50%, 2nd-35%, 3rd-15%), & door prizes drawing at weigh-ins for new and current FOJ members fishing the tournament!

Conestee Nature Preserve

April 27: 5:30-8:00 PM

Great Blue Gathering and Silent Auction

As evening begins to fall, you'll partake in a thoughtfully curated dinner and peruse a silent auction offering dozens of experiences, original artwork and other unique items. Finally, following dinner you'll sit around a warm fire enjoying drinks and dessert, as the sounds of spring come to life!

Hagood Mill Historic Site

April 28: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Old-Time Cooking: Cooking with Fire

Students will learn the history of various outdoor cooking methods, including the basics of food preparation without modern conveniences. Whether you are interested in survival skills, prepping, homesteading, or just another way to enjoy cooking, this class will increase your knowledge of those methods.



There's something about the smell of a campfire that brings comfort and makes your mouth water!
HMHS Photo

SC BOTANICAL GARDEN EVENTS

April 26: 10:00-11:30 AM

Monthly Garden Walks Spring 2024

Explore different areas of the SCBG each month with naturalist James Wilkins. Discover seasonal highlights and get up close and personal with the native plants and plant communities that support biodiversity in real time.

Borrowed Glimpses



Nerodia sipedon Northern water snake (molting).
Photo recently taken at the
South Carolina Botanical Gardens

Your support makes
Jocassee Wild Child Adventures
happen!



Powdersville Elementary



The Hemlock Festival at Mountain Rest introduced this future Jocassee Wild Child to the NOCS binoculars used by the JWC program



Foam flower,
Photo by Sue Watts

(only, kind of in reverse!)
Photo by Ric Barnett

<https://www.jocasseewild.org>
and follow Jocassee Wild Child Adventures
on Facebook!
<https://www.facebook.com/jocasseewild>
[SPONSOR A JOCASSEE WILD CHILD TODAY!](#)



[Current conditions at Lake Jocassee via
Devils Fork State Park webcam](#)

[Sponsored by Friends of Jocassee!](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

Olfactory cues (smells or odors) are more effective at triggering clear and emotional memories than visual cues, such as images or photographs. In fact, older adults can remember much older memories with a smell than with pictures or words. From kids.frontiersin.org

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.



www.JocasseeLakeTours.com

info@jocasseelaketours.com

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!**