

THE BLUE WALL WEEKLY

Your Source for Outdoor Activities

Along the Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment

[Gmail messages are clipped.]

Click link on bottom left corner to view entire newsletter.]

Greetings!

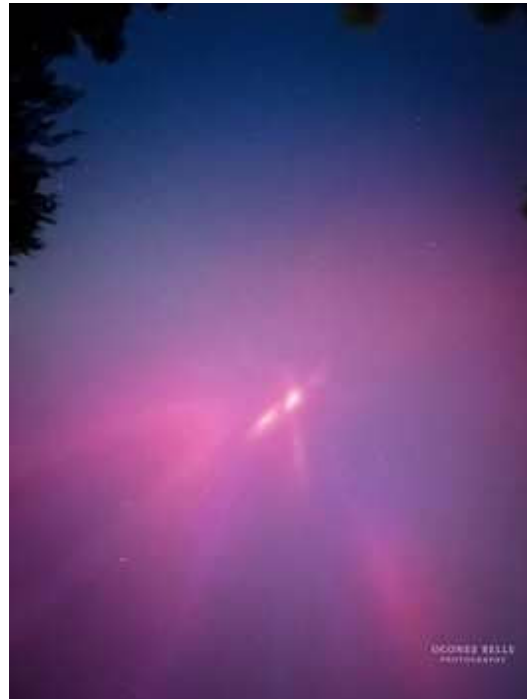


Welcome to the Blue Wall Weekly, your source for what's going on outside along the Southern BlueRidge Escarpment. Feel free to share your own photos, videos, and adventures along the Blue Wall by sending them to the email address at the bottom of the page, and we'll do our best to make you (locally)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

The Blue Wall Weekly

Strong storms in the southeast are not uncommon in May, but strong storms on the sun that can be seen in the southeast... well, that's definitely not common. A week of thunder and lightning, of hail and downed trees and tornados gave

way to a clear, bright sky on Friday evening. Upstate SC observed a rare phenomenon called Aurora Borealis, or Northern Lights. An early assessment is that this solar storm (still ongoing, by the way) is nearly as strong as the one in 1859, said to be the largest solar storm ever recorded. The disruptions it may cause are yet to be determined, but the sleep disruptions of all who will witness this special event are already measurable! ~K



**The Aurora Borealis
on May 10, 2024. Photo by
Oconee Belle Photography**

SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Kayak Tours Book Now!
May 19: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

**Full Moon Rising! Full Flower
Moon Book Now!**
May 22: 6:30-8:30 PM

Memorial Day Book Now!
May 27: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

**Jocassee Adventure Camp Book
Now!**
June 7: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

“All the Falls” Tour Book Now!
June 8: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

**HIKE AND KAYAK SHUTTLES ARE
ALWAYS AVAILABLE!**
Call 864-290-5501 to plan your
adventure!



**Kalmia latifolia, aka Mtn. laurel,
Queen of the flowers!**

WEEKLY EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Warm Season Lake Tours**
Tues-Thurs, Sat & Sun: 10:00 AM-
2:00 PM Book Now!

****Please note the new times!**

**Sunday Afternoon Tour: 2:30-5:30
PM Book Now!**

Sunset Lake Tours Book Now!
May 18: 6:30-8:30 PM
May 25: 6:30-8:30 PM

Fishing Adventures w/ 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
www.jocasselaketours.com

THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE May 13, 2024

Each morning, before leaving the dock, I double check my weather app & Duke's lake levels site just to be as certain as possible about the forecast for the day and what shoals to watch for. Feeling fairly confident the predicted storms would start after we finished our tours, we set out in search of adventure. Before long, we were tasting honeysuckle nectar, listening to a raven croak it's greeting or complaint, & floating through ribbons of tree pollen into quiet coves in search of elusive animals, wildflowers and the soft



Pollen is thick across Jocassee!



Storm clouds build as the tour heads to the dock...



These one inch plus hailstones did a significant amount of damage in a short amount of time!

sounds of trickling streams. Mountain laurel, maple leaf viburnums and gorge rhododendrons were lighting up the shoreline and hillsides. We stopped near a beautiful cascade in Laurel Fork Creek and watched a large bait ball of fish shimmer as it moved through the water. The two common loons, one adult, and one juvenile close by would certainly be sorry to have missed this buffet.

As we started across the open water toward the Horsepasture River, the clouds, in various shades of gray, were building above the mountains. I took advantage of the limited cell service at that moment to check the radar and saw an approaching storm cell. We made the decision to head downstream to try to beat the rain. As we docked and made our way to our cars, the heavy rain began & all 'hail' broke loose. A second boat behind us missed the whole thing! That's Jocassee for you! You make the best decisions you can with the information you have. Our guests were thankful to be in their cars and dry...so was I. Our insurance companies on the other hand, may not be that thankful when we submit our claims! ~Sheryl White, JLT guide.

**THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE
MAY 13, 2024**

**NEW EVENTS
COMING IN MAY/JUNE**

STATE PARK EVENTS

STATE PARK EVENTS

**Oconee Station State Historic Site
Park Grounds Open Daily: 9:00
AM-5:00 PM**

**Oconee State Park
May 23: 8:30-10:00 PM
Full-Moon Hike**

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.



Wm. Richards House (L) and Block House (R) at Oconee Station

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Friends of Jocassee (FOJ)

May 13: 12:00-2:00 PM

Perk Up the Park: Keowee-Toxaway State Park

Come join in the fun and help us conserve a beautiful part of the Jocassee Gorges at KTSP.

Conserving Carolina

May 14: 6:00-7:30 PM

Landrum Library Speaker Series: Using genetics to aid recovery of the federally endangered Bunched Arrowhead

Join Ashley Morris, Dept. of Biology Professor & Curator of the herbarium at Furman U. to understand the relative importance of genetic research implications in species recovery for this federally endangered plant.

Table Rock State Park

June 1: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

National Trails Day

Table Rock State Park

June 8: 2:00-6:00 PM

Music on the Mountain

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Museum of the Cherokee in South Carolina

May-October 26: Tues.: 10:00 AM-7:00 PM

May-October 26: Wed.,-Sat.: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Anderson Co. Museum (temporary exhibit) - The Cherokee Heritage of Anderson County and the SC Upstate

Highlands Biological Foundation

May 21: 3:00-4:00 PM

BEE Kind: Experiencing Nature

Upstate Forever

May 21: 5:30-7:30 PM

Generations Campaign Launch

Upstate SCNPS

May 21: 7:00-8:00 PM

Upstate Chapter Meeting

Upstate SCNPS

May 25: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

2024 Parks Mills / Rocky Shoals Spider Lily Preserve Annual Open House, Session 3

Upstate SCNPS

May 25: 1:00-3:00 PM

2024 Parks Mills/ Rocky Shoals Spider Lily Preserve Annual Open House, Session 4

Sierra Club of South Carolina

June 1: 9:00 AM-12:30 PM

National Trails Day - Trail Maintenance at ChauRam County

Mushroom Mountain

May 16: 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'll get to experience it.

Sierra Club South Carolina

May 16: 7:00-8:30 PM

Foothills meeting: "The Real People: An Exploration of the Cherokee of the Lower Towns"

Jennifer E. Moss, Interim Director/Curator of Oconee History Museum, will detail the history of the Cherokee in Oconee County and the upstate of SC.

Greenville County Bird Club

May 18: 7:00 AM-12:00 PM (Longer Walk)

May 18: 8:00-10:30 AM (Shorter Walk)

Conestee Nature Preserve

On this longer walk we'll bird a variety of paved and natural surface trails while the shorter walk will bird on a section of the paved trail.

GNHA

May 18: 8:30 AM-3:30 PM

Gorges SP – Upper Bearwallow, Rainbow, Turtleback, and Drift Falls

We'll hike from the Visitor Center to the UBW Observation Deck and

Park

Foothills Trail Conservancy

June 1: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

National Trails Day!

World of Energy

June 5: 10:00 AM

Wednesdays at the World of Energy.

Mushroom Mountain

June 6: 2:00-3:30 PM

MM Farm Tour

Conserving Carolina

June 6: 6:00-7:30 PM

Landrum Library Speaker Series: André Michaux and his contribution to botany in the southeast

Conestee Nature Preserve

June 8: 9:00-10:00 AM

World Oceans Day: Changing Tides

KOBA

June 8: 9:00-11:00

2nd Saturday Litter PickUp

SC Botanical Garden Events

May 25: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

South Carolina Native Plant Certificate Core Class: Tree Identification

June 1: 10:30-11:30 AM

Saturday Garden Tours

June 3-7: 8:30 AM-3:00 PM

Mountains to Sea Camp

BORROWED GLIMPSES

then drive to another parking area to hike to the remaining Falls.

Foothills Trail Conservancy

May 18: 9:00 AM

FTC Hike w/ Bill Ranson

Join FTC Board Member and retired Furman Professor, Dr. Bill Ranson, on an informative hike to explore the geology of the Palmetto Trail.

GNHA

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

Sassafras Mtn. to Carolina Hemlock Trail

We'll hike the FT from top of Sassafras Mnt., to meet up with the Palmetto Trail at about 1 mile & take this to the Carolina Hemlock loop; hike the ridge, and return on the PT.

Upstate SCNPS

May 18: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

2024 Parks Mills / Rocky Shoals Spider Lily Preserve Annual Open House, Session 1

Please join us for this guided visit at the annual PM/RS Open House.

Hagood Mill Historic Site

May 18: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Mountain Roots Herb Festival

The Mountain Roots Herb Festival featuring Get Out and Play Day is a great time to take in all that the HMHS has to offer in terms of recreation and nature.

Earthwise Learning Center

May 18: 1:00-3:00 PM



**Aurora borealis over
Lake Jocassee**

**Photo by Elizabeth Pearson,
Oconee Belle Photography**



**Amorpha glabra, aka False Indigo,
blooming over the waters of Lake
Jocassee**



**This photo from the Duke Power
archives shows clearing on Lake
Keowee, and above the dam to the
belt of trees cleared around the
perimeter of Lake Jocassee.**

Spring Medicine at Our Feet: Plant Walk with Robin McGee

Come meet and learn to confidently identify, sustainably harvest, consciously utilize and heartfully protect some of the wild food and medicine plants that flourish in our area this time of year.

Upstate SCNPS

May 18: 1:00-3:00 PM

2024 Parks Mills/Rocky Shoals Spider Lily Preserve Annual Open House, Session 2

Please join us for this guided visit at the annual PM/RS Open House.

Conestee Nature Preserve

May 18: 7:30-9:30 PM

Night Hike

We'll venture out on to the trails in our Brushy Creek tract with our ears towards the trees (owls!) and our eyes on the horizon, with the hopes of spotting deer, coyote, beavers or any other creatures that might be lurking in the night.

Holly Springs Center

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

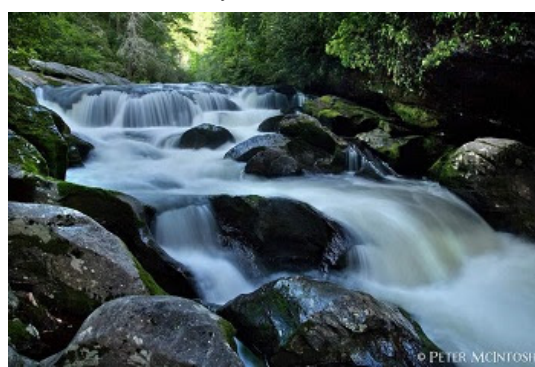
Pickens County Ag + Art Tour

Tour local farms and learn where your food comes from. Much to see! No charge - and you can plan your own tour route!

GNHA

May 19: 8:30 AM-4:00 PM

Laurel Valley TH to Virginia Hawkins Falls, Foothills Trail



50 years ago, the Chattooga River received its National Wild and Scenic River designation. Good people doing good work! Happy Anniversary! Photo from Chattooga River Conservancy

JOCASSEE WILD OUTDOOR ED.

YOUR support makes Jocassee Wild Child Adventures happen!



"That Look!" This is why we do what we do! Nature provides not only physical and mental health benefits, but also reduces anxiety and stress levels, enhancing

We'll hike to the falls, have a lunch break and return back to the TH.

Upstate SCNPS

May 19: 2:00-6:00 PM

Upstate Field Trip to Blackwell Preserve



Bunched arrowhead at Blackwell Preserve

SC Botanical Garden Events

May 17: 10:00-11:30 AM

Monthly Garden Walks Spring 2024

Explore different areas of the South Carolina Botanical Garden each month with naturalist James Wilkins.

After your walk pick up a garden souvenir at the Garden Gift Shop located inside of the Visitor's Center.

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

Sustainable Landscaping

Join instructor Rick Huffman, ASLA, Earth Design, SCNPS, to explore how to design with nature and how native plants are

academic performance and critical thinking.

Photo by Kerry McKenzie



**Thanks again to our friend Gene Anderson for this generous donation of NOCS binoculars!
3 photos by Steve Lewis**



Feeling the joy of Wright Creek!



essential characters in functioning
ecological landscapes.

Connections and memories to last
a lifetime...



Watch the DFSP webcam as kids from Dacusville Elementary and McKissick MAST Schools leave the dock on May 15-17: 9:30-ish am

Watch them return at 1:00-ish pm!

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

Sponsored by [Friends of Jocassee!](#)

<https://www.jocasseewild.org>
and follow Jocassee Wild Child
Adventures on Facebook!

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

[SPONSOR A JOCASSEE WILD CHILD TODAY!](#)



DID YOU KNOW

NOAA classifies geomagnetic storms on a “G” scale of 1 to 5, with G1 being minor and G5 being extreme. The most extreme storms can cause widespread blackouts and damage to infrastructure on Earth. Satellites may also have trouble orienting themselves or sending or receiving information during these events. The current solar storm is classified as G5, or “extreme.”

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!

Jocassee Lake Tours Depart from the Main Dock
at Devils Fork State Park, 528 Jocassee Lake Road

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

SUPPORT OUR JOCASSEE PARTNERS!



JOCASSEE
REAL ESTATE
Dream it. Live it.

**CURRENT CONDITIONS @ LAKE JOCASSEE
VIA DEVILS FORK STATE PARK WEBCAM
SPONSORED BY FRIENDS OF JOCASSEE**