

# 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

She senses us from a distance, squats into the grassy field, but a bird the size of a turkey hen can hardly disappear in shorn grass. We stop, watch quietly. She stands tall again. Within seconds a fluffy

ball of baby turkey appears behind her. And then another, and another, until seven baby turkeys follow mom across shorn field, across gravel road, into the woods. We stay a careful distance away, but still alarm her. Back she comes, across the road, into the field, dragging her wings and clucking to attract our attention. She lures us away from her babies and we obligingly follow, until she's far from her brood. Now we are alarmed. Her chicks are unprotected, peeping frantically for their mother. We turn back their way; the hen crosses back into the woods and hurries ahead to her young family. She's a good mama, and all is well. ~K



**Mama turkey had a hard time hiding in this short grass, but her babies didn't!**

### **SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS**

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

**Kayak Tours Book Now!**  
June 2: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM  
June 23: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

**Jocassee Adventure Camp!**  
**Book Now!**  
June 7: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM  
June 14: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

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

**Full Moon Rising Tour**  
**“Strawberry Moon” Book Now!**  
June 21: 7:30-9:30 PM

### **WEEKLY EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS**

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

**Sunset Tours Book Now!**  
May 25: 6:30-8:30 PM  
June 1, 8, & 15: 7:00-9:00 PM

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

**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**

**THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE**

**May 20, 2024**

Photo by Betsy Lewis

The Wonder Benches. There are two of them at Devils Fork State Park, thanks to the generosity of Friends of Jocassee. One faces out on the lake from the day use area, the other just above the working dock. Both are perfectly good places to plant oneself and just take in the wonder of Jocassee. The landscape of the lake and gorges from the dock bench is simply intoxicating. It is surely one of the most magnificent landscapes to be seen on this fine earth. And yet, it is the little things that absorb me. The Rough-winged swallows darting about, chasing insects too small to see. The ever-so-cranky geese, steering their brood along the grassy berms. The buzzards, extending their wings to catch the first thermal of the day in early morning, or gliding in to roost at the end of the day. I'm perfectly happy just sitting there for long stretches. It's a wonder. ~B

**THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE**

**May 20, 2024**

**NEW EVENTS**

**COMING IN MAY**

**STATE PARK EVENTS**

**Oconee Station State Historic Site**  
Park Grounds Open Daily: 9:00  
AM-5:00 PM  
Call (864) 638-0079 for ranger  
guided tours or information

**STATE PARK EVENTS**

**Oconee Station State Historic Site**  
May 31: 3:00-5:30 PM  
Planting by the Signs

**Table Rock State Park**

Frontier Encampment Description-  
(photo in BWW-OSSHS file)  
Travel back in time to the years  
immediately following the  
American Revolution for a Frontier  
Encampment at Oconee Station  
State Historic Site. This program  
will include a variety of period-  
related activities such as cooking  
and black powder demonstrations.

### Oconee State Park

May 23: 8:30-10:00 PM

#### Full-Moon Hike

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

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### OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

#### Museum of the Cherokee in South Carolina

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

Now-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

This temporary Exhibit displays  
beautiful artifacts along with  
interesting historical information  
that you may not have heard  
before.

#### Highlands Biological Foundation

May 21: 3:00-4:00 PM

BEE Kind: Experiencing Nature

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

National Trails Day

#### Caesars Head State Park

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

National Trails Day Recreational  
Hike

#### Oconee State Park

June 1: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

First Day Hike - Lake Loop

#### Table Rock State Park

June 8: 2:00-6:00 PM

Music on the Mountain

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Anderson County and the SC  
Upstate

#### Sierra Club of South Carolina

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

National Trails Day - Trail  
Maintenance at ChauRam County  
Park

#### Foothills Trail Conservancy

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

National Trails Day!

#### SCUMS

June 3: All Day

Jonathan Horton will present: "The  
Effects of Prescribed Fire on  
Fungal Communities at Dupont  
State Recreational Forest"

#### World of Energy

June 5: 10:00 AM

June 12: 10:00 AM

Join Julie Thomson, HBF Education Specialist, for a Nature Walk that offers three different approaches for ways to experience and connect with Nature.

### **Upstate Forever**

May 21: 5:30-7:30 PM

#### **Generations Campaign Launch**

Come celebrate along with Upstate Forever staff, Board of Directors and supporters as we launch our campaign to protect and maintain the Upstate's high quality of life for future generations.

### **Upstate SCNPS**

May 21: 7:00-8:00 PM

#### **Upstate Chapter Meeting**

Melanie Ruhlman from Save Our Saluda shares her presentation- "*Utilization of Native Species in Riparian and Floodplain Restoration Projects in the Upper Saluda Watershed*".

### **Holly Springs Center**

May 25: 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

#### **Kudzu Ribbed Basket/ Nancy Basket**

We will use invasive vines to weave into a ribbed basket. Wisteria, Kudzu, and other vines will be discussed and split into pliable lengths.

### **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 w/ Charles Williams**

### **Conestee Nature Preserve**

June 8: 9:00-10:00 AM

#### **World Oceans Day: Changing Tides**

### **KOBA**

June 8: 9:00-11:00

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Litter PickUp**

### **Hagood Mill State Historic Site**

June 8: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

#### **Woodland Foraging w/ Donna Putney**

### **Friends of Jocassee (FOJ)**

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

#### **Adopt-a-Highway**

### **Hagood Mill State Historic Site**

June 12: 8:45 AM- June 14: 4:00 PM

#### **Camp Hagood**

### **Green Bird Nature Therapy/**

**Jeanne Malmgren**

June 15

#### **Summer Solstice Silent Hike**

### **Conestee Nature Preserve**

June 15: 8:30-9:30 PM

#### **Bats - A Walk and Talk!**

### **SC Botanical Garden Events**

June 1: 10:30-11:30 AM

#### **Saturday Garden Tours**

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

#### **Mountains to Sea Camp**



**June 10-14: 8:30 AM-3:00 PM**  
**Garden Discovery Camp**

**June 15: 1:00-3:00 PM**  
**SCBG Docent Orientations 2024**

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## **BORROWED GLIMPSES**

### **GNHA Hiking Club**

**May 25: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM**  
**Thompson River via Foothills Trail**

This is an out and back rolling trail with a few steep inclines leading to the beautiful Thompson River where we'll have lunch.

### **Upstate SCNPS**

**May 25: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM**  
**May 25: 1:00-3:00 PM**  
**2024 Parks Mills/Rocky Shoals**  
**Spider Lily Preserve Annual Open**  
**House, Session 3&4**

Please join us for this guided visit! Admission is free. Full details will be provided after registration is completed.



**Another Jocassee Wild Child**  
**Adventure, another day of (mutual)**  
**discovery!**

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### **SC Botanical Garden Events**

**May 25: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM**  
**South Carolina Native Plant**  
**Certificate Core Class: Tree**  
**Identification**

Come along with Dan Whitten (JLT Naturalist guide) and become familiar with our native trees, shrubs and woody vines by learning to recognize their bark, leaves, twigs, fruit, and form.

May 25: 1:00-4:00 PM

Nature Center Open House: Life in Our Ponds and Streams

From dragonflies flashing above the water, to crayfish and turtles underneath, explore the diversity of animals in this watery space.



Photo from SCBG



This reptile youngster might well have been discovering humans for the very first time!



Slow down. Look closer.  
There's so much to see!  
3 photos by Kerry McKenzie



Your support makes  
Jocassee Wild Child Adventures  
happen!

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

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

Watch the DFSP webcam as kids  
from  
Westminster Elementary School  
leave the dock on  
May 21: 9:30-ish am  
Watch them return at 1:30-ish  
pm!

Current conditions at Lake  
Jocassee via Devils Fork State  
Park webcam  
Sponsored by Friends of  
Jocassee!

SPONSOR A JOCASSEE WILD  
CHILD TODAY!



### **DID YOU KNOW**

By 1900, the combination of hunting and habitat loss had driven populations of Eastern wild Turkeys to near extinction throughout South Carolina. From 1951 through 1958, the SC Department of Natural Resources carried out a live-trapping and transplanting program in an effort to replenish turkey populations in the piedmont and mountain portions of the state. Healthy populations of wild turkeys now inhabit all 46 counties in South Carolina.

### **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](http://www.JocasseeLakeTours.com)

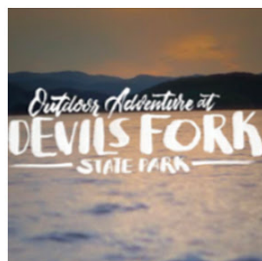
[info@jocasseelaketours.com](mailto:info@jocasseelaketours.com)

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!**



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

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