

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!

Who Cares?

Contained in the Jocassee Gorges within the boundaries of four intersecting highways grows this good Earth's entire native population of *Shortia galacifolia*. *Shortia* is a plant. It hugs the ground in dense mats of shiny evergreen leaves, and for a scant few weeks in early Spring, its diminutive, sparkling white flowers



Jocassee Valley along the Whitewater River, circa 1950's

attract botanists and other plant nerds to this corner of South Carolina. In March of 1944, one such neophyte botanist by the name of Alton Prince traveled from Maine to see *Shortia galacifolia* in the Jocassee Gorges. On the day he came into Jocassee Valley, a road crew was at work with a bulldozer on the road alongside the Whitewater River, where *Shortia* had been known to grow. Alton did get to see the plants, further along, where the road crew had yet to reach...hundreds of them, blooming. Over the next two years young Mr. Prince revisited the same place, and found the road widening and subsequent lumbering operations had almost eliminated those colonies of *Shortia*. ~K



**Shortia galacifolia,
a.k.a. Oconee Bells
Big deal, or no big deal?**

**SPECIAL EVENTS WITH
JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS**

BellFest Day Tour [Book Now!](#)
March 15: 11:00 AM-2:00 PM

Spring Equinox [Book Now!](#)
March 20: 11:00 AM-2:00 PM

**PRIVATE TOURS
ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE!
[\(864\) 280-5501](tel:(864)280-5501)**

www.jocasseelaketours.com

**WEEKLY EVENTS WITH
JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS**

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

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

**CALL OR BOOK ONLINE TO
RESERVE SEATS
[Book Now!](#)**



Flight practice, Jocassee

THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE MARCH 3, 2025

Windy afternoons and new birds. It must be the beginning of spring around here. Astronomers may say spring begins in late March but we Jocassee lovers know now is the time. I saw a few small white birds from the dock yesterday, a bit too far out to make a certain id. They looked too small to be Ring-billed gulls, always a winter resident here, so my reasonably educated guess is our first Bonapartes' gulls! A little early, perhaps, but not by much as they are the harbinger of spring waterbird migration every year. Our smallest gull, flying with such grace and agility, it is always a thrill to see them return. We can expect our first migratory loons overhead in just a few weeks. Let the zughanrue begin! Loons are busy putting on their finest feathers for breeding season. Running across the water to build strength enough to make the long one thousand mile plus flight to their breeding waters, they attempt short practice flights, just to see if they can do it. March and April. There is no place finer than Jocassee in spring. ~B

OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK, MARCH 3, 2025

STATE PARK EVENTS

Table Rock State Park

March 8: 2:00-6:00 PM

Music on the Mountain

Visitors are invited to bring their acoustic instruments and join in a jam session or simply sit back to enjoy the music with the lake and mountains as a beautiful backdrop.



Table Rock State Park History
shared by Jo Ann Gilstrap Brewer
(Click here and scroll down the page to learn a little more about the history of the Park).

NEW EVENTS COMING IN MARCH

STATE PARK EVENTS

Devils Fork State Park

March 13: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Oconee Bell Nature Walk

Devils Fork State Park

March 15: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM
BellFest 2025

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Sierra Club South Carolina

March 3: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

Explore Pleasant Ridge Park in the Foothills

Pleasant Ridge Park was created in the 1950s to promote tourism and as a State Park for African Americans. The park integrated in the 1960s and was offered to Greenville as a county park.

Highlands Biological Station

March 8: 8:00-9:00 AM

Morning Bird Walk

Birders of all skill levels are welcome to join us as we take an easy walk around the garden to find our feathered friends.



Eastern Towhee

GNHA Hiking Club

March 8: 8:30 AM-3:30 PM

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

We will hike from the Visitor Center to Upper Bearwallow Falls Observation Deck and then drive to another parking area to hike to

Oconee State Park

March 29: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Flip the Script: Honoring the Women of the She-She-She Camps

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

March 11: 2:00 PM

Saluda Library Speaker Series: Owls of the Carolinas

Mushroom Mountain

March 13: 2:00 PM

MM Farm Tour

Friends of Lake Keowee Society (FOLKS)

March 13: 2:30-4:00 PM

Speaker Series 1--Boating Safety

Conestee Nature Preserve

March 13: 3:00-4:30 PM

March 27: 3:00-4:30 PM

Nature Discovery After-School Club: Elementary

Conestee Nature Preserve

March 13: 4:00-5:30 PM

March 27: 4:00-5:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School Club: Middle School

Hagood Mill Historic Site

March 14: 2:00-4:00 PM

Growing Mushrooms 101

Greenville County Bird Club

March 15: 8:00-10:30 AM (Shorter Walk)

March 15: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM

Conestee Nature Preserve

Rainbow, Turtleback and Drift Falls.

KOBA

March 8: 9:00-11:00 AM

2nd Saturday Litter PickUp

Meet at the Food Lion parking lot at the corner of Hwy 123 and Old Clemson Highway.

Boomers Connect in Upstate SC

March 8: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Dupont State Park - High Falls and Triple Falls Tour

The 3.1 mile loop features stunning waterfalls, unique rock structures, rolling hills, and photographic backdrops that nature photographers will love.

Hagood Mill Historic Site

March 8: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Plant Medicine: Early Spring Wild Edibles & Medicinals Class

This class will teach you how to identify wild plants before they fully leaf out, helping you recognize valuable food and medicine growing right in your own backyard.

Hagood Mill Historic Site

March 8: 12:30-2:30 PM

Plant Medicine: Dandelion-Old Time Spring Tonic Class

In this hands-on workshop, we will explore the many ways to use this versatile wild plant in both food and medicine.

Mushroom Mountain

March 8-9: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Wild Mushroom Food Safety Certification-Georgia

This 5 year mushroom foraging permit meets the criteria required by the state health departments

Footfalls Trail Conservancy

March 15: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

Oconee Bells at Devils Fork State Park

Friends of Jocassee

March 15: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

BellFest 2025

Upstate SCNPS

March 15: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

Be Part of BellFest 2025 – Attend & Volunteer with SCNPS

Hagood Mill Historic Site

March 15: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Kids Fest -2025

North Carolina Native Plant Society

March 15: 2:00-3:30 PM

Winter Workshop on Tree and Bud Identification

GNHA Hiking Club

March 16: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

The Rebooters: Chestnut Ridge

Highlands Biological Station

March 16: 10:00 AM-6:00 PM

The Lost Shortia: HBS--Oconee Bells 2025

Upstate SCNPS

March 18: 6:30-8:00 PM

“Our Relationship with Trees after Hurricane Helene” with Scott Carlson

Conserving Carolina

March 20: 2:00-3:30 PM

Etowah Library Speaker Series: Trilliums of the Southern Appalachian Mountains

Highlands Biological Station

March 21: 2:00-3:00 PM

Birding Basics

and formally approved for the foraging and selling of wild mushrooms in the following states: South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York and Rhode Island.

GNHA Hiking Club

March 9: 9:00 AM-1:30 PM

Nine Times Loop, Strenuous Hike

This is a 6 mile hike up to Cedar Rock and Big Rock Mountains with 1,500' of elevation gain.

SC Botanical Garden Events

March 7: 3:30-5:00 PM

Nature Journaling Series (Youth/Family)

Children and adults alike will learn about and enjoy the benefits of nature journaling! A great family experience!



Gelsemium sempervirens Carolina jessamine, Photo by Karen Russ

Alternatives to invasive non-native plant species- SC Wildlife Federation printable list. pdf

GNHA Hiking Club

March 22: 8:00-11:50 AM

Sassafras Mountain (Partial) Up and Down

Conestee Nature Preserve

March 22: 1:00-2:00 PM

End of Hibernation Hunt!

Conserving Carolina

March 25: 6:00-7:00 PM

Landrum Library Speaker Series: "Something in These Hills: the culture of family land in southern Appalachia"

SC Botanical Garden Events

March 15: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Basic Horticulture: SC Native Plant Certificate Core Class

March 18: 1:30-3:30 PM

An Ecology of Spring Wildflowers

March 20: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

Intro to SC Invasive Plants: SC Native Plant Certificate Elective

March 22: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Natural Plant Communities: SC Native Plant Certificate Core Class

BORROWED GLIMPSES



Six Mile Mtn., 3.1.25



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

Follow
Jocassee Wild Child Adventures
on Facebook!

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

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DID YOU KNOW?

Zugunruhe is a German word that means "migratory restlessness". It describes the anxious behavior of migratory animals, especially birds, as they prepare to migrate.

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,
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!



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