



[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!**

## **Whippoorwill**

**It's near civil twilight, that magical end of day when critters come out, and Mica-the-canine and I are out for one last walk. I need this more than she does. We head west towards a field which dips down into an old farm pond on the Oconee Bell Trail at Devils Fork State Park. As we approach, the first peepers we've heard this year**

begin their trill. We walk downhill through stubble for a closer listen. A bat wheels by, dipping and darting in search of evening's flying insects. Like the peepers, it's the first bat we've seen in 2025. Mica's attention is fixated on the edge of woods and we wait for coyotes to appear, or deer, or an armadillo in search of an evening bed, but nothing shows up this time. Reluctantly we head home, and out of fading light comes the call of a whippoorwill—not chuck-wills-widow, but an honest to goodness whippoorwill—and I add that simple blessing to the riches of this day. ~K



Earlier that evening...

**SPECIAL EVENTS WITH  
JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS**

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

Sunset Photography Tour  
[Book Now!](#)  
March 20: 5:00 PM-7:00 PM

Loons, Eagles, and Waterfalls  
[Book Now!](#)  
March 30: 2:00-5:00 PM

Hiking the Gorges [Book Now!](#)  
April 5: 8:30 AM-4:00PM

**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!](#)**

**PRIVATE TOURS**

Trek # 4 Horsepasture-Bad Creek

ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE!

Sunrise Photography tour w/ Pam Barbour Book Now!

(864) 280-5501

April 10: 6:30-9:30 AM

[www.jocasseelaketours.com](http://www.jocasseelaketours.com)



*Papilio glaucus* Eastern tiger swallowtail, wikipedia photo

### THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE MARCH 17, 2025

It's official... The 2025 Jocassee Wild Child program kicked off this week with 7<sup>th</sup> graders from Gettys Middle School in Pickens County. "The students loved it! They learned about geology, zoology, history, energy, geography, climate and ecology. They experienced it and touched it. Mostly important, they were charged to protect & preserve our beautiful upstate".

~Juliet Marie Lewis Bishop.  
Eastern tiger swallowtails are appearing one by one. This SC state butterfly will typically be seen from now through November. In the southeastern US, these butterflies have three life cycles per season. Because they are most prevalent east of the Rocky Mountains, 4 different states consider them state butterflies. In addition to SC, these states include Georgia, Alabama and Delaware. Migratory ducks are visiting the lake. We saw what we think were a large raft of lesser Scaups, numbering over 300, flying back and forth across the main basin. Grebes, gulls and loons are everywhere on the lake and we followed 2 juvenile bald eagles as they made their way down the Horsepasture River channel from the footbridge; stopping now and then in the tree tops, almost as if they were waiting on us to catch

### OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK, MARCH 17, 2025

#### STATE PARK EVENTS

##### Gorges State Park

March 21: 10:00-11:00 AM

##### Nature Journaling

Come practice internal curiosity in regards to nature. Materials provided but feel free to bring your own.



Grab a notebook and pen, settle into a quiet spot and let nature guide you. You might be surprised what happens.

## OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

### SCNPS-Upstate

March 18: 6:30-8:00 PM

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

Upstate SCNPS welcomes Scott Carlson, a Board Certified Master Arborist from Schneider Tree Care, for a discussion on the impact of Hurricane Helene and its implications for tree care.

### Conserving Carolina

March 20: 2:00-3:30 PM

Etowah Library Speaker Series: Trilliums of the Southern Appalachian Mountains

In this illustrated lecture with Dan Lazar, naturalist and educator, we will explore the biology, natural history and ecology of these beloved woodland wildflowers, trillium!



Walk softly through the forest.  
New life is emerging.

### Oconee History Museum

March 20: 6:00-8:00 PM

Paint & Learn: Oconee Bell

up and follow. We finally lost sight of them as they disappeared around the last bend before Mill Creek Falls. Oconee Bells are blooming around the lake also. Join us at BellFest next weekend, Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. ~Sheryl

---

## NEW EVENTS COMING IN MARCH/APRIL

### STATE PARK EVENTS

#### Oconee State Park

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

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

#### Table Rock State Park

March 29: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Spring Wildflower Walk

#### Oconee Station State Historic Site

April 1: 10:00-11:30 AM

Monthly First Day Hike

#### Table Rock State Park

April 12: 3:00-10:00 AM

Sunrise Hike–Bald Knob

---

## OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

### 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”

### Conestee Nature Preserve

March 27: 3:00-4:30 PM

April 10: 3:00-4:30 PM

Nature Discovery After-School Club: Elementary

Artist & Master Gardener Volunteer Laura Bush will guide you in painting the Oconee Bell and showcase the botanic aspects of this rare plant.

### Highlands Biological Station

March 21: 2:00-3:00 PM

#### Birding Basics

Join us for this program where Julie Thomson, Education Specialist at the Highlands Nature Center, will teach you birding techniques and tips.

### Jeanne Malmgren

March 22

#### Silent Hikes Spring Equinox- Poe Creek State Forest, Pickens County

This experience allows you to try out the practice of Noble Silence, while enjoying the healthful effects of fresh air and green, living things .... all in the company of like-minded others.

### GNHA Hiking Club

March 22: 8:00-11:50 AM

#### Sassafras Mountain Up and Down

We'll hike up the Foothills Trail ascending Sassafras Mountain and should make it to the summit before re-tracing our way back to the trailhead to make it to the AGM by about the 1 pm meeting start.

### GNHA Hiking Club

March 22: 8:00 AM-12:30 PM

#### Chimney Top Gap to Sassafras Mountain

From Chimney Top Gap Access, this hike follows the Foothills Trail and is mostly uphill to the top of Sassafras. We'll enjoy a beautiful view. This will be a downhill stroll back to the cars.

### Conestee Nature Preserve

March 27: 4:00-5:30 PM

April 10: 4:00-5:30 PM

#### Nature Discovery After School Club: Middle School

### SCNPS-Savannah River Chapter

March 27: 6:30 PM

#### History of Botany in SC w/ Rick Huffman

### SCNPS- Upstate

March 29: 9:30 AM-2:30 PM

#### Chestnut Ridge Heritage Preserve, Landrum SC

### Hagood Mill Historic Site

March 29: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

#### Soil: From the Ground Up- A Hands-On-No-Till Gardening Class

### Mushroom Mountain

March 29: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

#### Growing Mushrooms on Logs at Holly Springs Center

### SC Wildlife Federation (SCWF)

April 1-30: 12:00 PM

#### Wild Webinar Wednesdays

### Conserving Carolina

April 2: 10:00-11:30 AM

#### Edneyville Library Speaker Series: An Overview of Native Brook Trout Conservation in North Carolina

### SC Wildlife Federation (SCWF)

April 4: 9:00 AM

#### POWR+: Women's Fly Fishing Day- Mountain Rest SC

### Mushroom Mountain

April 5: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

#### Spring Mushroom Cultivation Workshop

### Foothills Trail Conservancy

### **Mushroom Mountain**

March 22: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Mini Clinic-Mushroom Log Gardening

Learn from experts Olga and Megan, and take home your first log to kick start your mushroom garden.

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

March 22: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

RESCHEDULED TO MARCH 22!  
BellFest 2025

BellFest celebrates the blooming of the rare Oconee Bell flower (*Shortia Galacifolia*) with live music, guided hikes, vendors, kids activities, guest speakers, and silent auction to benefit FOJ. Guest speaker- Dan Whitten.

### **SCNPS- Upstate**

March 22: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

Be a Part of Bellfest 2025-Attend & Volunteer with SCNPS

This year, we are looking for approximately 1-3 volunteers to assist in managing a booth. This would include selling plants, teaching the public about our society's mission, and providing education on native plants!

### **Conestee Nature Preserve**

March 22: 1:00-2:00 PM

End of Hibernation Hunt!

Join us for a lesson on how Conestee's critters have survived the winter.

### **SC Botanical Garden Events**

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

Intro to SC Invasive Plants: SC Native Plant Certificate Elective

This class is an introduction to South Carolina's many invasive

April 5: 2:00-7:00 PM

FTC Spring Picnic

### **Conserving Carolina**

April 8: 2:00-3:30 PM

Saluda Library Speaker Series: History of the Saluda Grade

### **SCNPS- Upstate**

April 11-12: 8:00 AM-5:00 PM

Upstate SCNPS Volunteer Opportunity at the Spring Native Plant Sale

### **Duke Energy-World of Energy**

April 12: 9:00-11:00 AM

Energy-Saving Free Tree Giveaway

### **KOBA**

April 12: 9:00-11:00 AM

2nd Saturday Litter PickUp

### **GNHA Hiking Club**

April 12: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

King Creek Falls via Cherry Hill Campground & Burrells Ford -A Key Swap

### **SCNPS- Upstate**

April 12: 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Upstate Spring Native Plant Sale at Conestee Park

### **SC Botanical Garden Events**

March 29: 1:00-4:00 PM

Nature Center Open House: Beautiful Birds

April 4: 2:00-6:00 PM

Garden Members Spring Plant Sale

April 5: 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Public Spring Plant Sale

April 7: 1:00-3:00 PM

species with descriptions and examples. Live invasive plant specimens growing locally will be observed, described and sampled in the field.

March 22: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM  
Natural Plant Communities: SC Native Plant Certificate Core Class  
Join expert naturalist Tim Lee to build your knowledge base of major conceptual issues and areas of current research in native plant ecology.



The Oconee Bells: History, Homage, Hobby & Legacy.

**APRIL 1 - THE FOOTHILLS TRAIL REOPENS THROUGH THE JOCASSEE GORGES!  
HAPPY HIKING!**



## SCBG Docent Orientations

### **BORROWED GLIMPSES**



Kicking off the Jocassee Wild Child season are 7th graders from Gettys Middle School, Pickens County.



These ancient mountains and rivers have a lot of stories to tell.

Follow  
Jocassee Wild Child Adventures  
on Facebook!  
<https://www.facebook.com/jocasseewild>

**SPONSOR A JOCASSEE WILD**

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



---

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Civil twilight is the brightest of the 3 twilight phases. The Sun is just below the horizon, so there is generally enough natural light to carry out most outdoor activities.

---

**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,  
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.*