

[Gmail messages are clipped.]

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Greetings!

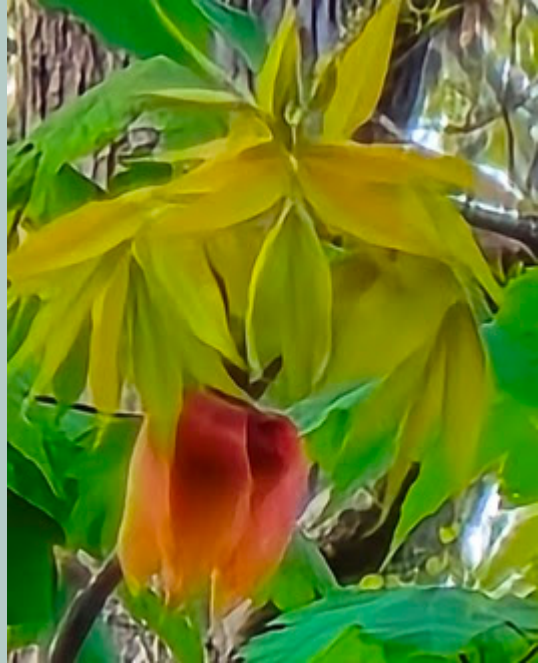


Welcome to the Blue Wall Weekly, your source for what's going on outside along the Southern BlueRidge Escarpment. Feel free to share your own photos, videos, and adventures along the Blue Wall by sending them to the email address at the bottom of the page, and we'll do our best to make you (locally)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

Ptyxis

Today in history, bud scales rolled back on a young hickory outside my window. Over the course of the day I literally watched baby leaves grow. How was so much leaf and stem contained in such a small package? The answer is ptyxis, an origami folding of the leaf within the bud. Ptyxis folds leaf cells using the pattern of a leaf's

venation (arrangement of veins) and once those bud scales roll back, water pushes, sunshine pulls, and by tomorrow those tender young leaves will be opening wider and wider to the wonder of photosynthesis.



Lake Jocassee, Thursday, 10am

SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

HAPPY EASTER SUNDAY
TOUR! Book Now!
April 20: 2:00-5:00 PM

Happy Mother's Day! Book Now!
May 11: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
May 11: 2:30-5:30 PM

Sunset Tours begin May 3! Book Now!
Kayak Tours begin May 4! Book Now!

**PRIVATE TOURS
ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE!**
Book Now!

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**

(864) 280-5501

www.jocasseelaketours.com

**THIS WEEK ON LAKE
JOCASSEE
APRIL 14, 2025**

We started Monday with rain and 5 boats of 7th graders from Gettys Middle School. As the



Wild Child Instructor Tricia Kyzer and students from Gettys Middle School.



**Pinxterbloom azalea.
Stop and enjoy their fragrance
before they fade.**

bus arrived, the rain stopped right on cue. Sunshine returned for most of the week as 8th graders from Pickens and 4th graders from Hagood Elementary joined us on Wednesday and Thursday. Our goal in the ~4 hours we have these kids is to introduce them to the lake and the Jocassee Gorges, a place of wonder and mystery; and help them connect with some part of it through various activities and interactions. As they play, they learn their backyard is a place with ancient mountains & abundant rainfall, along an escarpment that rises quickly over 2000' in places. This week they saw Faded trilliums, Fraser magnolias and Pinxterbloom azaleas blooming. Loons running across the lake and flying overhead, leaving for their summer breeding lakes up North; and they were introduced to a rare fern that is found here in the temperate, moist climate of the gorges and the cloud forests of Mexico. Kids aren't the only ones we share this information with, though. If you want to learn some cool stuff about your backyard, too, come out with us and see what's happening. Every experience is different.
~Sheryl White, JLT guide

**NEW EVENTS COMING IN
APRIL/MAY**

**OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK,
APRIL 14, 2025**

STATE PARK EVENTS

STATE PARK EVENTS

Table Rock State Park

April 15: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Forest Ecology Walk

We'll look at various habitat layers, identify some of the resident animals and plants including a few early wildflowers, and learn how different organisms depend on each other in the forest ecosystem.

Table Rock State Park

April 19: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Spring Wildflower Walk

Join us for a beautiful morning walk around the Lakeside Trail and explore the area in search of native wildflowers.



Trillium simile Sweet white trillium
Photo by Dan Whitten

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Hagood Mill Historic Site

April 15: 10:00 AM-12:30 PM

Plant Medicine: Dandelion-Old Time Spring Tonic Class

In this hands-on workshop, we'll explore the many ways to use this

Gorges State Park

April 21: 3:30-4:00 PM

Amazing Armadillos

Table Rock State Park

April 24-26

Blue Wall Birding Festival

Gorges State Park

April 27: 1:30-2:30 PM

Wildflower Walk

Gorges State Park

April 29: 10:00-11:00 AM

History of Gorges--Guided Hike

Oconee Station State Historic Site

May 1: 10:00-11:30 AM

Monthly First Day Hike

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Upstate Forever

April 22: 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

Forevergreen Annual Awards Luncheon 2025

Conserving Carolina

April 22: 6:00-7:30 PM

Landrum Library Speaker Series: Native Freshwater Fishes of Upstate SC-- Conservation challenges & strategies

Hagood Mill Historic Site

April 23: 10:00 AM-12:30 PM

Woodland Foraging

Greenville Sea Kayakers

April 23-27: 1:00 PM-12:00 PM

Paddle & Camp Tugaloo State Park, Lake Hartwell

SC Wildlife Federation (SCWF)

April 23 & 30: 12:00 PM

versatile wild plant in both food and medicine.

SCNPS Upstate

April 15: 6:30-8:00 PM

“Garden Scale Landscape Design with Natives” w/ Cheryl Brown

Cheryl’s talk will discuss the steps to take when designing a home-scale landscape with a strong focus on creating habitat with native plants.

SC Wildlife Federation (SCWF)

April 16: 12:00 PM

Wild Webinar Wednesdays

Tune in every Wednesday in April to learn about a variety of topics, including endangered species, turtles of SC, creating wildlife habitat with native plants, fishing with artificials, and how to get involved in citizen science.

Mushroom Mountain

April 17: 2:00-3:30 PM

MM Tour

During your visit, you will learn about mushroom biology and ecology- how mushrooms work in and for our environment- as well as how they can be used for medicinal uses and many other innovations.

Highlands Biological Station

April 18: 3:00-4:00 PM

Wildflower Walks

Join a Naturalist for an easy stroll through the Botanical Garden to explore what spring ephemerals are blooming.

Hagood Mill Historic Site

April 18-19: 12:00 PM-9:00 PM

Old Time Weekend Jam Festival

This much-loved annual festival invites music lovers, history buffs, and outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy old-

Wild Webinar Wednesdays

Conestee Nature Preserve

April 24: 3:00-4:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School Club--Elementary

Conestee Nature Preserve

April 24: 4:00-5:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School Club--Middle School

Highlands Biological Station

April 25: 3:00-4:30 PM

NC Bioblitz + ecoEXPLORE Club: Bioblitz

SC Wildlife Federation (SCWF)

April 25-27: 1:00 PM-12:00 PM

Palmetto Outdoors Women’s Retreat

Friends of Jocassee (FOJ)

April 26: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM

Fishing with Friends Trout Tournament

SCNPS Upstate

April 26: 9:30 AM-2:00 PM

Ashmore Heritage Preserve, Greenville County, SC

Upstate/WNC Explorers

April 26: 10:30 AM-3:30 PM

Picnic / Swim / Wade at Riley Moore Falls

Mushroom Mountain

April 26-27: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Wild Mushroom Food Safety Certification--NORTH CAROLINA

Boomers Connect

April 27: 2:00-5:00 PM

Nat’l Geographic Declared Lake Jocassee one of the World’s 50

time music performances, traditional arts and crafts, living history, and an unforgettable camping experience under the stars.

Greenville County Bird Club

April 19: 7:00 AM-12:00 PM (Longer Walk)

April 19: 8:00-10:30 AM (Shorter Walk)

Conestee Nature Preserve

Longer walk-meet behind the baseball stadium to bird a variety of paved and natural surface trails. Shorter walk- meet at the Spanco Drive parking area next to the old Conestee Mill and Dam to bird a section of the paved trail.



Pileated woodpecker

Photo by Anthony Q Martin

Highlands Biological Station

April 19: 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.

SC Botanical Garden Events

Last Great Places! Carpool

Conestee Nature Preserve

May 2: 6:00-8:30 PM

Great Blue Gathering and Silent Auction

Foothills Trail Conservancy

May 3: 9:00 AM

May Wildflower Hike

Mushroom Mountain

May 3: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Mini Clinic--Medicinal Mushrooms

Hagood Mill Historic Site

May 10: 10:00 AM-12:30 PM

Warm Weather Foraging Class

SC Botanical Garden Events

April 26: 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Second Chance Sale

April 26: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Sustainable Landscaping: SC Native Plant Certificate Core Class

May 10: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Ferns: SC Native Plant Certificate Elective

BORROWED GLIMPSES

April 14: 10:00 AM-2:30 PM

Jocassee Gorges: The Perfect Outdoor Classroom: SCNP Certificate Elective

Join Kay Wade to learn about both mountain and piedmont plant communities found in the Jocassee Gorges and explore them from the lake.

April 19: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Basic Horticulture: SC Native Plant Certificate Core Class

Discover how and why native plants have the potential to transform traditional horticultural practices with Jon Fritz, owner of Bluestem Landscape Design.



A little creative writing exercise. Photo by Deborah Girard



Old friends and new, sharing an early morning watching spring loon migration.

JLT guide Matt Stamey is joining Cycle Across America this summer to raise funds for Multiple Sclerosis research. Support his journey here!

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



**SPONSOR A JOCASSEE WILD
CHILD TODAY!**



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

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

DID YOU KNOW?



PTYXIS, (Botany) noun, pronunciation: Tik'-sis. – the way an individual leaf is folded within a bud, how an immature leaf is creased and bent upon itself within a bud.

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@jocasseeuketours.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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