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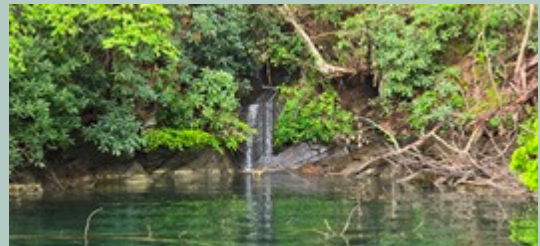
Greetings!



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!

Spring

Morning dawns calm, bright, in a world washed clean by night's rainfall. Turkey vultures dry their wings along the boat dock; a small waterfall sings happy water sounds. A ghost—or a cloud of sweet birch pollen—drifts by, a



dust of gold barely visible against green rhododendron leaves. Mountainsides are fully green now with darker pines spreading along ridges among the lighter spring green of new foliage. Light pink buds of mountain laurel promise one of the most beautiful bloom times ever along the base of the Blue Wall. And the eagles are on their nest! The world of the Jocassee Gorges is full of promise, especially when boats full of sixth graders come in singing "Lake Jocassee, Lake Jocassee, we love you! We love you! We promise to protect you, we promise to protect you, from now on. From now on."
~K



SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Happy Mother's Day! Book Now!

May 11: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

May 11: 2:30-5:30 PM

Sunset Tours begins May 3! Book Now!

Kayak Tours begin May 18! Book Now!

Memorial Day! Book Now!

May 26: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

**PRIVATE TOURS
ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE!**

(864) 280-5501

www.jocassee-lake-tours.com

WEEKLY EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Cool Season Lake Tours:

Ending April 30!

Tues, Thurs, Sat:

11:00 AM-2:00 PM Book Now!

Sunday Afternoon Tours:

2:00-5:00 PM Book Now!

WARM SEASON TOURS

Beginning May 1st!

Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat:

10:00 AM-2:00 PM Book Now!

Sunday Afternoon Tours:

2:30-5:30 PM Book Now!

**CALL OR BOOK ONLINE TO
RESERVE SEATS**



A gulp of double-crested cormorants sitting on the buoy.



**An asylum of loons leaving soon.
Photos by Tricia Kyzer**

OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK, APRIL 28, 2025

STATE PARK EVENTS

Gorges State Park

April 29: 10:00-11:00 AM

History of Gorges-Guided Hike

Join us for a guided hike to the Bearwallow Valley Overlook as we discuss the history of Gorges State Park.

Oconee Station State Historic Site

May 1: 10:00-11:30 AM

Monthly First Day Hike

Join a ranger for a refreshing walk-through history and nature

THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE APRIL 28, 2025

Biophony

Lake Jocassee is so beautiful it is hard to look away. But when the black locusts are blooming and the Oconee Bells are spent, I like to close my eyes and listen to the music of life. Millions of birds have been migrating to their nesting grounds. Some away from the Jocassee Gorges and some to them. They are all singing their best songs. Listen...

The loons are singing farewell. Final hoots, tremolos, and occasional practice songs are floating over foggy waters, soon to be silent of their voice. The remaining Bonapartes buzz with glee when they are on the fish. A raven passes over with a gentle croak. A 'gulp' of cormorants sat on the buoy at the Jocassee Dam in the rain this week, and I listened as one looked at another and let out a low vibrating sound, reminding me of a bendy straw being pulled apart.

Heading close to the shoreline, I hear the Eastern Phoebe on her nest calling "Phoebe, Phoebe". I hear the "zeezeezoozee" of the black-throated green warbler, the "Where are you? Here I am. Over here" of the blue-headed vireo. That squeaky wheel? That is the black and white warbler high in an oak. The "chip-burr" of the Scarlet tanager has me hunting for the deep red and black bird. Perhaps the most exciting sound to return to the forest is the song of the



OSSHS, Photo by Erik Michaels

woodthrush. Clear and hopeful, the song flows down to me. The sound of life is being sung into the Jocassee Gorges. ~Tricia Kyzer, JLT guide

NEW EVENTS COMING IN MAY

STATE PARK EVENTS

Table Rock State Park

May 10: 2:00-6:00 PM

Music on the Mountain

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

SC Wildlife Federation (SCWF)

April 30: 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.

Foothills Trail Conservancy

May 3: 9:00 AM

May Wildflower Hike

This hike will begin at Burrell's Ford, hiking to King Creek Falls and then Spoonauger Falls. It will then take the connector up to the Foothills Trail and return to Burrell's Ford.



Trillium undulatum Painted trillium
Photo by Brenda J. Wiley

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

May 6: 7:00-8:30 PM

Special Film Screening of "Kiss the Ground"

Conserving Carolina

May 7: 10:00-11:30 AM

Edneyville Library Speaker Series: Restoring Natural Floodplains – Building Resilience for Communities and Ecosystems

Conestee Nature Preserve

May 8: 3:00-4:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School Club – Elementary

Conestee Nature Preserve

May 8: 4:00-5:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School Club – Middle School

Hagood Mill Historic Site

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

Warm Weather Foraging Class

Conserving Carolina

May 13: 2:00-3:30 PM

GNHA

May 3: 9:00 AM

Eastatoee Passage Shuttle with a Lake View Loop

Join in a one-way shuttle hike across the Eastatoe Passage of the Palmetto trail and Raven Rock trails.

Mushroom Mountain

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

Mini Clinic- Medicinal Mushrooms

Join Mushroom Mountain for an exciting class covering several of the most important and most potent medicinal mushrooms known today.

Holly Springs Center

May 3: 10:00 AM

Holly Springs Homecoming

The Holly Springs family is celebrating our 70th school year! Join us for a mountain homecoming. A tractor show and farm animals, bluegrass jam, YAMS and cloggers, artisan demonstrations, food trucks, snacks, plant sale and more...

Pickens County

May 3: 10:00 AM-5:00 PM

May 4: 1:00-5:00 PM

Ag + Art Tour

We invite you to come and experience our great farms, artisans, and of course hospitality that is second to none!

SC Botanical Garden Events

May 2: 9:30-11:00 AM

Nature Journaling Series (Adults)

Join SCBG educator and naturalist, Allison Jones, for an

Saluda Library Speaker Series:

Bear Wise

Mushroom Mountain

May 15: 2:00-3:30 PM

MM Tour

Foothills Trail Conservancy

May 17

FHT Geology Hike

Greenville County Bird Club

May 17: 7:00 AM-12:00 PM

May 17: 8:00-10:30 AM

Conestee Nature Preserve

GNHA

May 17: 9:00 AM

Ashmore Heritage Preserve-The High Rock

GNHA

May 17: 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

The Rebooters: Paris Mtn-

Mountain Creek Trail and

Sassafras Loop

Conestee Nature Preserve

May 17: 10:00-11:00 AM

Telemetry and Turtles

Conestee Nature Preserve

May 17: 1:00-2:00 PM

Playful Pollinators

Conserving Carolina

May 20: 6:00-7:30 PM

Landrum Library Speaker Series:

Carolina Meadows

SCNPS Upstate

May 20: 6:30-8:00 PM

Upstate Monthly Meeting-

Presentation: "Native Plant

Conservation and the SCBG" w/ Dr.

Martin A. Hamilton

introduction to the world of nature journaling.

May 2: 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!



Unsplash.com photo

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

SC Botanical Garden Events

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

Ferns: SC Native Plant Certificate
Elective

May 14: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Wetland Ecology: SC Native Plant
Certificate Elective

May 21: 8:00-9:00 AM

Winged Wednesdays

BORROWED GLIMPSES



"Best field trip ever.", says yet another Jocassee Wild Child.

Photo by Tricia Kyzer

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/jocas](https://www.facebook.com/jocasseewild)
seewild

SPONSOR A JOCASSEE WILD
CHILD TODAY!



DID YOU KNOW?

Jocassee Lake Tours is looking for one more excellent employee to join our ground crew this summer. Must be a responsible teenager or adult with a clean driver's license, good communication skills, and willingness to work weekends and holidays.

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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