



[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!

Burned

Six months ago, Hurricane Helene stormed up the southern face of the Blue Ridge Escarpment in a swirling fury of wind and rain. In the aftermath of landslides and uprooted trees came light, pouring through canopy gaps, opening the forest floor to new life. This month, spring brings soft green back to the land, but here comes wildfire,



As seen from Lake Jocassee, fires flare on Table Rock and Persimmon Ridge, pushed out of

eating through forest, jumping firebreaks, racing around steep terrain. Georgia mountains, NC mountains, and in SC, our beloved Table Rock Mountain and Persimmon Ridge are scorched, blackened and blistered. Our neighbors who are the hero firefighters are scorched, blackened and blistered. Once this fire has finished consuming itself, Pyrophilous fungi will send forth tiny fire-dependent mushrooms. Fire-dependent Table Mountain pines will sprout throughout the mountains. Pioneer species will move in, and life will regenerate. Because that's what life does. Resilience matters. ~K

control by strong 30mph gusts of wind.



Jocassee Gorges present hazardous conditions for firefighters, with fallen and compromised trees from Hurricane Helene, steep, unstable terrain, and sudden drop-offs. We owe these brave men and women so much gratitude!
Photo by Mac Stone

SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

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

Spring Loon Migration Tour
April 6: 6:30-9:30 AM [Book Now!](#)

Loons, Eagles, and Waterfalls Tour
[Book Now!](#)
April 6: 2:00-5:00 PM

Sunrise Photography Tour w/ Pam Barbour [Book Now!](#)
April 10: 6:30-9:30 AM

Full "Pink" Moon Rising Tour
[Book Now!](#)
April 12: 6:30-8:30 PM

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
ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE!**

[\(864\) 280-5501](tel:8642805501)

www.jocasseelaketours.com



**On calmer days, Lake Jocassee contributes water to the firefighting planes.
Photo by Colleen Hall**



**Smoke from the Table Rock fire in the distance,
Photo by Andy Douglas**

OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK, MARCH 31, 2025

STATE PARK EVENTS

Oconee Station State Historic Site

April 1: 10:00-11:30 AM

Monthly First Day Hike

Join a ranger for a refreshing walk-through history and nature as we explore one of two scenic trails.

THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE MARCH 31, 2025

It's not unusual to see an occasional small float plane flying over Jocassee as pilots hone their skills, landing and taking off again, but Tuesday was different. Two firefighting planes (possibly Fire Boss Water Scoopers; see link below) made multiple trips throughout the day, carrying ~ 800 gallons of water each trip to help suppress the Table Rock Complex fire. We waved and cheered them on as they lifted off and flew over us; so incredibly grateful to see them. On Wednesday, we had 3 boats of Walhalla High School students here, learning about the lake and the Jocassee Gorges. Several of them couldn't resist the chance to take a cold therapy plunge into the Thompson River & Wright Creek Falls. In addition to the gorge experience, they watched loons and winter birds & were introduced to several tree species, some in flower (beeches) and some forming seeds (red maples). They even gained a deeper appreciation for these ancient mountains that surround us, as they climbed and sat on top of old sapolitic rock, looking out at this incredible place we call home. Brooks and Zach were out all week doing Winter/Spring Loon research with the loon folks. Brooks will share all that with you next week. It's been a productive week. ~ Sheryl White, JLT guide

[Fire Boss Water Scooper](#)



Station Falls,

Photo by Alice McLeod Register

**Wildfire Information & Statewide
Burning Ban**

SCUMS

March 31: 6:30 PM

Current Happenings in the
Mushroom World w/Alan Bergo

This will be a casual discussion of interesting things going on in the rapidly changing world of mushrooming and mycology.

SC Wildlife Federation (SCWF)

April 1-30: 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.

Conserving Carolina

April 2: 10:00-11:30 AM

Edneyville Library Speaker Series:
An Overview of Native Brook

**NEW EVENTS COMING IN
APRIL**

STATE PARK EVENTS

Gorges State Park

April 10: 8:00-9:00 PM

Night Hike at Gorges-NC Science
Festival Program

Gorges State Park

April 20: 10:00-10:30 AM

Spring Hike!

Gorges State Park

April 27: 1:30-2:30 PM

Wildflower Walk

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

April 8: 2:00-3:30 PM

Saluda Library Speaker Series:
History of the Saluda Grade

Conestee Nature Preserve

April 10 & 24: 3:00-4:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School
Club – Elementary

Conestee Nature Preserve

April 10 & 24: 4:00-5:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School
Club – Middle School

Highlands Biological Station

April 11 & 18: 3:00-4:00 PM

Wildflower Walks

SCNPS- Upstate

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

Upstate SCNPS Volunteer
Opportunity at the Spring Native
Plant Sale

Trout Conservation in North Carolina

Join us for a presentation by Jacob Rash, Coldwater Research Coordinator for the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, and learn about efforts to help conserve NC's native Brook Trout.



Jacob Rash and Joe Coleman, sampling for Native Brook trout, CC Photo

SC Wildlife Federation (SCWF)

April 4: 9:00 AM

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

This event is designed for women to connect with each other and feel confident on the water.

Hagood Mill Historic Site

April 4: 1:00-3:00 PM

Growing Mushrooms 101

Whether you're a beginner or looking to expand your gardening skills, this hands-on interactive class will teach you the fundamentals of growing edible mushrooms outdoors.

Highlands Biological Station

April 4: 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.

GNHA

April 12: 8:30 AM-4:30 PM

Laurel Valley TH to Laurel Fork Falls - out and back

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

SCNPS- Upstate

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

Upstate Spring Native Plant Sale at Conestee Park

Hagood Mill Historic Site

April 12: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Homestead Day Camp

GNHA Hiking Club

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

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

Mushroom Mountain

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

MINI CLINIC - Building Soil with Mushrooms

Western NC Backpackers

April 12-13: 8:15 AM-12:00 PM

Backpacking Overnight: Jocassee Gorges

SCNPS- Upstate

April 15: 6:30-8:00 PM

"Garden Scale Landscape Design with Natives"

Mushroom Mountain

April 17: 2:00-3:30 PM

MM Tour

GNHA

April 5: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

Thompson River via Foothills Trail

Should the trail still be closed, alternate plan is to head up to Upper Whitewater Falls.

Mushroom Mountain

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

Spring Mushroom Cultivation Workshop

Participants will learn fungal ecology and life cycles, while immersed in hands-on methods to cultivate mushrooms on logs, stumps, wood chips, and straw, designing mushroom gardens, and composting or recycling with fungi.

SCNPS Midlands

April 5: 9:30 AM

Chestnut Ridge Heritage Preserve

Please join this hike led by Dan Whitten to enjoy trillium, bloodroot, chickweed, violets, Solomon's seal and many others.

Foothills Trail Conservancy

April 5: 2:00-7:00 PM

FTC Spring Picnic

Regretfully, the Spring Picnic has been cancelled due to the wildfire and closure of Table Rock State Park.

Mushroom Mountain

April 5-6: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Wild Mushroom Food Safety Certification - SOUTH CAROLINA

This 5 year mushroom foraging permit meets the criteria required by the state health departments and formally approved for the foraging and selling of wild mushrooms in the following

Hagood Mill Historic Site

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

Old Time Weekend Jam Festival

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

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

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

Mushroom Mountain

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

Wild Mushroom Food Safety Certification - NORTH CAROLINA

SC Botanical Garden Events

April 7: 1:00-3:00 PM

SCBG Docent Orientations

states: South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, Alabama, Pennsylvania, New York and Rhode Island.

SC Botanical Garden Events

April 4: 2:00-6:00 PM
Garden Members Spring Plant Sale

We have a wonderful selection to choose from- natives, tons of perennials, fruit trees and shrubs, colorful annuals, vegetables and more!

April 5: 9:00 AM-1:00 PM
Public Spring Plant Sale
Take home beautiful plants to enjoy while supporting the SCBG!



The Tiny Violet with Big Secrets

April 14: 10:00 AM-2:30 PM
Lake Jocassee, Perfect Outdoor Classroom: SCNP Certificate Elective

April 15: 1:30-3:30 PM
An Introduction to Native Bees

April 19: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
Basic Horticulture: SC Native Plant Certificate Core Class

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

BORROWED GLIMPSES



Brrr... lake surface temperatures are in the upper 50's this week.



**Sitting on top of rotten rock,
Photos by Tricia Kyzer**



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

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Jocassee Wild Child Adventures
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SPONSOR A JOCASSEE WILD
CHILD TODAY!



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

DID YOU KNOW?

Pyrophilous fungi are a group of fungi that thrive and often appear in abundance following wildfires. Considered "fire-loving" because their fruiting bodies (like mushrooms) are often more abundant or appear soon after a fire, it is believed that fire conditions, such as increased soil carbon and heat, can trigger their growth. The ecology and life cycles of this unique life form are not well understood outside of fire-affected areas.

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!**

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