

[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 Blue Ridge 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!

Wild, Wild Children

They spill from big yellow school buses with giggles and nervous anticipation, these wild children. For today, they leave behind indoor classrooms. Out here, in the Jocassee Gorges, they will enter their natural habitat, the one that has nourished and sustained humanity for thousands of years. There are no walls. Out here, their



Exploring the Otter Cave!

ceiling is the sky, and their floor is the living ground beneath their feet. Over these weeks of Spring 2025 these lucky children have left the dock on beautiful blue days, but also on days when they quickly disappear into fog. They will shriek with laughter on days when gusts of wind throw sprays of water across their laps, and they happily huddle together under towels on the misty rain days. Through direct experience, they learn about climate and weather and rainforests. They climb into the Otter Cave and climb to the top of Tahiti Beach and slide down Swallowtail Slide and jump off Family Rock, all the while learning lessons about Jocassee Gorges geology. They visit the Frog Pond to catch salamanders. They absorb lessons on amphibians and habitat as readily as the salamanders—one of the Gorges most abundant creatures—absorb oxygen through their skin. They marvel at trees, as if seeing them for the first time, and they marvel that the Common loon can spend five whole minutes underwater. Since our Wildest Child and Director, Kerry McKenzie, has been temporarily grounded by a new knee, Wild Child Adventures have been taken over by a gang of JLT guides who release their inner child right along with the kids. They encourage these children to explore, to express themselves, to ask questions, and to stretch just a little beyond the edge of their comfort zone.

When they return to the dock at the end of their adventure, these young people are making ancient music with drums and rattles; they



Give a kid a chance to climb...



Learning about weather and rainforests, while experiencing weather and rainforests!



Fun fun fun at Wright Creek Falls!



JLT/JWC guide Steve Lewis instructs kids on the finer points of ...most everything!

Photos by Preston Bailey

are singing; they are wet, and they are dirty. And they are—every one--wildly happy.

School is almost over; this will be our last week of Jocassee Wild Child Adventures until the new school year. To date we have led 733 public school children into the Jocassee Gorges since March, with 250 more to come this week. Of these, 391 required supplemental funding to make their field trip happen. Jocassee Wild Outdoor Education was able to contribute an average of \$25 per child for these 391 kids thanks to the generous support of our local community. THANK YOU, and please continue to support this important program! ~K



A kid in his element.
Photo by Sheryl White



DONATE HERE TODAY!

SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

MEMORIAL MONDAY! Book Now!

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

Writing the Wild Lab and Jocassee

Excursion w/ J. Drew Lanham

Call for details!

May 27-28

**Jocassee (Family) Adventure
Camp Book Now!**

June 6 & 13: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Kayak Tour! Book Now!

June 8: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Full Moon Rising Tour

Strawberry Moon! Book Now!

June 10: 7:30-9:30 PM

WEEKLY EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Jocassee Lake Tours Book Now!

Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat, Sun:

10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Sunset Tours! Book Now!

May 24: 6:45-8:45 PM

Sunday Afternoon Tours

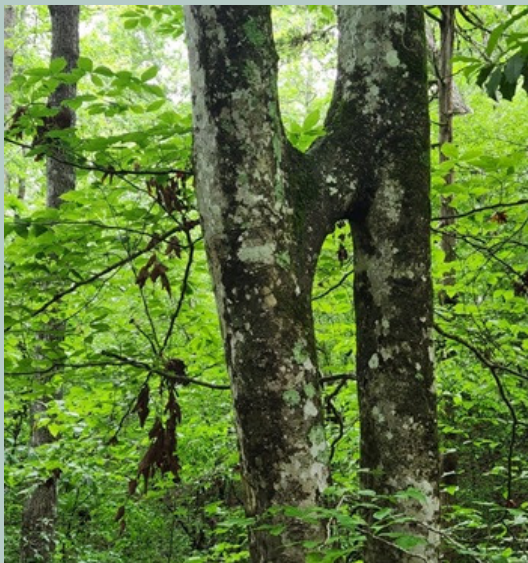
Book Now!

2:30-5:30 PM

**CALL OR BOOK ONLINE TO
RESERVE SEATS**

**PRIVATE TOURS
ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE!**

(864) 280-5501



One tree? Two trees?
Inosculated trees!

THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE MAY 19, 2025

INOSCULATION. You have probably looked at some trees before that had a strange connected look to them, so you walked on looking for something else. Next time, stop and see how they connect. Sometimes they grow together where touching and become one intertwined organism. Their living tissue is combined. This is inosculation. The trees don't necessarily have to be of the same species. They do have to be separate plants originally. I just know I would not want to name my kid "Inosculation". ~Dan Whitten, JLT Guide

OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK, MAY 19, 2025

STATE PARK EVENTS

Oconee State Park

May 23: 7:00-9:00 PM

Summer Square Dancing

Enjoy live music by the beloved Dixie Bluegrass Boys and join in the timeless tradition of square dancing under the stars.

NEW EVENTS COMING IN MAY/JUNE

STATE PARK EVENT

Gorges State Park

May 27: 10:00-10:30 AM

Tree ID

Oconee State Park

May 30: 7:00-9:00 PM

June 6 & 13: 7:00-9:00 PM

Summer Square Dancing

Oconee Station State Historic Site

June 1: 10:00-11:30 AM

Monthly First Day Hike

Oconee Station State Historic Site

June 3 & 7: 1:00-3:00 PM



Hugh and Rita Burgess' Photo

Historic Building Tour

Oconee State Park

June 5: 2:00-3:00 PM

Exploring Nature

Jones Gap State Park

June 7: 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

National Trails Day-Volunteer Event

Conserving Carolina

June 10: 2:00-3:30 PM

Saluda Library Speaker Series:
Renewed Hope for Hemlocks

Table Rock State Park

June 14: 2:00-6:00 PM

Music on the Mountain

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Highlands Biological Station

May 20: 5:00 AM

MAPS Bird Banding

Stop by during our Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) bird banding session to observe expert researchers safely capture, band, and release birds as part of a long-term ecological monitoring project.

Hagood Mill Historic Site

May 20: 10:00 AM-12:30 PM

Warm Weather Foraging Class

Join us for a deep dive into the wild foods and healing plants that thrive during the warmer months in the South.

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

NCNPS Oconee Bell Chapter

May 27: 5:30 PM

Nature Nights by the Pond!

Highlands Biological Station

May 27: 8:00-9:00 PM

Salamander Meander (Member's only)

Sierra Club South Carolina

May 29: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Hartwell Dam Trail

Friends of the Reedy River

May 29: 5:00-8:00 PM

Introducing the Saluda River Basin Plan

SCNPS Upstate

May 31: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM

Volunteer Opportunity at the TD Saturday Market

Conestee Nature Preserve

June 2-6: 8:30 AM-4:30 PM



HMHS Photo

Conserving Carolina

May 20: 6:00-7:30 PM

Landrum Library Speaker Series:
Carolina Meadows, w/Tim Lee

Join us as we explore meadows in the Carolinas.

SCNPS Upstate

May 20: 6:30-8:00 PM

Upstate Monthly Meeting-
Presentation: "Native Plant
Conservation and the SCBG" w/
Dr. Martin A. Hamilton

Dr. Hamilton will explore the vital role botanic gardens play in conserving native plants—from seed banking and ex-situ collections to research, education, and habitat restoration.

Highlands Biological Station

May 21: 3:00-4:00 PM

Experiencing Nature w/ Education
Specialist, Maddie Wikstrom

Attendees will experience what can be revealed to us through Sit Spots, a Silent Hike, and reflective drawing.

SCNPS Upstate

May 24: 8:30 AM-4:30 PM

Blue Ridge Parkway in Spring

View the rhododendrons, enjoy wildflowers up close and learn about the geology of this wonder so close to home.

GNHA

Conservation Summer Camp

Sierra Club South Carolina

June 7: 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

Foothills Group of the Sierra Club
National Trails Day Service

Sierra Club South Carolina

June 7: 9:30 AM-12:00 PM

RESCHEDULED - Palmetto Trail
and Pitcher Plants Hike in the
National Forest

SC Wildlife Federation

June 10: 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Habitat Workshop

SCNPS Upstate

June 11: 10:00 AM-2:30 PM

Roan Mountain

Highlands Biological Station

June 12: 6:00-7:00 PM

Zahner Conservation Lecture
Series: Healthy Land, Healthy
People: Centering Indigenous
Voices in Conservation

Conestee Nature Preserve

June 14: 8:00-10:00 AM

Naturalist Guided Hike

SC Botanical Garden Events

June 2: 8:30 AM-3:00 PM

Mountains to Sea Camp

June 9: 8:30 AM-3:00 PM

CircleUp! STEM Rippin' River Rally
Camp

June 12: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

Spring Invasive Plant Managemen

BORROWED GLIMPSES

May 24: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

Chestnut Ridge Heritage Preserve

This out and back hike passes through various forest habitats along a creek with large boulders and rock outcroppings adding to the fun.

Hagood Mill Historic Site

May 24: 10:00 AM-12:30 PM

Woodland Foraging

Step into the woodlands with fresh eyes and learn to identify the wild plants and trees that offer more than just shade and scenery.

Hagood Mill Historic Site

May 24: 1:00-2:00 PM

Forest Bathing Class

Whether you're seeking stress relief, a boost in immunity, or simply a moment of peace, this gentle, guided walk through the woods provides deep **60 Historical Garden Events** mind,

May 24: 8:00-9:00 AM

Winged Wednesdays

No experience is required—we will lead you through the best birdwatching spots, sharing tips and tricks along the way.

May 23: 10:00-11:30 AM

Friday Garden Forays w/ naturalist, James Wilkins

Discover seasonal highlights and get up close and personal with the native plants and plant communities that support biodiversity in real time.



The perfect jumping rock is hard to resist.

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



[Current conditions at Lake Jocassee via Devils Fork State Park Webcam](#)

[Sponsored by Friends of Jocassee](#)





Come explore the garden,
SCBG photo.



Follow
Jocassee Wild Child Adventures
on Facebook!

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

**SPONSOR A JOCASSEE WILD
CHILD TODAY!**

DID YOU KNOW?

Inosculation: The term is derived from the Latin roots *in* + *osculari*, "to kiss into/inward/against"

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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