



[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 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!**

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## **Wild, Wild Children, cont.**

The young arthropod, so recently plucked from the tree it was climbing, crawls around the wrist of its captor. “Uhm, no thank you. I don’t want to hold it.” “Oh no.” They back away from a chance to hold a millipede, eyes wide. But Captain K just chuckles with a devious raise of the eyebrows. “If

you don't, I'm going to put it in your HAIR."

Reluctantly, one seventh grade girl, then another, then the others allow the millipede to crawl over their hands with his dozens of pairs of bristly little legs.

"It tickles!"

"Ewww, it POOPED on me!"

"Here, it won't hurt you. And it's already pooped..."

One by one, these reluctant young ladies hold their first millipede. It doesn't bite, it doesn't sting, and its poop is very, very tiny. Braver now, they examine a spider and a snail and a salamander. Nothing hurts them. They began to feel more at ease in their natural environment: the great outdoors. They are truly on their way to becoming Wild Children. ~Capt. K



Have YOU ever held a millipede?

Support your local wild child!  
**DONATE HERE TODAY!**

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### **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**

### **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 31: 6:45-8:45 PM**

**Sunday Afternoon Tours**

**Book Now!**

**2:30-5:30 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

All the Falls Tour Book Now!  
June 14: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

CALL OR BOOK ONLINE TO  
RESERVE SEATS

PRIVATE TOURS  
**ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE!**

(864) 280-5501

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



*Vitis rotundifolia*, young  
muscadine grapes

### **THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE MAY 26, 2025**

There's just something about babies that grabs your attention and makes you stop for a moment to appreciate their beauty. Regardless of whether they're children, animals, tree leaves or baby fruits! As a naturalist and plant lover, I find myself getting excited when I see a flower with a pollinator inside of it or watching for the first sign of the baby bump of an apple to appear. Last year, I planted a small orchard on our property, so every moment of spare time, I find myself outside, examining things, watering, and waiting in anticipation for the next phase of development. This doesn't just happen at home. I do this when I'm out on the lake, too. All over the Jocassee Gorges right now, you'll find clusters of baby muscadines, spheres of dogwood berries, blackberry drupelets, blossoms and baby bumps on common persimmons. As a child, picking blackberries for my grandmother's first cobbler of the summer is one of my favorite memories. I wonder if the bears, squirrels and raccoons examine everything, like I do, and wait with excitement for that first sun-



*Diospyros virginiana*, common persimmon blossoms. Top left bloom has a small beetle inside it.

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## OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK, MAY 26, 2025

### STATE PARK EVENTS

#### Gorges State Park

May 27: 10:00-10:30 AM

#### Tree ID

Join a Park Ranger for a guided hike at White Pines Picnic Area to learn some easy tips/tricks for being a tree ID expert.

#### Oconee State Park

May 30: 7:00-9:00 PM

#### Summer Square Dancing

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

#### Oconee Station State Historic Site

June 1: 10:00-11:30 AM

#### Monthly First Day Hike

ripened goodie. ~ Sheryl White,  
JLT guide

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## NEW EVENTS COMING IN JUNE

### STATE PARK EVENT

#### Oconee Station State Historic Site

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

#### Historic Building Tour

#### Oconee State Park

June 4: 10:00-11:30 AM

#### CCC History Stroll

#### Oconee State Park

June 5: 2:00-3:00 PM

#### Exploring Nature

#### Oconee State Park

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

#### Summer Square Dancing

#### Jones Gap State Park

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

#### National Trails Day--Volunteer Event

#### Table Rock State Park

June 14: 2:00-6:00 PM

#### Music on the Mountain

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## OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

#### Conestee Nature Preserve

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

#### Conservation Summer Camp

#### Highlands Biological Station

June 3: 5:00 AM-1:00 PM

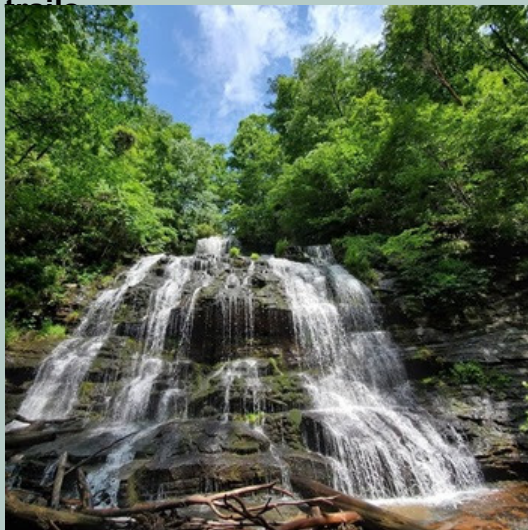
#### MAPS Bird Banding

#### Friends of the Reedy River

June 5: 8:30-11:30 AM



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



Station Cove Falls,  
Photo by @joshtebalt

## OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

### NCNPS Oconee Bell Chapter

May 27: 5:30 PM

#### Nature Nights by the Pond!

Bring a friend, your curiosity, and your own lawn chair! We'll hang out lakeside (weather permitting), swap native seeds and plants, and raffle off some green goodies.

### Highlands Biological Station

May 27: 8:00-9:00 PM

#### Salamander Meander (Member's only).

Kick off Highlands Nature Center's summer season with a nighttime search for our secretive salamander friends!

### Friends of the Reedy River

May 28: 8:30-11:30 AM

Volunteer Workday 2 at Reedy River Meadow--Invasive Plant Pull  
We'll teach volunteers about the importance of meadows, native plants, riparian buffer zones, and proper identification and removal

#### Volunteer Workday 3 at Reedy River Meadow--Invasive Plant Pull & Mulching

### Sierra Club South Carolina

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

#### Foothills Group of the Sierra Club National Trails Day Service

### Foothills Trail Conservancy

June 7: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

#### National Trails Day--Ellicott Rock via Badcreek Trail

### 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

### Conserving Carolina

June 10: 2:00-3:30 PM

#### Saluda Library Speaker Series: Renewed Hope for Hemlocks

### Conserving Carolina

June 10: 6:00-7:30 PM

#### Landrum Library Speaker Series: Butterflies in Your Backyard

### 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 #1: Healthy Land, Healthy People: Centering Indigenous Voices in Conservation

### Conestee Nature Preserve

June 14: 8:00-10:00 AM

of invasive plant species--specifically hand-pulling invasive plant species and small saplings.

### **Sierra Club South Carolina**

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

#### Hartwell Dam Trail

The trail is 2.75 miles round trip and follows the shoreline of Hartwell Lake from Big Oaks up to the concrete portion of the dam on the Georgia side.

### **Friends of the Reedy River**

May 29: 5:00-8:00 PM

#### Introducing the Saluda River Basin Plan

The RBS has developed an evening of engagement, conversation, and fun during the public feedback period!

### **SCNPS Upstate**

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

#### Volunteer Opportunity at the TD Saturday Market

We're looking for two or three volunteers to represent SCNPS to hand out literature, answer questions, and help recruit new members—all while soaking in the buzz of one of the city's best weekend events.

### **Conserving Carolina**

May 31: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

#### French Broad River Clean-Up with MountainTrue

The clean-up will be boat-based and focus on the French Broad River in Transylvania County between Pisgah Forest River Access and Penrose Boating Access Area.

### Naturalist Guided Hike

### **Conestee Nature Preserve**

June 14: 10:30-11:00 AM

#### Playscape Open House

### **Oconee Military Museum**

June 14: 1:00-3:00 PM

#### Grand Old Flag Celebration

### **SCNPS Upstate**

June 17: 6:30-8:00 PM

#### "Battle Plans Against Invasive Plants" w/ Raven Sterling

### **Mushroom Mountain**

June 19: 2:00-3:30 PM

#### Mushroom Mountain Tour

### **Highlands Biological Station**

June 19: 6:00-7:00 PM

#### Zahner Conservation Lecture #2: Are You BearWise?

### **Jeanne Malmgren**

June 21

#### Silent Hikes--Summer Solstice: Dixon Woods Preserve, Highlands, NC

### **Greenville County Bird Club**

June 21: 7:00 AM-12:00 PM (Longer Walk)

June 21: 8:00-10:30 AM (Shorter Walk)

#### Conestee Nature Preserve

### **Chattooga Belle Farm**

June 21: 10:00 AM

#### Summer Solstice Festival

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### **SC Botanical Garden Events**

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

#### Mountains to Sea Camp



There's just something satisfying  
about leaving a place  
better than you find it.

Photo by Conserving Carolina

## SC Botanical Garden Events

More Events Coming Soon!



For expert advice and help for all  
your home garden needs, check  
out the link below.

[Clemson Home and Garden  
Information Center](#)

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

[Sponsored by Friends of  
Jocassee](#)

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



Brown thrasher

Photo by Gene Rochester

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



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Jocassee Wild Child Adventures  
on Facebook!

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

**SPONSOR A JOCASSEE WILD  
CHILD TODAY!**

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### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Millipedes (originating from the Latin mille, "thousand", and pes, "foot") are a group of arthropods that are characterised by having two pairs of jointed legs on most body segments; they are known scientifically as the class Diplopoda, the name derived from this feature.

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### **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.

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[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!**

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**JOCASSEE**  
REAL ESTATE  
*Dream it. Live it.*

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