



[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 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!

Queen Kalmia

Never, ever, in the history of this world, has Queen Kalmia been this enchanting. We've entered a storybook fairy tale where our imagination follows an exquisite flowering shrub along quiet country roadsides into the forest, where the Queen arches over clear and rambling creeks. Under the shade of trees fresh with new

leaves, she blooms, bringing a most delicate pink light into the darkening woods. And why? How can it be that this, of all years, has brought forth her most radiant bloom? Does credit go to Hurricane Helene? Were these clusters of delicate pink buds stimulated by that savage wind, or by heavy vibration of trees crashing to the earth among native shrubs, or by some mysterious essence released by tree roots ripping up huge chunks of raw ground? One thing we know: it is incredibly beautiful right now along the base of the Blue Wall, and it promises to remain beautiful for at least a couple of weeks to come. Please, don't miss this. It is truly awe inspiring. ~K



Queen Kalmia, aka Kalmia latifolia, aka Mountain laurel

SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Sunset Tour [Book Now!](#)
May 10: 6:30-8:30 PM

Happy Mother's Day! [Book Now!](#)
May 11: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
May 11: 2:30-5:30 PM

Full "Flower" Moon Rising Tour
[Book Now!](#)
May 11: 6:30-8:30 PM

Kayak Tours begin May 18!

WEEKLY EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Jocassee Lake Tours [Book Now!](#)
Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat:
10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Sunday Afternoon Tours
[Book Now!](#)
2:30-5:30 PM

[CALL OR BOOK ONLINE TO
RESERVE SEATS
PRIVATE TOURS
ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE!](#)

Book Now!

Memorial Day! Book Now!
May 26: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

(864) 280-5501

www.jocasseeelaketours.com



Nice brown trout, Mr. Lucky!

**THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE
MAY 5, 2025**

Finally, after a LONG wait the trout are finally starting to bite again. We went out Wednesday morning and had one of the best days of fishing we have had in over a year. Within four hours we landed 3 rainbow trout that were stocked this year, just over the legal size limit of 15 inches, and 2 larger brown trout weighing 5 1/2 lb and 7lb. My clients were happy to release the larger fish for someone else to enjoy one day, great sportsmanship. As always the sutton spoons were my lures of choice! Book a trip and let's chase some trophy trout once again!
~Zach Maddox, JLT fishing guide

**OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK,
MAY 5, 2025**

STATE PARK EVENTS

Gorges State Park

May 9: 1:00-1:30 PM

Busy Beavers

Join a ranger for a classroom presentation on the industrious beaver. We will learn about its characteristics and discuss why its such an important species in NC.

**NEW EVENTS COMING IN
MAY/JUNE**

STATE PARK EVENTS

Gorges State Park

May 18: 10:00-10:30 AM

Lichen or Not

Oconee Station State Historic Site

June 1: 10:00-11:30 AM

Monthly First Day Hike

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

May 13: 2:00-3:30 PM



If you like drinking clean water, thank a beaver. GSP Photo

Table Rock State Park

May 10: 2:00-6:00 PM

Music on the Mountain

Enjoy traditional Blue Grass music as local musicians gather at TRSP to keep this inspirational talent alive.

Gorges State Park

May 11: 10:00-10:30 AM

The Bear Facts

Come join Ranger Hill to learn about the Black Bears and what role they play in the park's ecosystem.

May 6: 8:00-9:00 AM

Morning Bird Walk

Birders of all skill levels are welcome to join Jason Love, Assistant Director of the Highlands Biological Station, for an easy walk on our trails to look for birds including Spring Migrants.

Conserving Carolina

May 6: 7:00-8:30 PM

Special Film Screening of "Kiss the Ground"

Kiss the Ground is an inspiring and groundbreaking film that reveals the first viable solution to our climate crisis.

Conserving Carolina

May 7: 10:00-11:30 AM

Saluda Library Speaker Series: Bear Wise

Mushroom Mountain

May 15: 2:00-3:30 PM

MM Tour

Highlands Biological Station

May 16: 3:00-4:00 PM

Herpetology Season

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-2:00 PM

The Rebooters: Paris Mtn- Mountain Creek Trail and Sassafras Loop

GNHA

May 17: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

Ashmore Heritage Preserve-The High Rock

Conestee Nature Preserve

May 17: 10:00-11:00 AM

Telemetry and Turtles

Hagood Mill Historic Site

May 17: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Mountain Roots Herb Festival

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

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

This presentation will highlight Conserving Carolina's innovative floodplain restoration projects along the French Broad River, focusing on their important role in mitigating flood risks, improving biodiversity, and enhancing water quality.



Conserving Carolina Photo

Conestee Nature Preserve

May 8: 3:00-4:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School
Club – Elementary

May Madness- Field Day fun and games.

Conestee Nature Preserve

May 8: 4:00-5:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School
Club – Middle School

May Madness- Field Day fun and games.

Hagood Mill Historic Site

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

Warm Weather Foraging Class

In this class, you'll learn to identify common plants and trees that offer incredible nutritional and medicinal benefits—many of which grow right outside your door.

SCNPS Upstate

May 20: 6:30-8:00 PM

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

Highlands Biological Station

May 21: 3:00-4:00 PM

Experiencing Nature

SCNPS Upstate

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

Blue Ridge Parkway in Spring

GNHA

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

Chestnut Ridge Heritage Preserve

Hagood Mill Historic Site

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

Woodland Foraging

Highlands Biological Station

May 27: 8:00-9:00 PM

Salamander Meander

SC Botanical Garden Events

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

Wetland Ecology: SC Native Plant
Certificate Elective

May 21: 8:00-9:00 AM

Winged Wednesdays

May 23: 10:00-11:30 AM

Friday Garden Forays, Spring 2025

BORROWED GLIMPSES

SC Botanical Garden Events

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

Ferns: SC Native Plant Certificate Elective

Join naturalist Tim Lee to learn about the basic ecology, natural history and fern identification through classroom lecture and field work.



Polystichum acrostichoides
Christmas fern

Photo by Karen Russ, HGIC
Clemson Extension



That's some really 'gneiss' rock!



What a "Cool" Jocassee Wild Child. Water temps are still in the low 60's.

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

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!



DID YOU KNOW?

Thigmomorphogenesis is a plant's response to mechanical stimuli, such as wind, touch, or vibration, all of which might alter it's growth and development.

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!**

SUPPORT OUR JOCASSEE PARTNERS!



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