

THE BLUE WALL WEEKLY

Your Source for Outdoor Activities

Along the Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment

[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!

Coon Branch

A short spot of old growth forest on the west side of the Whitewater River was preserved from the sharp teeth of chainsaws. The story of its saving is worthy of more than a paragraph. It is our destination on this beautiful Saturday in mid-June, serenaded by two Swainson's Warblers and a Red-eyed Vireo as we enter shady woods. Down by the Whitewater bridge, a logjam of river-washed elder trees, compliments of Hurricane Helene, makes the passage to the Foothills Trail appear all but impossible. (It's passable.) The entry to Coon Branch Trail at the same location appears impassible, but humans, not to be denied, have worked around the debris, though the trail itself grows narrow from lack of use. A limb the width of my shoe, skewered into the middle of the path, reminds us of widow-makers in the canopy. Snails and mushrooms and ferns and mosses and huge trees and creek crossings capture the attention; not until we turn to return do I notice the poison ivy we've walked through. So much for total awareness.~K



On the way to Coon Branch Trail



Don't let this stop you. There is a way over the Whitewater River.

SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Kayak Tour! [Book Now!](#)

June 22: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

July 13: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Jocassee (Family) Adventure
Camp [Book Now!](#)

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!](#)

July 2 & 5: 7:00-9:00 PM

June 27: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
July 11: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

**PRIVATE TOURS
ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE**
www.jocasseeelaketours.com
(864) 280-5501

Sunday Afternoon Tours
Book Now!
2:30-5:30 PM

**CALL OR BOOK ONLINE TO
RESERVE SEATS**



***Cercis canadensis* Redbud seed-pods**



Jocassee Adventure Campers,

THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE JUNE 16, 2025

Although I swam a few times in May, June is typically when I begin to really enjoy swimming in the lake each year. This week, surface temperatures are in the low 70's. On these warm, sunny days, it's easy to acclimate. The recent rain showers have the creeks and streams flowing at above average volume. Fruit and seed pods are benefitting from the rain and warmer temperatures, too. Serviceberries, pea-like pods on redbuds, and nutlets on musclewood are just a few of the fruits and seeds that we saw this week. The sourwoods and large leaf rhododendrons are brightening the shaded coves with their blooms, and the fishing is great. We've watched fish break the surface almost constantly these past few weeks. To our delight, we watched a young bear cub swim across the Horsepasture river on Tuesday and Odyssey continues to watch over all the young adventurers as we head into our summer season. June is a great month to be out here. Come along and join in the fun. ~Sheryl White, JLT guide.

NEW EVENTS COMING IN

**OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK,
JUNE 16, 2025**

STATE PARK EVENTS

Table Rock State Park

June 18: 9:00-10:00 AM

Stream Study

Explore a mountain stream to see what creatures live in a cold-water habitat.

Oconee State Park

June 19: 2:00-3:00 PM

Exploring Nature

These interactive programs, designed for elementary age kids, engage participants in the life and environmental sciences through hands-on activities and games. All ages are welcome.

Oconee Station State Historic Site

June 21: 1:00-3:00 PM

Historic Building Tour

Come for a ranger led tour of the buildings, (the stone blockhouse, built in 1792 and the brick house, built in 1805) while learning about the history of the site.

Oconee State Park

June 21: 7:00-9:30 PM

Moonlight Paddle

Come experience the magical transition from dusk to night as a new shift of wildlife takes over- as you quietly paddle around the park lake.

Gorges State Park

June 22: 10:00-10:30 AM

The Bear Facts

Come join Ranger Hill to learn about the bears and what role

STATE PARK EVENTS

Table Rock State Park

June 24: 9:00-10:30 AM

Wonders in the Woods

Table Rock State Park

June 25: 9:00-10:00 AM

Stream Study

Gorges State Park

June 25: 10:00- 11:30 AM

June 25: 2:00-3:30 PM

Salamander Secrets

Oconee State Park

June 26: 2:00-4:00 PM

Kids in Kayaks

Table Rock State Park

June 27: 9:00-10:00 AM

Botany & Birds

Gorges State Park

June 27: 10:00-10:45 AM

June 27: 2:00-2:45 PM

Bobcat Basics

Jones Gap State Park

June 28: 9:30-11:00 AM

Insects of the Mountain Bridge

Table Rock State Park

June 28: 8:30-9:30 PM

Bat Watch

Gorges State Park

July 1: 10:00-10:45 AM

July 1: 2:00-2:45 PM

Chasing Waterfalls, Safely!

Oconee State Park

July 2: 10:00-11:30 AM

CCC History Stroll

Oconee State Park

they play in the park's ecosystem.



Ursus americanus American black bear, GSP Photo

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

SCNPS Upstate

June 17: 6:30-8:00 PM

"Battle Plans Against Invasive Plants" w/ Raven Sterling

Raven will discuss the serious threat invasive plants pose to native biodiversity and share practical strategies for identifying, managing, and removing common invasives in the Southeast.

Highlands Biological Station

June 17: 8:00-9:00 PM

What Bat is That?

Join our Naturalists on a walk through the Garden to tune into the sounds of the many special bats of the Highlands area and watch them in flight.



Rafinesque's big-eared bat,
Photo by batcon.org

Friends of the Reedy River

June 18: 8:30-11:30 AM

July 3: 2:00-3:00 PM

Exploring Nature

Gorges State Park

July 9: 10:00-11:15 AM

Terrific Turtles

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

NCNPS Oconee Bell Chapter

June 24: 5:30 PM

Nature Nights by the Pond

Highlands Biological Station

June 24: 8:30-9:30 PM

Glowing Wonders

Highlands Biological Station

June 26: 6:00-7:00 PM

Zahner Conservation Lecture #3: Bats in Your Backyard

Conserving Carolina

June 27: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Lower Green River Clean-Up with MountainTrue

Duke Energy-World of Energy

June 27: 1:30 PM

Wednesdays at the World of Energy

Conestee Nature Preserve

June 28: 8:00-10:00 AM

Birding 101: Birds of Summer

GNHA

June 28: 8:30-10:30 AM

Foothills Trail Maintenance- Pound Some Rebar and Then Some Beers!

Conserving Carolina

June 28: 9:00-11:00 AM

French Broad River Clean-up with MountainTrue and their

Volunteer Workday 4 At Reedy River Meadow-Invasive Plant Pull and Mulching

Join FoRR to help remove unwanted plant species and begin preparing the area for our new project installation: Reedy River Meadow.

Oconee History Museum

June 18: 12:00-1:00 PM

Lunch & Learn: The Keowee River Valley Before the Flood w/ Director/Curator Jennifer E. Moss

From the Cherokee to Duke Power and everything in between, you will be in awe by the history of the area.

FOLKS

June 18: 5:00-7:00 PM

History of the Lake Keowee Area and Recreational Plans for Warpath Landing

Ken Roper, Pickens County Administrator, will present on the rich historical legacy of our area, particularly in the American colonial period.

Mushroom Mountain

June 19: 2:00-3:30 PM

MM Tour

During your visit, you will learn about mushroom biology and ecology- how mushrooms work in and for our environment- as well as how they can be used for medicinal uses and many other innovations.

Highlands Biological Station

June 19: 6:00-7:00 PM

Zahner Conservation Lecture #2: Are You BearWise?

Tanya Poole, Conservation Initiatives Engagement

Riverkeeper Beer Series

Hagood Mill Historic Site

June 28: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

July 9 & 12: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Backyard Summer Foraging Class 1: Pain Relief with Wild Lettuce, Plantain & Nettles

Conestee Nature Preserve

June 28: 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

Macroinvertebrate Mayhem!

Conserving Carolina

July 8: 2:00-3:00 PM

Saluda Library Speaker Series: Conserving Carolina – Creating Trails and Greenways to Inspire Appreciation of the Natural World

Highlands Biological Station

July 10: 6:00-7:00 PM

Zahner Conservation Lecture #4: COHABITATE-Living with Nature

GNHA

July 13: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

The Rebooters: FHT Sassafras to Cantrell Place

SC Botanical Garden Events

June 23: 8:30 AM-3:00 PM

Creature Power

June 28: 9:00 AM-4:30 PM

Sustainable Landscaping: South Carolina Native Plant Certificate Core Class

Borrowed Glimpses

Coordinator for NC Wildlife Resources Commission, discusses BearWise strategies recommended by wildlife experts that will help people better coexist with these amazing animals.

Jeanne Malmgren

June 21

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

This experience allows you to try out the practice of Noble Silence, while enjoying the healthful effects of fresh air and green, living things all in the company of like-minded others.

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

Longer walk- Meet behind the baseball stadium to bird a variety of paved and natural surface trails in the Preserve. Shorter walk- Meet at the Spanco Drive parking area next to the old Conestee Mill and Dam to bird a section of the paved trail.

GNHA

June 21: 8:00 AM-3:00 PM

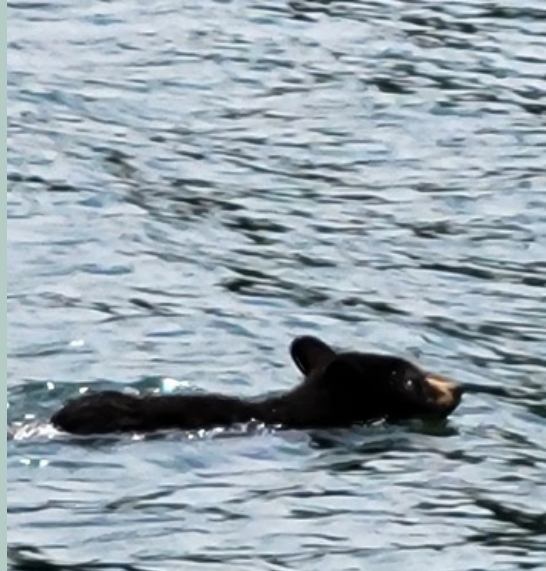
Eastatoee Passage-McKinney
Mountain

Chattooga Belle Farm

June 21:10:00 AM

Summer Solstice Festival

Vendors, Arts & Crafts, Local Items, Baked Goods, & so much more. Come hang out with us for the day - our farm store, bistro, & distillery will be open!



Recent sighting of small bear cub
in the upper lake,
Photo by Rocky Nation



Jocassee's latest vacation home,
located at Tahiti beach, waterfront,
spectacular views, newly
landscaped, turnkey....builder
unknown.

Hagood Mill Historic Site

June 21: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Americana Folk Festival

Join us for a full day of soul-stirring music, Appalachian tradition, and community celebration.

Upstate Forever

June 21: 2:00-4:00 PM

Energy 101 & Community Listening Session at Sadlers Creek State Park

You will leave empowered to make your voice heard for clean energy in South Carolina.

SC Botanical Garden Events

June 16: 8:30 AM-3:00 PM

Garden Discovery Camp

We'll explore the Garden's habitats through fun hands-on activities and discover the many wonders of the natural world.



SCBG photo



Slowly...



Her patience paid off!

**Current conditions at Lake
Jocassee via Devils Fork State**



Rhododendron maximum,
large-leaf rhododendron



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on Facebook!

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DID YOU KNOW?

The budget bill currently awaiting Congressional approval contains a requirement to sell 3.3 million acres--considered a small percentage--of public lands.

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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