

# 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!

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## Bear?

The sun is down; the day's light is ebbing. Dear husband and I have taken advantage of an evening at home to rest up for the weekend, so we are in bed, reading. Mica the Magnificent Watchdog is curled in her customary early evening position between bed and window. Suddenly she pops into a sit, fully alert, nose poked under a slightly opened window.

"Grrr-ruff." Not a growl, not a bark, and very soft. This piques my interest.

"What is it girl?" Something is out there, this I know. We've been visited by a couple of racoons lately, and possums and armadillos scout our yard. I swing upright and lean to the window to look in the direction of Mica's focused attention, and find myself almost nose to nose with a black bear. Not a big bear. Not a scary bear. I can almost read curiosity in his young eyes. But still... If it weren't for the window I could scratch his ears. He could scratch my ears. He is that close. What can you say when you are that close to a bear, except "Bear? Bear!" Bear seems totally unimpressed by the discovery of a



Was it *this* bear, from a long ago photo taken on Lake Jocassee? Probably not. But maybe...

human behind the window and  
ambles off. End of story. ~K



**Mlca, enjoying the "good dog"  
reward of a day on Lake Jocassee.**

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**SPECIAL EVENTS WITH  
JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS**

**All the Falls Tour [Book Now!](#)**  
**June 14: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM**

**FATHERS DAY TOURS! [Book Now!](#)**  
**June 15: 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!](#)**

June 15: 2:30-5:30 PM

Jocassee (Family) Adventure  
Camp Book Now!  
June 27: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

[www.jocassee-lake-tours.com](http://www.jocassee-lake-tours.com)  
(864) 280-5501

June 14: 7:00-9:00 PM

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

CALL OR BOOK ONLINE TO  
RESERVE SEATS

PRIVATE TOURS  
ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE!



Searching for stream critters.  
Photo by Tricia Kyzer

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**THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE  
JUNE 9, 2025**

Log rolling. Discovering imaginary continents. Fishing with a ziploc bag, a piece of bread, and a heart full of hope. Fearless cave exploring. Salamander hunting. Leaping from rocks big, small, and even underwater rocks. Climbing rocks that become ships or islands. Painting arms with glittery sand. Tasting wild blueberries. When you bring a child to Jocassee they can find wonder at every turn. They just need someone to guide them to magical places and give them permission to be wild. That is what the guides at Jocassee Lake Tours are here for. And you don't have to be young by the calendar to be a Jocassee Wild Child. Truth be told,

**OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK,  
JUNE 9, 2025**

**STATE PARK EVENTS**

**Table Rock State Park**

June 10: 9:00-10:30 AM

Wonders in the Woods

A guided hike along Carrick Creek Trail will reveal how the geology, plants, and animals all fit into the ecology of this mountain forest

**Gorges State Park**

June 10: 10:00-11:00 AM

Why Knot?

Join a Ranger at White Pines Picnic Area to learn the difference between a knot and a hitch, and when one might be more useful than the other.

**Gorges State Park**

June 11: 10:00 AM

Leave No Trace

Join a Park Naturalist to learn the 7 principles of "Leave No Trace". In this program, we will learn how to hike, camp, and recreate outdoors properly.

**Oconee State Park**

June 11: 9:30-10:30 PM

Full-Moon Hike

aren't we all just big kids waiting for the wild children to give us permission to play with them?  
~ Tricia Kyzer, JLT guide

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**NEW EVENTS COMING IN  
JUNE**

**STATE PARK EVENTS**

**Table Rock State Park**

June 18: 9:00-10:00 AM

Stream Study

**Oconee State Park**

June 19: 2:00-3:00 PM

Exploring Nature

**Oconee Station State Historic Site**

June 21: 1:00-3:00 PM

Historic Building Tour

**Oconee State Park**

June 21: 7:00-9:30 PM

Moonlight Paddle

**Gorges State Park**

June 22: 10:00-10:30 AM

The Bear Facts

**Oconee State Park**

June 26: 2:00-4:00 PM

Kids in Kayaks



Join us for a guided nighttime hike around the Lake Loop Trail—experience nature under the glow of the full moon! Discover nocturnal wildlife, enjoy the peaceful sounds of the evening, and learn about the park after dark.



OSP at night,  
Photo by Kelly Kennon  
Photography

### **Oconee State Park**

June 12: 2:00-3:00 PM

#### **Exploring Nature**

Designed for elementary age kids, but all are welcome. These interactive programs engage

### **Table Rock State Park**

June 27: 9:00-10:00 AM

#### **Botany & Birds**

### **Table Rock State Park**

June 28: 8:30-9:30 PM

#### **Bat Watch**

### **Oconee State Park**

July 2: 10:00-11:30 AM

#### **CCC History Stroll**

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## **OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS**

### **SCNPS Upstate**

June 17: 6:30-8:00 PM

#### **“Battle Plans Against Invasive Plants” w/ Raven Sterling**

### **Highlands Biological Station**

June 17: 8:00-9:00 PM

#### **What Bat is That?**

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

June 18: 8:30-11:30 AM

#### **Volunteer Work Day 4 At Reedy River Meadow-Invasive Plant Pull and Mulching**

### **Oconee History Museum**

June 18: 12:00-1:00 PM

#### **Lunch & Learn: The Keowee River Valley Before the Flood**

## **FOLKS**

participants in the life and environmental sciences through hands-on activities and games.

### **Table Rock State Park**

June 14: 2:00-6:00 PM

#### **Music on the Mountain**

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

### **OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS**

### **Friends of Jocassee**

June 9: 12:00-2:00 PM

#### **Adopt-A-Highway**

Join us this Monday to help clean and preserve the beauty of the area!

### **SC Wildlife Federation**

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

#### **Habitat Workshop**

This hands-on workshop will teach you how to create a thriving habitat for wildlife in your yard, garden, or green space using the right plants, foods, and other essential elements.

### **Conserving Carolina**

June 10: 2:00-3:30 PM

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

June 18: 5:00-7:00 PM

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

### **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**

### **Hagood Mill Historic Site**

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

#### **Americana Folk Festival**

Discover hemlocks' foundational ecological role, learn about the invasive Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and the challenges it presents, and explore the latest management practices to restore hemlock health.



*Tsuga canadensis* Eastern hemlock, Conserving Carolina photo

### Conserving Carolina

June 10: 6:00-7:30 PM

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

This program will be great for all ages, and it will introduce basic information about butterflies and some of the species common in our area, with a focus on the Monarch butterfly.

### Hagood Mill Historic Site

June 11: 9:00 AM

#### Camp Hagood

### 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

#### Bats in Your Backyard

### 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!

### Conestee Nature Preserve

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

#### Macroinvertebrate Mayhem!

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### SC Botanical Garden Events

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

#### Creature Power



Campers will step back in time to explore the skills, traditions, and cultures that shaped the Upstate.

### SCNPS Upstate

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

#### Roan Mountain

The Roan Highlands and the grassy balds of Round Top are unique ecosystems that are bound to inspire awe among plant lovers.

### Friends of the Reedy River

June 11: 6:30-7:30 PM

#### Our River, Ours to Protect: How you Can Help the Reedy River Presentation at Greenville County Library

Come learn about the Reedy River's history, current challenges, the work of FoRR, and what you can do to help.

### Highlands Biological Station

June 12: 6:00-7:00 PM

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

This talk will explore the importance of Indigenous leadership in environmental stewardship and offer practical

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

#### Sustainable Landscaping: South Carolina Native Plant Certificate Core Class

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### Borrowed Glimpses



Let the games begin...

ways for non-Indigenous allies to support and uplift these efforts.

### **Conestee Nature Preserve**

**June 14: 8:00-10:00 AM**

#### **Naturalist Guided Hike**

Join Dr. Storm, naturalist and professor of biology at USC Upstate, for a hike through Conestee's woods and around Marrow Bone creek.

### **Hagood Mill Historic Site**

**June 14: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM**

#### **Native American Plant Medicine Class**

This immersive class will introduce participants to the deep-rooted knowledge and practices surrounding native healing plants.

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

#### **CircleUp! STEM Rippin' River Rally Camp**

Kids will splash in the streams and dip into riparian zone conservation. We will explore solutions to heal and restore nature and have fun while doing it!

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

#### **Spring Invasive Plant Management**

Participants will receive their own species ID cards to help recognize



Hmm...let see what's in here.

invasive plants and will get personal guidance in the field on how to safely and effectively remove them.



SCBG photo

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



Little people and little fish love to  
check each other out.  
Photos by Tricia Kyzer





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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?**

**Black bears begin the spring season with sensitive, fresh new footpads. During the winter, they nibble away the thick, tough pads of the previous year.**

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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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