

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!

Trees

Bare-branch winter. Trees take on personality not noticed behind the screen of summer green. Consider, for example, tulip poplar, a neat, somewhat prim tree who spends life as a tidy column, orderly limbs thrown sharply heavenward like the praise stance of a church choir. Different, much different, than rangy oak. Oaks are cowboy trees, their strong

limbs thrust this way and that at wide, irregular intervals, all the while branching and branching and branching again to take as much sky-space as possible. And then there are those hippie sourwoods, arrow-straight in early years, with lithe trunk bending and swaying and curving as they age; yoga mama tricksters growing into near impossible poses. Who grows in your yard? ~K



Tulip poplars play nice with the neighbors.

SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Sun. PM Tour w/ Brooks & Kay!
Jan. 25: 2:00 PM-5:00 PM
[Book Now](#)

**PRIVATE TOURS
ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE**

BOOK ONLINE

WEEKLY EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Tues., Thurs., Sat. Lake Tours:
[Book Now](#)
11:00 AM-2:00 PM

Sun. Afternoon Tours: [Book Now](#)
2:00 PM-5:00 PM

CALL (864) 280-5501

THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE JANUARY 19, 2026

EAGLE COUNT! We do it most every January, assisting Tim Lee from the SCPRT in a nationwide survey of bald eagles. Last year we counted only 3, but we did



Bald eagle photo by George Askew

OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK, JANUARY 19, 2026

STATE PARK EVENTS

Gorges State Park

January 25: 10:00-10:30 AM

Winter ID?

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



Rhododendron periclymenoides,
Pinxterbloom azalea bud

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

January 20: 2:00-3:30 PM

Landrum Library Speaker Series:

Moss Magic in Your Landscape

much better this year! As you can see, we count most every bird we see along the way. (We don't see them all, but we do try hard to see every bald eagle.)

6 hours crawling along the shoreline, on a cold, calm and vacant winter's day. What a pleasure it is to help with this.

Bald Eagles--12 (8 juvenile) (4 adults)

Common Loon--72, Horned Grebe--236, Pied-billed Grebe--2

Bonaparte Gull--41, Ring-billed Gull --233, Canada Goose--14, Bufflehead Duck--1, Belted King Fisher--7

Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk--1, Turkey Vulture--3

Pileated Woodpecker--5, Downy Woodpecker--1, American Crow--35, Phoebe--1, White-breasted Nuthatch--1, Blue Jay--4 ~B

NEW EVENTS COMING IN JANUARY/FEBRUARY

STATE PARK EVENT

Oconee Station State Historic Site

January 31: 2:00-3:00 PM

February 13: 1:00-2:00 PM

Historic Building Tour

Oconee Station State Historic Site

February 1: 2:00-3:30 PM

Monthly First Day Hike

Oconee Station State Historic Site

February 7: 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

Written in Ink: A Historic Valentine Workshop

Table Rock State Park

February 14: 2:00-6:00 PM

Music on the Mountain

The advantages of mosses as intentional horticultural choices in today's landscapes will be the focus of Mossin' Annie's lecture.



Annie Martin aka Mossin' Annie

SCNPS Upstate

January 20: 6:30-8:00 PM

Monthly Meeting- "Exploring and Conserving SC's Rare Flora" w/ Adam Black

When Adam moved to South Carolina from Texas four years ago, he set out to explore the rare plants of our region. Join us to hear his stories of noteworthy discoveries he's made along the way.

SC Wildlife Federation

January 22: 12:00-1:00 PM

iNaturalist 101: Documenting South Carolina's Biodiversity

To learn more about iNaturalist, join us for a webinar with Phil Harpootlian, who is a retired electrical engineer and lifelong naturalist with a deep focus on SC's biodiversity.

Mushroom Mountain

January 22: 2:00-3:30 PM

MM Farm Tour

Join us for a 90-minute guided tour through one of the most unique farms in Upstate South Carolina.

Coneстee Nature Preserve

January 24: 9:30-11:30 AM

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

January 27: 1:00-3:00 PM

February 3: 1:00-3:00 PM

Pollinator Paradise Partners

Highlands Biological Station

January 30-31: 10:00 AM-3:30 PM

Who's Out There? (Drop-in Station)

Highlands Biological Station

January 30-31: 10:00 AM-3:30 PM

The Skin You're In (Drop-in Station)

Hagood Mill Historic Site

February 7: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Let's Make Tinctures, and Glycerites Class

Conserving Carolina

February 10: 2:00-3:30 PM

Saluda Library Speaker Series: Monarchs of Michoacan

Mushroom Mountain

February 12: 2:00-3:30 PM

MM Farm Tour

Conserving Carolina

February 12: 5:30-7:30 PM

Green Drinks: Unregulated Drinking Water Contaminants

Conserving Carolina

February 13: 11:00 AM-3:00 PM

Planting Cane Adventure at Pleasant Grove: Creating a Mountain Canebrake Natural Community

Sierra Club South Carolina

February 14: 9:00-11:30 AM

Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup Greenville

Winter Tree ID w/Dan Whitten

Join Master Naturalist Dan Whitten, to observe trees and shrubs in their winter form.

Foothills Trail Conservancy

January 24: 9:30 AM-3:00 PM

Round Mtn Views, Whitewater River, & Upper Whitewater Falls

Join FTC Board Chairman Jerry Ellsworth, & former Board member, Cathy Foster, to view the iconic Upper Whitewater Falls in winter!

Hagood Mill Historic Site

January 24: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Let's Make Tinctures, and Glycerites Class

This immersive workshop blends traditional plant wisdom with practical, take-home skills you can use in your own kitchen and garden.

SC Botanical Garden Events

January 21: 8:30 AM

Winged Wednesdays, Spring 2026

This guided walk offers a chance to see a variety of bird species in their natural habitat.



Gene Rochester

***Melanerpes carolinus* Red-bellied**

woodpecker,

Photo by Gene Rochester

SCNPS Upstate

February 17: 6:30 PM

Upstate Chapter- February

Monthly Meeting w/ Preston

Montegue, Landscape Architect

SC Botanical Garden Events

January 30: 3:30-5:30 PM

Introduction to Nature Journaling

February 10: 3:30-5:00 PM

Garden Creativity: The Art of Indigo

BORROWED GLIMPSES



Take heart!
Hepatica will be blooming soon!



IT'S JUST THE BEGINNING!

[https://www.facebook.com/jocas
seewild](https://www.facebook.com/jocasseewild)

January 23: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Basic Botany, SC Native Plant Core

Class, Clemson, SC

This introductory course develops a foundation of knowledge and a working vocabulary for gardeners and others interested in plants.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey has occurred every year since 1979 and is currently being coordinated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The purpose is to monitor the status of wintering populations throughout the U.S. All bald eagles encountered on standard, non-overlapping survey routes are recorded.

The survey is run each year during the first two weeks of January. In South Carolina, ~ 45 standardized routes are surveyed each year by volunteers. The majority of these routes are on major water systems and a boat is required to conduct the survey. At times some routes are vacant, if you are interested in running a route contact DNR.

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

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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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