

# 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!

## Seeking Resilience

What will our trees look like by the next edition of the Blue Wall Weekly? Our favorite Severe Weather Liaison from the SC State Climate Office, Frank Strait, has declared “the worst case scenario” for the base of the Blue Wall in Upstate SC. It will not be pretty. Limbs snapped, trunks snapped, raw snags standing over downed trees ripped loose by

Hurricane Helene. We grieve in advance for these stalwart beings who share our daily lives. Trees can't run, can't prep, can't help birds or squirrels or raccoons who make homes in their sheltering limbs. One thing's for sure. I'm going to have to re-think my definition of "beautiful" for a while, landscape-wise. ~K



As they looked last week, as they look as the sun goes down on Saturday, January 24th, 2026. What will tomorrow bring?

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### **SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS**

**January 31: 8:30 AM-4:00 PM Book Now!**

**Hiking the Gorges--Laurel Fork to Laurel Valley**

**February 14: 11:00 AM-2:00 PM  
Book Now!**

**“Sweethearts Tour”**

**February 21: 8:30 AM-1:00 PM  
Book Now!**

**Hiking the Gorges--Laurel Fork to Canebrake**

### **WEEKLY EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS**

**Tues., Thurs., Sat. Lake Tours:  
Book Now**

**11:00 AM-2:00 PM**

**Sun. Afternoon Tours: Book Now  
2:00-5:00 PM**

**BOOK ONLINE or  
CALL (864) 280-5501**

**PRIVATE TOURS  
ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE**

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**THIS WEEK ON LAKE  
JOCASSEE**



With forecasted night temps in the 20's all next week, the peace of mind is worth the wait.

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## OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK, JANUARY 26, 2026

### STATE PARK EVENTS

#### Oconee Station State Historic Site

January 31: 2:00-3:00 PM

#### Historic Building Tour

Come for a ranger-led tour of the buildings while learning about the history of the site.



OSSHS, Photo by Thomas King

#### Oconee Station State Historic Site

February 1: 2:00-3:30 PM

#### Monthly First Day Hike

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

As I write this tonight, the focus is on the winter storm forecasted to hit our area this weekend. Most people seem to be taking it seriously and preparing as much as possible, as evidenced by the long lines everywhere. Meanwhile, back in the Jocassee Gorges, I wonder...does wildlife sense a storm is coming? Possibly. Do they get in a frenzy like we do? Most likely not. Could they have PTSD from Hurricane Helene? Good question. Chances are they're just like us, though. They've squirreled away some food, fluffed up the nest for warmth and will only venture out as needed. Unless it's to enjoy the peace of falling snow or to romp and play a while before seeking shelter and comfort again. Hopefully this storm will be gentle on us, and we can get back to the day-to-day as soon as possible. Stay warm and safe and check in on each other.

~ Sheryl White, JLT Naturalist guide

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## NEW EVENTS COMING IN FEBRUARY

### STATE PARK EVENT

#### Oconee Station State Historic Site

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

#### Written in Ink: A Historic Valentine Workshop

#### Oconee Station State Historic Site

February 13: 1:00-2:00 PM

## OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

### Conserving Carolina

January 27: 1:00-3:00 PM

### Pollinator Paradise Partners

If you enjoy gardening and want to help create a beautiful, welcoming space for pollinators and people alike, come join us!

### Highlands Biological Station

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

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

Join us at the Nature Center to learn about the winter wildlife found across the Highlands Plateau.



*Vulpes vulpes* Red fox,

Photo by Jim Zuckerman

### Highlands Biological Station

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

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

Drop in for a few minutes or stay and pair the 'Who's Out There?' activities with this hands-on opportunity to see and feel a variety of animal skins!

### SC Botanical Garden Events

January 30: 3:30-5:30 PM

### Introduction to Nature Journaling w/ Allison Jones

This class is designed to help nature journaling novices feel equipped to

## Table Rock State Park

February 14: 2:00-6:00 PM

### Music on the Mountain

## OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

### Conserving Carolina

February 3, 10 & 17: 1:00-3:00 PM

### Pollinator Paradise Partners

### 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

### GNHA

February 15: 12:00-4:00 PM

start their nature journaling practice.



SCBG photo

## THANK YOU!

Help us keep this good work going.



IT'S JUST THE BEGINNING!

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Jocassee Wild Child Adventures  
on Facebook!

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



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

[Nine Times](#)

**Conserving Carolina**

**February 17: 6:00-7:30 PM**

[Landrum Library Speaker Series: Food – Climate Change Nexus](#)

**SCNPS Upstate**

**February 17: 6:30 PM**

[Upstate Chapter February Monthly Meeting w/ Preston Montague, Landscape Architect](#)

**Coneстee Nature Preserve**

**February 19: 3:00-4:30 PM**

[Nature Discovery After School Club - Elementary](#)

**Mushroom Mountain**

**February 19: 6:00-8:00 PM**

[MINI CLINIC -- Medicinal Mushrooms: Learn to Make Your Own Extracts](#)

**GCBC**

**February 21: 8:00-10:30 AM  
(Shorter walk)**

**February 21: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM  
(Longer walk)**

[Coneстee Nature Preserve](#)

**Foothills Trail Conservancy**

**February 21: 8:30 AM-5:00 PM**

[Sassafras Mtn. to Table Rock State Park](#)

**SC Botanical Garden Events**

**February 10: 3:30-5:00 PM**

[Garden Creativity: The Art of Indigo](#)

**February 20: 10:00 AM**

[Friday Garden Forays, Spring 2026](#)

## DID YOU KNOW?

The marketing and hype of weather became a big part of media revenue by the 1990s (see Weather media in the United States). The Weather Channel critics contend that the naming of winter storms was a way to hype winter weather on the East Coast between Virginia and Connecticut, however, the region on average sees far less snow than many areas of the USA, but has the largest media market. ~[Wikipedia](#)

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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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