

# 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!

## Ice. Snow. Bitter Cold.

The forecast could have been a meme, but being hit by a storm of ICE is no joking matter. After the deepest dark of last Saturday's midnight, sleet pelted from the heavens, turned to rain, froze to hard cold ICE on every twig of every tree, every tree, foreign and domestic, on million dollar properties and on humble trailer lots, in state parks along the base



Last weekend's ice.

of the Blue Wall, and in the Jocassee Gorges. "A worst case scenario" of ICE. The lights went out. Trees exploded under pressure, sharp cracks that made us flinch and tree top crashes waking us up long into the following night. ICE does not easily give up. Today's warm melt becomes solid and slick when the sun goes down and cold creeps back across this good earth.

And yet so beautiful. When the dark night is over and sun warms away cold vaporous clouds, when trees are tipped with sparkling frozen diamonds against a clear, cold blue sky, when the light of day provides just enough warmth to melt ICE until it breaks apart, raining down like crystal shards. This weekend brings a rare 4-5" of light, fluffy, beautiful snow... same element, but oh, so different!

Stay warm, ya'll, and stay safe. ~K



This weekend's snow.

## SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

February 7: 11:00 AM-3:00 PM  
[Book Now!](#)  
Cabin Fever Tour

February 14: 11:00 AM-2:00 PM  
[Book Now!](#)  
Loons and Winter Waterbirds

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](#)

[PRIVATE TOURS](#)  
[ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE !](#)

[FOOTHILLS TRAIL HIKING](#)  
[SHUTTLES ARE ALWAYS](#)  
[AVAILABLE!](#)  
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Everybody gets a turn. No pushing.

THIS WEEK ON LAKE  
JOCASSEE  
FEBRUARY 2, 2026

Ice storm bird inventory report from the Deep Woods Bird Porch. You'll notice I did not say bird 'yard'. Our porch, covered in feeders of one kind and another, is our 'bird yard'. That's because we don't have a yard. We live in the woods, where little light penetrates, and thus does not attract the diversity of songbirds that properties with light and therefore grass and forest edges do. Or that was the case for most of the years we have lived here, just a stone's throw from Lake Jocassee. Things have changed a good bit, thanks to Helene and now Fern. We now have light! No grass, nor do we want any, but light like never before, and with that a



One little guy's hiding from that red-bellied woodpecker!

## OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK, FEBRUARY 2, 2026

### STATE PARK EVENTS

#### Oconee Station State Historic Site

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

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

Using quill pens and ink, participants will create a handwritten Valentine while learning how love and courtship were expressed in the 19th century, long before text messages and store-bought cards.



### OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

#### Conserving Carolina

February 3: 1:00-3:00 PM

much grander diversity of birds than we have had in the past. Here's a list of birds on our bird porch during the ice storm. It should go without saying that we have been immensely popular.

Cardinals-lots of them. House finches-hordes of them. Titmouses, mourning doves, goldfinches, red-bellied woodpeckers (and nothing else when they appear), chickadees, Carolina wrens, chipping sparrows, white-breasted nuthatches (who argue continuously--I consider them the cranky crows of the tiny bird kingdom), brown-headed nuthatches, snowbirds (Juncos), hermit thrushes, and one lonely, lovely rufous-sided towhee (with apologies to purists, I prefer this older name). Do you know why our common doves are called mourning doves? I don't think it is just their sound. They live up to 10 years, monogamously if their partner is not killed. Knowing that, I assume they mourn at the loss of their life partner. Wouldn't you? ~B

## NEW EVENTS COMING IN FEBRUARY/MARCH

### STATE PARK EVENT

#### Oconee Station State Historic Site

February 13: 1:00-2:00 PM

#### Historic Building Tour

#### Table Rock State Park

February 14: 2:00-6:00 PM

#### Music on the Mountain

## Pollinator Paradise Partners

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

## **GNHA**

**February 7: 9:00 AM-2:00 PM**

### Keowee-Toxaway SP

Join us for a moderate 4.2-mile hike along a beautiful nature trail that includes a very nice overlook of lake Keowee and a small hidden waterfall.

## **Hagood Mill Historic Site**

**February 7: 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.



HMHS photo

## **SC Botanical Garden Events**

**More Events Coming Soon!**

## **Oconee Station State Historic Site**

**February 28: 6:00-7:00 PM**

### Candle Light Tour

## **OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS**

### **Conserving Carolina**

**February 10, 17 & 24: 1:00-3:00 PM**

### Pollinator Paradise Partners

### **Conserving Carolina**

**February 10: 2:00-3:30 PM**

### Saluda Library Speaker Series: Monarchs of Michaocan

### **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**

### Nine Times

### **Conserving Carolina**

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



Lake Jocassee, photo courtesy of  
Friends of Jocassee



Photo by Patricia Whitener



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

## Landrum Library Speaker Series: Food--Climate Change Nexus

### **SCNPS Upstate**

**February 17: 6:30 PM**

Upstate Chapter--February  
Monthly Meeting w/ Preston  
Montegue, 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

### **Friends of Jocassee (FOJ)**

**February 26: 5:30-7:00 PM**

Jocassee Fireside Chat: Loon  
Research on Jocassee

### **GNHA**

**February 28: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM**

Bad Creek to Whitewater Falls

### **SC Botanical Garden Events**

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

Garden Creativity: The Art of  
Indigo

**February 20: 10:00 AM**



Lake Jocassee via Devils Fork State  
Park Webcam

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

Mourning Doves make a sharp whistling sound when they take flight. The noise doesn't come from their beaks, though—it's actually made by their wings as air rushes through their feathers and causes them to vibrate. The sound can also serve as an alarm bell: Researchers have found that playing recorded wing-whistles from startled doves can spur other birds to take off, too.

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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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**SUPPORT OUR JOCASSEE PARTNERS!**



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*Dream it. Live it.*

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