



[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!

Friday

On a lazy afternoon at the Devils Fork boat ramp on Lake Jocassee, there's not a lot of action. No geese, no loons in sight, no fishermen around but for a couple trying their luck from shore. The park is on fire today: a controlled burn to eliminate the massive amount of woody fuel left by Hurricane Helene. A thick smoke plume drifts east across the lake,



All is calm; all is quiet

away from our location, away from the campground. Neighbors stop by to see what's on fire. One young man stops to gawk at the big bass hanging out under the boat dock. "That fish weighs a hundred pounds!" He's serious. But no, no hundred pound bass live in Lake Jocassee. So don't get your hopes up. ~K



No smoke on this day, though.

SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

February 21: 8:30 AM-1:00 PM

[Book Now!](#)

Hiking the Gorges--Laurel Fork to
Canebrake

March 14: 8:30 AM-3:00 PM [Book
Now!](#)

Hiking the Gorges--Canebrake-
Horsepasture

[BOOK ONLINE](#)
or [CALL \(864\) 280-5501](#)

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

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

**FOOTHILLS TRAIL HIKING
SHUTTLES ARE ALWAYS
AVAILABLE!**

THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE FEBRUARY 16, 2026

At Jocassee Lake Tours, our guides train year-round to give you the very best experience possible on Lake Jocassee. Most of that training focuses on the wonders of the Jocassee Gorges so we can share them with you. But some of it focuses on you. This week, 13 of our guides completed certification and recertification in First Aid and



Melanie Segars, Firefighter, EMT and swift water rescue specialist.

OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK, FEBRUARY 16, 2026

STATE PARK EVENTS

Table Rock State Park

February 21: 2:00-6:00 PM

Music on the Mountain

Visitors are invited to bring their acoustic instruments and join in a jam session or simply sit back to enjoy the music with the lake and mountains as a beautiful backdrop.



The Lodge at Table Rock SP

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

CPR, with another group scheduled to train next month. Leading guests into the wild places of the Jocassee Gorges is a responsibility we take seriously. That's why we invited firefighter, EMT, and swift water rescue specialist Melanie Segars to train us. She not only refreshed our core First Aid and CPR skills but also shared practical ways to adapt those skills specifically for a wilderness environment. While we certainly hope we never need to use this training on a tour, we are grateful to have it. When you step onto a boat with us, you can relax and enjoy nature's beauty around you, confident that your guides are trained, capable, and ready for whatever the day may bring.

~Tricia Kyzer, JLT Naturalist guide and JWC Instructor

NEW EVENTS COMING IN FEBRUARY/MARCH

STATE PARK EVENT

Oconee Station State Historic Site

February 28: 6:00-7:00 PM

Candle Light Tour

Oconee Station State Historic Site

March 1: 2:00-3:30 PM

Monthly First Day Hike

Oconee Station State Historic Site

March 15: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

The Green Sisters

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

February 24: 1:00-3:00 PM

March 3: 1:00-3:00 PM

Pollinator Paradise Partner

February 17: 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!

Oconee History Museum

February 17: 6:00 PM

Revolutionary Reads: *The Hornet's Nest* by Jimmy Carter

Meet us here at OHM to discuss the book and talk about the history relating to the American Revolution.

Conserving Carolina

February 17: 6:00-7:30 PM

Landrum Library Speaker Series: Food – Climate Change Nexus w/ Ted Volskay

On a global scale, the carbon footprint attributed to the production and management of food and food waste rivals the carbon footprints generated by fossil fuel power production and transportation.

SCNPS Upstate

February 17: 6:30 PM

Upstate Chapter -- February Monthly Meeting w/ Preston Montague, Landscape Architect

Preston will present on the urban green infrastructure he developed at Dix Park in Raleigh, NC.

GNHA

February 18: 9:30 AM-3:00 PM

Raven Cliff Falls to Suspension Bridge and Back

We'll take the Raven Cliff Falls Trail to the Gum Gap Trail to the Natureland Trust Trail ending at the suspension bridge that crosses over the magnificent

Friends of Jocassee (FOJ)

February 26: 5:30-7:00 PM

Jocassee Fireside Chat: Loons and Winter Birdlife on Lake Jocassee with Brooks Wade

Conserving Carolina

February 27: 11:00 AM-3:00 PM

Planting Butternut Tree Saplings Along the French Broad River at Pleasant Grove

GNHA

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

Bad Creek to Whitewater Falls

Hagood Mill Historic Site

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

Let's Make Tinctures, and Glycerites Class

Conestee Nature Preserve

February 28: 6:00-8:00 PM

Night Hike

Hagood Mill Historic Site

March 6, 7, 13 & 14: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Wild Plants for Food & Medicine: Foraging--Early Spring

GNHA

March 7: 8:30 AM-4:00 PM

Table Rock State Park--The Stool

GNHA

March 7: 9:00-11:00 AM

Petroglyphs, Drawbar Cliffs & Bald Knob

Sierra Club South Carolina

March 7: 9:30 AM-12:00 PM

Volunteer Workday: Protect Endangered Bunched Arrowhead in TR

Raven Cliff Falls, have lunch and return on the same route.

Conestee Nature Preserve

February 19: 3:00-4:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School Club--Elementary

This is an exclusive opportunity to experience hands-on exploration, investigation and discovery in ways unavailable to those just visiting the Preserve.

Mushroom Mountain

February 19: 6:00-8:00 PM

MINI CLINIC -- Medicinal Mushrooms: Learn to Make Your Own Extracts

Join us for an inspiring and informative workshop covering some of the most powerful medicinal mushrooms known today — including Reishi, Lion's Mane, Turkey Tail, Chaga, and Cordyceps.



MM photo

GCBC

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

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

Conestee Nature Preserve

Foothills Trail Conservancy

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

Conserving Carolina

March 10: 2:00-3:30 PM

Saluda Library Speaker Series: The Backyard Chorus – Insect Songs Through the Seasons

Mushroom Mountain

March 11: 7:00-9:00 PM

Mushroom Hunting Made Easy: Learn to Identify Edible Wild Mushrooms (Live Online Class)

Conestee Nature Preserve

March 12: 3:00-4:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School Club--Elementary

Conestee Nature Preserve

March 14: 8:00-10:00 AM

Birding 101: Waterfowl

Oconee State Park

March 14: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Flip the Script: Honoring the Women of the She-She-She Camps

Foothills Trail Conservancy

March 14: 4:00-9:00 PM

Beechbottom Falls (day) & Astronomy Outing at Sassafras Mtn.

SC Botanical Garden Events

February 27: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

SCBG Nature Journaling Club

February 27: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

Winter Invasive Plant Management Workshop

March 3: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Introduction to Soils: SC Native Plant Certificate Elective

March 5: 4:30-6:00 PM

Junior Naturalists

Sassafras Mtn to Table Rock State
Park

Join former FTC Board Chairman, Heyward Douglass & an FTC co-leader on one of the most spectacular sections of the Foothills Trail.

Friends of Jocassee (FOJ)

February 21: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

Perk Up the Park

Come join us at Keowee-Toxaway State Park to clean up the park, provide trail maintenance, and litter pick up.

SC Botanical Garden Events

February 18: 8:30-9:30 AM

February 18: 4:30-5:30 PM

Winged Wednesdays

This guided walk offers a chance to see a variety of bird species in their natural habitat. No experience is required.



Turdus migratorius,
aka American robin.

Photo by Gene Rochester

February 20: 10:00 AM

Friday Garden Forays, Spring
2026

Discover seasonal highlights and get up close and personal with the native plants and plant

March 7: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Propagation: SC Native Plant
Certificate Elective

March 10: 1:30-3:30 PM

Gardening for Native Bees

March 14: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Natural Plant Communities, SC
Native Plant Certificate Core Class



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



Lake Jocassee via Devils Fork
State Park Webcam

**communities that support
biodiversity in real time.**

DID YOU KNOW?

Bass need to consume 10 pounds of forage to gain 1 pound of body weight.
So if a bass eats 1,000 1-inch bluegill, it will only grow 1 pound.

~wired2fish.com

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!**

SUPPORT OUR JOCASSEE PARTNERS!



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