

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!

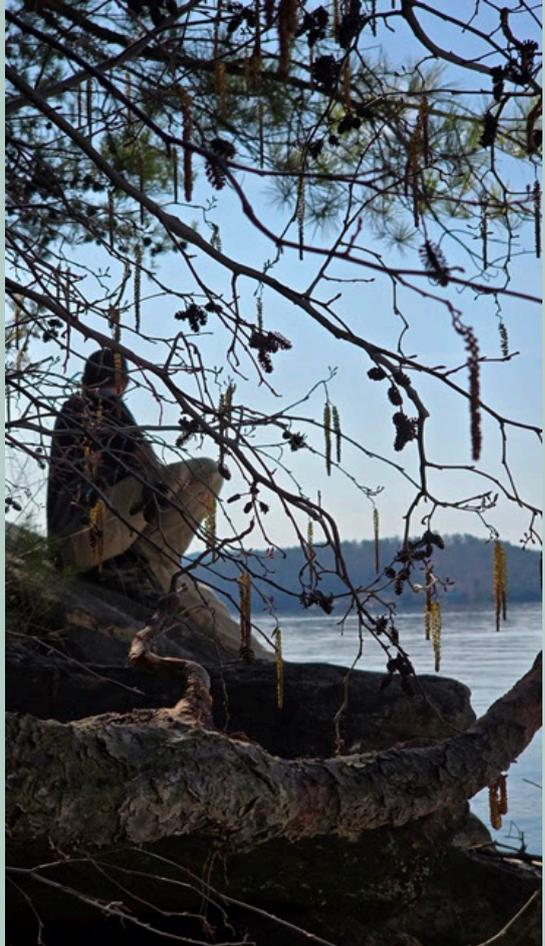


Welcome to the Blue Wall Weekly, your source for what's going on outside along the Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment. Feel free to share your own photos, videos, and adventures along the Blue Wall by sending them to the email address at the bottom of the page, and we'll do our best to make you (locally) famous!

February Firsts

Mild air temperatures—the first of 2026—stopped by for a brief visit during this second half of February, and nature is celebrating! First bloom (for me) is a single, hot pink phlox flower on a ditch bank, closely followed by fat yellow buds unfolding on neighborhood daffodils. Red maples show off their first blush of color; wood violets offer a splash of cobalt to an otherwise winter-

brown landscape. On Lake Jocassee we watch the first Eastern tiger swallowtail butterfly flitter by; loons roll to their backs and pull out itchy winter feathers; turtles sun on a log that has fallen to lake's edge; Toxaway River's bald eagles are on their nest; flocks of ducks gyrate over the cold, clear water. Cold weather won't give up, not yet, but spring will not be denied. ~K



Jocassee meditation

SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Kids on Jocassee: Spring Break
Jocassee Wild Child Tour
March 17: 11:00 AM-2:00 PM
Call for details!

Two Hour Flower Power Tour
March 19: 2:30-4:30 PM
[Book Now!](#)

BellFest at Devils Fork State Park
[Friends of Jocassee](#)
March 21: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

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

WEEKLY EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

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

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

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

[FOOTHILLS TRAIL](#)
[HIKING SHUTTLES](#)
[ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE!](#)



Zoom in to see the small, cone-like female catkins above the male catkins.

Alnus serrulata, Common alder

OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK, FEBRUARY 23, 2026

STATE PARK EVENTS

Oconee Station State Historic Site

February 28: 6:00-7:00 PM

Candle Light Tour

As dusk settles over the frontier, the flicker of flames will guide your way through this historic site. Meet the Interpreter and uncover the little-known stories of

THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE FEBRUARY 23, 2026

Hopefully you had a chance to get outside this past week and enjoy the warmth and beauty of this spring-like weather. Here on the lake and in the classroom, training continues for the coming season. Outside, subtle changes are happening. Flower buds are swelling on the Oconee Bells; male catkins on tag alders are loaded with golden pollen waiting for the wind to work its magic, and soft shades of pinks and golds are visible in spots along the hills and slopes as red maple buds break dormancy and flowers emerge. In the Gorges, along the Foothills Trail, crews are hard at work, clearing downed trees and rebuilding sections of the trail that were damaged by the recent ice storm. February is peak breeding season for coyotes and raccoons, squirrels are giving birth to the first litters of the year, and loons' hormones are in full gear as old damaged feathers are replaced by shiny new flight feathers and gorgeous breeding colors. Busy, busy... ~Sheryl White, JLT Naturalist guide

NEW EVENTS COMING IN MARCH

STATE PARK EVENT

Table Rock State Park

March 7: 2:00-6:00 PM

Music on the Mountain

Oconee Station State Historic Site

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

militia men stationed here after the American Revolution.

Oconee Station State Historic Site

March 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.



Station Cove Falls Trail
@hopefullyhiking Photo

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

February 24: 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!

Friends of Jocassee (FOJ)

February 26: 5:30-7:00 PM

Jocassee Fireside Chat: Loon Research on Jocassee

Join us at Jocassee Valley Brewing for our first Jocassee Fireside Chat of 2026 - we are learning all about Common loons on Jocassee.

The Green Sisters

Devils Fork State Park

March 19: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Oconee Bell Nature Walk

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

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

Pollinator Paradise Partners

Conserving Carolina

March 3: 7:00-8:30 PM

Special Film Screening of "The Extraordinary Caterpillar — A Film Celebration of Nature's Unsung Heroes"

Conestee Nature Preserve

March 5: 3:00-4:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School Club--Elementary

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

Conserving Carolina

March 10: 2:00-3:30 PM



Gavia immer Common Loon
Jocassee Lake Tours Photo

Conserving Carolina

February 27: 11:00 AM-3:00 PM
Planting Butternut Tree Saplings
Along the French Broad River at
Pleasant Grove

We'll plant locally sourced, potentially, 'Thousand Canker' resistant tree saplings grown by our Natural Resources Manager, Torry Nergart, with nuts collected from Conserving Carolina's conservation lands.

GNHA

February 28: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM
Bad Creek to Whitewater Falls
Starting at Bad Creek parking area, we'll hike to the Lower WW Falls platform, then on to the Upper WW Falls picnic area for lunch; after viewing the Upper Falls from the observation platform we'll return to Bad Creek parking area.

Hagood Mill Historic Site

February 28: 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.

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

South Carolina Wildlife Federation

March 11: 12:00 PM

Built by Fire: How Prescribed Fire
Benefits Wildlife (free online
webinar).

Conestee Nature Preserve

March 11: 5:30-6:30 PM

Mindful Walk & Talk for Women at
Conestee Nature Preserve

Mushroom Mountain

March 11: 7:00-9:00 PM

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

Mushroom Mountain

March 12: 2:00-3:30 PM

MM Farm Tour

Conestee Nature Preserve

March 12: 3:00-4:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School
Club--Elementary

Conserving Carolina

March 12: 5:30-7:00 PM

Green Drinks: Microplastics-What
Are They, What Are They Doing to
Us and What Can We Do About
Them?

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

Conestee Nature Preserve

February 28: 6:00-8:00 PM

Night Hike

Join us for a fun night exploring your senses and getting a “behind

the nighttime scenes” look at the

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

SCBG Nature Journaling Club

At these monthly meetings, we’ll come together to explore various subjects and techniques through nature walks and journaling exercises.

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

Winter Invasive Plant Management Workshop

Join SCBG’s staff for a free, hands-on workshop focused on identifying and removing common invasive plants.



SCBG photo

BORROWED GLIMPSES

March 14: 4:00-9:00 PM

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

Mushroom Mountain

March 14-15: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Wild Mushroom Foraging Certification Course

Oconee History Museum

March 17: 6:00 PM

Revolutionary Reads: Rough Crossings

Conserving Carolina

March 17: 6:00-7:30 PM

Landrum Library Speaker Series: A Few Stops on a Walk Around the Yard (and beyond).

SCNPS

March 17: 6:00-9:00 PM

SCNPS 30th Anniversary Celebration

Jeanne Malmgren

March 21

Silent Hikes

GCBC

March 21: 8:00-10:30 AM (Shorter Walk)

March 21: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM (Longer Walk)

Conestee Nature Preserve

Sierra Club South Carolina

March 21: 9:00-11:00 AM

Hike Sassafras Trail at Paris Mtn. State Park

Friends of Jocassee (FOJ)

March 21: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

13th Annual BellFest



**Shortia galacifolia Oconee Bell
flower buds**



Jocassee's feather-cloud

Hagood Mill Historic Site

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

KidsFest- 2026

Conserving Carolina

March 21: 10:30 AM-12:00 PM

**Walnut Creek Preserve Speaker
Series: Finding “Trails of Tears”
and Creating a National Historic
Trail in Southwestern North
Carolina**

GNHA

March 21: 1:00-4:00 PM

**GNHA Annual General Meeting
(AGM)**

SC Botanical Garden Events

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

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

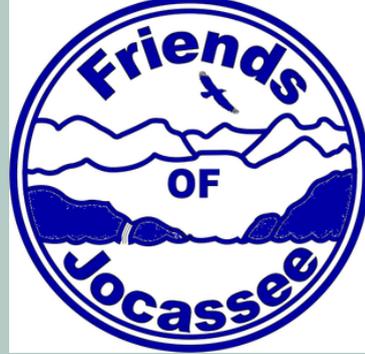
**Natural Plant Communities, SC
Native Plant Certificate Core Class**

March 21: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

**Basic Horticulture: SC Native Plant
Core Class**



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



[Lake Jocassee Webcam](#)



**What's THIS about?
Tune in next week to find out!**

DID YOU KNOW?

The number of eggs laid by a female Bald Eagle will depend on the health of her environment. Under poor conditions she may only lay one egg, and in a good environment with plentiful food she could lay up to four eggs, but the average is two per nesting. The eggs typically weigh between 108 and 131 grams (3.8-4.6 ounces) and take approximately 35 days to incubate. Eggs are laid two or three days apart, so one chick is born before his sibling. The young eaglets will spend 10-14 weeks on the nest before fledging.

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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