

[Gmail messages are clipped.]

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## **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**

**For the southern hemisphere, February is a sultry, sticky month, but on our side of the equator February is third base on the way to spring. For all twenty-eight days, nights grow incrementally shorter, buds on trees and shrubs grow incrementally fatter, sun creeps incrementally higher in the sky, birds and butterflies feel that first faint flush of zugunruhe**

before that seasonal urge becomes full-on fever, urging them north. On Lake Jocassee, Common Loons are flightless, molting soft downy feathers that blow across lake and gather against the floating barrier in front of Keowee-Toxaway intake towers. Small flocks of ducks—species unidentified—pass in the distance, flying low over rippled lake water. Change is in the air. ~K



Water's low in Lake Jocassee.

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

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

[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!**

**[CALL \(864\) 280-5501](#)**

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**THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE**  
**FEBRUARY 9, 2026**



**A section of the Whitewater River  
still flowing free.**



**Sunlight streams through a break  
in the clouds on a Jocassee  
winter afternoon. Photo by Steve  
Lewis**

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**OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK,  
FEBRUARY 9, 2026**

**STATE PARK EVENTS**

**(Due to the recent winter weather,  
check your State Park Sites to  
make sure these events are still  
scheduled and each Park is open).**

**There are things that can only be  
seen in winter, and there are things  
that can only be seen in the mind's  
eye. The bare branches of the oak  
and poplar allow glimpses of the  
tall waterfalls and cascades  
tumbling down the Whitewater  
River Gorge. Bundled up against  
the cold, we're idling in the boat at  
the base of the rocks. In front of us  
the Whitewater River runs free, as  
it has for years beyond measure.  
Behind us, the Jocassee Valley lies  
inundated by hundreds of feet of  
water that have been impounded  
for years. Just over fifty years.  
Some of us time travellers  
remember what the world looked  
like just over fifty years ago. Our  
guide today, John Hains, walked  
this valley in the days before the  
waters rose. He regaled us with  
tales of exploring the area by  
logging roads, and crossing rivers  
by way of makeshift bridges. When  
we find ourselves boating over the  
confluence of the Whitewater and  
Thompson rivers, John asks us to  
stop the boat. He recalls that his  
younger self stood in the midst of  
this valley, the land freshly logged  
and prepared for the deluge. His  
younger self saw the rocks and the  
rivers and the hills, and he  
pondered what was about to be  
lost. Some of us time travellers  
grow wistful listening to tales of  
times gone by, and it is good to  
know what was. Our job, however,  
is to be good stewards of what will  
be. There are some things that are  
first seen only in the mind's eye.  
~Steve Lewis, JLT Naturalist guide**



### **Oconee Station State Historic Site**

February 10 & 13: 1:00-2:00 PM

#### **Historic Building Tour**

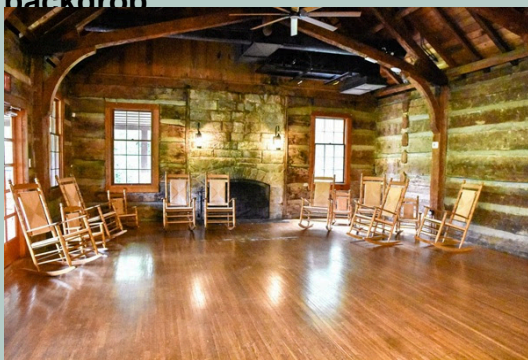
Come for a ranger-led tour of the buildings while learning about the history of the site.

### **Table Rock State Park**

February 14: 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 TRSP

### **OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS**

#### **Conserving Carolina**

February 10: 2:00-3:30 PM

#### **Saluda Library Speaker Series: Monarchs of Michoacan**

Join us for a discussion with Heyward Douglas on the Monarch life cycles, where he'll also describe the group tour he took in 2020, to view the Monarchs in the high mountains west of Mexico City, in Michoacán (Mish- wa- kahn).

### **Oconee History Museum**

February 10: 6:30 PM

#### **Enslavement in Oconee**

Josh Johnson, local African American historian and Museum

### **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**

### **OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS**

#### **Conserving Carolina**

February 17 & 24: 1:00-3:00 PM

March 3: 1:00-3:00 PM

#### **Pollinator Paradise Partner**

#### **Conserving Carolina**

February 17: 6:00-7:30 PM

#### **Landrum Library Speaker Series:**

#### **Food--Climate Change Nexus**

### **Oconee History Museum**

February 17: 6:00 PM

#### **Revolutionary Reads: The Hornet's Nest**

### **SCNPS Upstate**

February 17: 6:30 PM

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

### **GNHA**

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

#### **Raven Cliff Falls to Suspension Bridge and Back**

### **Conestee Nature Preserve**

February 19: 3:00-4:30 PM

#### **Nature Discovery After School Club--Elementary**

Site Coordinator at the Bart Garrison Agricultural Museum of SC, will discuss enslavement in what is now Oconee County.

### Friends of the Reedy River (FoRR)

February 12: 12:30-3:00 PM

#### Volunteer Workday #11 at Reedy River Meadow

Please join us to remove invasive plant species to make room for native plants!

### Mushroom Mountain

February 12: 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 SC.

### Conserving Carolina

February 12: 5:30-7:30 PM

#### Green Drinks: Unregulated Drinking Water Contaminants

Join us as environmental consultant, Ted Volskay explains the key aspects and the importance of the Safe Drinking Water Act, Clean Water Act, and Contaminants of Emerging Concern.

### Oconee History Museum

February 12: 6:30 PM

#### Tavern Talk: American Revolution 101

This talk with OHM Director/Curator Jennifer Moss, is perfect for the person that wants to know more about the American Revolution but doesn't have time to read all the books!

### Conserving Carolina

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

#### Planting Cane Adventure at Pleasant Grove: Creating a

### 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)

#### Conestee 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: Loons and Winter Birdlife on Lake Jocassee

### 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: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

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

Mountain Canebrake Natural

### Community

Torry Nergart, our Natural Resources manager, is seeking six volunteers to help plant river cane at Pleasant Grove.



River cane starts, CC Photo

### **GNHA**

February 14: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM

#### Chattooga Foothills Trail Section Loop Hike

This section loop hike will include the Big Bend Trail and Miuka Falls.

### **Sierra Club South Carolina**

February 14: 9:00-11:30 AM

#### Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup Greenville

Join us to meet fellow volunteers, enjoy the fresh air, and make a visible difference in our neighborhood!

### **GNHA**

February 15: 12:00-4:00 PM

#### Nine Times

This preserve is one of the most ecologically significant properties in SE. It encompasses 5 mountains and has 134 species of plants and flowers.

### **SC Botanical Garden Events**

February 10: 3:30-5:00 PM

#### Garden Creativity: The Art of Indigo

### **GNHA**

March 7: 9:00-11:00 AM

#### Petroglyphs, Drawbar Cliffs & Bald Knob

### **SC Botanical Garden Events**

February 18: 8:30-9:30 AM

February 18: 4:30-5:30 PM

#### Winged Wednesdays

February 20: 10:00 AM

#### Friday Garden Forays, Spring 2026

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

#### SCBG Nature Journaling Club

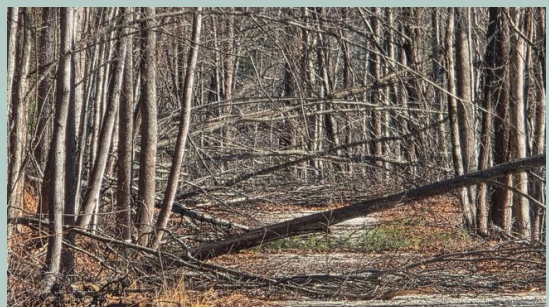
March 3: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

#### Introduction to Soils: SC Native Plant Certificate Elective

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

#### Propagation: SC Native Plant Certificate Elective

### **BORROWED GLIMPSES**



An example of ice storm damage in the Jocassee Gorges.

Photo by Andrew Gleason

Attendees will learn how to prepare an indigo vat, create resist patterns and dye their own fabric pieces.



Indigo fabric



<https://www.jocassee.com/jocassee>  
Lake Jocassee via Devils Fork  
State Park Webcam

### SCBG Summer Camps Early Registration Information

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### **DID YOU KNOW?**

When a group of ducks are flying together, they are called a flock, but when they are resting on the water in large groups, they are a raft of ducks. On land they are a waddle, or a brace of ducks. Who knew!

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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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[info@jocassee.laketours.com](mailto:info@jocassee.laketours.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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