

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

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.

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

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

**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 Montegue, Landscape Architect

GNHA

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

Raven Cliff Falls to Suspension Bridge and Back

Conecnee 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)

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: 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

Coneстee 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.lakejocassee.com/jocassee>
Lake Jocassee via Devils Fork
State Park Webcam

SCBG Summer Camps Early Registration Information

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!

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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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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