

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!

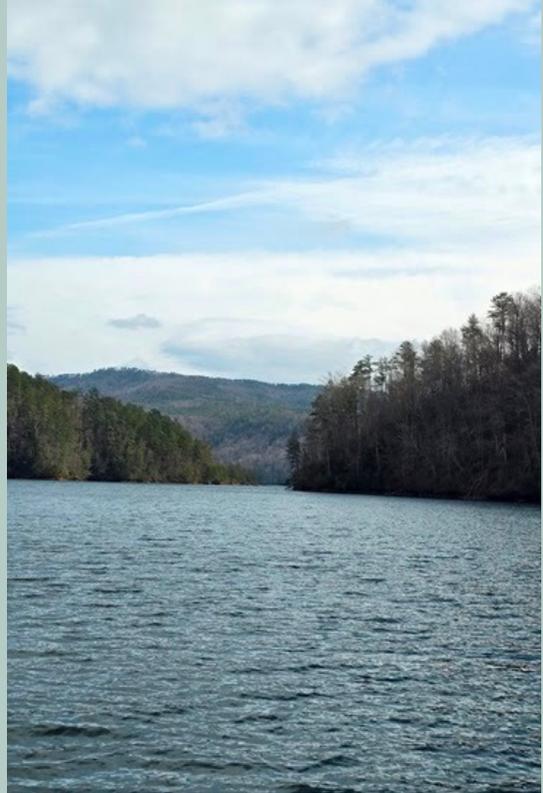


Welcome to the Blue Wall Weekly, your source for what's going on outside along the Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment. Feel free to share your own photos, videos, and adventures along the Blue Wall by sending them to the email address at the bottom of the page, and we'll do our best to make you (locally)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

Close ups

Tops of broken pine trees lie across uprooted oaks like grieving relatives at a funeral, throwing themselves across the dearly departed. The 2020s have been rough on trees. Tornados have skipped through the escarpment. Late in 2024 a water-logged hurricane toppled oaks, blowing wide holes in the tree canopy. Now, in 2026, an epic ice storm has made kindling of pines,

leaving behind fresh snags in places neither chainsaw nor wood chipper will enter. The fresh, invigorating scent of pine follows us around the Oconee Bell Trail at Devils Fork SP, and what appears as utter devastation already invites renewal of lives unseen. ~K



No matter the weather event, Lake Jocassee remains a place of unsurpassed beauty.

SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Kids on Jocassee: Spring Break
Jocassee Wild Child Tour
March 17: 11:00 AM-2:00 PM
[Book Now!](#)

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!](#)

THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE

MARCH 2, 2026



Photos by Kerry McKenzie

Refreshing! A tour on Lake Jocassee is amazing this time of year, when late winter melts into early spring. The mountains are resplendent with cool fresh air punctuated by the chatter of pine warblers and the call of a distant redtail hawk. The lake sparkles in the afternoon sunshine, amplifying the hoots of the loons and the cackles of the gulls. Here and there a secretive flock of grebes dance their way across the lake when we venture into their hideaways unannounced. This is loon season on Jocassee, the time when the Great Northern Divers spread out across the basin still waiting for their new mating season "outfits" to come in. Serendipities abound, whether marveling at the clear, cold-water lapping at a lovely beach near the Duck Pond, spotting Eastern Tiger Swallowtails and Azures at Wright Creek Falls, or taking time to catch your soul's breath in the peaceful ambience at Gaddy Falls Cove. Exhilarating!

All of the guests on our recent tour were experiencing the wonders of Jocassee for the very first time. And in many ways, so were we! Even after guiding tours for four years, Lake Jocassee always offers something new and marvelous for us to explore. Come join the adventure soon! ~Cam and Tony McDade, JLT naturalist guides

**OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK,
MARCH 2, 2026**

STATE PARK EVENTS

Table Rock State Park

March 7: 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.

**NEW EVENTS COMING IN
MARCH**

STATE PARK EVENT



Table Rock blanketed in snow,
Photo by Roxanne Arguez

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

SCUMS

March 2: 6:30 PM

Morels a-Poppin'! A Roundup of Landfish News and Lore Presented by Bruch Reed

Bruch Reed is proud to serve as North American Mycological Association (NAMA) Chief Operating Officer, Editor in Chief for the *Mycophile Quarterly* and current Acting Editor of *Mcllvainea*.

Conserving Carolina

March 3: 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!

Conserving Carolina

March 3: 7:00-8:30 PM

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

Through stunning visuals and engaging storytelling, this film reveals how these tiny leaf-munchers fuel biodiversity,

Oconee State Park

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

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

Oconee Station State Historic Site

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

The Green Sisters

Devils Fork State Park

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

Oconee Bell Nature Walk

Table Rock State Park

March 28: 3:00-10:00 AM

Sunrise Hike-Stool Mountain

Oconee Station State Historic Site

March 28: 9:00-11:00 AM

Birds of the Backcountry: A Birding Hike to Station Cove Falls

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

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

Pollinator Paradise Partners

Conserving Carolina

March 10: 2:00-3:30 PM

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

Highlands Biological Station

March 11: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Protecting Our Hemlocks: Public Workshop at Highlands Biological Station

South Carolina Wildlife Federation

March 11: 12:00 PM

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

sustain bird populations, and help keep natural systems in balance.



Image courtesy of SCBG FB page

Conestee Nature Preserve

March 5: 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.

Hagood Mill Historic Site

March 6 & 7: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Wild Plants for Food & Medicine: Foraging-Early Spring

This hands-on beginner-friendly class is a Practical Beginner Series. Each class is designed to stand alone, so no prior experience is required.

GNHA

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

Table Rock State Park-The Stool

The hike starts behind the Table Rock Nature Center and goes through the woods, across streams and to the top of Stool Mountain with steep sections and switchbacks the last 1.5 miles to the top.

GNHA

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?

Hagood Mill Historic Site

March 13 & 14: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

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

Conestee Nature Preserve

March 14: 8:00-10:00 AM

Birding 101: Waterfowl

Foothills Trail Conservancy

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

March 7: 9:00-11:00 AM

Petroglyphs, Drawbar Cliffs & Bald Knob

This is a beautiful hike with gradual climbs and long-range winter views.

Sierra Club South Carolina

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

Volunteer Workday: Protect Endangered Bunched Arrowhead in TR

While major cleanup has already occurred, small invasive plants remain—and we need your help!

SC Botanical Garden Events

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

Introduction to Soils: SC Native Plant Certificate Elective

This workshop with soils expert Dr. Dara Park, Clemson University, introduces participants to soil fundamentals. Topics covered are texture, structure, soil biology and water movement.

March 5: 4:30-6:00 PM

Junior Naturalists

From the mountains to the sea, participants (ages 6-11) will learn about the animals and plants who call this state home, and the landscapes that define SC.

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

Propagation: SC Native Plant Certificate Elective

Join us to explore the world of plant propagation with Ryan Merck, owner of Blue Oak Horticulture.

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

Sierra Club South Carolina

March 19: 9:30 AM-3:00 PM

Foothills Group Hike Oconee Passage

Sierra Club South Carolina

March 19: 6:30-9:00 PM

Foothills Group: Rick Joye and His Journey of Sustainability and Resiliency

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

Mushroom Mountain

March 21: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Spring Mushroom Cultivation Workshop



SCBG FB photo

BORROWED GLIMPSES



Eastern tiger swallowtail
Photo by Patricia Whitener



Lunch on the Tuckasegee!
Photo by Jim Costa

Foothills Trail Conservancy

March 21: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM
BellFest at Devils Fork State Park

Friends of Jocassee (FOJ)

March 21: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM
13th Annual BellFest

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)

Highlands Biological Station

March 21: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM
March 22: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM
The Lost (and Found!) Shortia: HBS Oconee Bells 2026

Conserving Carolina

March 25: 2:00-3:30 PM
Etowah Library Speaker Series: Wildflowers of the Cove Forest: Ecology, Adaptations and Hidden Stories

Friends of the Reedy River (FoRR)

March 27: 6:00-9:30 PM
The Great Canebrake Affair, a Signature Fundraiser

GNHA

March 28: 9:30 AM-4:30 PM



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



DONATE HERE
to help provide
clean, dry, secure storage
for Jocassee Wild Child
life jackets
and scientific equipment!



Lake Jocassee Webcam

Virginia Hawkins, Laurel Fork Falls
(out and back)

SC Botanical Garden Events

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 18: 8:30-9:30 AM

Winged Wednesdays

March 20: 10:00-11:30 AM

Friday Garden Forays

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

Basic Horticulture: SC Native Plant
Core Class

DID YOU KNOW?

Alpha-pinene is the most abundant terpene responsible for the classic pine smell, contributing a woody, resinous, and fresh aroma. Beta-pinene also contributes to the scent with its cooling, woody, and pine-like notes, often described with a fresh minty nuance. Limonene, though less prevalent, adds a subtle citrusy note. Borneol is another compound found in pine, contributing a camphor-like, piney, and dry woody odor, sometimes with minty undertones. These terpenes also play a role in the

tree's defense mechanisms, deterring herbivores and protecting against pathogens. ~biologyinsights.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!