

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!



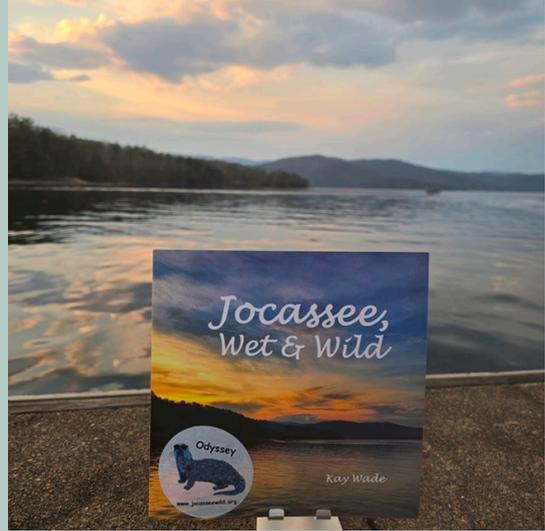
Welcome to the Blue Wall Weekly, your source for what's going on outside along the Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment. Feel free to share your own photos, videos, and adventures along the Blue Wall by sending them to the email address at the bottom of the page, and we'll do our best to make you (locally)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

Buy the Book!

I've written a book.

Actually, I've written this book paragraph by paragraph, week by week, over the past 13 years. Readers of the Blue Wall Weekly have read these paragraphs before. Still, the book debuted, appropriately, at Saturday's BellFest, at Devils Fork State Park, on the edge of Lake Jocassee, and I could not be happier. It's all Jocassee. Among those who

browsed it at the festival there were gasps of recognition, there were exclamations of delight. Not because of anything Kay has done, but because this is a book full of familiar. All Jocassee. Not perfect, but full of mystery and wonder. ~K



Until kinks are worked out of jocasseewetandwild.com, send us an email to buy the book! info@jocasseelaketours.com

SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Pink Oconee Bells Hike
March 24: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
Book Now!

Writing the Wild: Illumination in the Dark Corner: Workshop w/ Dr. J. Drew Lanham - 2 spaces left!
March 25-26 Book Now!

School Spring Break: Outdoor Learning Experience Kids' Tour!
April 3: 11:00 AM-2:00 PM
Book Now!

Sunrise Loon Migration Tour
EASTER SUNDAY SUNRISE
Apr. 6: 6:00-9:00 AM Book Now!

Two-Hour Flower Power Tour
Apr. 9: 2:30-4:30 PM Book Now!

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

PRIVATE TOURS
ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE !

FOOTHILLS TRAIL
HIKING SHUTTLES
ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE!



Beautiful Bonaparte's Gull
Photo by Lisa Ristow

**OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK,
MARCH 23, 2026**

STATE PARK EVENTS

Oconee State Park

March 27: 10:00-11:30 AM

Oconee Bells Hike

Join a ranger on this guided hike and learn about the history, ecology, and significance of this remarkable flower while enjoying a peaceful walk through the forest near the lake.



Photo from Friends of Jocassee
FB page

Oconee Station State Historic Site

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

Wildflower Walk

Take an easy to moderate walk to beautiful Station Cove Falls. Witness wildflowers such as green and gold, hepatica, halberd-leaf violet, bloodroot and various species of trillium.

**THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE
MARCH 23, 2026**

Is it spring? For most, the spring equinox is the first day of spring. For some, including meteorologists, it's March 1. Kay and I claimed March 1 as the first day of spring when we first moved here, to the shores of Lake Jocassee. We jumped in the lake on that first day of Spring. Once. And some even claim the first day of Daylight Savings as the first day of Spring, but surely not those lonely school children standing the pitch dark, waiting for their school bus to arrive. For me, the first day of spring is when the Bonaparte's Gulls begin to arrive. We have a few that winter over, but most show up, right on time, just about this time of year. In fact, they are predictable visitors in fall and spring, preceding and announcing the arrival of loons in both seasons. And they are not just the smallest and most beautiful of all gulls in their winter plumage. Such a sound they make! Surely the strangest of all gull sounds. ~B

Give it a listen here:

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Bonapartes_Gull/sounds

**NEW EVENTS COMING IN
MARCH/APRIL**

STATE PARK EVENTS

Sadlers Creek State Park

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

Fox Squirrel 5K

Table Rock State Park

Oconee Station State Historic Site

March 27: 2:00-3:00 PM

April 3, 5 & 12: 2:00-3:00 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

March 28: 3:00-10:00 AM

Sunrise Hike--Stool Mountain

After experiencing the nocturnal aspects of the forest, we'll enjoy the pre-dawn sky from the outcrop as we anticipate the beauty of a new sunrise.

Oconee Station State Historic Site

March 28: 9:00-11:00 AM

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

On this ranger-guided hike, we'll discuss basic bird identification techniques, listen for bird calls, and observe bird behavior along the way.

Oconee State Park

March 28 & 29: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

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

Come help us honor the women who helped shape our past!

Gorges State Park

March 29: 10:00 AM

Guided Hike to Upper Bearwallow Falls

Join Ranger Hill for a hike to the upper Bearwallow Falls overlook.

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

April 3: 9:30-11:30 AM

In Bloom: A Wildflower Walk Series

Oconee Station State Historic Site

April 3, 5, 12 & 17: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

PM

Wildflower Walk

Oconee Station State Historic Site

April 3, 5 & 12: 2:00-3:00 PM

Historic Building Tour

Table Rock State Park

April 4: 12:00-1:00 PM

Table Rock Birthday Party

Table Rock State Park

April 11: 2:00-10:00 AM

Sunrise Hike--Table Rock

Table Rock State Park

April 11: 2:00-6:00 PM

Music on the Mountain

Oconee Station State Historic Site

April 17: 7:30-8:30 PM

Candle Light Tour

Jones Gap State Park

April 18: 10:00-11:30 AM

Spring Wildflower Walk

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

GCBC

March 31: 6:00-9:00 AM

Loon Migration at Lake Jocassee

Conserving Carolina

March 31: 1:00-3:00 PM

April 7: 1:00-3:00 PM

Pollinator Paradise Partners

Oconee History Museum

March 31: 7:00 PM

March 25: 2:00-3:30 PM

**Etowah Library Speaker Series:
Wildflowers of the Cove Forest:
Ecology, Adaptations and Hidden
Stories**

Join us for an engaging photo presentation exploring the rich diversity of wildflowers found in Southern Appalachian cove forests, with a special focus on Holmes Educational State Forest.

Friends of Lake Keowee Society (FOLKS)

March 26: 2:30-4:30 PM

**FOLKS Speaker Series with
Jocassee Wild Child**

Join us at the World of Energy as Jocassee Wild Child shares ways to tap into their amazing outdoor education program.



Jocassee Wild Child Outdoor Lab Experiences are both educational and FUN.

Conestee Nature Preserve

March 26: 3:00-4:30 PM

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

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

Friends of the Reedy River (FoRR)

March 27: 6:00-9:30 PM

**Tavern Talks: Oconee in the
Revolution**

Conestee Nature Preserve

April 1: 5:30-6:30 PM

**Mindful Walk & Talk for Women at
Conestee Nature Preserve**

Conestee Nature Preserve

April 9: 3:00-4:30 PM

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

Conserving Carolina

April 9: 5:30-7:00 PM

**Green Drinks: Working with Water:
A Smarter Approach to Flood
Management**

Conestee Nature Preserve

April 10: 6:30-9:00 PM

**Great Blue Gathering and Silent
Auction**

Hagood Mill Historic Site

April 10-11: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

**Wild Plants for Food & Medicine:
Salves & Lotions**

Friends of the Reedy River (FoRR)

April 11: 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Spring River Sweep

GNHA

April 11: 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Clemson Forest--Issaqueena Area

Oconee History Museum

April 11: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

**Living History Day--High Falls
County Park**

Foothills Trail Conservancy

April 11: 2:00 PM

FTC Spring Picnic

Conserving Carolina

The Great Canebrake Affair, A

Signature Fundraiser

This is a rare chance to experience a historic landscape, support a clean and thriving Reedy River, and be part of an unforgettable night.

Highlands Biological Station

March 27-28: 10:00 AM-3:30 PM

Tree Texture Investigation (Drop-In Station)

Enjoy a stroll through the forest to create unique texture impressions of different tree bark patterns and learn some tips and tricks to help you identify your findings.

Hagood Mill Historic Site

March 28: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Wild Plants for Food & Medicine: Making Teas, Tisanes & Infusions

This hands-on, beginner-friendly class is part of the Wild Plants for Food & Medicine: A Practical Beginner Series. Each class is designed to stand alone, so no prior experience is required.

GNHA

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

Virginia Hawkins, Laurel Fork Falls (out and back)

An out and back hike via the Foothills Trail. We will pass Virginia Hawkins Falls and Laurel Fork Falls to the banks of Lake Jocassee where we will stop for lunch.

SC Botanical Garden Events

March 28: 1:00-4:00 PM

Nature Center Open House: The Garden Awakes

Come celebrate the magic of spring—there's something for everyone to enjoy!

April 14: 2:00-3:30 PM

Saluda Library Speaker Series:

Birds We Love

South Carolina Wildlife Federation

April 17: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

POWR+: Women's Fly Fishing Day

Mushroom Mountain

April 17: 6:00-8:30 PM

Taste of the Forest: The Morel Experience

GCBC

April 18: 7:00 AM-12:00 PM (Longer walk)

April 18: 8:00-10:30 AM (Shorter Walk)

Conestee Nature Preserve

SCNPS Upstate

April 18: 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Upstate Spring 2026 Native Plant Sale

Foothills Trail Conservancy

April 18: 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

Wildflower Walk at Whitewater Falls

Sierra Club SC

April 18: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

SC Botanical Garden-Clemson

GCBC

April 19: 7:30 AM

Bunched Arrowhead Heritage Preserve

GNHA

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

Pleasant Ridge County Park- JFA Trail

SC Botanical Garden Event

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



Viola hastata Halberd-leaved violet. Among the first spring ephemerals to awaken.
SCBG photo



[Lake Jocassee Webcam](#)

[Spring Herbaceous Plant ID: SC](#)
[Native Plant Certificate Core Class](#)

April 10: 2:00-6:00 PM
[SCBG Members Plant Sale, Spring 2026](#)

April 11: 9:00 AM-1:00 PM
[SCBG Public Plant Sale, Spring 2026](#)

April 14: 1:30-3:30 PM
[An Introduction to the Ecology of Spring Wildflowers](#)

April 15: 8:30-9:30AM
[Winged Wednesdays](#)



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

DID YOU KNOW?

Bonaparte's Gulls visit Jocassee, but they breed and nest in the coniferous forests of boreal Canada. They are the only species of gulls to nest in trees.

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!**

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