

# 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!

## Why Wildness?

He challenged us to answer, "Why wildness?" so my brain immediately circled to, "what is wild?" Wild is an adjective, a noun, but not so easily a verb. What is wild? The wail of a loon? Is the turkey vulture soaring overhead any wilder than the goldfinch at the feeder? Is bear more wild than butterfly? Is a trillium along the trail more wild than the dogwood planted in our yard? I make a list



We happened upon a wild sow swimming across Lake Jocassee.

of things I consider "wild." Bears make the list. Stormy weather. Death angel mushrooms. Poison ivy. For me, "wildness" seems to contain an element of potential danger from elements and living beings over which I have no control, different than mere "nature." Sitting safely in my yard--enjoying birds and native plants--there is a sense of control. Being in a place I consider "wild," though, sharpens all my senses, heightens my awareness, makes me feel more alive. Wildness humbles me. I think that's my answer to the question "why wildness." What's your answer? ~K



A patch of bear-corn  
(*Conopholis americana*)  
appears to have lifted this rock  
right off the ground. Wild!

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

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: 6:30-9:00 AM [Book Now!](#)

Two-Hour Flower Power Tour  
Apr. 9: 2:30-4:30 PM [Book Now!](#)

### **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!**

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**THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE  
MARCH 30, 2026**

Spring is here! Oconee bells are  
blooming, dogwood trees are



Flowering dogwood,  
Photo by J. Drew Lanham



Osprey, just one of the many  
bird species migrating  
into South Carolina now.  
Photo by Anthony Q Martin

flowering, tulip tree leaves are unfurling. If these are a sight for winter-sore eyes, the spring bird song is music for winter-weary ears. Bird migration has begun and all the signs are here. Songbirds are returning by the thousands on their journey from the tropical rainforests to the temperate rainforest of the Jocassee Gorges. Loons, gulls and grebes are in a feeding frenzy on the water. Feeding after migrating from the coast and feeding before they head back up north. Eagles and owls have nested, hummingbirds are buzzing by, and we have been a willing spectator of it all! Thursday night over 600,000 songbirds migrated over Oconee County, soon those numbers will top a million each night. Check out [birdcast.org](http://birdcast.org) to see the traffic report from your county. And then take a walk and listen in your neighborhood to see who has shown up overnight. Happy Birding! ~Tricia Kyzer, JLT Naturalist Guide

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## OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK, MARCH 30, 2026

### STATE PARK EVENTS

#### Sadlers Creek State Park

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

#### Fox Squirrel 5K

This 5K is open to everyone, from beginner runners and joggers, experienced athletes to walkers - all are welcome.

#### Table Rock State Park

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## NEW EVENTS COMING IN APRIL

### STATE PARK EVENTS

#### 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 12 & 17: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

#### Wildflower Walk

April 3: 9:30-11:30 AM

**In Bloom: A Wildflower Walk Series**

This beginner-friendly wildflower walk is the perfect way to slow down, look closer, and learn about some of the area's most beautiful blooms as they appear along the path.

**Oconee Station State Historic Site**  
April 3 & 5: 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.

**Oconee Station State Historic Site**  
April 3 & 5: 2:00-3:00 PM  
**Historic Building Tour**

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

**Table Rock State Park**  
April 4: 12:00-1:00 PM  
**Table Rock Birthday Party**

Join us as we celebrate Table Rock State Park's 88th birthday with a Bring Your Own Picnic gathering in the park.

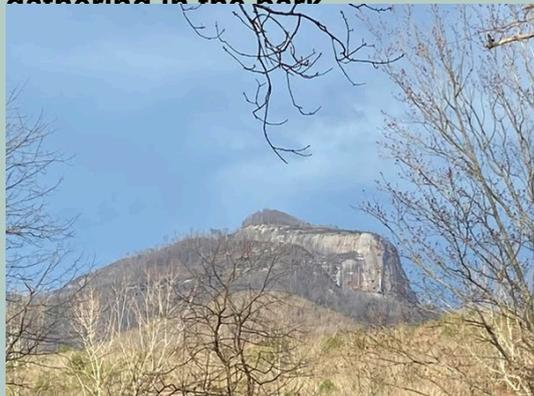


Photo by Roxanne Arguez

**Oconee Station State Historic Site**  
April 12: 2:00-3:00 PM  
**Historic Building Tour**

**Table Rock State Park**  
April 17: 9:30-11:30 AM  
**In Bloom: A Wildflower Walk Series**

**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**

**Table Rock State Park**  
April 22: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM  
**Earth Day At Table Rock State Park**

**Table Rock State Park**  
April 23-26  
**Blue Wall Birding Festival**

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**OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS**

**SCUMS**  
April 6: 6:30 PM  
**Aishwarya Veerabahu, PhD**  
**Candidate at University of**  
**Wisconsin: Golden Oyster Invasion**

**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

**OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS**

## GCBC

March 31: 6:00-9:00 AM

### Loon Migration at Lake Jocassee

Join Jocassee Lake Tours on a pontoon boat tour to experience Zugunruhe (German for “migratory restlessness”). The Loons on Lake Jocassee exhibit this behavior as this innate drive prepares them for spring migration. Come experience this rare magic yourself.



Jocassee Lake Tours photo

## Conserving Carolina

March 31: 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!

## Oconee History Museum

March 31: 7:00 PM

### Tavern Talks: Oconee in the Revolution

Join us for another rousing Tavern Talk at Keowee Brewing to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution!

## Conestee Nature Preserve

April 1: 5:30-6:30 PM

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

Our Mindful Walk & Talk is an intentional, in-person gathering

## 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

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

designed to help you process the day, lower your cortisol, and reconnect with your body as the sun begins to set.

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### SC Botanical Garden Events

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

Spring Herbaceous Plant ID: SC Native Plant Certificate Core Class

Join Allison Kelly, SCBG's Director of Horticulture and Natural Areas, to explore the many habitats along the Natural Heritage Trail.



Trillium discolor, faded trillium  
Jocassee Lake Tours photo

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### Borrowed Glimpses

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

### Conserving Carolina

April 18: 10:30 AM-12:00 PM

Walnut Creek Preserve Speaker

Series: Landslides in WNC-Stories, Tools and Tips

### Friends of Jocassee (FOJ)

April 18

Jocassee Fireside Chat at DFSP on Cavity Nesters

### 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

### Upstate Forever

April 21: 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

Forevergreen Annual Awards Luncheon

### Conserving Carolina

April 22: 9:30 AM-4:30 PM

Etowah Library Speaker Series: Hummingbirds- Flying Jewels

### Upstate Forever

April 22: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Earth Day Volunteer Workday



Early morning sunrise  
on Lake Jocassee.  
Photo by Zach Maddox



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

### **Mushroom Mountain**

April 23: 2:00-2:30 PM

Mushroom Mountain Farm Tour

### **Hagood Mill Historic Site**

April 24-25: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Wild Plants for Food & Medicine:  
Beauty Care- Lotions & Balms

### **Palmetto Trail**

April 25: 8:00-10:30 AM

Upstate Bird Walk-Blue Wall  
Passage

### **Mushroom Mountain**

April 25: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Wild Mushroom Food Safety.  
Certification (Online) – 5-Year  
State-Approved Permit Training

### **SC Botanical Garden Event**

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



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**DID YOU KNOW?**

Feral swine reproduction, like domestic swine, is three months, three weeks, and three days. One sow may have between five and eight piglets and, if she doesn't get bred, comes into heat every 18 to 24 days.  
[Lake Jocassee Webcam](http://LakeJocasseeWebcam.com)  
[~farmprogress.com](http://farmprogress.com)

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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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[www.JocasseeLakeTours.com](http://www.JocasseeLakeTours.com)

[info@jocasseelaketours.com](mailto: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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**SUPPORT OUR JOCASSEE PARTNERS!**



**JOCASSEE**  
REAL ESTATE  
*Dream it. Live it.*

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