



[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!

Flowers

Standing tall over a pair of thick and mottled leaves (if you call three inches "tall"), a wild trout lily flower bends toward ground like a hanging lantern, yellow petals curved back, long maroon stamens reaching down in search of a trout lily bee. A few feet away, bloodroot shines stark white flowers skyward, appearing more nutritious and delicious than it will ever prove to be, and a few feet

further, a panicle of yellowroot flowers arch daintily like a galaxy of tiny shooting stars. Flowers are calling their insect partners to join them in this annual dance, and life goes on. ~K



Trout lily, often called a harbinger of spring!

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!](#)

Pink Oconee Bells Hike
March 24: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
[Book Now!](#)

**Writing the Wild Workshop w/
Dr. J. Drew Lanham**
March 25-26
[Illumination in the Dark Corner](#)

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 !](#)

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[ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE!](#)



JLT naturalist, writer, environmental educator, lichen lover and JWC instructor Tricia Kyzer led this immersive two-day training session. Tricia hears the leaf's song everyday.

OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK, MARCH 9, 2026

STATE PARK EVENTS

Oconee State Park

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

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

Join us as we step into the shoes of the women who worked, learned, and built their futures in the shadow of the Great Depression.

Oconee Station State Historic Site

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

The Green Sisters

Come and celebrate the legacy of the Green Sisters, four remarkable women, pioneers of resilience, hospitality, and ingenuity in South Carolina's backcountry!

THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE MARCH 9, 2026

Poet Mary Oliver writes, “the leaf has a song in it.” On a recent weekend Jocassee Wild Outdoor Education guides and volunteers spent two days listening for that song. Guides became students and set out to explore the gorges with the eyes of true Wild Children— noticing, wondering about, and connecting what we found. We role-played as bats and moths to experience echolocation and what it is like to be a predator or prey. We built a mountain and watched it erode. We looked at animal tracks and scat and postulated not only about which animal passed that way but also why. We tried to camouflage ourselves to hide from predators. We explored a cave and practiced noticing small details that make one rock different from another. We also took time to reflect, to be grateful for the adventure of living and working in the beautiful Jocassee Gorges and for the privilege to lead both children and adults on their own journeys of noticing, wondering, and connecting. Throughout, we were reminded of what we all surely knew as children—that the secret to fully experiencing the natural world is not in finding all the answers but in finding all the questions. And we came away from the weekend knowing that the assertion Oliver makes is true: “The song you heard singing in the leaf as a child is singing still.”
~Betsy Lewis, JLT Naturalist Guide



The Green Sisters lived and worked at Oconee Station for over 70 years.

Come learn about their history.
Photo by @sodacitydroneguy

NEW EVENTS COMING IN MARCH/APRIL

STATE PARK EVENTS

Devils Fork State Park

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

Oconee Bell Nature Walk

Table Rock State Park

March 21: 2:00-10:00 AM

Sunrise Hike-Table Rock Trail

Gorges State Park

March 22: 4:00-4:30 PM

The Bear Facts

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

Gorges State Park

March 29: 10:00-10:30 AM

March 30: 12:00-12:30 PM

Guided Hike to Upper Bearwallow Falls

FOLKS Speaker Event

March 26: 2:30-4:30 PM

Jocassee Wild Child!

Sadlers Creek State Park

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

Fox Squirrel 5K

Table Rock State Park

April 3: 9:30-11:30 AM

In Bloom: A Wildflower Walk Series

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

March 10: 2:00-3:30 PM

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

This presentation is a brief introduction to the most common singing insects with special reference to those in North Carolina.



Katydid

Flickr Photo by Geoff Gallice

Highlands Biological Station

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

Protecting Our Hemlocks: Public Workshop at Highlands Biological Station

Led by licensed professionals, this hands-on program will

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

introduce participants to hemlock health assessment, treatment decision-making, and application methods used to combat hemlock woolly adelgid.

South Carolina Wildlife Federation

March 11: 12:00 PM

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

Did you know that March is Prescribed Fire Awareness Month in South Carolina? Prescribed fire is a carefully planned and intentionally set burn that mimics the natural fire cycles many ecosystems depend on to stay healthy. Tune in to learn more.

Conestee Nature Preserve

March 11: 5:30-6:30 PM

Mindful Walk & Talk for Women at Conestee Nature Preserve

This gathering blends gentle movement, time in nature, and space to connect with other women.

Mushroom Mountain

March 11: 7:00-9:00 PM

Mushroom Hunting Made Easy: Learn to Identify Edible Wild Mushrooms (Live Online Class)

Discover the world of wild mushrooms from the comfort of home!

Mushroom Mountain

March 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 and discover the hidden world beneath your feet!

Conserving Carolina

March 17, 24 & 31: 1:00-3:00 PM

Pollinator Paradise Partners

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

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?

In this presentation, MountainTrue's French Broad Riverkeeper, Anna Alsobrook, and Dr. Christine Mauck will discuss the definition of microplastics, their common sources, their health effects, and how to reduce our exposure.

Hagood Mill Historic Site

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

Wild Plants for Food & Medicine: Foraging-Early Spring

What to Expect: Full-day, in-person instruction; practical demonstrations and guided learning; emphasis on safe, traditional, and sustainable practices.

Conestee Nature Preserve

March 14: 8:00-10:00 AM

Birding 101: Waterfowl

This event is great for those who have never put on a pair of binoculars or for those just getting started with their birding journey.

GNHA

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

Sassafras Mountain via Laurel Valley

This is an out-and-back, 9-mile hike starting at the Laurel Valley Trailhead parking area to the Sassafras summit for lunch. EG: 2,224'.

Foothills Trail Conservancy

March 14: 4:00-9:00 PM

Mushroom Mountain

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

Spring Mushroom Cultivation Workshop

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 Lake Keowee Society (FOLKS)

March 26: 2:30-4:30 PM

Beechbottom Falls (day) & Astronomy Outing at Sassafras Mtn.

Join former Board Chairman, Heyward Douglass, on a moderate day-hike to the picturesque Beechbottom Falls, before heading up to Sassafras Mtn. for the astronomy outing.

Mushroom Mountain

March 14-15: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Wild Mushroom Foraging Certification Course

Earn your 5-year Wild Mushroom Foraging Permit, formally approved by state health departments for the legal harvesting and selling of wild mushrooms in: South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, Alabama, Pennsylvania, New York, and Rhode Island.

SC Botanical Garden Events

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

Natural Plant Communities, SC Native Plant Certificate Core Class

Join expert naturalist Tim Lee to build your knowledge base of major conceptual issues and areas of current research in native plant ecology and explore the biotic and abiotic factors that affect the distribution and abundance of plant species in SC.

FOLKS Speaker Series with Jocassee Wild Child

Conestee Nature Preserve

March 26: 3:00-4:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School Club - Elementary School

Friends of the Reedy River (FoRR)

March 27: 6:00-9:30 PM

The Great Canebrake Affair, a Signature Fundraiser

Highlands Biological Station

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

Tree Texture Investigation (Drop-In Station)

Hagood Mill Historic Site

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

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

GNHA

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

Virginia Hawkins, Laurel Fork Falls (out and back)

GCBC

March 31: 6:00-9:00 AM

Loon Migration at Lake Jocassee

Oconee History Museum

March 31: 7:00 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

SC Botanical Garden Event

March 18: 8:30-9:30 AM

Winged Wednesdays



Oconee Bells (Shortia galicifolia):
Rare Spring Ephemeral of the
Southern Appalachians
Photo by Tony & Cam McDade
Join Tony and Cam on a special
event hike to see the blooming of
the PINK Oconee Bells!

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

April 3: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
Spring Herbaceous Plant ID: SC
Native Plant Certificate Core Class

BORROWED GLIMPSES



Loons are beginning their practice
flights over Lake Jocassee...



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

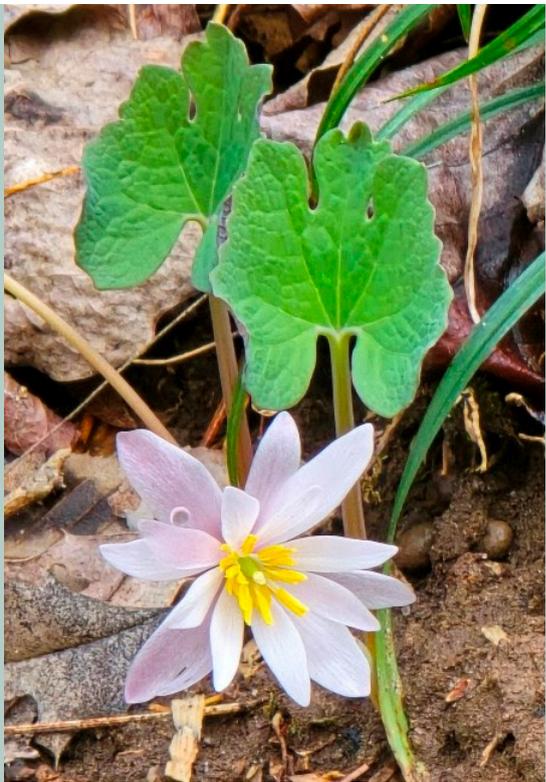


THANK YOU FOR DONATING!
You're helping provide



And who can believe how scruffy
they look in transition to summer
breeding plumage!
Photos by Emily Stone

clean, dry, secure transport
for Jocassee Wild Child
life jackets
and scientific equipment!
We're grateful for your support!
Want to learn more about
the Wild Child program?
Come hear JWC Director Kerry
McKenzie at the FOLKS Speaker
Series on March 24!



**Wait a minute... aren't bloodroot
flowers always white? No!**



13th Annual BellFest featuring
guest speaker **Amanda McNulty!**



Lake Jocassee Webcam

DID YOU KNOW?

Trout lilies have the ability to reproduce vegetatively by producing specialized stems called “droppers” that burrow into the ground and produce a new corm from its burrowing tip. Corms closer to the soil surface produce droppers that dig deeper, demonstrating the plant’s ability to detect its depth and adjust the dropper length to achieve optimal depth. In this way, the new corm can escape potentially dangerous soil temperature fluctuations near the surface and persist for many decades in the same colony. New plants growing from these droppers do not produce flowers, however. ~NCWildflower.org

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!



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