

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!

Xy-loco-pa

I have a friend who will close a gentle fist around carpenter bees who stray too close. If *you* should stray too close, she'll hold her fist to your ear so you can hear the strong buzz from Bee. Some people are impressed. Some are terrified. The sound brings to mind the sound of a rattlesnake, though one's a buzz and one's a rattle, and one's a warning while the other is simply the normal wing-

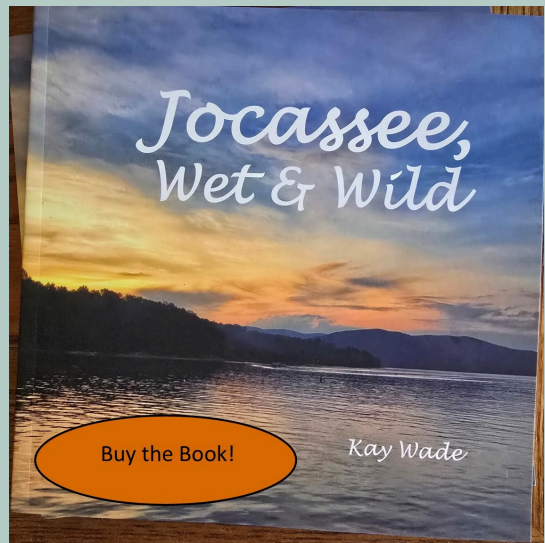


Not a Carpenter Bee, but a good place to encounter one!

song of a gentle creature, trapped, for a few short minutes, in a human hand. ~K

Photo by Kerry McKenzie

Hot off the press and for sale at JocasseeWetandWild.com, where you have to **CLICK THE BOOK** to Buy the Book! and your local Devils Fork State Park office!



SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Two-Hour Flower Power Tour
Book Now!
Apr. 21 & 30: 2:30-4:30 PM

Full 'Flower' Moon Rising Tour
Book Now!
May 1: 6:30-8:30 PM

"All the Falls" Tour Book Now!
May 9: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Sunset Lake Tours Book Now!
May 9: 6:30-8:30 PM

**FOOTHILLS TRAIL
HIKING SHUTTLES
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

**PRIVATE TOURS
ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE !**

**BOOK ONLINE
or CALL (864) 280-5501**

**Warm Season Tours begin May 1
Public Tours Tues.-Sun.
4 hours, 10am-2pm
Warm Season Parking Protocol
Read those parking directions!**

**THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE
APRIL 13, 2026**

**After overwintering as a chrysalis
in diapause, hidden in curled**



**Multiple butterflies soaring over
Lake Jocassee
Photo by Sheryl White**



Photo by Kerry McKenzie

**OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK,
APRIL 13, 2026**

STATE PARK EVENTS

Table Rock State Park

April 17: 9:30-11:30 AM

**In Bloom: A Wildflower Walk
Series**

Step into spring and discover the colorful world of wildflowers on a guided walk along Table Rock's scenic Lakeside Trail!

leaves and tree crevices or protected under rock ledges, our adult tiger swallowtail butterflies have begun to emerge. Several have been spotted fluttering across coves and narrow channels of the lake in search of the perfect spot to complete two very important tasks. These butterflies need to mate and lay eggs and only have about 2 weeks to accomplish this. While two things don't sound like a lot, consider trying to find a mate (when numbers are limited this time of year) while also avoiding hawks, owls, birds, cold temperatures and time restraints. Talk about pressure. It helps that each female can lay up to 250 eggs before they die. Once laid, these eggs will hatch within 4-10 days and these caterpillars will feed on a host of tree species, from tulip poplar, wild cherry, basswood and birch, just to name a few. After five instars, they reach the adult stage. Three generations per year ensure a thriving population. This one species provides not only beauty for the human eye but aids in plant reproduction through pollination and are a much-needed protein source for wildlife that depends on them for food. The plant diversity of the Jocassee Gorges along with our temperate climate make this an ideal place to raise a butterfly family. As abundant as they are, you can understand why they're SC's state butterfly ~Sheryl White, JLT naturalist guide

**NEW EVENTS COMING IN
APRIL/MAY**

STATE PARK EVENTS

Oconee Station State Historic Site

April 17: 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 17: 7:30-8:30 PM

Candle Light Tour

Step into the shadows of the past as Oconee Station comes alive by candlelight.

Jones Gap State Park

April 18: 10:00-11:30 AM

Spring Wildflower Walk

Join us on a one mile walk and view trilliums, bloodroot, foamflowers and the vibrant colors of spring.



Arisaema triphyllum Jack-in-the-pulpit, FOJ photo

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

April 14: 2:00-3:30 PM

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

Table Rock State Park

May 1 & 15: 9:30-11:30 AM

In Bloom: A Wildflower Walk Series

Table Rock State Park

May 9: 2:00-6:00 PM

Music on the Mountain

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Upstate Forever

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

Forevergreen Annual Awards

Luncheon

Palmetto Trail

April 21: 5:00-8:00 PM

Conservation Conversation

Oconee History Museum

April 21: 6:00 PM

Revolutionary Reads: Drums Along the Mohawk

Conserving Carolina

April 21: 6:00-7:30 PM

Landrum Library Speaker Series:

Our Vanishing Biodiversity and How to Save It

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

Saluda Library Speaker Series-
Birds We Love

Join Blue Ridge Audubon member Tom Tribble for a presentation about birds of western North Carolina.

Oconee History Museum

April 15: 6:00 PM

The American Revolution--
Episode 3: The Times That Try
Men's Souls

Join us every Wednesday throughout the months of April and May for a screening of The American Revolution: A Film by Ken Burns.

Palmetto Trail

April 16: 6:00-7:30 PM

Upstate April Trail Talk at JVB

Join the Upstate Trail Crew at Jocassee Valley Brewing for an inside look at the incredible work accomplished over the past few months.

Highlands Biological Station

April 16-18: 10:00 AM-3:30 PM

BioBlitz Boogy

Become a wildlife explorer and discover what's living right in our backyard!

South Carolina Wildlife Federation

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

POWR+: Women's Fly-Fishing Day

This event is designed for women to connect with each other and feel confident on the water.

Oconee History Museum

April 22: 6:00 PM

The American Revolution--Episode
4, Conquer by a Drawn Game

Mushroom Mountain

April 23: 2:00-2:30 PM

MM Farm Tour

Conestee Nature Preserve

April 23: 3:00-4:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School
Club--Elementary School

Highlands Biological Station

April 23-25: 10:00 AM-3:30 PM

BioBlitz Boogy

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

Friends of Jocassee (FOJ)

April 25: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM

Fishing with Friends Trout
Tournament

Mushroom Mountain

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

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

SCNPS Upstate

April 25: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

Chestnut Ridge Heritage Preserve,
Landrum SC

Friends of the Reedy River (FoRR)

April 28: 9:30 AM-2:30 PM



Pinterest image

Mushroom Mountain

April 17: 6:00-8:30 PM

Taste of the Forest: The Morel Experience

Join us for an unforgettable outdoor dining experience celebrating one of spring's most prized wild mushrooms, the elusive morel.

GCBC

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

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

Conestee Nature Preserve

GNHA

April 18: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM

Eastatoee Passage & Raven Rock-Jocassee Gorges & Keowee-Toxaway SP

On this hike, we'll hike 10.1 miles at a moderate pace of around 2.25 mph depending on the terrain and trail conditions.

Elevation Gain: 1,604'

SCNPS Upstate

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

Upstate Spring 2026 Native Plant Sale

We are excited to be back again this year at Conestee Park, in this spacious venue, with plenty of

2026 Upper Saluda Streambank Stabilization Workshop

Oconee History Museum

April 29: 6:00 PM

The America Revolution--Episode 5: The Soul of All America

South Carolina Wildlife Federation

April 29: 7:30 PM

Fireflies of South Carolina: The Natural History and Conservation of Lightning Bugs

SCNPS Upstate

April 30: 6:30-8:00 PM

Social Gathering & Membership Drive at Southernside Brewing Co.

Highlands Biological Station

May 1: 9:00 AM-3:30 PM

Mindful Birding

Hagood Mill Historic Site

May 1 & 2: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Wild Plants for Food & Medicine: Soap-Making

Foothills Trail Conservancy

May 2

Foothills Trail Geology Hike

Sierra Club SC

May 2: 9:00-11:00 AM

Lake Conestee Nature Preserve Hike

Hagood Mill Historic Site

May 2: 9:30 AM-5:30 PM

Eastern Cherokee Southern Iroquois United Tribes of South Carolina

Pickens County Native Plant Jubilee

May 2: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

room for all our native plants, guest vendors, and exhibits.

Foothills Trail Conservancy

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

Wildflower Walk at Whitewater Falls

Join former FTC Board member, Dan Whitten, on the annual Wildflower Walk at the USFS Whitewater Falls Recreation Area on NC 281.

Sierra Club SC

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

SC Botanical Garden-Clemson w/Mary Sue Simmons

Come and join us for an easy walk/hike in the SC Botanical Garden in Clemson, SC.

Conserving Carolina

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

Walnut Creek Preserve Speaker Series: Landslides in WNC-Stories, Tools and Tips

In this talk, Jennifer Bauer will educate the audience about landslides in Western North Carolina.

Friends of Jocassee (FOJ)

April 18

Jocassee Fireside Chat at DFSP on Cavity Nesters

We will hear from Ron Brenneman of the South Carolina Bluebird Society followed by an engaging nest box trail with tips/tricks to make this successful in your own backyard.

GCBC

April 19: 7:30 AM

Bunched Arrowhead Heritage Preserve

2026 Pickens County Native Plant Jubilee at Liberty Elementary.

Conserving Carolina

May 3: 8:00-11:00 AM

Hike with Hemlock Restoration

Initiative at John's Rock in Brevard

Conestee Nature Preserve

May 6: 5:30-6:30 PM

Mindful Walk & Talk for Women

Oconee History Museum

May 6: 6:00 PM

The American Revolution-Episode 6, The Most Sacred Thing

Mushroom Mountain

May 6: 7:00-9:00 PM

Mushroom Hunting Made Easy:

Learn to Identify Edible Wild

Mushrooms (Live Online Class)

Hagood Mill Historic Site

May 8 & 9: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Wild Plants for Food & Medicine:

Wild Edibles as Food

Sierra Club SC

May 9: 3:00-7:00 PM

Sierra Upstate Spring Picnic at

Cleveland Park

SC Botanical Garden Event

April 24: 10:00-11:30 AM

Friday Garden Forays

April 25: 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

SCBG Second Chance Plant Sale

May 2: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Ferns: SC Native Plant Certificate

Elective

May 4: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

Freshwater Monitoring Workshop at SCBG (May 4-Pickens)

We will bird along a 1.5-mile loop looking for both resident and migrant species.

SC Botanical Garden Events

April 14: 1:30-3:30 PM

April 19: 9:30 AM-3:00 PM
Introduction to the Ecology of Pleasant Ridge County Park- JFA

Trail educator Sue Watts for this presentation will take a walk on the Natural Heritage Trail to see what's in bloom in our Cove Forest Exhibits.

April 15: 8:30-9:30AM

Winged Wednesdays

On this guided hike, you'll be led through the best birdwatching spots, learning tips and tricks along the way. No experience is required.



Gene Rochester

Sayornis phoebe Eastern phoebe,
Photo by Gene Rochester

May 9: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Sustainable Landscaping: SC

Native Plant Certificate Core Class

The kids are coming!

The kids are coming!

Check the Jocassee Wild Child facebook page for next week's pics from Armstrong Elementary and Blue Ridge Elementary!



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



Lake Jocassee Webcam

DID YOU KNOW?

Carpenter bees are traditionally considered solitary bees, though some species have simple social nests in which mothers and daughters may cohabitate. When females cohabit, a division of labor between them occurs sometimes. In this type of nesting, multiple females either share in the foraging and nest laying, or one female does all the foraging and nest laying, while the other females guard. ~[Wikipedia](#)

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!



JOCASSEE
REAL ESTATE
Dream it. Live it.