

[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!

Blacks

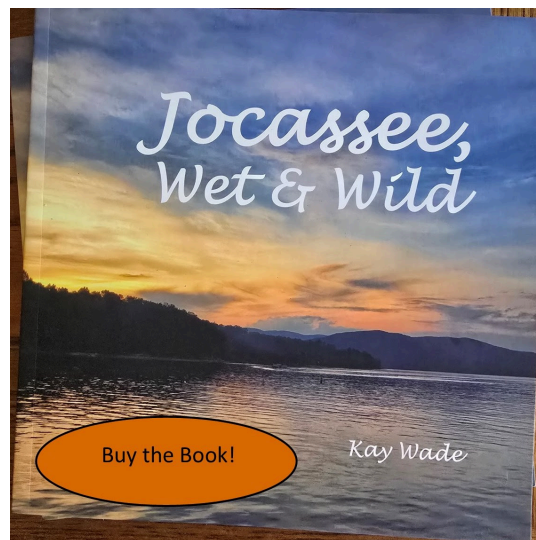
We may call this a park, we may claim human possession of land and water, but the real lords of this place are black vultures that fly low sweeping patrols over swimmers, clean up fish carcass left behind from Thursday tournaments, and watch the comings and goings of two Canada geese and their four downy youngsters. Majestic beings, they are, even with feathers tattered and sap-streaked from flying in and out of their piney-woods roost. We call them dapper, but that brings to mind a

dandy, and these big birds conduct themselves with the dignity of true royalty. Take a minute or two to watch if you're lucky enough to encounter black vultures at Devils Fork State Park. We may call this a park, but this is their kingdom. ~K

Hot off the press and for sale now at the Jocassee Lake Tours' office, Devils Fork State Park, and by giving us a call at 864-280-5501 or sending an email to Kay at kay@jocasseelaketours.com!



Black vulture



SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Two-Hour Flower Power Tour
Book Now!

Apr. 30: 2:30-4:30 PM

May 7, 14 & 21: 2:30-4:30 PM

Full 'Flower' Moon Rising Tour
Book Now!

May 1: 6:30-8:30 PM

WEEKLY EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Tues., Wed., & Thurs. Lake Tours
11:00 AM-2:00 PM Book Now!

Friday Private Tours
10:00 AM-2:00 PM Book Now!

Saturday Lake Tours
10:00 AM-2:00 PM Book Now!

“All the Falls” Tour Book Now!

May 9: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Sunset Lake Tours Book Now!

May 9, 16 & 23: 6:30-8:30 PM

**FOOTHILLS TRAIL
HIKING SHUTTLES
ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE!**

**PRIVATE TOURS
ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE !**

Sunday Tours:

10:00 AM-1:00 PM Book Now!

2:00-5:00 PM Book Now!

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

Warm Season Tours begin May 1

Public Tours Tues.-Sun.

4 hours, 10am-2pm

**Read those parking
directions!**

THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE

APRIL 27, 2026



**Tickle, the millipede, meets a
Jocassee Wild Child,
Photo by Kerry McKenzie**

On the ground, I see a millipede. Our Wild Child group has been keeping track of all the species we see, so we examine this slow mover. It's sitting on a leaf, so I pick up the leaf and coax it into crawling on my hand. I explain that millipedes eat decaying leaves, that they have two pairs of legs on each body segment, and that they are among the oldest land animals. I'm explaining too much. What these fourth graders are going to remember is the feel of those little feet crawling on their skin. I mention that if they handle it roughly, it might excrete a yellow liquid on them. Ewww! I invite them to let it crawl across their hand. As it moves slowly from my hand to a fourth-grade hand, I hear the exclamation, "I can feel it crawling!" Then we notice that this little creature has a scar on its back. Did it narrowly escape predation? Who knows, but it reminded me that this millipede may not be the only one moving through here with scars. Handle with care. Good advice for all of us

OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK, APRIL 27, 2026

STATE PARK EVENTS

Gorges State Park

April 30: 10:00-10:30 AM

**Upper Bearwallow Falls-Guided
Hike**

Join Ranger Hill for a moderate, 30-minute hike to the Upper Bearwallow Falls Overlook.

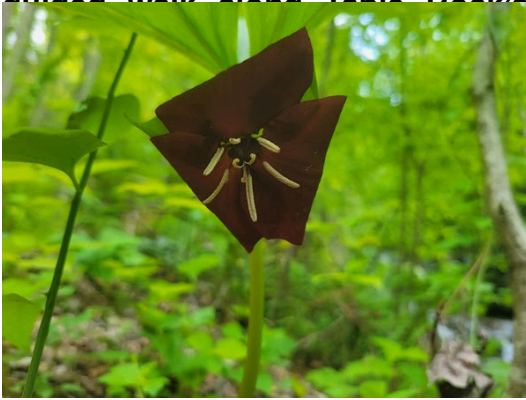
creatures in the Jocassee Gorges.
~Steve Lewis, JWC Instructor and JLT Naturalist Guide

Table Rock State Park

May 1: 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



Trillium vaseyi,
Photo by Rick Huffman

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Friends of the Reedy River (FoRR)

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

2026 Upper Saluda Streambank Stabilization Workshop

Join us to learn about riparian buffers, bank stabilization, and invasive species management for homeowners, stewards, and more.

Oconee History Museum

April 29: 6:00 PM

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

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

South Carolina Wildlife Federation

April 29: 7:30 PM

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

NEW EVENTS COMING IN MAY

STATE PARK EVENTS

Table Rock State Park

May 9: 2:00-6:00 PM

Music on the Mountain

Table Rock State Park

May 15: 9:30-11:30 AM

In Bloom: A Wildflower Walk Series

Table Rock State Park

May 16: 2:00-10:00 AM

Sunrise Hike- Bald Knob

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Hagood Mill Historic Site

May 4: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Spring Weeds & Wild Remedies Workshop

Highlands Biological Station

May 4-8

Grasses of the Southern Appalachians

Oconee History Museum

May 5: 6:00 PM

Stories of the Revolution

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

Join Xerces Society firefly biologist Richard Joyce for an evening presentation about the diversity, natural history and conservation of South Carolina's lightning bugs, and learn how you can help protect and understand these magical insects.



Firefly photo by
edgefieldadviser.com

SCNPS Upstate

April 30: 6:30-8:00 PM

Social Gathering & Membership Drive at Southernside Brewing Co.

Join us for a fun, casual hangout for current members at Southernside Brewing Co. (Current members—bring a friend). This is a great opportunity to introduce friends, family, and the wider community to SCNPS.

Hagood Mill Historic Site

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

Wild Plants for Food & Medicine: Soap-Making

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.

Foothills Trail Conservancy

May 2

Foothills Trail Geology Hike

Join DNR geologist (and co-author of the *Geology Guide to the Foothills Trail*), Robby Morrow,

Mushrooms (Live Online Class)

Conestee Nature Preserve

May 7: 3:00-4:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School Club- Elementary

Oconee History Museum

May 7: 6:30 PM

Tavern Talks: Women in the Revolution

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

Conserving Carolina

May 12: 2:00-3:30 PM

Saluda Library Speaker Series: Environmentally Friendly Landscaping

Friends of the Reedy River (FoRR)

May 12: 6:00-7:30 PM

By the Banks: "Nature in Harmony: The Vital Role of Native Birds, Bees, and Trees"

Mushroom Mountain

May 14: 6:00-8:00 PM

Mushroom Cooking Class at MM

GCBC

May 16: 7:00 AM-12:00 PM (Longer Walk)

May 16: 8:00-10:30 AM (Shorter Walk)

Conestee Nature Preserve

Sierra Club SC

May 16: 9:00-11:30 AM

Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup Greenville

on an informative hike to explore a portion of the Foothills Trail.

Sierra Club SC

May 2: 9:00-11:00 AM

Lake Conestee Nature Preserve Hike

We'll hike 2 connecting trails and view both the East and West Bay areas. This will be a great hike for beginners.

Friends of Jocassee (FOJ)

May 2: 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Family Golf Outing at Oasis Ranch

Please come out and join us to learn about what we do, renew your membership or join, and have some family fun.

Eastern Cherokee, Southern Iroquois and United Tribes of South Carolina

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

Hagood Mill Historic Site

Save the date for our annual PowWow, to be held at the Hagood Mill Historic Site.

Pickens County Native Plant Jubilee

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

2026 Pickens County Native Plant Jubilee at Liberty Elementary

Come learn more about native plants of the region that includes Upstate SC, shop for your favorite plants, visit info tables to learn more about organizations in the Upstate that help promote care for our natural spaces and patronize vendors selling their handicrafts.

Conserving Carolina

May 3: 8:00-11:00 AM

Hike with Hemlock Restoration Initiative at John's Rock in Brevard

On this hike, your hike leaders will cover the ecological importance

Conserving Carolina

May 16: 10:30 AM-12:00 PM

Walnut Creek Preserve Speaker

Series: Bugs in Motion--Filming Insects to Appreciate Biodiversity & Advance Science

Mushroom Mountain

May 16-17: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Wild Mushroom Foraging

Certification Course--5-Year State Approved Permit Training

Conserving Carolina

May 19: 6:00-7:30 PM

Landrum Library Speaker Series:

From Soil to Supper – Where Your Garden and the World Grow Together

Oconee History Museum

May 19: 6:00 PM

Revolutionary Reads: The Swamp Fox

SCNPS Upstate

May 19: 6:30-8:00 PM

Upstate Monthly Meeting

Hagood Mill Historic Site

May 22 & 23: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Wild Plants for Food & Medicine: Plant Medicine Basics

Conserving Carolina

May 23: 8:00-10:00 AM

Guided Bird Walk Along the Green River

GNHA

May 23: 8:00 AM-5:00 PM

Whitewater Falls via Bad Creek

SC Botanical Garden Events

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

Freshwater Monitoring Workshop at SCBG (May 4--Pickens)

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

of hemlocks with a focus on their role in bird habitat; what's threatening them, what can be done about it and more.

SC Botanical Garden Events

April 30: 4:30-6:00 PM

Junior Naturalists

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

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

Ferns: SC Native Plant Certificate Elective

Join naturalist Tim Lee to learn about the basic ecology, natural history and fern identification through classroom lecture and time exploring the state's diverse habitats as illustrated on the SCBG's Natural Heritage Trail.



Athyrium filix-femina Lady fern,
Photo by Peggy A Lopipero-
Langmo

Sustainable Landscaping: SC Native Plant Certificate Core Class

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

Wetland Ecology--SC Native Plant Certificate Elective

May 16: 10:00 AM-5:00 PM

Native Plant Use by Wildlife & Pollinators: SC Native Plant Certificate Elective Class

May 23: 1:00-4:00 PM

Nature Center Open House: Meet Nature's Meat-Eating Plants!



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

Lake Jocassee Webcam

DID YOU KNOW?

Wood Thrushes produce a haunting, flute-like song by using a specialized, two-sided vocal organ called a syrinx to sing two different notes simultaneously. Males create a "one-bird duet," often featuring a "ee-oh-lay" melody, with each bird having a repertoire of over 50 distinct songs and a signature trilling finale!

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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