

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!

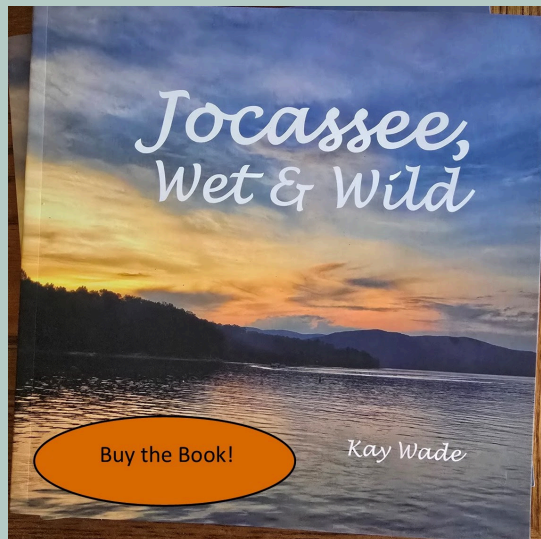
Flaming!

His dress was fish casual: lightweight camo sun hoodie, quick dry pants, polarized sunglasses, expensive flip-flops. His green ball cap had a hook stuck in it. His boat, which matched his trailer, which matched his truck, was Decked Out for Speed and for trolling, and clean inside and out. He made one more lap of his rig, checking tie downs, checking trailer lights, double-

checking the hitch and safety chains. But then his head turned towards the Devil's Fork State Park office, and he sniffed the air like a hound dog when grandma's frying ham. Instead of getting in his truck he walked straight over to the flaming orange azalea that Friends of Jocassee planted beside the stop sign of the parking lot several years ago. He bent to smell flowers with a scent as loud as the color. He straightened with an incredulous look, jaw dropped open, eyes round, then bent to smell again. When he caught sight of me watching he shook his head slightly with a bemused smile. Yes, the perfume of that flaming orange azalea is intoxicating. If you're around Devils Fork this week, check it out. ~K



"Tallulah Sunrise" is a native-ish hybridized cultivar of our local native flame azalea.



Hot off the press and for sale at JocasseeWetandWild.com, and your local Devils Fork State Park office!

SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

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

Full 'Flower' Moon Rising Tour
[Book Now!](#)
May 1: 6:30-8:30 PM

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](#)

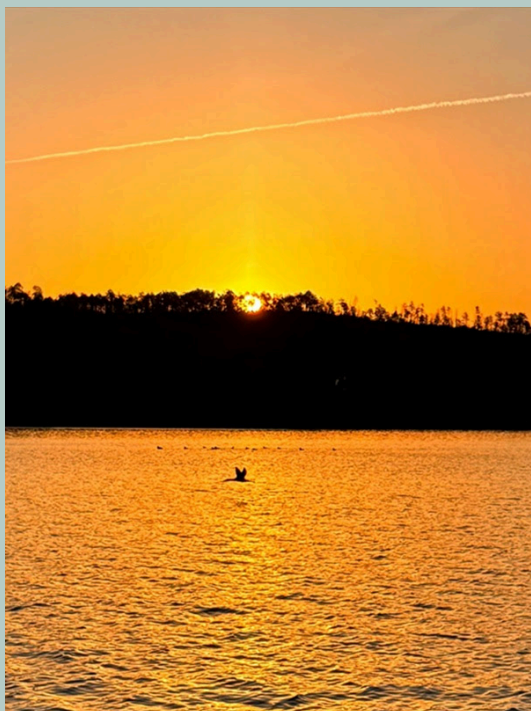
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ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE !

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or CALL (864) 280-5501**



**Capt. Brooks Wade:
The bird lover responsible for all
this mess, :D.**



**Sunrise photos by Kerry
McKenzie**

**THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE
APRIL 6, 2026**

We were on a boat in the dark, headed for the convergence of conservation and culture. The full moon fell slowly behind the mountain, as it has for eons. The deep waters beneath us covered the valley, once home to a timeline of inhabitants, from ancient ferns and mastodons to human settlers. This morning, Lake Jocassee was hosting a boat full of curious Conservation Ornithology students and bobbing around us were the silhouettes of hundreds of loons and gulls. In the dim glow of first light, Dr. Drew Lanham's easy voice carried the woven story of place over the sound of water gently lapping on the pontoons, while loon hoots were softly exchanged across the lake. As the night turned into morning, we all watched the loons paddle their clumsy feet across the water, then lift heavy bodies high up in the air. Loons circled like gulls above us and then flew off into the sunrise. The wonder and appreciation the students expressed was magical. Jocassee and these loons are now woven into their story of place and their understanding of why we fight for conservation. They are our hope for the future, on the frontlines of a cultural shift from commodity to community.

~Tricia Kyzer, JLT Naturalist Guide

**OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK,
APRIL 6, 2026**

STATE PARK EVENTS

Table Rock State Park

April 11: 2:00-10:00 AM

Sunrise Hike-Table Rock

Be an extra early riser and take a unique moonlit hike up to the end of Table Rock Mountain.



Early morning sunrise
on Table Rock,

Photo by @hikingwithmandy

Table Rock State Park

April 11: 2:00-6:00 PM

Music on the Mountain

Visitors are invited to bring their acoustic instruments and join in a jam session or simply sit back to enjoy the music with the lake and mountains as a beautiful backdrop.

Oconee Station State Historic Site

April 12: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

Wildflower Walk

**NEW EVENTS COMING IN
APRIL/MAY**

STATE PARK EVENTS

Table Rock State Park

April 17: 9:30-11:30 AM

In Bloom: A Wildflower Walk Series

Oconee Station State Historic Site

April 17: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

Wildflower Walk

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

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

April 14: 2:00-3:30 PM

Saluda Library Speaker Series:

Birds We Love

Highlands Biological Station

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

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

BioBlitz Boogy

South Carolina Wildlife Federation

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

POWR+: Women's Fly Fishing Day

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 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.

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

SCUMS

April 6: 6:30 PM

Aishwarya Veerabahu, PhD Candidate at University of Wisconsin,- Golden Oyster Invasion

Join Aishwarya Veerabahu on a tour of invasive fungi, their impacts, and the lessons she's learned from her study species, the invasive golden oyster mushroom.

Conserving Carolina

April 7: 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

April 8: 6:00 PM

The American Revolution-- Episode 2: An Asylum for Mankind

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

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

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

Conestee Nature Preserve

April 9: 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. (1st-5th graders).

Conserving Carolina

April 9: 5:30-7:00 PM

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

In this presentation, the City of Hendersonville's Stormwater Director, Mike Huffman, will be discussing the flooding challenges that many communities face and how nature can be part of the solution.

Highlands Biological Station

April 9-11: 10:00 AM-3:30 PM

BioBlitz Boogy

As a nationwide Citizen Science event, the purpose of a BioBlitz is to find and identify as many different species as possible in a specific area over a short period of time.

Conestee Nature Preserve

April 10: 6:30-9:00 PM

Great Blue Gathering and Silent Auction

Join us for an evening of delicious food, live music, and inspiring stories of connection in support of Conestee Nature Preserve.

Hagood Mill Historic Site

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

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

Conserving Carolina

April 21: 6:00-7:30 PM

Landrum Library Speaker Series: Our Vanishing Biodiversity and How to Save It

Oconee History Museum

April 21: 6:00 PM

Revolutionary Reads: Drums Along the Mohawk

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

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

Friends of Jocassee (FOJ)

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

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

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.

Friends of the Reedy River (FoRR)

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

Spring River Sweep

Join us as we work to collect litter from various locations along the Reedy River.



FoRR FB photo

GNHA

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

Clemson Forest-Issaqueena Area

We will do a loop hike in the Clemson Forest - Issaqueena Trail Area, where we'll pass by the lake and dam.

Oconee History Museum

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

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

Join us for a day filled with hands-on history. Watch demonstrators and try our historic skills for yourself!

**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**

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**

Foothills Trail Conservancy

April 11: 2:00 PM

FTC Spring Picnic

The FTC 2026 Spring Picnic will be held at the White Oak Shelter at Table Rock State Park. The potluck gathering will be served around 4:30 pm, so bring a dish to share!

SC Botanical Garden Events

April 10: 2:00-6:00 PM

SCBG Members Plant Sale, Spring 2026

Support the SC Botanical Garden and enjoy a wide variety of plants, including annuals, vegetable transplants and herbs, bog plants, perennials, ferns, shrubs, grasses, trees and fruits and many hard-to-find native plants!

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

SCBG Public Plant Sale, Spring 2026

The SCBG Plant Sale list will be published prior to the sale.



SCBG FB photo

Carolina

Pickens County Native Plant Jubilee

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

2026 Pickens County Native Plant Jubilee at Liberty Elementary

SC Botanical Garden Event

April 14: 1:30-3:30 PM

An Introduction to the Ecology of Spring Wildflowers

April 15: 8:30-9:30AM

Winged Wednesdays

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

Borrowed Glimpses



**Hexastylis sp. Heartleaf
Photo by Steve Lewis**



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



[Lake Jocassee Webcam](#)



A kaleidoscope of Eastern tiger swallowtails, puddling

DID YOU KNOW?

Rhododendron calendulaceum was first identified in 1795 by Andre Michaux, the same French botanist who discovered Oconee Bells in Jocassee Valley in 1787. Its fiery orange color and the arrangement of its unopened buds make the common name of “flame azalea” somewhat inevitable.

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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