

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!

Trees

Sitting on bedrock, hidden in shadows of scrappy little Virginia pines, I watch another cloudless day pass over Lake Jocassee. Once upon a time in this very place, Tulip poplars would have reached toward low-hanging stars-mighty trees--felled by storms, lumber contracts, and man's idea of progress. The giants are gone. A few miles from here, though, a single, giant Tulip poplar was

saved from the scourge of clear-cutting by a quiet, gentle forest ranger named Bob Padgett. Three men, arms outstretched with fingers touching, could not completely circle the girth of this giant tree. Over four centuries old, it is, a living memorial to an ancient forest I'll never know. ~K



The Bob Padgett Poplar,
named for the man
who saved its life.

SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Full 'Blue' Moon Rising Tour
[Book Now!](#)
May 30: 6:45-8:45 PM

Kayak Tours [Book Now!](#)
May 31: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM
June 7: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Jocassee (Family) Adventure
Camp [Book Now!](#)
June 5 & 12: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

"All the Falls" Tour [Book Now!](#)
June 13: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Wild River Adventure Tour
[Book Now!](#)
June 21: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

WEEKLY EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Tues., Wed., & Thurs. Lake Tours
10:00 AM-2:00 PM [Book Now!](#)

Friday Private Tours
4 & 6 hour tours available
[Book Now!](#)

Saturday Lake Tours
10:00 AM-2:00 PM [Book Now!](#)

Sunset Lake Tours [Book Now!](#)
May 23: 6:45-8:45 PM
June 6: 6:45-8:45 PM

Sunday Tours:
10:00 AM-1:00 PM [Book Now!](#)
2:00-5:00 PM [Book Now!](#)

[BOOK ONLINE](#)
or CALL (864) 280-5501



**Exploring an Otter Cave
Photo by Amie Heddon**



**Jackpot...
two crawdads and a millipede!
Photo by Randy Milford**

**THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE
MAY 25, 2026**

Jocassee was 12.8' low this past Thursday as we finished the last of the spring Jocassee Wild Child Outdoor Learning Experiences. Those low levels didn't stop us from having a blast, though. Several of the benefits of low water are discovering long stretches of beaches, rock outcrops (that make great new jumping spots) and the chance to explore small caves that are otherwise partially submerged under normal conditions. We've named one of these caves, the Otter Cave. Kids eyes light up when they're asked if they'd like to see an otter cave and wow, does the excitement and laughter begin. Crawling on hands and knees through soft white sand, searching for paw prints and scat or shining a laser light into the darkness to check the depth of the cave leave indelible memories on some of these kids and a few adults, too. So does learning to identify trees by their leaves, searching the streams for salamanders and crawdads or skipping pieces of ancient rock across the lake surface. They get to hear about the Cherokee people who were caretakers of this land long before we came along. They make mica wishes and stewardship promises to continue to care for this place, just as the Cherokees did. These kids leave here with a better understanding of what's in their

OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK, MAY 25, 2026

STATE PARK EVENTS

Table Rock State Park

May 27: 9:00-11:00 AM

Critter Chronicles

Join us as we uncover the secrets of nature, meet the creatures that call SC home, and learn how we can help protect the habitats around us.

Oconee Station State Historic Site

May 28: 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

Corn Husk Dolls

Discover the rich tradition behind these simple yet meaningful creations and uncover the stories they carried through generations.

Oconee Station State Historic Site

May 28: 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.

Sadlers Creek State Park

May 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.

Oconee State Park

May 30: 10:30-11:30 AM

Nature Stroll

Each walk on this Ranger-led stroll is unique; offering the chance to discover fungi, wildflowers, wildlife, and seasonal changes along the trail.

Gorges State Park

backyard and how truly remarkable it is. Expected and much needed rain this week is welcomed and will likely raise the lake level a few feet but regardless of the level, Jocassee is always ready to teach us something. All we have to do is embrace it like a Wild Child and pay attention. ~ Sheryl White, JLT naturalist guide and JWC instructor.

NEW EVENTS COMING IN JUNE

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Highlands Biological Station

June 1: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Botany Bootcamp

Highlands Biological Station

June 1-June 5: 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

True Sedge Workshop: A Weeklong

Dive into the Genus Carex

GNHA

June 3: 8:30 AM-3:30 PM

Raven Cliff Falls to Suspension

Bridge and Back

Conestee Nature Preserve

June 3: 5:30-6:30 PM

Mindful Walk and Talk for Women

Highlands Biological Station

June 5 & 15: 5:00 AM-1:00 PM

MAPS Bird Banding at HBS

Foothills Trail Conservancy

June 6: 9:00 AM

(National Trails Day)--The Stool Trail

Sierra Club SC

June 6: 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

May 31: 4:00-4:30 PM

The Bear Facts

Come join Ranger Hill to learn about the American black bears at GSP and what role they play in the park's ecosystem.



American black bear,
Photo by Tony and Cam McDade

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Highlands Biological Station

May 25-29

Identification and Conservation of Wetland Plants

This course is designed for anyone wishing to strengthen their skills in observing, collecting, identifying, and assessing the ecological "quality" of wetland plant species.

Highlands Biological Station

May 25-June 5: 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Biology of Southern Appalachian Salamanders

This immersive field-and lab-based course introduces students to the extraordinary diversity, biology, and evolutionary history of these remarkable amphibians.

Annual Trail Maintenance--

ChauRam County Park with the Foothills Group

Palmetto Trail

June 6: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

National Trails Day--Upstate Henry Trail Passage

Upstate Forever

June 6: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Land Trust Day at Mast General Store

South Carolina Wildlife Federation

June 8: 7:00 AM-1:00 PM

Palmetto Pro Birders: Blue Ridge Parkway

Highlands Biological Station

June 8-12

Rock Outcrop and Cliff Ecology

Conserving Carolina

June 9: 2:00-3:30 PM

Saluda Library Speaker Series- Animals We Love to Hate

Conserving Carolina

June 11: 5:30-7:00 PM

Green Drinks: Restoration of the Green and Broad Rivers...with a little Trash Trivia!

Foothills Trail Conservancy

June 13

Bats @ Night Outing

SCNPS Upstate

June 13: 8:30 AM-1:30 PM

Upstate Summer 2026 Native Plant Sale

Oconee History Museum

June 13: 11:00 AM-3:00 PM

Flag Day Festivities



HBS Photo

NCNPS Oconee Bell Chapter

May 26: 5:00-7:00 PM

Nature Nights by the Pond with Dr. Paul Manos

These monthly gatherings are open to everyone—bring a friend, your curiosity, and your own lawn chair!

GNHA

May 30: 9:45 AM-2:00 PM

Gorges SP-Upper Bearwallow, Rainbow, Turtleback, and Drift Falls

We will hike from the Visitor Center to Upper Bearwallow Falls Observation Deck and then drive to another parking area to hike to Rainbow, Turtleback and Drift Falls.

Conestee Nature Preserve

May 31: 10:30 AM-12:00 PM

Mindfulness with the Meadow

Mindfulness with the Meadow offers a different kind of gathering — one rooted in direct relationship with the living world, where forests, meadows, and other creatures become doorways into connection, meaning, and belonging.

SC Botanical Garden Events

May 28: 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

Sierra Club SC

June 13: 4:00-6:00 PM

Sierra Upstate Spring Picnic at Cleveland Park

Highlands Biological Station

June 15-26

The Biology and Conservation of Birds

Conserving Carolina

June 16: 6:00-7:00 PM

Landrum Library Speaker Series: Fungal Foundations – How Mushrooms Build the Earth Beneath Our Feet

SCNPS Upstate

June 16: 6:30-8:00 PM

Upstate Monthly Meeting w/ Carson Barefoot-“Conservation Programs at the Greenville Watershed”

Mushroom Mountain

June 18: 2:00-3:30 PM

MM Farm Tour

Jeanne Malmgren

June 20

Silent Hikes: St. John in the Wilderness, Flat Rock, NC

GCBC

June 20: 7:00 AM-12:00 PM (Longer Walk)

June 20: 8:00-10:30 AM (Shorter Walk)

Conestee Nature Preserve

GNHA

June 20: 9:55 AM-2:00 PM

Yellow Branch Falls, Rail Trail, Issaqueena Falls, and Stumphouse Tunnel

Chattooga Belle Farm

that define South Carolina. (ages 0-11)



SCBG Photo

June 20: 10:00 AM
Summer Solstice Festival

Hagood Mill Historic Site
June 20: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM
Americana Folk Festival

SC Botanical Garden Events
June 11: 9:30 AM-4:30 PM
Fanning Endowment Teacher Workshop at SC Botanical Garden

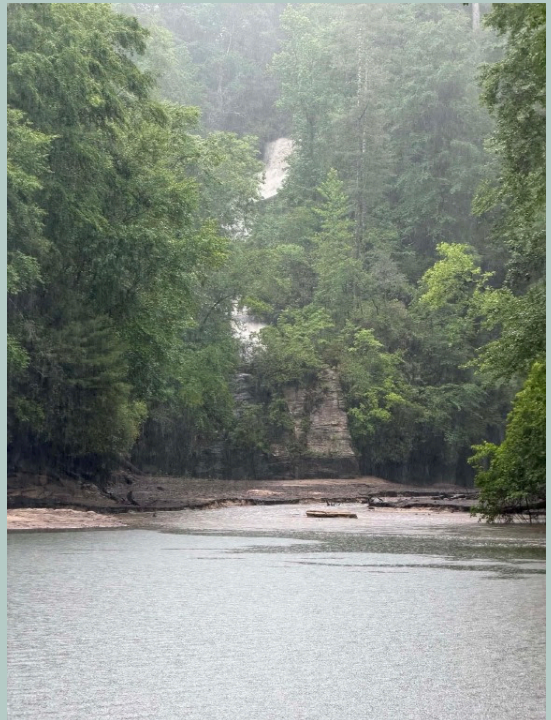
Borrowed Glimpses



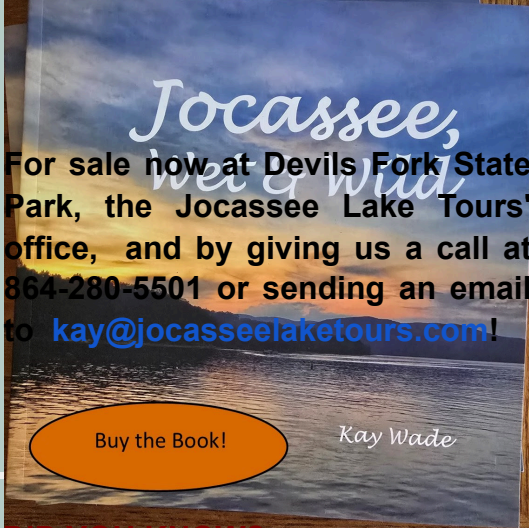
What a great way to end a school year!



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



Laurel Fork Falls is loving the Memorial Weekend rain!



Lake Jocassee Webcam

DID YOU KNOW?

Though the Bob Padgett Tulip Poplar is just over the state line in North Carolina, there are over two dozen state-documented "champion trees" (the largest known living specimen of a particular species) scattered across the Clemson University campus and adjoining South Carolina Botanical Garden. Check them out!

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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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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