

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!

Hooked

Saturday morning, 7am. Trucks and bass boat trailers fill the parking lot at Lake Jocassee. A school of fishermen, lured from pre-dawn beds, have long since disappeared across dark, calm water to hide against the shore in favored fishing grounds. A couple of stragglers try their luck near the boat ramp as morning sun rises



and throws cloud shadows against the swell of mountains along the great Blue Wall. Morning melds into afternoon and at length the fishermen return to weigh their catch and release bulging bags of fish off the dock. For this moment, buzzards await. ~K



Starting 'em young.
Photo by Casey Jones

SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Two-Hour Flower Power Tour

[Book Now!](#)

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

Kayak Tours [Book Now!](#)

May 17 & 31: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

June 7: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Sunset Lake Tours [Book Now!](#)

May 16: 6:30-8:30 PM

May 23: 6:45-8:45 PM

June 6: 6:45-8:45 PM

Full 'Blue' Moon Rising Tour

[Book Now!](#)

May 30: 6:45-8:45 PM

Jocassee (Family) Adventure
Camp [Book Now!](#)

June 5: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

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

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!](#)

Sunday Tours:

10:00 AM-1:00 PM [Book Now!](#)

2:00-5:00 PM [Book Now!](#)

**PRIVATE TOURS ARE ALWAYS
AVAILABLE !**

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

Warm Season Tours began May 1

Read those parking directions!



Northern Summer tanager is a long-distance migrant who winters as far as central South America, but returns to the eastern US to breed and raise its young.

Photo by Gene Rochester

OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK, MAY 11, 2026

STATE PARK EVENTS

Oconee Station State Historic Site

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

Historic Building Tour

Come for a ranger-led tour of the buildings while learning about the history of the site.

THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE MAY 11, 2026

Migration is an exciting time for birders. The number and variety brings enjoyment and fascination to almost everyone. Birding is commonly thought of as an activity of counting birds that have been seen or heard. The total species noted, along with their number, is often thought of as the objective. Recently a walk of Jocassee Wild Naturalists led by ornithologist Dr. J. Drew Lanham brought a new appreciation of birds passing through. Taking time to consider each bird as an individual having goals and struggles gives an often ignored insight into their lives. As put by Drew, “only a few weeks ago, many of these birds were across the Gulf of Mexico living in the presence of jaguars, howler monkeys, and capybaras.” A seldom considered fact. These tiny and fragile creatures are able to do something we simply can’t: live largely unassisted in a place far away and annually travel vast distances, all in an effort to find food and a place to raise their young. Each bird faces navigational challenges, predators, hazardous weather, and now pressure from ever increasing human-made barriers. What an incredible gauntlet they face each year. So let us welcome these tiny travelers. As people who care, let’s make their stay as safe and as pleasant as possible. ~Carson Johnson, Jocassee Wild Naturalist (and birder)



Photo by @misstaknid

NEW EVENTS COMING IN MAY/JUNE

STATE PARK EVENTS

Oconee Station State Historic Site

May 22: 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

May 28: 2:00-3:00 PM

Historic Building Tour

Oconee Station State Historic Site

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

Corn Husk Dolls

Sadlers Creek State Park

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

Fox Squirrel 5K

Oconee State Park

May 30: 10:30-11:30 AM

Nature Stroll

Oconee State Park

June 1: 10:30-11:00 AM

Read with a Ranger

Table Rock State Park

May 15: 9:30-11:30 AM

In Bloom: A Wildflower Walk Series

Come discover the colorful world of wildflowers on a guided walk along TR's scenic Lakeside Trail!

Oconee Station State Historic Site

May 15: 8:30-9:30 PM

Candlelight Tour

As dusk settles over the frontier, the flicker of flames will guide your way through the historic site.

Table Rock State Park

May 16: 2:00-10:00 AM

Sunrise Hike- Bald Knob

After experiencing the nocturnal aspects of the forest, we'll enjoy the pre-dawn sky from the outcrop as we anticipate the beauty of a new sunrise.

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Gorges State Park

Conserving Carolina

May 17: 10:00-10:30 AM

May 12: 2:00-3:30 PM

Upper Bearwallow Falls-Guided Saluda Library Speaker Series:

Hike Environmentally Friendly

Join Ranger Hill for a Hike to the

Upper Bearwallow Falls Overlook.

Steve Pettis will discuss

environmentally friendly garden

techniques that you can

implement this spring to make

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Highlands Biological Station

May 18-22

Introduction to the Vascular Flora of the Blue Ridge

Friends of Lake Keowee Society (FOLKS)

May 19: 5:30-7:30 PM

BOOSTED Business After Hours

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

your garden a friendly place for wildlife including pollinating insects.

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"

Speakers Rick Huffman and Dr. John Quinn will explore riverside habitats, the role of native plants in supporting local wildlife systems, and how urban river landscapes sustain biodiversity.

Mushroom Mountain

May 14: 6:00-8:00 PM

Mushroom Cooking Class at MM

Join MM's own, Olga Katic for a delicious and educational hands-on mushroom cooking experience.

Highlands Biological Station

May 14-15: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

Hop, Slither, Slide!

Hop, slither, or slide down to the Highlands Nature Center to learn about the reptiles and amphibians we share the world with.

GCBC

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

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

Conestee Nature Preserve

Longer walk--Meet behind the baseball stadium to bird a variety of paved and natural surface trails. Slower walk--Meet at the Spanco Drive parking area next to the old Conestee Mill and Dam to bird a section of paved trail.

GNHA

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

Palmetto Trail

May 21: 6:00-8:00 PM

Upstate May Trail Talk

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

Hagood Mill Historic Site

May 23: 1:00-4:00 PM

Mushrooms 101

Highlands Biological Station

May 25-29

Identification and Conservation of Wetland Plants

Highlands Biological Station

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

Biology of Southern Appalachian Salamanders

NCNPS Oconee Bell Chapter

May 26: 5:00-7:00 PM

Nature Nights by the Pond with Dr. Paul Manos

GNHA

May 16: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM

Trail Maintenance--Bald Knob

Join in helping maintain, repair, improve and give back to the trails we enjoy hiking.

Sierra Club SC

May 16: 9:00-11:30 AM

Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup Greenville

Join us to meet fellow volunteers, enjoy the fresh air, and make a visible difference in our neighborhood!

SCNPS Upstate

May 16: 10:00AM-12:00 PM
(Session 3)

May 16: 1:00-3:00 PM (Session 4)
2026 Parks Mill Rocky Shoals Spider Lily Preserve Annual Open House

Join us at one of four available sessions to see the Spider Lilies in all their glory.

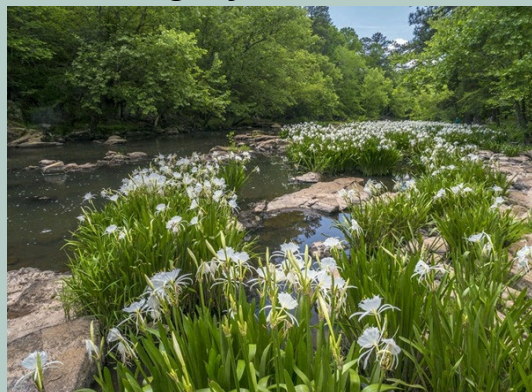


Photo by BSharpton, SCNPS.org

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

Dr. Adrian Smith works to visualize, study, and tell the stories of arthropods and insects, some of the most inspiring and

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

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

Conestee Nature Preserve

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

Mindfulness with the Meadow

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

Conestee Nature Preserve

June 3: 5:30-6:30 PM

Mindful Walk and Talk for Women

Highlands Biological Station

June 5: 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

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

SC Botanical Garden Events

May 20: 8:30-9:30 AM

Winged Wednesdays

incredible creatures that live right outside (and sometimes inside!) our door.

Mushroom Mountain

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

Wild Mushroom Foraging Certification Course--5-Year State Approved Permit Training

Earn your 5-year Wild Mushroom Foraging Permit, meeting the criteria required by state health departments and formally approved for the legal foraging and sale of wild mushrooms in the following states: S.C., N.C., Ga., Va., W.Va., Pa., N.Y., and R.I.

SC Botanical Garden Events

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

Wetland Ecology, SC Native Plant Certificate Elective

In this course, you'll learn the special features that characterize wetland and riparian habitats in our region, the basic science behind defining these systems and how the science and law (the Clean Water Act) meet to help protect these vital ecosystems.

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

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

During this field course, we'll saunter through the SCBG and discuss the native plants we find along the trails and how these plants support natural communities here in the Upstate of SC.

May 21: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

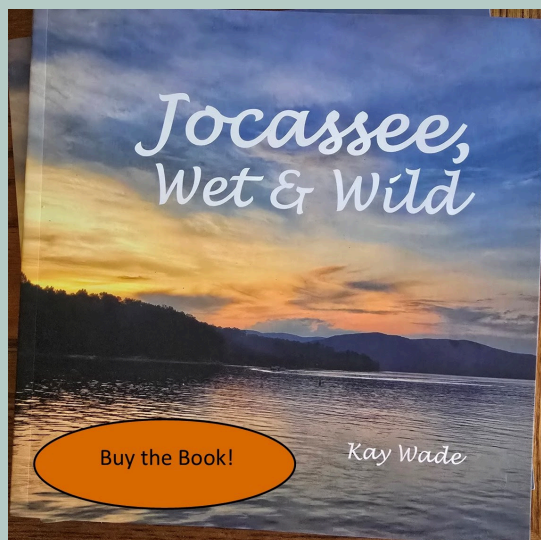
Spring Invasive Plant Management Workshop

May 23: 1:00-4:00 PM

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



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



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



Viburnum acerifolium Mapleleaf viburnum, Photo by Dan Whitten



Lake Jocassee Webcam

DID YOU KNOW?

The Bar-tailed Godwit holds the record for the longest non-stop migratory flight, flying from Alaska to New Zealand (and back a few months later), a distance of approximately 6,835 miles. The Godwit's migration takes around nine days, during which the bird does not stop to eat, drink, or rest. ~birdlife.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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