

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!

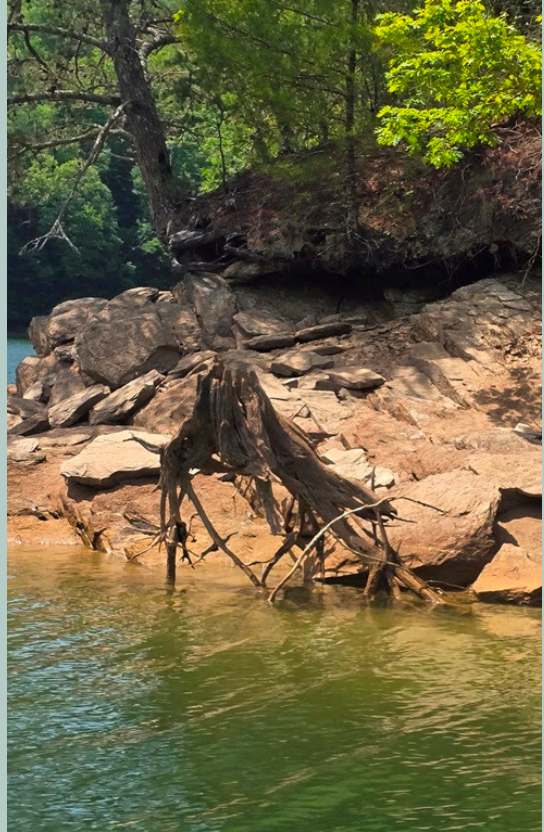


Welcome to the Blue Wall Weekly, your source for what's going on outside along the Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment. Feel free to share your own photos, videos, and adventures along the Blue Wall by sending them to the email address at the bottom of the page, and we'll do our best to make you (locally) famous!

Stumped

Six decades have passed since Duke Power announced plans to build nuclear and hydroelectric facilities to generate electricity for Oconee and Pickens Counties. Two lakes were to be created by containing Keowee River behind dams. Surveyors traversed Jocassee Gorges, marking a clean line through the hills. Timber companies followed, and bulldozers. Soon enough a belt of

cleared land 100' wide outlined the perimeter of a future Lake Jocassee. Six decades later, tree stumps remain around the lake's edge, hidden just below the full pool surface. When state-wide drought forces water levels to drop, these stumps emerge like old friends, a silent reminder of what this place once was. ~K



SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Two-Hour Flower Power

[Book Now!](#)

May 21: 2:30-4:30 PM

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

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:

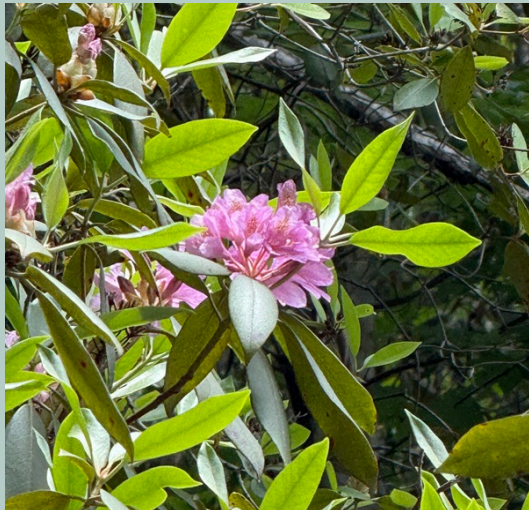
10:00 AM-1:00 PM [Book Now!](#)

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

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



Branch lettuce & Meadow rue, common spray-cliff plants.



Rhododendron minus, aka Gorge rhododendron,
Photos by David White

**THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE
MAY 18, 2026**

Oh, how we love our waterfalls at Jocassee, especially bigger waterfalls. We love to get close to them. Maybe you get under a waterfall and feel the 'massage' on your head or back. But beyond the waterfall, there are plants that love the spray from the waterfall on the rocks behind the waterfall. In the ecology world, there is a name for it: Spray-cliff plant community. The next time you get close up to a waterfall, take a look at these wet, ancient rocks and you might see "Branch lettuce" (*Micranthes micranthidifolia*), "Meadow Rue" (*Thalictrum clavatum*) as well as Mosses and Liverworts. Not too far from the waterfall in the cove is the beautiful "Gorge Rhododendron" (*Rhododendron minus*), with its beautiful pink to purple flower. I am grateful!!! ~David White, Ecologist and JLT Naturalist guide

**OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK,
MAY 18, 2026**

STATE PARK EVENTS

Oconee Station State Historic Site
May 22: 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.

**NEW EVENTS COMING IN
MAY/JUNE**

STATE PARK EVENTS

Oconee Station State Historic Site
May 28: 11:00 AM-12:00 PM
Corn Husk Dolls

Oconee Station State Historic Site
May 28: 2:00-3:00 PM
June 6: 11:00 AM-12:00 PM
June 11: 2:00-3:00 PM



OSSHS Block House,
Photo by @imoldgregt

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Highlands Biological Station

May 18-22

Introduction to the Vascular Flora of the Blue Ridge

Centered on the rich botanical diversity of the Highlands Plateau, this course provides both an introduction and a refresher on studying vascular plant diversity.

Friends of Lake Keowee Society (FOLKS)

May 19: 5:30-7:30 PM

BOOSTED Business After Hours

This relaxed networking event in honor of National Safe Boating Week offers a great opportunity to connect with fellow professionals, community partners, and lake enthusiasts while enjoying beautiful views of Lake Keowee.

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

Join us for a conversation about how curiosity, attention, and imagination can transform the

Historic Building Tour

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

Gorges State Park

May 31: 4:00-4:30 PM

The Bear Facts

Oconee State Park

June 1: 10:30-11:00 AM

Read with a Ranger

Oconee Station State Historic Site

June 11: 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

Quill and Ink

Table Rock State Park

June 13: 2:00-6:00 PM

Music on the Mountain

Oconee Station State Historic Site

June 13: 8:45-9:45 PM

Candlelight Tour

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

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

way we see and work with our gardens.

Oconee History Museum

May 19: 6:00 PM

Revolutionary Reads: The Swamp Fox

This month's selection is The Swamp Fox by John Oller. Join in the rousing, revolutionary conversation!

SCNPS Upstate

May 19: 6:30-8:00 PM

Upstate Monthly Meeting with Owen Carson--"Islands of Biodiversity"

This talk offers attendees a tour of various rock outcrops in the SC upstate, from granitic flatrocks in the upper piedmont to cataract bogs along the escarpment.

SCNPS Upstate

May 20: 9:00-11:00 AM

Invasive Species Removal in Collaboration with Conestee Nature Preserve

We are excited to work with our local partners in removing invasives on the preserve.

Palmetto Trail

May 21: 6:00-8:00 PM

Upstate May Trail Talk

Jody Wilbanks will speak about the great work the Make-A-Wish Foundation does and how his Trailblazer Challenge not only helps grant wishes for critically ill children but also helps bring people together to improve their overall health by getting them outdoors and hiking trails like the Palmetto Trail.

Conserving Carolina

GNHA

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

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: 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

May 23: 8:00-10:00 AM

Guided Bird Walk Along the Green River

Join Mike Resch for an easy 2-hour guided bird walk in search of residents and Neotropical migrants that visit the region to raise their young.

GNHA

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

Whitewater Falls via Bad Creek

This hike will take in views of both Lower Whitewater Falls in South Carolina and Upper White Water Falls in North Carolina.



Photo by romanticasheville.com

Hagood Mill Historic Site

May 23: 1:00-4:00 PM

Mushrooms 101

Mushrooms 101 is designed for those curious about identifying, growing, and understanding mushrooms in a safe and practical way.

SC Botanical Garden Events

May 20: 8:30-9:30 AM

Winged Wednesdays

This guided walk offers a chance to see a variety of bird species in their natural habitat. No experience is required.

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

Sierra Club SC

June 13: 4:00-6:00 PM

Sierra Upstate Spring Picnic at Cleveland Park

SC Botanical Garden Events

June 11: 9:30 AM-4:30 PM

Fanning Endowment Teacher Workshop at SC Botanical Garden

Borrowed Glimpses



**Eastern Wood Pewee,
Photo by Gene Rochester**

**May 21: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM
Spring Invasive Plant
Management Workshop**

Participants will receive their own species ID cards to help recognize invasive plants and will get personal guidance in the field on how to safely and effectively remove them.

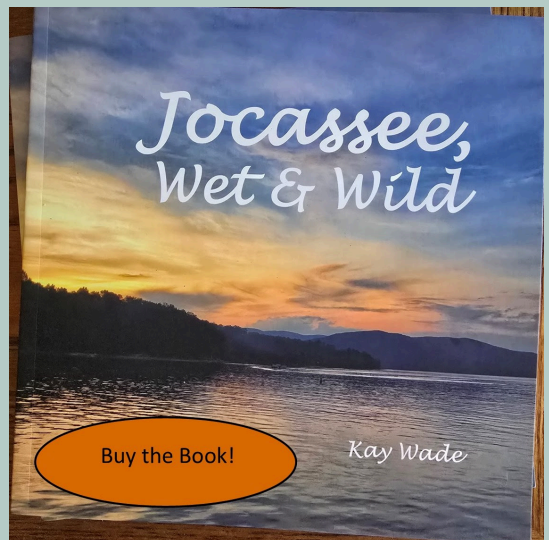
**May 23: 1:00-4:00 PM
Nature Center Open House: Meet
Nature's Meat-Eating Plants!**
Explore each plant's different approaches to capturing its prey and how this has fascinated people over the years.



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



**Wright Creek Falls,
Photo by David White**



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!

[Lake Jocassee Webcam](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

During the final harvest of timber before flooding Jocassee Valley, tulip poplars were cut which were estimated to be seven feet in diameter, over 200 feet tall, and over 200 years old. “One Duke forester estimated that the 1967 harvest of timber from company lands would be enough to build 2800 six-room homes, and the pulpwood harvest would load 3,850 railroad cars.” ~from the book *Jocassee Valley*, by Claudia Hembree

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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