

# 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!

## Wake up!

It's 6:13am. Barely civil-twilight. From the mountain laurel right outside our bedroom window Carolina Wren yells at me with all



the subtlety of a seven-year-old with a new whistle. “LA-ZY! LA-ZY! LA-ZY! UP!” “ YEAAAAAHHHH” trills Pine Warbler. Sleep, what I had of that on this full moon night, is over as the bird chorale chimes in, one after another, chiding me for sleeping so late. A train could have passed and I wouldn’t have heard it over their morning exuberance. Such is life along the Blue Wall during this time of Spring migration and mate-seeking. Later this day I’ve traveled to hear Tricia Kyzer’s excellent talk on Soundscapes, and am reminded how fortunate we are to live in a place where our alarm clock is the song of a bossy Carolina Wren instead of the din of traffic and lawn equipment. Blessings acknowledged. ~K



The incomparable Dr. J. Drew Lanham reminds us that by providing for the needs of birds, we are literally saving our own lives.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS**

**Two-Hour Flower Power Tour  
Book Now!  
May 7, 14 & 21: 2:30-4:30 PM**

**“All the Falls” Tour Book Now!**

## **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**

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

**Book Now!**

**Sunset Lake Tours Book Now!**

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

**Saturday Lake Tours**

**10:00 AM-2:00 PM Book Now!**

**Full 'Blue' Moon Rising Tour Book Now!**

**May 30: 6:45-8:45 PM**

**Sunday Tours:**

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

**2:00-5:00 PM Book Now!**

**DON'T FORGET! MOTHER'S DAY  
IS SUNDAY, MAY 10!**

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

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

**PRIVATE TOURS ARE  
ALWAYS AVAILABLE !**

**Warm Season Tours began May 1  
Public Tours Tues-Sun.**

**4 hours, 10am-2pm**

**Read those parking  
directions!**

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**THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE  
MAY 4, 2026**

Delicate, almost imperceptible fragrances from tulip poplars and climbing hydrangeas catch you by surprise. Your sun-warmed skin involuntarily shivers as you glide into a shaded, stream-fed cove. Small, yellow and orange, tulip-shaped flowers litter your path as your fingers gently caress pillow-soft clumps of moss and tiny, feathery ferns. Quietly following a well-worn path along the Thompson River, you're cradled by ancient rock outcrops, and your



*Liriodendron tulipifera*,  
aka Tulip poplar flower.

Not a poplar at all--but a member  
of the magnolia family.

imagination takes you back in time until you can almost hear the laughter of Cherokee children swimming and playing in the shallows. You wonder what they called the Louisiana waterthrush, singing nearby. Come marvel and imagine along with us as springtime on Jocassee engages all your senses. ~Sheryl White, JLT Naturalist guide.

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## **NEW EVENTS COMING IN MAY**

### **STATE PARK EVENTS**

#### **Oconee Station State Historic Site**

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

May 28: 2:00-3:00 PM

Historic Building Tour

#### **Table Rock State Park**

May 15: 9:30-11:30 AM

In Bloom: A Wildflower Walk Series

#### **Oconee Station State Historic Site**

May 15: 8:30-9:30 PM

Candlelight Tour

#### **Table Rock State Park**

May 16: 2:00-10:00 AM

Sunrise Hike--Bald Knob

#### **Oconee Station State Historic Site**

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

Corn Husk Dolls

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## **OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK, MAY 4, 2026**

### **STATE PARK EVENTS**

#### **Table Rock State Park**

May 9: 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.



Table Rock lodge

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## OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

### Hagood Mill Historic Site

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

#### Spring Weeds & Wild Remedies Workshop

In this immersive, hands-on workshop, you'll learn how to identify, harvest, and use common spring "weeds" as effective herbal remedies.

### Highlands Biological Station

May 4-8

#### Grasses of the Southern Appalachians

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the identification, morphology, and ecology of grasses native to the Southern Appalachian region.

### Oconee History Museum

May 5: 6:00 PM

#### Stories of the Revolution

Join us in learning a different perspective of the Revolutionary

### 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

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## OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

### 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

### Highlands Biological Station

May 15: 5:00 AM-1:00 PM

#### MAPS Bird Banding

### GCBC

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

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

#### Conestee Nature Preserve

### GNHA

War, those of the Native Americans. Joshua Shumak will present a program full of information.

### **Conestee Nature Preserve**

May 6: 5:30-6:30 PM

#### **Mindful Walk & Talk for Women**

In this guided hour, we focus on lowering cortisol, processing the day, and returning to center before heading home.

### **Oconee History Museum**

May 6: 6:00 PM

#### **The American Revolution:**

#### **Episode 6, The Most Sacred Thing**

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**

May 6: 7:00-9:00 PM

#### **Mushroom Hunting Made Easy:**

#### **Learn to Identify Edible Wild**

#### **Mushrooms (Live Online Class)**

Discover the world of wild mushrooms from the comfort of home!

### **Conestee Nature Preserve**

May 7: 3:00-4:30 PM

#### **Nature Discovery After School**

#### **Club--Elementary**

This is an exclusive opportunity to experience hands-on exploration,

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

#### **Trail Maintenance--Bald Knob**

### **Sierra Club SC**

May 16: 9:00-11:30 AM

#### **Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup**

#### **Greenville**

### **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**

### **Highlands Biological Station**

May 18-22

#### **Introduction to the Vascular Flora**

#### **of the Blue Ridge**

### **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**

investigation and discovery in ways unavailable to those just visiting the Preserve.

### Oconee History Museum

May 7: 6:30 PM

#### Tavern Talks: Women in the Revolution

From regional heroines like Dicey Langston to national figures like Molly Pitcher, you will learn about amazing women doing amazing things in a time where women were not thought as equals.

### Hagood Mill Historic Site

May 8 & 9: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

#### Wild Plants for Food & Medicine: Wild Edibles as Food

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.

### Mushroom Mountain

May 9: 10:00-11:30 AM

#### MM Farm Tour--The Fungi Awakening

Spring is the season of new life — and the forest floor is waking up! Join us as we celebrate the *Fungi Awakening*.

### 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

### NCNPS Oconee Bell Chapter

May 26: 5:00-7:00 PM

#### Nature Nights by the Pond with Dr. Paul Manos

### GNHA

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



Chicken of the woods, MM photo

**Sierra Club SC**

May 9: 3:00-7:00 PM

Sierra Upstate Spring Picnic at Cleveland Park

**SC Botanical Garden Events**

May 4: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM  
Freshwater Monitoring Workshop at SCBG (May 4-Pickens)  
Spend an afternoon with us and beat the heat with an ice cream bar, games and a walk along the Fernwood Nature Trail.

Learn to select a site, measure temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, transparency, and bacteria in freshwater streams.

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

Sustainable Landscaping: SC Native Plant Certificate Core Class

Join instructor Rick Huffman, ASLA, Earth Design, SCNPS, to explore how to design with nature and how native plants are essential characters in functioning ecological landscapes.

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

**Conestee Nature Preserve**

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

Mindfulness with the Meadow  
**SC Botanical Garden Events**

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 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!



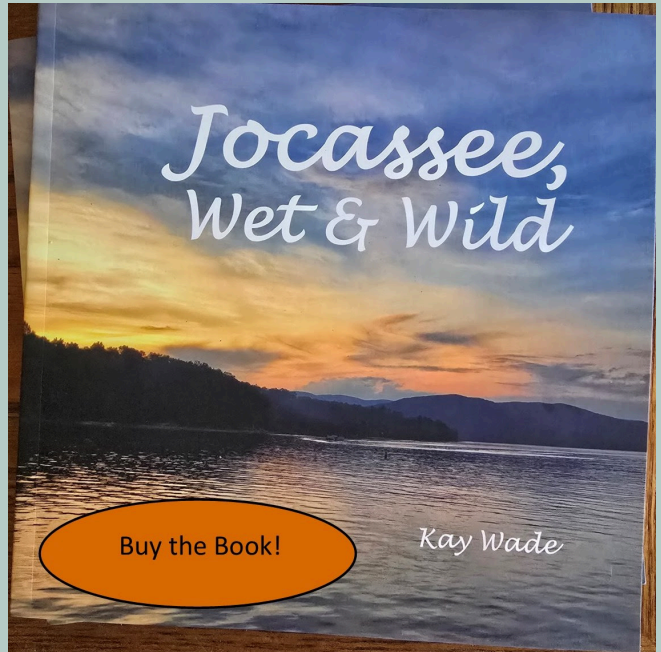


***Echinacea laevigata* smooth coneflower, SCBG photo**

### **Borrowed Glimpses**



**27 inches, 11 lbs.,  
Congratulations Zach and Casey...  
Just WOW...what a catch!**



Hot off the press and 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](mailto:kay@jocasseelaketours.com)!



## Lake Jocassee Webcam

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### **DID YOU KNOW?**

**Magnolia is an ancient genus that dates back to the Cretaceous. Fossilized specimens of *M. acuminata* have been found dating to 20 million years ago (mya), and fossils of plants identifiably belonging to the Magnoliaceae date to 95 mya. They are theorized to have evolved to encourage pollination by beetles as they existed prior to the evolution of bees. ~[Wikipedia](#)**

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### **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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[www.JocasseeLakeTours.com](http://www.JocasseeLakeTours.com)

[info@jocasseelaketours.com](mailto: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!**



**JOCASSEE**  
REAL ESTATE  
*Dream it. Live it.*