

# 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!

## Falconry

Imagine: an eight-year-old boy sees a wild bird, bird strikes a spark, and father ignites fire by leading child to the Encyclopedia Brittanica. (Remember those?) From that point, the young lad acquaints himself not only with the bird, a goshawk, but also with the study of falconry. He acquires a bird, immerses himself in the art and history of falconry, and thus builds a rewarding life built on

single-minded pursuit of this deepest love. On Monday, under a sky that blessed us with the gentlest of rain showers, this boy—now very much a grown man—shared that passion with me and Brooks. We were introduced to Sweetie Bird and Bertie. Freed from box and hood, Sweetie Bird soared over an expansive field and settled into a nearby tree with a jaunty shake of tail feathers, which, according to our new friend, is bird-speak for happiness. There was more... so much more... and we reluctantly parted company only after rain settled in for a good soaking. Do yourself a favor. If you have an eight-year-old, an eighteen-year-old, or an eighty-year-old, introduce them to an ancient art through this bird wizard and his beautiful birds, and watch a spark ignite. This can truly change a life. <https://curtiswrightoutfitters.com/falconry/> (And be sure to ask for Pete!) ~K



**Brooks meets Sweetie**



**Who's flying high now?**



**Two very happy people!**

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**SPECIAL EVENTS WITH  
JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS**

**WEEKLY EVENTS WITH  
JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS**

**“All the Falls” Tour Book Now!**

**July 18: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM**

**Jocassee (Family) Adventure  
Camp Book Now!**

**June 19 & 26: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM**

**July 10: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM**

**Father’s Day Book Now!**

**June 21: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM**

**June 21: 2:00-5:00 PM**

**Wild River Adventure Tour Book  
Now!**

**June 21: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM**

**Kayak Tours Book Now!**

**June 28: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM**

**July 12: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM**

**Full ‘Strawberry’ Moon Rising Tour  
Book Now!**

**June 28: 6:45-8:45 PM**

**July 4<sup>th</sup> Book Now!**

**July 4: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM**

**!**

**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!**

**June 20: 7:00-9:00 PM**

**Sunday Three Hour Tours:**

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

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

**BOOK ONLINE**

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

**Foothills Trail Hiking Shuttles**

**PRIVATE TOURS ARE ALWAYS  
AVAILABLE**



**Don't let that cute face fool you.  
Dragonflies are very successful**

**THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE  
JUNE 15, 2026**

**Fledgling eaglets  
Foraging bees  
Dragonflies on the prowl  
Turtles laying eggs  
Butterflies puddling  
Tiny spiders growing  
Ripening berries  
Tangy sourwood blossoms  
Rainy days to ourselves  
High clouds and soft breezes  
Cold water plunges  
Dozing in the warm sun**

predators.

## **OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK, JUNE 15, 2026**

### **STATE PARK EVENTS**

#### **Gorges State Park**

June 16: 10:00-10:30 AM

##### **10 Essentials**

Join a Ranger to discuss the 10 essential items you should pack to be prepared on any trip into the backcountry.

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

June 17: 9:00-11:00 AM

##### **Critter Chronicles**

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



Photo by Steve Adcox

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

June 18: 9:00-10:30 AM

##### **Creek Detectives: Secrets of the Stream**

Join us for a hands-on adventure in Carrick Creek as we search for the amazing critters that call this mountain stream home.

Family and friends gathering

Picnic baskets full of goodies

Peals of laughter

Jocassee in June

~ Sheryl White, JLT naturalist guide

"It must be a great disappointment to God if we are not dazzled at least ten times a day"

~ Mary Oliver

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## **NEW EVENTS COMING IN JUNE/JULY**

### **STATE PARK EVENTS**

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

June 24: 9:00-11:00 AM

July 1 & 8: 9:00-11:00 AM

##### **Critter Chronicles**

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

June 24: 1:00-3:00 PM

##### **Discover Natural Journaling**

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

June 25: 9:00-10:30 AM

##### **Creek Detectives: Secrets of the Stream**

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

June 25: 2:00-3:00 PM

June 29: 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

##### **Historic Building Tour**

#### **Oconee State Park**

June 27: 10:30 AM-12:00 PM

##### **CCC History Stroll**

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

June 27: 11:00 AM-1:00 PM

##### **Creek Explorers**

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

June 27: 8:30-9:30 PM

##### **Bat Watch**

## OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

### Highlands Biological Station

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

#### MAPS Bird Banding at HBS

Established at HBS in 2020, the MAPS bird banding station is part of a larger effort to assess trends in avian demographics across North America.

### SCNPS Upstate

June 15: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

#### Upstate Field Trip to Mount Mitchell State Park

This field trip is an opportunity to view the magnificent purple fringed orchids (*Platanthera psycodes*) with our native plant expert, Dan Whitten, in their summer splendor at Mount Mitchell State Park!



*Platanthera psycodes*, Lesser purple fringed orchid, Photo by Christopher David Benda

### Highlands Biological Station

June 15-26

#### The Biology and Conservation of Birds

This two-week intensive course offers a comprehensive introduction to avian biology, behavior, and conservation, grounded in both field experience and laboratory study.

### Oconee State Park

July 7: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

#### Nature Scavenger Hunt

### Table Rock State Park

July 11: 2:00-6:00 PM

#### Music on the Mountain

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## OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

### Conserving Carolina

June 23 & 30: 9:00-11:00 AM

July 7: 9:00-11:00 AM

#### Pollinator Paradise Partners

### Hagood Mill Historic Site

June 25: 1:00-4:00 PM

#### Mushrooms 101

### Conserving Carolina

June 25: 2:00-3:30 PM

#### Green River Library Speaker

Series: Southern Appalachians During the Ice Age

### Highlands Biological Foundation, Zahner Conservation Lectures

June 25: 6:00-7:00 PM

The Blue Wall: What we know--and don't know--about Southern Appalachia's enigmatic weather-making landform

### Upstate Forever

June 25: 6:00-8:00 PM

Inside the Process: Local Planning & State Advocacy Mixer

### Highlands Biological Station

June 26: 5:00 AM-1:00 PM

#### MAPS Bird Banding at HBS

### GNHA

June 27: 9:00 AM-4:30 PM

Chattooga River Trail--Licklog and Pigpen Falls--A Key Swap

### **Conserving Carolina**

June 16: 6:00-7:00 PM

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

Join Olga, of Mushroom Mountain, for an engaging journey into the underground world of terrestrial fungi, with a spotlight on *Stropharia rugosoannulata*—the mighty King Stropharia.

### **Oconee History Museum**

June 16: 6:00 PM

Revolutionary Reads: Kings  
Mountain by Sharyn McCrumb

Both a novel of war and family, crafted with heart and depth, King's Mountain celebrates one of Appalachia's finest hours.

### **SCNPS Upstate**

June 16: 6:30-8:00 PM

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

The goal of this conservation team is to increase overall ecosystem health to enhance resilience to future disturbances and to fulfill Greenville Water's mission of providing quality drinking water for a sustainable future.

### **Mushroom Mountain**

June 18: 2:00-3:30 PM

MM Farm Tour

Join us for a 90-minute guided tour through one of the most unique farms in Upstate South Carolina.

### **Conestee Nature Preserve**

June 27: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Opossums and Popsicles

### **Hagood Mill Historic Site**

June 27: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Beginner Foraging Class

### **Oconee History Museum**

June 27: 1:00-2:00 PM

What is Carolina Day.

### **Oconee History Museum**

June 30: 1:00-3:00 PM

Revolutionary Kids Day.

### **NCNPS Oconee Bell Chapter**

June 30: 5:30 PM

Nature Nights by the Pond

### **Conestee Nature Preserve**

July 1: 5:30 PM

Mindful Walk & Talk for Women

### **Highlands Biological Station**

July 6-17

Biology of Southern Appalachian  
Mammals

### **SC Wildlife Federation**

July 7: 12:00 PM

Invasive Species in SC: What Are  
You and Why are You Here?

### **Mushroom Mountain**

July 7: 7:00-9:00 PM

Mushroom Hunting Made Easy:  
Learn to Identify Edible Wild  
Mushrooms (Live Online Class)

### **Highlands Biological Foundation, Zahner Conservation Lectures #4**

July 9: 6:00-7:00 PM

Southern Appalachian Freshwater  
Resilience and Recovery Post-  
Hurricane Helene

**Highlands Biological Foundation,  
Zahner Conservation Lectures #2**

June 18: 6:00-7:00 PM

**Story: Red-cockaded  
Woodpeckers, Conservation, and  
the Science Inside the Nest**

In this talk, avian behavioral ecologist Dr. Lauren Pharr shares the “w(hole) story” of this remarkable bird—from the history of its conservation to the science happening inside its nest cavities.

**Palmetto Trail**

June 18: 6:00-8:00 PM

**Upstate June Trail Talk**

Join us for an inspiring presentation by Dan Polstra, President of Friends of Jocassee.

**Oconee History Museum**

June 19: 7:00 PM

**The Revolution on the Screen:  
Black Patriots: Heroes of the  
Revolution**

Hear the story of the Revolutionary War through the eyes of some of the most crucial and significant African American figures of our country's foundation including Crispus Attucks, Peter Salem, Phillis Wheatley and James Armistead Lafayette.

**Green Bird Nature Therapy**

June 20

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

This experience allows you to try out the practice of Noble Silence, while enjoying the healthful effects of fresh air and green, living things .... all in the company of like-minded others.

**GCBC**

**Hagood Mill Historic Site**

July 11: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

**Camp Hagood Teen Edition**

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**SC Botanical Garden Events**

June 26: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

**SCNP Certificate Elective: Invasive  
Plants & Pests/Diseases**

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**Borrowed Glimpses**



**The Dragonhunter,  
Photo by Kerry McKenzie**



**Eastern eyed click beetle**

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

June 20: 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. Shorter walk- Meet at the  
Spanco Drive parking area next to  
the old Conestee Mill and Dam to  
bird a section of the paved trail.

### **GNHA**

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

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

Yellow Branch M: 3, EG: 500, Rail  
trail, Issaqueena Falls, and  
Stumphouse Tunnel M: 5.4 EG:  
500. This hike will be conducted at  
a moderate pace.

### **Chattooga Belle Farm**

June 20: 10:00 AM

### Summer Solstice Festival

Join us for our Summer Solstice  
Festival, we'll have vendors, live  
music, specialty drinks, lunch,  
shopping, and a good time!

### **Hagood Mill Historic Site**

June 20: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

### Americana Folk Festival

Join us for a full day of live  
Americana and folk music,  
Appalachian heritage, artisan  
demonstrations, food vendors,  
and family-friendly fun at HMSH!

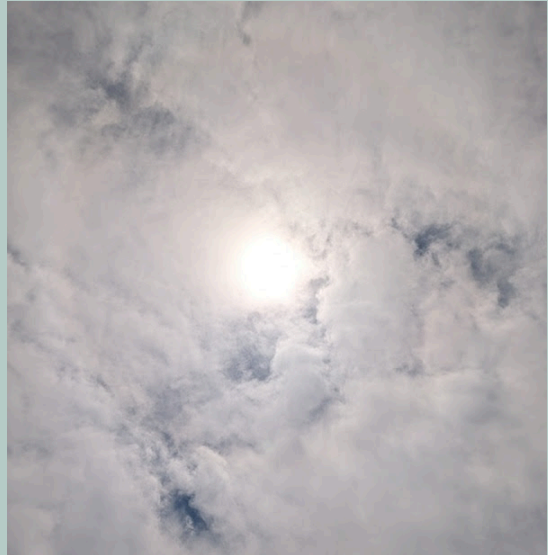
### **Highlands Biological Station**

June 21-July 2

Southern Appalachian Mayflies,  
Stoneflies, and Caddisflies:  
Session



Lazy days



Hazy days



Nature's candy

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For sale now at local SC state  
parks, For the Birds, the Jocassee  
Lake Tours' office, and by giving

This immersive, two-week course provides a comprehensive introduction to the natural history, evolution, and taxonomy of the three major aquatic insect orders used in freshwater bioassessment: mayflies (Ephemeroptera), stoneflies (Plecoptera), and caddisflies (Trichoptera).

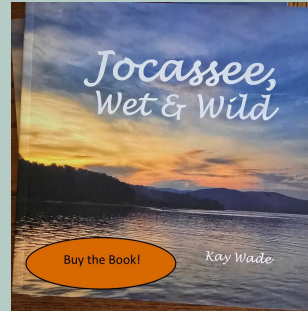
SC Botanical Garden Events

More Events Coming Soon!



[This Month in your Garden](https://hgic.clemson.edu)  
[hgic.clemson.edu](https://hgic.clemson.edu)

us a call at 864-280-5501 or sending an email to [kay@jocasseelaketours.com](mailto:kay@jocasseelaketours.com)! Buy the Book!



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

[Lake Jocassee Webcam](#)

## DID YOU KNOW?

In 1861, a group of German quarry workers found the fossil of Archaeopteryx, which had feathers like modern birds, but also teeth in its mouth, a long, bony wing, and claws on its wings like a reptile. Archaeopteryx seems to be a transitional animal from reptile to bird.

## 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](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!**

**Camp Glamp  
at  
Lake Jocassee**



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— REAL ESTATE —**

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