

The Blue Wall Weekly

Your Source For Outdoor Activities
Along The Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment

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[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!

Habitat

It's been three years since we lost the ephemeral pools on the route of our daily walk, and to be honest, the walk is less engaging without them. When a land developer decided the old road bed should be "improved"--to attract buyers who never came—the ruts creating the ponds were scraped smooth and the birthplace of countless generations of amphibians disappeared overnight. Frogs, toads, salamanders... where do they lay their eggs now? Nowhere, I suspect, unless they had the wherewithal to migrate across the dirt road and through the old field and down the hill, all the way to the ephemeral pond along the Oconee Bell Trail at Devils Fork State Park. Thinking of habitat loss usually brings to mind the clearing of forest, but there is much more to the maintenance of diversity. I breath a little "thank you" to Devil Fork SP for giving these creatures a place to raise their young. The park is a refuge for more than just campers! ~K



One has to look closely to find frog eggs along the Oconee Bell Trail!



What kind of frogs will they be?
Do they all look alike to you?

SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Hiking the Gorges
February 10: 8:30 AM-1:00 PM [Book Now!](#)
#5 Canebrake to Frozen Creek Access

February 17: 8:30 AM-3:00 PM [Book Now!](#)
#3 Canebrake to Horsepasture

February 24: 8:30 AM-1:00 PM [Book Now!](#)
#2 Laurel Fork Falls to Canebrake

March 2: 8:30 AM-3:00 PM [Book Now!](#)
#3 Canebrake to Horsepasture

WEEKLY EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Cool Season Lake Tours
Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday:
11:00 AM-2:00 PM [Book Now!](#)
Sunday: 2:00-5:00 PM [Book Now!](#)

FISHING ADVENTURES WITH CAPT. ZACH
8:00 AM-12:00 PM
Call (864) 280-5501 to Book!

PRIVATE TOURS ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE!
[Book online](#) or call 864-280-5501

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Looking for lunch.
Photo by Nina Schoch

**THIS WEEK!
FEBRUARY 5, 2024**

STATE PARK EVENTS

Oconee Station State Historic Site
Park Grounds Open Daily: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Originally a military compound and later a trading post, this Historic Site offers both recreational opportunities and a unique look at 18th and 19th century South Carolina. A self-interpretation station is available at the park office.

Table Rock State Park
February 10: 2:00-6:00 PM
Music on the Mountain

Enjoy traditional Blue Grass music as local musicians gather at Table Rock to keep this inspirational talent alive. 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.

Gorges State Park
February 11: 10:00-10:30 AM
Winter ID?

Winter is a great time to learn and strengthen your plant identification skills. Join Ranger Hill for a guided hike at White Pines Picnic Area to learn some easy tips/tricks for being a winter ID expert.



Pinus strobus White pine

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

SPRING? Maybe so. It sure seemed like it this week. Cool mornings, mild afternoons, it's been entirely lovely to be on the lake. There are ring-billed gulls on the lake in big numbers, most everywhere you look. The loons seem to be concentrated in a few areas, but they're feeding heavily. That's a sign that bait fish are getting more active and coming closer to the surface, as the fisher folks on the lake seem to know. On Friday, out with a group of Life-Long Learners from Wofford University, it took a while to find a few to hang out with, but find them we did. They are so entertaining when absorbed in a feeding frenzy. I spent a couple of days just below Columbia this week. The maples were blooming and the trees were setting leaves. So an early Spring? Maybe so. ~B

CAPT. ZACH'S FISHING REPORT:
Water temperatures are in the low 50's now, which means it's time to spend every spare second on the water chasing our trophy brown and rainbow trout. Along with the trout, good quality bass are being caught daily as well.

**COMING SOON!
FEBRUARY/MARCH**

STATE PARK EVENTS

Table Rock State Park
February 17: 8:30-10:30 AM
Great Backyard Bird Count

Sadlers Creek State Park
February 24: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
Fox Squirrel 5K

Oconee State Park
February 24: 6:15-7:15 PM
Full-Moon Hike

Oconee State Park
March 2: 10:00-11:30 AM
CCC History Stroll

Table Rock State Park
March 2: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM
Stool Mountain Day Hike

Oconee Station State Historic Site
March 2: 11:30 AM-2:00 PM
Planting by the Signs

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Mushroom Mountain
February 15: 2:00-4:00 PM
Log Cultivation Mini Clinic

Conestee Nature Preserve
February 15: 3:00-4:30 PM
Nature Discovery After School Club--Elementary

Greenville County Bird Club
February 17: 8:00-10:30 AM Shorter Walk
February 17: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM
Conestee Nature Preserve

GNHA
February 17: 8:30 AM-5:00 PM
Petroglyphs and Bald Knob via the Rock

Mushroom Mountain

February 8: 2:00-3:30 PM

MM Farm Tour

Tours of MM includes an introduction to fungal ecology and life cycles, laboratory overview, tour of the greenhouse fruiting room, and if there is anything fruiting on the trail, you will get to experience it.

Conestee Nature Preserve

February 8: 4:00-5:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School Club-- Middle School--Spot a Rusty Blackbird

CNP is considered a "Bird Area of Global Significance" because it provides critical winter habitat for Rusty blackbirds which have the undesirable distinction of the "fastest declining North American land bird".

Holly Springs

February 9 & 12

Day Camp

Children grades 1-6 will enjoy nature-based activities including arts, crafts, exploration and physical activity.

GNHA

February 10: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM

Ellicott Rock & Two Waterfalls

This is a bit of a history hike with some great winter views along the Chattooga River. We'll hike to Ellicott and Commissioner's Rocks, visit both Spoonauger and Kings Creek Falls and return to the Fish Hatchery, where we started.



Ellicott Rock

KOBA

February 10: 9:00-11:00 AM

2nd Saturday Litter PickUp

Grab a friend or co-worker, or come by yourself and meet us at the Food Lion parking lot at the corner of Hwy 123 and Old Clemson Highway.

Conestee Nature Preserve

February 10: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

History Hike Part 1: A Naturalist-Led Walk and Talk (Sold Out)

SC BOTANICAL GARDEN EVENTS

February 8: 4:15-5:45 PM

Junior Naturalist 2, Spring 2024

Junior Naturalists (11-14 years old) will dig deeper into the science of nature. We'll

Foothills Trail Conservancy

February 17: 9:00 AM

Winter Waterfall Views at Gorges State Park

Hagood Mill Historic Site

February 17: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Deep Winter Blues

GNHA

February 18: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

Clemson Experimental Forest: Fant's Grove Green Triangle Trail

SCNPS

February 20: 6:30-8:00 PM

February Upstate Chapter Meeting: Dr. Richard Porcher

Mushroom Mountain

February 22: 2:00-3:30 PM

MM Farm Tour

Conestee Nature Preserve

February 22: 4:00-5:30 PM

Salamander Egg Exploration

Conserving Carolina

February 22: 6:00 PM

Landrum Library Speaker Series: The Effects of Land Use on Streams and Fish Populations in the Piedmont of SC

SCNPS

February 24: 9:30 AM-1:30 PM

Upstate Field Trip to Brasstown Falls, Long Creek, SC

Hagood Mill Historic Site

February 24: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Plants are Medicine: Winter Staples

Sierra Club South Carolina

March 2: 10:00 AM-2:30 PM

Raven Cliff Falls and Suspension Bridge

SC BOTANICAL GARDEN EVENTS

February 16: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

South Carolina Native Plant Certificate: Core Class: Basic Botany

February 16: 3:30-5:00 PM

High Flying Avian Adventure

February 27: 1:30-3:30 PM

Garden Naturalist: Liken' Lichen

**READY TO RAMBLE A LITTLE FURTHER?
CHECK OUT WHAT THESE FRIENDS HAVE TO
OFFER!**

Highlands Biological Station

Alarka Institute

Conserving Carolina

Bigelow's Botanical Excursions

Borrowed Glimpses

discover how plants and animals adapt to their environments and how those environments change over time.

February 9: 8:00 AM-3:00 PM
CircleUp STEM Days!

Using the cutting-edge concepts of the Circular Economy, students learn how to design products and systems that are truly sustainable and regenerative.



SCBG

Current conditions at Lake Jocassee via Devils Fork State Park webcam

Sponsored by Friends of Jocassee! Join Today!



A typical winter day on Jocassee: winter birds, booming waterfalls, blankets, hot beverages, good company, and peace.

It's 2024, and local schools are booking for Jocassee Wild Child Adventures!

Your support makes this program happen!

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and follow Jocassee Wild Child Adventures on Facebook!

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



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DID YOU KNOW?

The average decline in overall amphibian populations is 3.79 percent per year, though the decline rate is more severe in some regions of the U.S., such as the West Coast and the Rocky Mountains. If this rate remains unchanged, some species will disappear from half of the habitats they occupy in about 20 years. Amphibian declines are a global phenomenon that has continued unabated in the United States since at least the 1960's. Declines are occurring even in protected national parks and refuges.

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

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Thanks to Sheryl White for compiling the Blue Wall Weekly calendar,

and to all JLT GUIDES for photos and continuous inspiration!

Phone: 864-280-5501

Jocassee Lake Tours Depart from the Main Dock at Devils Fork State Park

PLEASE CALL 864-280-5501 AT LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE TO RESERVE YOUR SEATS!

Not your cup of tea? [Unsubscribe from Newsletter](#)



Enjoy this Lake Jocassee peaceful hideaway. **CAMP GLAMP!**



Love Jocassee? **Join FOJ!**



Visit Oconee Convention and Visitors Bureau



Your Portal to Paradise!



The Cottages at Jocassee are now available!