



## Mission Statement

**Friends of Jocassee's  
mission is:**

**“Conservation of the Jocassee  
Gorges for all”**

Our mission is exclusively non-  
profit, charitable, educational, and  
environmental.

To join FOJ  
please visit our website

**[www.friendsofjocassee.org](http://www.friendsofjocassee.org)**

Contact us at  
[friendsofjocassee@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofjocassee@gmail.com)



## Friends of Jocassee

### Calendar of Events-2024

March 16– **BellFest** @ DFSP

April 27–**Fishing with Friends**  
Trout Tournament

September 7 – **VIP Day** at DFSP  
lake & park cleanup

Oct 5 – **Paddle Splash**  
All paddle sports-a Southeastern  
Paddlesport Race Series event

Oct 14 **Native Plant Day**

Oct 13 – **FOJ Annual Meeting**

Nov 9 – **Perk Up the Park Day**  
Keowee Toxaway State Park

**Adopt a Highway** – Quarterly –on  
2nd Monday of March, June,  
September, December @noon

**Executive Board Meetings-**  
2nd Monday each month DFSP

## *BellFest* *2024*



**Sponsored by  
Friends of Jocassee**

*March 16, 2024*

A celebration of Spring &  
the rare Oconee Bell  
flower within the  
Jocassee Gorges

## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual BellFest

- 10:00 **Welcome**
- 10:00 **Silent Auction** begins
- 10:00 **Joe Owens** Singer & songwriter-Americana genre
- 10:00-11:30 **Oconee Bell Trail** Nature guides at stations tell the history of the Oconee Bell. Meet at kiosk at end of the office parking lot.
- 11:00 **Cornbread Heads** Old Time Mtn music
- 11:45 **Focus on FOJ** *Chris Rucker, president FOJ*
- 12:15 **Memorial Bench Dedication**
- 12:30 **Rick Huffman, Guest Speaker**
- 1:00 **Conservation Theory** Appalachian Americana Folk Band
- 1-3:00 Interpretive Stations along the Oconee Bell Trail continue.
- 2:00 **Amongst the Trees Trio** Funky Neo-Folk Jam Grass Music
- 2:00 **Silent Auction** Ends
- 3:00-4:00 **Pontoon Boat Rides** compliments of *Jocassee Lake Tours*  
*for the **first 24** New FOJ Members*
- 10:00-close **Simpell Sammies & Palmetto Spoon** Food Trucks available
- 10:00-3:00 **FOJ booth** for memberships & merchandise
- 10:00-3:00 **Kid activities, Exhibits & Vendors**

**See you next year on March 15 2025!**

FOJ celebrates spring in the Jocassee Gorges by showcasing the rare Oconee Bell flower, which blooms along the Oconee Bell Trail. Hike the trail to hear the story about its interesting place in history from the Upstate Master Naturalist Association or listen to our featured guest speaker. There will also be a scavenger hunt & geocache on the trail. Find even more kid activities at various exhibitors.

**Rick Huffman**, guest speaker, is the founder of Earth Design Landscaping & Ecological Architecture. He will relay his knowledge of the acquisition of the Jocassee Gorges and the importance of the Oconee Bell in that story.

**Conservation Theory** is a rustic Appalachian Americana folk band from the Blue Ridge in SC. Band members are Eddie, Lynne & Gavin Martin and Marty Hopkins. Funky Neo-Folk Jam Grass Music will be performed by **Amongst the Trees Trio**. Features BJ Callahan, & friends. **Cornbread Heads** with Becky Stovall & David White will highlight old time mountain music. **Joe Owens**, a local songwriter, guitarist & vocalist, is sure to delight us.

Visit our **Silent Auction** table. All proceeds go to FOJ projects that support our mission statement: "Conservation of the Jocassee Gorges for all".

Join FOJ or renew your membership today. The first **24 new** members get a complimentary one-hour pontoon tour at the end of the event (Limit 4 for family membership).