

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 BlueRidge 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!

Rain Tease

I go outside and look to the sky, hopeful. Is that rain? We need rain. I've been fooled before by the gentle clapping of tree leaves high in the canopy, stirred by breezes blowing up from the tropics. This land is dry; trees are distressed, leaves hang limp as rags. Is that rain? The sound is high above, as if raindrops can't make it down

through thirsty leaves. I stretch bare arms and feel nothing but air, even as the sound becomes closer, more emphatic. The upper canopy continues to sway an easy, gentle rhythm, even as the sound moves uphill toward me. It IS rain! A proper shower moves through the trees, across the yard, sprinkles my bare arms and uplifted face, and is gone, not lingering even to rinse dust from thirsty leaves. Is a full day of rain too much to ask for? Or even a full hour? Today's dark and low-hanging clouds are a tease. We need rain.~K



Promises, promises.

SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

FULL MOON RISING TOUR ~
HARVEST MOON! Book Now!
September 17: 6:00-8:00 PM

‘ALL the Falls’ Tour Book Now!
September 21: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Hiking the Gorges Book Now!
October 5: 8:30 AM-1:00 PM
#2 Laurel Fork Falls to Canebrake

Kayak Tours Book Now!
October 13: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

CALL OR BOOK ONLINE TO
RESERVE SEATS
www.jocasseelaketours.com

WEEKLY EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Warm Season Lake Tours**
Tues-Thurs, Sat & Sun:
10:00 AM-2:00 PM Book Now!

Sunset Tours Book Now!
Saturday: 6:00-8:00 PM

Sunday Afternoon Tours:
2:30-5:30 PM Book Now!

PRIVATE TOURS ARE ALWAYS
AVAILABLE!

[Book online or call 864-280-5501](http://www.jocasseelaketours.com)



Buteo lineatus Red-shouldered hawk, Photo by Anthony Q. Martin

THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE SEPTEMBER 16, 2024

STATE PARK EVENTS

Table Rock State Park

September 21: 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Lakeshore Sweep

We'll spend the morning removing litter from the shores of Lake

THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE SEPTEMBER 16, 2024

Numerous raptors make their homes in the Jocassee Gorges. On a visit to Lake Jocassee you will certainly see vultures, you have a good chance of seeing a bald eagle, and if you're very lucky, you might get a glimpse of a peregrine falcon.

As these late summer days fade into autumn, though, fall raptor migration begins, and those who look up throughout the season may see dozens, hundreds, or even thousands of raptors on their journeys southwards. The end of September is the perfect time to look for migrating raptors: nearly the entire population of broad-winged hawks will migrate during the next few weeks. These small forest-dwelling hawks migrate in

Pinnacle and Lake Oolenoy.

Caesars Head State Park

September 21: 10:00 AM-11:30 PM

Hawk Watch

Caesars Head overlook provides a great opportunity to witness this annual event. Join us and learn about hawk migration and maybe witness part of this movement.

Table Rock State Park

September 22: 2:45-10:00 AM

Sunrise Hike

After experiencing the nocturnal aspects of the forest we'll enjoy the pre-dawn sky from the outcrop as we anticipate the beauty of a new sunrise.

Gorges State Park

September 22: 10:00-10:30 AM

Fall is Approaching!

Come join Ranger Hill for a guided hike at the White Pines picnic area to see the early signs of Fall.



Chestnut Oak, Photo by D Cook

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

GNHA

September 16: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

Clemson Experimental Issaqueena
Lake Dam Road Forest Loop

This is a moderate 4.5 mile, 318' elevation gain hike. More miles

large groups called kettles, swirling up in thermals or rising in updrafts and then gliding towards their wintering grounds in Central and South America. No one can predict exactly when it will happen, but it is a thrilling spectacle for those who are fortunate enough to be watching when a kettle flies over.

Volunteers at Caesar's Head State Park and Sassafras Mountain conduct raptor counts for the Hawk Migration Association of North America almost every day from now until Thanksgiving. If you go, take binoculars, and introduce yourself to the person with the clipboard. They'll be happy to have another pair of eyes. And keep your fingers crossed that it will be your lucky day! ~Betsy Lewis, JLT guide and Hawk Watch volunteer

NEW EVENTS

COMING IN

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

STATE PARK EVENTS

Gorges State Park

September 28: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Mountain Monarch Festival

Table Rock State Park

October 12: 2:00-6:00 PM

Music on the Mountain

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

September 23: 6:00-7:30 PM

Brevard Speaker Series: Fungi, Food and the Future: Using Mushrooms in a Sustainable Lifestyle

can be easily be added due to all the connecting trails.

Upstate SCNPS

September 17: 6:30-8:00 PM

Monthly Meeting-What's Next for Audubon SC?"

VP and Executive Director of Audubon SC, Rebecca Haynes, will talk about what's next for as they expand programming across the state, including the Upstate, in their efforts to address habitat loss through conservation, restoration, policy, and community engagement.

Conserving Carolina

September 17: 7:00-8:30 PM

Special Film Screening of "Hidden Rivers"

This is a 1-hour film that explores the rivers and streams of the Southern Appalachian region, North America's most biologically rich waters.

Hagood Mill Historic Site

September 18: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Plants are Medicine: Making & Preserving Herbal Medicines

Students will learn to identify common outdoor plants & trees and collect those useful to make herbal medicines.

Friends of Lake Keowee Society

September 19: 2:30-4:00 PM

Folks Speaker Series: Living Responsibly with Bears

Learn all about bears and bear behavior, human and bear interaction, how to be bearwise, and research and population management. Presented by Tammy Waldrop.

Upstate SCNPS

September 24

Fall Native Plant Sale - Early Access for Members and Volunteers

Upstate SCNPS

September 25-27

Fall Native Plant Sale - Public (Online Only).

Mushroom Mountain

September 26: 2:00-3:30 PM

MM Farm Tour

Conestee Nature Preserve

September 26: 4:00-5:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School Club - Middle School

Upstate SCNPS

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

Field Trip to Juniper Level Botanic Garden

GNHA

September 27: 2:00-4:00 PM

Growing Mushrooms 101 Intro to Edible Mushroom Inoculation

GNHA

September 28: 9:00 AM

Foothills Trail Reroute above Bald Knob

GNHA

September 29: 9:00 AM

Tom Miller, Coldspring, Jones Gap, Silver Steps

Mushroom Mountain

October 3: 2:00-3:30 PM

MM Farm Tour

Conestee Nature Preserve

October 3: 3:00-4:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School Club-Elementary School- Survival Skills!

Mushroom Mountain

October 5: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

MycoBLITZ



FOLKS photo

Conestee Nature Preserve

September 19: 3:00-4:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School Club-Elementary School- Don't Bug Me!

Bugs make up most of our animal kingdom! How many different bugs can we find around the preserve?

Sierra Club South Carolina

September 19: 7:00 PM

Energy Efficiency Workshop

This program will include: ~ a panel of energy experts~ NEW tax break information~ Q&A for your energy questions. One FREE home efficiency product will be provided for each family (while supplies last.)

Hagood Mill Historic Site

September 20: 7:00 PM-September 21: 10:00 PM

2024 SC Old-Time Fiddler's Convention & State Competition

GNHA

October 5: 9:30 AM-4:30 PM

Caesars Head Park, Confusion and Raven Cliff Falls Loop

Friends of Jocassee (FOJ)

October 5: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Paddle Splash 2024

Oconee History Museum

October 5: 10:30 AM-3:00 PM

With These Hands: Celebrating the Artistry of Craftsmanship throughout Oconee County History

GNHA

October 6: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

The Rebooters: Yellow Branch Falls

Chattooga Belle Farm

October 6: 4:00 PM

Farm to Table 2024

Conserving Carolina

October 8: 2:00 PM

Saluda Library Speaker Series: Reading Trees

KOBA

October 11: 9:00-11:00 AM

2nd Saturday Litter PickUp

GNHA

October 12: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

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

GNHA

October 13: 12:00-4:00 PM

The Rebooters: Silver Steps to Dargan's Cascade

Friends of Jocassee (FOJ)

October 13: 3:00-5:00 PM

FOJ Annual Meeting

SC Botanical Garden Event

September 25: 9:00 AM-4:30 PM

Old-Time musicians near and far come to the HMHS to compete in this official State-sanctioned two-day event.

Greenville County Bird Club

September 21: 7:00 AM-12:00 PM
(Longer Walk)

September 21: 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.

Green Bird Nature Therapy w/ Jeanne Malmgren

September 21

Green Bird Haven, Pickens County

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.

Conserving Carolina

September 21: 4:30-7:30 PM

Conservation Celebration

You're invited to our annual fundraiser where we lift a glass to YOU for making so many conservation successes possible!

GNHA

September 22: 9:00 AM

The Rebooters, Table Rock-Lake and Carrick Creek Loops

If you are completely new to hiking, getting back into hiking after being off the trails for a while, or need an assessment hike to check your capabilities, then

SCNP Certificate Elective Class: Wetlands Ecology

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

SCNP Certificate Core Class: Fall Herbaceous Plants

October 4: 2:00-6:00 PM

SCBG Members Fall Plant Sale

October 5: 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

SCBG Public Fall Plant Sale

October 5: 9:00 AM-4:30 PM

SCNP Certificate Core Class: Natural Plant Communities

October 11: 3:30-5:30 PM

Junior Tree ID

October 12: 9:00 AM-4:30 PM

SCNP Certificate Core Class: Sustainable Landscaping

BORROWED GLIMPSES



Wright Creek Falls, 7' below full pond. 9/10/2024

grab those boots and "reboot" -
this is the hike for you!

Conserving Carolina

September 22: 12:00-4:00 PM

Noquisi Initiative – Ani and Waneí Culture Fest

This festival will be fun for the whole family, so come celebrate music, art, and food among community!

SC Botanical Garden Events

September 18: 8:00-9:00 AM

Winged Wednesdays

Birding enthusiasts are invited to get a glimpse of the vast diversity of bird species that can be spotted throughout the Garden.



Mill Creek Falls. 9/11/2024



SCBG photo

September 20: 10:00-11:30 AM

Friday Garden Foray

Join naturalist James Wilkins to discover seasonal highlights and get up close and personal with the native plants and plant communities that support biodiversity in real time.



Fall Monarch migration has begun.

SUPPORT

JOCASSEE WILD OUTDOOR EDUCATION!



This is a 'gneiss' rock!

Wild Child photos by
Kerry McKenzie



Current conditions at Lake
Jocassee via Devils Fork State
Park webcam
Sponsored by Friends of
Jocassee!

<https://www.jocasseewild.org>
**Follow Jocassee Wild Child
Adventures on Facebook!**
<https://www.facebook.com/jocasseewild>

**SPONSOR A JOCASSEE WILD
CHILD TODAY!**



DID YOU KNOW?

Migration studies conducted by the Hawk Migration Association of North America are FREE and available here: <https://www.hmana.org/hawk-migration-studies/>

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@jocassee-laketours.com

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