

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!

Perspectives

19 eager Jocassee Naturalist students capture a pair of ecology behaviorists and zip across Lake Jocassee. In a location known to a few sharp-eyed guides, and more than a few freaked-out families, we stop to point out a dirt bank on the leeward side of a popular point of land. The bank is pocked with dime-size holes. Some of the holes

have collapsed; others look more like new construction, and tubes constructed of mud (and regurgitated spit?) rim each newer hole. But no one is home in this community. Our captivated entomologist/behaviorist/professor surmises these to be the nests of potter wasps, but it's a 'best guess' without a proper specimen to identify. What happened to these winged creatures? Maybe they moved on. One hopes they were not the victims of some well-meaning parent brandishing a can of Raid, fearing a child might be stung. But humans can be that way. Just ask the Northern water snakes. Or what's left of them. ~K



Dr. James Costa, clearly intrigued!



Potter wasps can build without blueprints, but they still get the occasional inspection.

SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Full "Harvest" Moon Rising Tour
[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

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

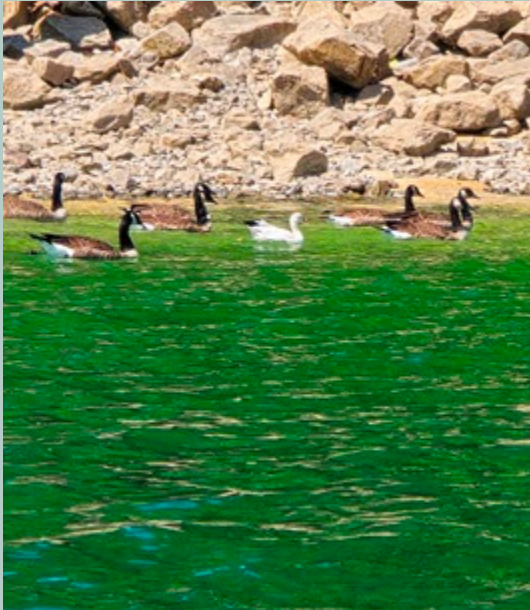
Sunday Afternoon Tours:
2:30-5:30 PM [Book Now!](#)

**CALL OR BOOK ONLINE TO
RESERVE SEATS**

www.jocasseelaketours.com

**PRIVATE TOURS ARE ALWAYS
AVAILABLE!**

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



**A Ross' goose, hanging with the
big boys on Lake Jocassee, 9.4.24**

**THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE
SEPTEMBER 9, 2024**

STATE PARK EVENTS

Gorges State Park

September 13: 8:00-8:30 PM

Sunset Hike

Join park naturalist Reagan for a guided sunset hike to the overlook of Bearwallow Valley trail and to learn about the different types of animals at GSP.

**THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE
SEPTEMBER 9, 2024**

Eyes up, everyone. Fall hawk migration is upon us, as well as the migration of vultures (some of them), woodcocks (some of them) and nighthawks, all of which are day migrators. So look up! It's a complex and marvelous phenomena that our high mountain overlooks give us a chance to observe. Sassafras Mountain and Caesar's Head State Park are the two best known places to watch this spectacle. Waterbird fall migration will not be far behind, and in fact 20 Canada geese and one Ross' goose appeared one morning early this week, just to move on the next day. They were not the residential geese of Devils Fork State Park, so you don't have to watch where you walk here just yet. We've had an immature loon or two on the lake throughout the summer, but soon (November on) they will appear in abundance, as will the gulls and terns of fall. Anticipation is unavoidable, and contagious. Stay tuned. ~B

**NEW EVENTS
COMING IN
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER**

STATE PARK EVENTS

Table Rock State Park

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



Photo by R Townsend

Table Rock State Park

September 14: 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.

Gorges State Park

September 15: 10:00-10:30 AM

Animal Tracks!

Come join a ranger in a top-secret investigation and help identify the wildlife around the park using only their tracks to find them!

September 9: 11:30 AM-12:30 PM

Adopt-a-Highway

FOJ proudly maintains over 4 miles of roadways leading from Hwy 11 to Devils Fork State Park. We call it the “road to paradise” - help us keep it beautiful!

SCUMS

September 9: 6:30 PM

Jay Justice will present: **Amanita Species of the Southeast**

This talk will focus on some common and uncommon species of Amanita that can be found in the southeastern region of the US.

Conserving Carolina

September 10: 2:00-3:30 PM

Lakeshore Sweep

Caesars Head State Park

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

Hawk Watch

Table Rock State Park

September 22: 2:45-10:00 AM

Sunrise Hike

Gorges State Park

September 22: 10:00-10:30 AM

Fall is Approaching!

Gorges State Park

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

Mountain Monarch Festival

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

GNHA

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

Clemson Experimental Issaqueena

Lake Dam Road Forest Loop

Upstate SCNPS

September 17: 6:30-8:00 PM

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

Conserving Carolina

September 17: 7:00-8:30 PM

Special Film Screening of "Hidden Rivers"

Hagood Mill Historic Site

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

Plants are Medicine: Making & Preserving Herbal Medicines

Friends of Lake Keowee Society

September 19: 2:30-4:00 PM

Folks Speaker Series: Living Responsibly with Bears

Conestee Nature Preserve

September 19: 3:00-4:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School Club - Elementary School

Saluda Library Speaker Series:
Moths and Why We Need to Think
About Them Differently.

In this program we get an introduction to the amazing world of moths, including a chance to see and learn about some of our more amazing local moths.

Mushroom Mountain

September 12: 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.



Terana caerulea Cobalt crust,
MM Photo

Conestee Nature Preserve

September 12: 4:00-5:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School
Club--Middle School--Survival
Skills

Lost in the woods? Sprain your ankle on your hike? Come learn how to react in survival situations and prevent emergencies before they happen (6th-8th graders)!

Sierra Club South Carolina

September 19: 7:00 PM

Energy Efficiency Workshop

Hagood Mill Historic Site

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

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

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

**Green Bird Nature Therapy w/
Jeanne Malmgren**

September 21

Green Bird Haven, Pickens County.

Conserving Carolina

September 21: 4:30-7:30 PM

Conservation Celebration

GNHA

September 22: 9:00 AM

The Rebooters, Table Rock-Lake
and Carrick Creek Loops

Conserving Carolina

September 23: 6:00-7:30 PM

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

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

GNHA

KOBA

September 13: 9:00-11:00 AM

2nd Saturday Litter PickUp

Meet at the Food Lion parking lot at the corner of Hwy 123 and Old Clemson Highway.

Conestee Nature Preserve

September 13: 5:30-7:00 PM

Mushroom Meander

Join Lizza Bixby, who honed her skills at Mushroom Mountain, as she shares her knowledge about the anatomy, ecology, and incredible uses of the fungi (also spelled fun guys, whichever you prefer), growing in the Preserve!

Highlands Biological Station

September 13: 4:00 PM-

September 14: 5:30 PM

2024 Native Plant Symposium

Featured Speakers: Mr. Charlie Williams as French Royal Botanist André Michaux, Dr. Joey Shaw: Director, Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage of Great Smoky Mountains NP & UC Foundation Professor, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, & Ms. Barbara J. Sullivan: Author of Climate Change Gardening for the South: Planet-Friendly Solutions for Thriving Gardens, plus so much more.

Friends of Jocassee (FOJ)

September 14: 9:00-10:00 AM

V.I.P Day - Volunteer, Improve, Protect

Hundreds of volunteers turn out annually to collect a significant amount of litter from Devils Fork State Park and Lake Jocassee, including divers, hikers and boaters. Come join in the effort.

September 28: 9:00 AM

Foothills Trail Reroute above Bald Knob

GNHA

September 29: 9:00 AM

Tom Miller, Coldspring, Jones Gap, Silver Steps

GNHA

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

Caesars Head Park, Confusion and Raven Cliff Falls Loop

Oconee History Museum

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

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

Chattooga Belle Farm

October 6: 4:00 PM

Farm to Table 2024

SC Botanical Garden Events

September 20: 10:00-11:30 AM

Friday Garden Foray

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

SCNP Certificate Elective Class: Wetlands Ecology

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

SCNP Certificate Core Class: Fall Herbaceous Plants

BORROWED GLIMPSES

SC Botanical Garden Events

September 12: 4:30-6:00 PM

Junior Naturalist 2 Fall 2024

In this afterschool program, we'll discover how plants and animals adapt to their environments and how those environments are changing over time (ages 11-16).

September 14: 1:00-4:00 PM

Open House: Seed Superpowers

We'll explore the fascinating world of seed travel and head out into the Garden with a scavenger hunt to discover the diversity of seeds.

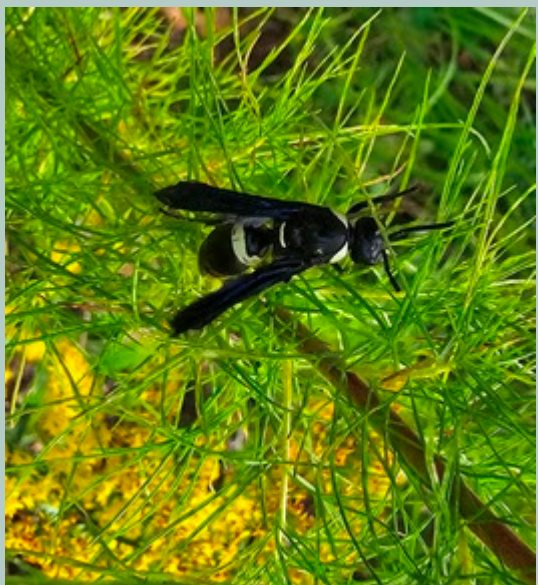


**Chillin' & watching the family play,
Photo by Debra Girard**



SCBG Photo

**SUPPORT
JOCASSEE
WILD OUTDOOR
EDUCATION!**



'Perhaps' a four-toothed mason wasp, hanging out at Devils Fork State Park



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!
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SPONSOR A JOCASSEE WILD CHILD TODAY!



DID YOU KNOW?

Potter wasps (or mason wasps) provide an instant meal for their future offspring by paralyzing other insects, such as beetle larvae, spiders, or caterpillars, and trapping them in a mud chamber along with a single egg.

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@jocasseelaketours.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!



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