

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!

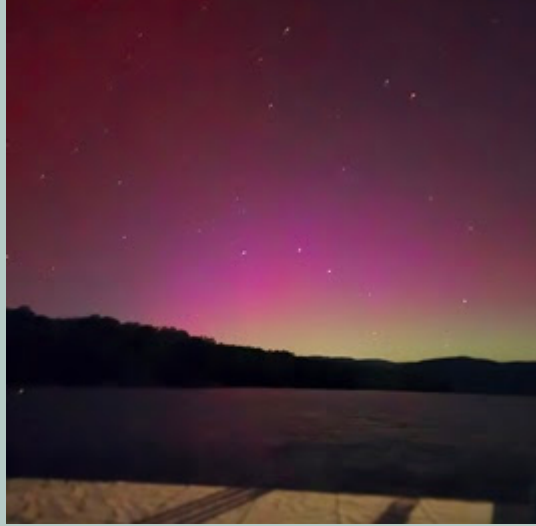


Welcome to the Blue Wall Weekly, your source for what's going on outside along the Southern BlueRidge Escarpment. Feel free to share your own photos, videos, and adventures along the Blue Wall by sending them to the email address at the bottom of the page, and we'll do our best to make you (locally) famous!

Aurora borealis

It's dark over Lake Jocassee, and a billion bright stars pierce the night sky. The Milky Way arches overhead. Bright parking lot light fades towards the far end of the dock, and there we gather, hoping for a glimpse of the famous northern lights. A couple from Easley are self-professed "lights

chasers” who were on their way to Alaska the last time an extreme solar storm threw the aurora borealis southward. A Thursday night bass fisherman wanders down to join a handful of locals. Our eyes adjust. We wait, and watch. There, in the northwest, a faint pink glow is visible. And another, over the trees in the northeast. Cell phones flash, filtering ambient light, revealing color rarely seen in this part of the country. These northern lights are a rare and beautiful sight for South Carolina, and as night progresses they are a wonder to behold. ~K



Oct. 10, Lake Jocassee, 9:15pm



Lake Jocassee, 10:00pm

SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Full Moon Rising Tour
“Hunter’s” Moon [Book Now!](#)
October 17: 5:30-7:30 PM

Kayak Tours [Book Now!](#)
October 27: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

“All the Falls” Tour [Book Now!](#)
November 2: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

All Foothills Trail hiking shuttles
are suspended until further notice.

WEEKLY EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Cool Season Lake Tours**
Tues-Thurs, Sat & Sun:
10:00 AM-2:00 PM [Book Now!](#)

Sunset Tours [Book Now!](#)
Saturday: 5:00-7:00 PM

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

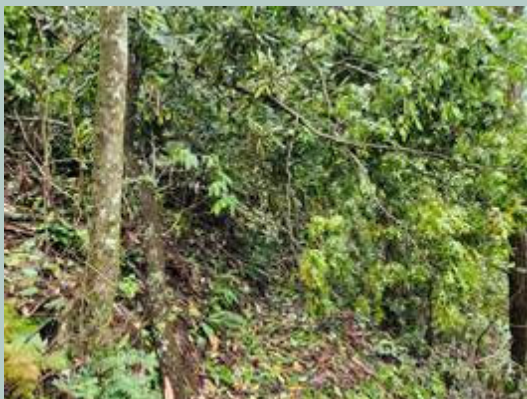
CALL OR BOOK ONLINE TO
RESERVE SEATS
www.jocasseelaketours.com



The Jocassee Gorges are resilient, but the Foothills Trail that crosses them is taking a monumental amount of work!



**Be careful here!
The trail becomes a little tricky...**



**Yes, there is a trail under here.
Somewhere.**

**THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE
OCTOBER 14, 2024**

I scanned the shoreline of Jocassee and breathed a sigh of relief. The mountains were still standing. Swaths of trees were uprooted and blown down into messy piles of trunks and branches. Layers of saturated soil were gone, slipped off of the rocks into the depths of Jocassee. Yet still, Bald Eagles rose in spiral currents and Monarch butterflies glided and fluttered towards Mexico, orange stained glass against a Carolina blue sky. Loons came in hungry from an undoubtedly long journey, diving and splashing as they dined on a fine meal of fish. Silky filaments of spider webs caught glimmers of sunlight as they float across the lake. Life is still going on. These mountains are unperturbed because this is nothing new. For millions of years wind and water has scoured them. Catastrophic geological events and quiet daily events have shaped them. Change is what formed this place. And here, in the Jocassee Gorges, the human hand is so light we get to watch the process of the resilient recovery of wild things. In the middle of the devastation natural events have brought to humans, come visit Lake Jocassee and take a deep, centering breath. The mountains are still standing. The land will heal and the new scars will one day become the beauty we

OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK,

OCTOBER 14, 2024
STATE PARK EVENT

Table Rock State Park

October 18: 6:30-10:00 PM

Music on the Mountain Featuring
Andy Leftwich

Andy brings with him a collaboration of American fiddle music featuring bluegrass, country, swing, jazz, Irish and a mixture of classical influences, creating instrumental music that will both exhilarate and inspire the soul.

South Carolina State Parks
Temporary Closures



Northern lights over Table Rock,
Photo by Sherri Cothran Bishop

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Hagood Mill Historic Site

October 16: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Plants are Medicine: Prepping
Perennial Herbs for Winter

Students will learn to identify perennial herbs that can be prepped for use the next year.

Mushroom Mountain

October 17: 2:00-3:30 PM

MM Farm Tour

Tours of MM includes an introduction to fungal ecology and

look in wonder at. ~Tricia Kyzer,
JLT guide

NEW EVENTS

COMING IN OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

STATE PARK EVENTS

Table Rock State Park

October 26: 3:45-10:30 AM

Sunrise Hike - Bald Knob

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Oconee History Museum

October 25: 7:00-8:30 PM

Intriguing Tales of Crime &
Punishment

GNHA

October 26: 7:00 AM

Lake Jocassee Boat Hike: Foothills
Trails - Canebrake to Laurel Valley

GNHA

October 26: 8:30 AM-3:30 PM

Lake Jocassee Boat Hike - Rock
Creek Access to Laurel Fork Falls

GNHA

October 26: 10:30 AM-6:30 PM

Lake Jocassee Boat Hike: Laurel
Fork Falls to Toxaway Bridge

GNHA

October 27: 11:00 AM

The Rebooters: Silver Steps to
Dargan's Cascade

Upstate Forever

October 27: 2:00-5:00 PM

Annual Meeting

Foothills Trail Conservancy

November 1-3

FTC Fall Gathering at Oconee State
Park

GNHA

November 2: 8:00 AM-3:00 PM

Jones Gap - Buckeye, Rainbow
and Jones Gap Falls

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.

Upstate SCNPS

October 18-19

2024 Symposium: Solidago

Join us for a weekend of learning & exploration!



Solidago gigantea smooth goldenrod, Photo by Frank Mayfield

Mushroom Mountain

October 19: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Fall Mushroom Cultivation Workshop

Participants will learn fungal ecology and life cycles, while immersed in hands-on methods to cultivate mushrooms on logs, stumps, wood chips, and straw, designing mushroom gardens, and composting or recycling with fungi.

Hagood Mill Historic Site

October 19: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Storytelling Festival & Liar's Competition

Each October, the hills and hollers around the HMHS come alive with storytellers sharing the weird and wonderful, mountain funnies, memories of yesteryear, and tales of mystical places in Appalachia.

Sierra Club South Carolina

November 2: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

7 Mile Hike on the Kingsnake Trail in Congaree National Park PLEASE CONFIRM!

Friends of Jocassee (FOJ)

November 4: 12:00-2:00 PM

Native Plant Day

SC Botanical Garden Event

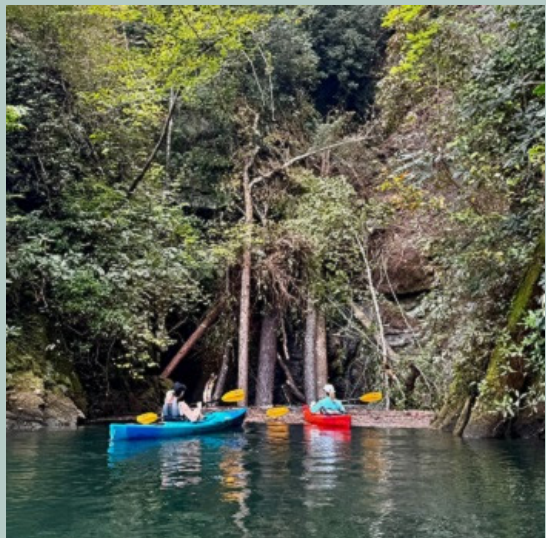
October 26: 1:00-4:00 PM

Open House: Amazing Arthropods

November 9: 9:00 AM-4:30 PM

SCNP Certificate Core Class: Tree Identification

BORROWED GLIMPSES



Recent kayak tour after the storm.



Oconee History Museum

October 19: 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

October 19: 2:00 PM

Walhalla Walking Tour

**It's Oktoberfest time in Walhalla!
Come learn all about Walhalla's
German heritage during our
Walhalla Walking Tour.**

SC Botanical Garden Events

October 16: 8:00-9:00 AM

Winged Wednesdays Fall 2024

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



**Great Blue Heron,
Photo by Gene Rochester**

October 18: 10:00-11:30 AM

Friday Garden Foray Fall 2024

**Explore different area of the SCBG
each month with naturalist James
Wilkins.**

October 19: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

**SCNP Certificate Elective:
Introduction to South Carolina
Invasive Plants**

**Live invasive plant specimens
growing locally will be observed,**

**Multiple trees lost their footing and
tumbled into the grotto at the base
of Laurel Fork Falls.**



**Freshly exposed rock after the
trees fell.**



Upper section of Laurel Fork Falls



The calm after the storm.

described and sampled in the field.

PLEASE CHECK LINKS FOR UPDATES TO ALL EVENTS IN CASE OF CANCELLATIONS.

**SUPPORT
JOCASSEE WILD
OUTDOOR EDUCATION!**



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

Follow
Jocassee Wild Child Adventures
on Facebook!

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

SPONSOR A JOCASSEE WILD CHILD TODAY!



DID YOU KNOW?

A geomagnetic storm is a temporary disturbance in the magnetic field surrounding Earth. Flares on the sun and/or coronal mass ejections (aka CMEs) cause these storms. They tend to be more prevalent around the equinoxes.

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!



JOCASSEE
REAL ESTATE
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