



[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!

More Winter

This spring, a female mud dauber wasp will chew her way out of the dirt chamber that's protected her through this long, cold winter. She's grown from egg to larvae to pupa to adult in that dirt catacomb. Soon it'll be time for her to leave the nest and fly away with her long, thin, transparent wings. She'll be looking to mate; it's time

to set up her own household. She chews mud like old Aunt Sally chewed her tobacco, spitting out mud strips to pack on one side, then the other, to create a series of hollow tubes a little more than half an inch wide, four or five inches long, with several chambers contained within. She'll stop working long enough to mate. After every inch or so of mud tube construction, she'll lay one fertile egg inside. Now, she'll hunt spiders. She'll sting, paralyze, and stuff living spiders—lots of spiders--inside the chamber for her offspring to feed on as they grow. When not another spider will fit in that section of chamber, she seals it closed with more spit and mud, mates again, and begins the whole process again. If she builds her masterpiece on a wood duck box on Lake Jocassee, it'll be gone next winter with one swipe of a scrape blade. Female mud daubers are said to sing as they work. This summer, let's listen for them. ~K



Brooks shows off the backside/inside of a dirt dauber's nest.



**...this one has a little flair!
Both are packed with spiders!**

**SPECIAL EVENTS WITH
JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS**

Winter Waterfalls Tour [Book Now!](#)

**WEEKLY EVENTS WITH
JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS**

Cool Season Lake Tours

January 25: 11:00 AM-3:00 PM

**PRIVATE TOURS
ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE!**

[Book Now!](#)
www.jocasseelaketours.com

[\(864\) 280-5501](tel:8642805501)



**Black bear, mother and cubs,
National Park Service Photo**

**OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK,
JANUARY 20, 2025**

STATE PARK EVENTS

Gorges State Park

January 25: 2:00-3:30 PM

Winter Seed Sowing Workshop

Transylvania Co., Master Gardeners, Cindy Gilbert and Holly Votaw will lead a hands-on workshop on winter sowing with a focus on native NC plants.

Gorges State Park

January 26: 10:00-10:30 AM

Winter ID?

Come; join Ranger Hill for a guided hike at White Pines Picnic Area to learn some easy tips/tricks for being a winter ID expert.

Tues, Thurs, Sat:

11:00 AM-2:00 PM **[Book Now!](#)**

Sunday Afternoon Tours:

2:00-5:00 PM **[Book Now!](#)**

**CALL OR BOOK ONLINE TO
RESERVE SEATS**

**THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE
JANUARY 20, 2025**

Brrr...January! As this Canadian cold air mass sinks in on top of us, we're busy prepping for the coming year. January is typically our coldest month and the wildlife around the lake are not much different than us when it comes to this cold. They seek shelter and food to ride it out. Rock outcrops, tree cavities, dens, burrows and even fallen logs provide shelter from the wind, cold and rain. Mosses, leaves and grasses provide insulation and comfort in nests. Berries from hollies and dogwoods; hickory & pine nuts and oak acorns offer much needed fat. The diversity of the Jocassee Gorges meets their every need! Most of these animals reduce their physical activity by about half in order to conserve energy. Black bear babies are born in January and February; eagles are laying their eggs now. There's a lot happening, even if it doesn't seem like it. Stay tuned and stay warm.
~Sheryl White, JLT guide

**NEW EVENTS
COMING IN
JANUARY/FEBRUARY**



Gorges State Park

Gorges State Park

January 26: 12:00-12:30 PM

Skins and Skulls

Come see and touch the furs and skulls of animals such as bobcats, foxes, beavers, and bears and learn about some of the characteristics and adaptations of each of the animals discussed.

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Upstate SC Native Plant Society (SCNPS)

January 21: 6:30-8:00 PM

“Advocacy on the Horizon in 2025”

From educational programming and land conservation to working with Greenville County on waterway buffers, Rick Huffman will share what’s in store for 2025.

Mushroom Mountain

January 21 & 30: 6:30-8:30 PM

Edible Wild Mushroom ID - Southeast Winter and Spring Season (Online Class)

Kenny Rupert, a seasoned mycologist with over 23 years of experience will guide you through the essentials of mushroom ID, focusing on the unique species found in the Southeast during the fall season.

STATE PARK EVENTS

Table Rock State Park

February 15: 8:30-10:30 AM

Great Backyard Bird Count

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Sierra Club South Carolina

February 1: 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Foothills Group Strategic Planning with a Hike in the SC Botanical Garden

Mushroom Mountain

February 4: 6:30-8:30 PM

Edible Wild Mushroom ID - Southeast Winter and Spring Season (Online Class)

Highlands Biological Station

February 7: 2:00 PM

Birding Basics

KOBA

February 8: 9:00-11:00 AM

2nd Saturday Litter PickUp

Greenville Natural History Association (GNHA)

February 8: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

Kings Creek & Spoonauger Fall

Conserving Carolina

February 11: 2:00-3:30 PM

Saluda Library Speaker Series: Reading Trees

Conserving Carolina

February 12: 2:00 PM

Etowah Library Speaker Series: Renewable Energy 101

Mushroom Mountain

February 13: 2:00-3:30 PM



Morels, MM Photo

Conserving Carolina

January 23: 2:00 PM

Etowah Library Speaker Series:
Tracks and Signs of Wildlife

Join us to learn how to see and identify many of the tracks and signs that animals leave behind when we're not there to see them.

Backpacking Western N.C.

January 25-26: 8:30 AM-12:30 PM

Backpacking Overnight: Jocassee Gorges

We'll be doing a 16.5 miles loop style hike incorporating the Auger Hole Trail, Foothills Trail, and the Canebrake Trail.

Foothills Trail Conservancy

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

Big Bend Spur to Chattooga River

We'll travel west on the Foothills Trail a short distance to a scenic site on the Chattooga River for lunch and return on the Big Bend Spur back to our cars.

Conestee Nature Preserve

January 25: 1:00-2:00 PM

Basic Trail First Aid

Join our very knowledgeable educator, Taylor, and learn how to address everything from sprains

SC Botanical Garden Events

January 24: 10:00-11:30 AM

MM Tour

Greenville County Bird Club

February 15: 8:00-10:30 AM

(Shorter Walk)

February 15: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM

(Longer Walk)

Conestee Nature Preserve

Foothills Trail Conservancy

February 15: 8:30 AM-4:30 PM

FHT: Sassafras to Table Rock State Park

SC Botanical Garden Event

February 6: 4:30-6:00 PM

Junior Naturalist 1, Spring 2025

BORROWED GLIMPSES



This bald eagle kept a sharp eye on Friends of Jocassee volunteers on Lake Jocassee this week.

Friday Garden Forays, Spring 2025

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

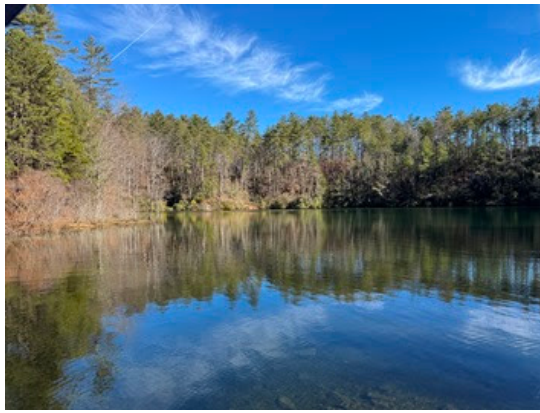


**January 24: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
SCBG Docent Orientations**

This orientation provides participants with information about the SCBG's history, mission, garden spaces and features, upcoming docent opportunities, as well as techniques for communicating effectively with the public.



Current conditions at Lake Jocassee via Devils Fork State Park webcam



**A quiet refuge
on an often busy lake.**



**Friends of Jocassee
clean and repair
wood duck boxes
around Lake Jocassee
in preparation
for the coming breeding season.**

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

**SPONSOR A JOCASSEE WILD
CHILD TODAY!**



DID YOU KNOW?

After emerging, a female adult wasp will almost immediately set to work building her own nest. A female carries mud balls from a puddle to the nest site; a cell takes about an hour to construct. Their buzzy "singing" while applying mud to a nest is one of many interesting habits and behaviors you can enjoy.

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,

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.