

# 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!



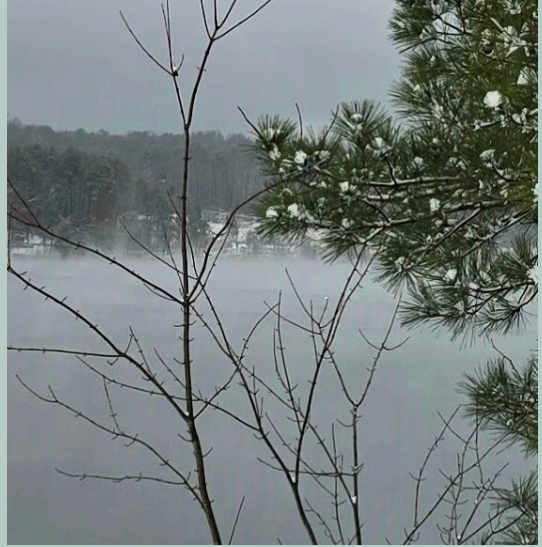
Welcome to the Blue Wall Weekly, your source for what's going on outside along the Southern BlueRidge Escarpment. Feel free to share your own photos, videos, and adventures along the Blue Wall by sending them to the email address at the bottom of the page, and we'll do our best to make you (locally)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

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## More Winter

Snow, sleet, freezing rain, just as predicted. Crunchy slush, freezing soon to treacherous slickness on secondary roads, as predicted. We'll go not further than Lake Jocassee, where wispy gray water vapor rises mysteriously into snow falling from equally gray sky. The puffs of snow in trees are so light they barely bend pine needles.

Mica-the-dog has a few glorious minutes off-leash, tearing around and sliding through the snow like the Huskey she is. Two inches is enough. Once again, as we so often do, we thank the Almighty that this is our place. ~K



On January 10, 2025, Jocassee lies still under the first snow of the new year.

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### **SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS**

Loons and Winter Birdlife Tour  
[Book Now!](#)  
January 18: 11:00 AM-2:00 PM

Winter Waterfalls Tour [Book Now!](#)  
January 25: 11:00 AM-3:00 PM

**PRIVATE TOURS  
ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE!**

[Book Now!](#)

[www.jocasseelaketours.com](http://www.jocasseelaketours.com)

### **WEEKLY EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS**

Cool Season Lake Tours  
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**

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



When BK's feel really threatened, they raise their crest feathers and

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### **THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE JANUARY 13, 2025**

Meet the belted kingfisher: one of our year-round residents. It would be unusual not to see one of these graceful birds anytime you're out on the lake. Most often, you'll hear one long before you catch sight of it. These agile fish eaters are amazing acrobats. Their wedge-shaped heads, waterproof feathers

the white eye spot feathers on their face appear.  
Photo by Dan Gomola



Nesting site!

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## OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK, JANUARY 13, 2025

### STATE PARK EVENTS

More Events Coming Soon!

### SC State Park Closings and Updates

Most State Parks in western North Carolina have reopened, at least partially. Chimney Rock, Mount Mitchell, and South Mountains are closed long-term until further notice. Check each Park's pages for the most up-to-date status of facilities! [ncparks.gov](http://ncparks.gov)



Helene storm damage in Chimney Rock area. September 27, 2024

and powerful flight muscles allow them to dive for prey and effortlessly maneuver through the water & air. An area of 1000'-1500' of shoreline is their typical territory. Kingfishers are extremely protective of this territory and will chatter incessantly when a threat is perceived. They build tunnels with nesting cavities in soft, non-vegetative banks along these waterways. Their remarkably adapted feet allow them to both dig these nesting tunnels, which average from 4-8' in length, and also to catch and carry slippery fish. Two partially fused front toes, two back toes, one of which is capable of rotating forward to manipulate food or grasp tree branches, are called 'zygodactyl'. Webbing between the toes and spiky scales on the soles of the feet are additional advantages.

Understanding them a little better makes me appreciate them even more. Hearing that rattle of a battle cry and catching a flash of blue as they go streaking by makes me smile every time, regardless of how many times I've seen them. If you haven't ever seen one, come; let us introduce you to some of the locals.

~Sheryl White, JLT naturalist guide and historian

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## NEW EVENTS COMING IN JANUARY/FEBRUARY

### STATE PARK EVENTS

**Gorges State Park**

January 25: 2:00-3:30 PM

Winter Seed-Sowing Workshop

## OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

### Mushroom Mountain

January 16: 2:00-3:30 PM

#### MM Tour

This tour is perfect for anyone interested in learning about growing or cooking their own mushrooms, foraging for wild mushrooms, caring for our environment with mushrooms, or even starting their own mushroom farm.



Wood ears fungi, MM Photo

### Greenville County Bird Club

January 18: 8:00-10:30 AM  
(Shorter Walk)

January 18: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM  
(Longer walk)

#### Conestee Nature Preserve

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. Longer walk- Meet behind the baseball stadium to bird a variety of paved and natural surface trails.

Greenville Natural History Association (GNHA)

### Gorges State Park

January 26: 10:00-10:30 AM

#### Winter ID?

### Gorges State Park

January 26: 12:00-12:30 PM

#### Skins and Skulls

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## OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

### Upstate SC Native Plant Society (SCNPS)

January 21: 6:30-8:00 PM

#### “Advocacy on the Horizon in 2025”

### Mushroom Mountain

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

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

### Conserving Carolina

January 23: 2:00 PM

#### Etowah Library Speaker Series: Tracks and Signs of Wildlife

### Foothills Trail Conservancy

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

#### Big Bend Spur to Chattooga River

### Highlands Biological Station

February 7: 2:00 PM

#### Birding Basics

### KOBA

February 8: 9:00-11:00 AM

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Litter PickUp

### Greenville Natural History Association (GNHA)

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

#### Kings Creek & Spoonauger Fall

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SC Botanical Garden Event

January 18: 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

The Rebooters: Lake Wattacoo

This 4.3 miles hike meanders through the old Civitan Camp into Ashmore Heritage Preserve & into Jones Gap State Park on Mountain Bridge Passage Trail (#23). It is a reverse lollipop; we'll hike out and back and then make a loop around the lake & back to the parking lot.

**Greenville Natural History Association (GNHA)**

January 18: 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

Keowee-Toxaway SP

Join us for a moderate 4.2 mile hike along a beautiful nature trail that includes a very nice overlook of Lake Keowee, a natural bridge and a small hidden waterfall.

**SC Botanical Garden Events**

January 15: 8:00-9:00 AM

Winged Wednesdays

This guided walk offers a chance to see a variety of bird species in their natural habitat. No experience is required—we will lead you through the best birdwatching spots, sharing tips and tricks along the way.

January 20: 8:30 AM-3:00 PM

CircleUp STEM Days!

January 24: 10:00-11:30 AM

Friday Garden Forays, Spring 2025

January 24: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

SCBG Docent Orientations

February 6: 4:30-6:00 PM

Junior Naturalist 1, Spring 2025

**BORROWED GLIMPSES**



Winterberry holly is a cheerful addition to the DFSP landscape



Our friends at Eclectic Sun will reopen the first of March, and their

fleet is ready!



Red-bellied woodpecker,  
Photo by Gene Rochester

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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!



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## DID YOU KNOW?

Do you want to be part of something big? Join the Great Backyard Bird Count Feb. 14-17! Spend time in your favorite places watching birds—then tell us about them! In as little as 15 minutes notice the birds around you. Identify them, count them, and submit your counts to help scientists better understand and protect birds around the world. If you already use eBird or Merlin, your submissions over the 4 days count toward GBBC. Learn more here!

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## 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.

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[www.JocasseeLakeTours.com](http://www.JocasseeLakeTours.com)

[info@jocasseelaketours.com](mailto:info@jocasseelaketours.com)

Thanks to Sheryl White for compiling the Blue Wall Weekly calendar,  
and to all JLT GUIDES for photos and continuous inspiration!

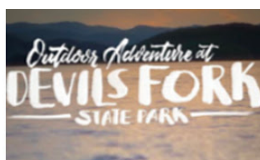
Jocassee Lake Tours Depart from the Main Dock  
at Devils Fork State Park, 528 Jocassee Lake Road

**PLEASE CALL 864-280-5501 AT LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE TO  
RESERVE YOUR SEATS!**

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**SUPPORT OUR JOCASSEE PARTNERS!**

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JOCASSEE  
REAL ESTATE  
*Own it. Live it.*