



[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 Blue Ridge 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!

Letter to Bee

Dear Bee,

Your volunteer time pollinating Earth flowers has been recorded, and your mid-term observations on Homo sapiens did arrive on time. Thank you for that.

The study of humans is a complex project, Bee. Remember, wood-eating bees like you have been

Birds are a much bigger threat to you, Bee, than humans will ever be.

I'm glad to hear you have found a new friend. Odyssey sounds like quite a trip. I didn't realize river otters were blue?

learning to live with other beings for 100 million years. As you learned in Earthling Studies 101, a few hundred thousand years of watching Homo sapiens is proving them to be a slower-learning species. Be patient. Their increasing use of poisons might lead to their demise before your time on Earth is complete. This would make an interesting observation in your graduate dissertation.

In the meantime, once again I apologize for suggesting you spend your time on Earth in the guise of a carpenter bee. I really was just joking, and did not realize you had taken me seriously until you were already several light years away. I know it hurts your feelings when humans swat you away, but you did admit you often hover in front of their faces. Humans don't like that! Don't hover in front of their faces, don't eat their houses, and do your best to avoid their poisons.

(Just keep in mind, Bee, that you have traveled many light years from home to study human beings in the Milky Way, not blue river otters named Odyssey.)



Bee volunteers on Earth as a flower pollinator. (Pictured here: Bee on Rhododendron maximum)

Everyone here sends their love out to your chosen project, Bee. Keep being your gentle self.

Sincerely,
Professor Thorneus
8 Galaxy Hwy., Infinity

SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

All the Falls Tour [Book Now!](#)
July 19: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Guided Kayak Tour! [Book Now!](#)
July 27: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM
August 10: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Kids Kayak Class & Fun Adventure
[Book Now!](#)
July 31: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Jocassee (Family) Adventure
Camp [Book Now!](#)

WEEKLY EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Jocassee Lake Tours [Book Now!](#)
Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat, Sun:
10:00 AM-2:00 PM
**DON'T FORGET--TUES. ARE FREE
AT DEVILS FORK STATE PARK!**

Sunset Tours [Book Now!](#)
July 19: 7:00-9:00 PM
August 9: 6:30-8:30 PM

Friday Private Tours [Book Now!](#)
Every Friday: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

August 1 & 8: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Full 'Buck' Moon Rising
Tour [Book Now!](#)

August 8: 7:00-9:00 PM

**PRIVATE TOURS
ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE**

Sunday Afternoon Tours

[Book Now!](#)

2:30-5:30 PM

(864) 280-5501

www.jocasseeelaketours.com

**CALL OR BOOK ONLINE TO
RESERVE SEATS**



Summer azure hitching a ride.

THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE JULY 14, 2025

On each trip to Lake Jocassee, I enjoy seeing the things that have sparked my curiosity on previous adventures. The last several trips out on the lake, we have visited with a tiny pale blue butterfly. Recently one joined us, flitting from person to person. I decided to find out more about this tiny creature. As I looked from one reference source to another, I discovered that this is a bit more complicated than I first thought. Jane, a recent rider and new Jocassee friend, was kind enough to snap a picture of the azures at a puddle party near the Toxaway River. Based on the butterflies' markings, the options were narrowed to three types of azures: the Appalachian, the spring, and the summer azure. The spring azure butterflies, *Celastrina ladon*, are usually seen in March through May and produce one brood annually. Flowering dogwood trees are a favorite host plant during the caterpillar stage. The Appalachian azure butterfly, *Celastrina nectemajior*, which prefers cove forests and black cohosh plants, is seen primarily in April and May. The summer azure, *Celastrina neglecta*, was not identified as a species until 1995 because it was



Celestrina neglecta at a puddle party. Photos by Jane

misidentified as spring azure. These butterflies are not picky eaters and young caterpillars enjoy dogwood trees, New Jersey tea, and other plants. Summer azures produce more than one brood annually. The first brood of the summer azure emerges even before the spring azure's first brood. These butterflies fly later in the summer. BINGO! Sounds like this is the one we are seeing. It's amazing to me that these three butterflies that look so similar have their own unique differences. There is so much to learn out in the wild areas of Jocassee. ~Cam McDade, JLT guide.

OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK, JULY 14, 2025

STATE PARK EVENTS

Table Rock State Park

July 16: 9:00-10:00 AM

Stream Study

Explore a mountain stream to see what creatures live in a cold-water habitat.

Gorges State Park

July 16: 10:00-11:00 AM

July 16: 2:00-3:00 PM

Facts, Fangs & Fiction

Join a park naturalist to uncover the truth behind common myths, meet a real live corn snake, and learn how to identify the snakes that call GSP home.

NEW EVENTS COMING IN JULY/AUGUST

STATE PARK EVENTS

Gorges State Park

July 23: 9:00-10:30 PM

Mysteries of the Moth- Night Program

Table Rock State Park

July 25: 9:00-10:00 AM

Botany & Birds

Gorges State Park

July 25: 10:00-11:00 AM

July 25: 2:00-3:00 PM

Birds, Beaks & Backyard Feeders

Table Rock State Park

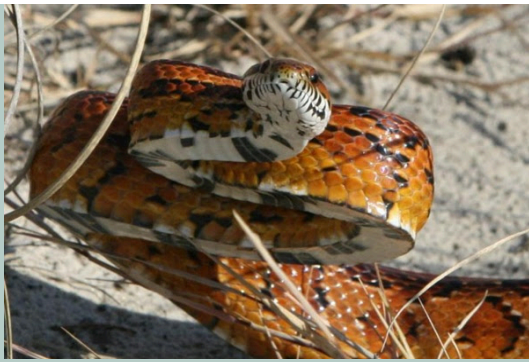
July 25: 8:30-9:30 PM

Bat Watch

Oconee Station State Historic Site

July 26: 1:00-3:00 PM

Historic Building Tour



GSP photo

Gorges State Park

July 17: 10:00-11:00 AM

N.C.'s Natural Icons

Join a park naturalist to discover the official state symbols of North Carolina, many of which you can find right here in GSP!

Oconee State Park

July 17: 2:00-3:00 PM

Exploring Nature

These interactive programs engage participants in the life and

Highlands Biological Station through hands-on activities and games.

July 14: 5:00-6:00 PM

MAPS Bird Banding

MAPS Bird Banding is a mandatory age kids, but all are welcome! Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) bird banding session and witness science in action!

Conserving Carolina

July 15: 6:00-7:30 PM

Landrum Library Speaker Series:

An Introduction to Backyard

Moths of the Carolinas

Dr. David Ahrenholz presents backyard photographs from his Landrum home to illustrate the lives of these beautiful but rather secretive creatures.

Highlands Biological Station

July 17: 6:00-7:00 PM

Zahner Conservation Lecture #5:

Lesser-Known Medicinal

Oconee State Park

July 26: 7:00-9:30 PM

Moonlight Paddle

Table Rock State Park

July 29: 9:00-10:30 AM

Wonders in the Woods

Gorges State Park

July 29: 10:00-11:30 AM

July 29: 2:00-3:30 PM

Inside the Owl: Pellet Dissection

Table Rock State Park

August 9: 2:00-6:00 PM

Music on the Mountain

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Sierra Club SC

July 24: 10:30 AM-2:00 PM

Hike to Get Wet w/the Foothills

Group: Riley Moore Falls

Conserving Carolina

July 24: 2:00-3:00 PM

Green River Library Speaker

Series: Fungal Foundations – How

Mushrooms Build the Earth

Beneath Our Feet

Highlands Biological Station

July 24: 6:00-7:00 PM

Zahner Lecture #6: Understanding

Helene as a Geologic Event in

Southern Appalachia

Conserving Carolina

July 26: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

Lower Green River Clean-up with

MountainTrue

NCNPS-Oconee Bell Chapter

July 29: 5:30 PM

Nature Nights by the Pond!

Conserving Carolina

Mushrooms of the Southern Appalachians

Discover the medicinal properties of six lesser-known mushrooms native to our eastern woodlands.

Friends of the Reedy River

July 18: 8:30-11:30 AM

Volunteer Workday 5 at Reedy River Meadow - Invasive Plant Pull and Mulching

Please join us to remove invasive plant species to make room for native plants!

Greenville County Bird Club

July 19: 7:00 AM-12:00 PM (Longer Walk)

July 19: 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 in the 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.



Pileated woodpecker at CNP,
Photo by Anthony Q Martin

GNHA

July 31: 5:30-7:30 PM

Saluda Grade Trail Celebration

Highlands Biological Station

July 31: 6:00-7:00 PM

Zahner Lecture #7: The Good, the Bad & the Bugly.

Friends of Jocassee (FOJ)

July 31: 6:30-8:00 PM

Fireside Chat w/Tricia Kyzer

Highlands Biological Station

August 7: 6:00-7:00 PM

Zahner Lecture #8: Finding the Fabulous Ordinary.

Conestee Nature Preserve

August 9: 6:00-8:00 AM

Sunrise Hike

Conestee Nature Preserve

August 9: 8:00-10:30 AM

Birding 101: Cardinals and Friends

SC Botanical Garden Events

July 21: 8:30 AM-3:00 PM

Garden Creativity Camp

Borrowed Glimpses

July 19: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM

Gorges State Park- Rainbow to Windy Falls and a Few More

See five stunning falls in Gorges State Park (NC)! Rainbow, Turtleback, Drift, the top of Windy and a potential side trip to lower Side Pocket Falls.

GNHA

July 19: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

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

This hike will be conducted at a moderate pace. Click link for full description.

Conestee Nature Preserve

July 19: 9:30 AM-2:00 PM

Southeast Bumblebee Atlas Training Workshop

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation is holding a free training workshop to prepare the next group of citizen scientists to help identify and track bumblebees in our area and contribute to a better understanding of bumblebee needs.

Conserving Carolina

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

French Broad River Clean-Up with MountainTrue

The clean-up will be boat-based and focus on the French Broad River in Transylvania County between Island Ford River Access and Morrow Landing.

SCNPS

July 20: 11:00 AM-3:00 PM

Annual Upstate SCNPS Summer Social Picnic



Watch those little crayfish claws!



Searching for water bears...

Join us at the White Oak Shelter in Table Rock State Park. It's a chance to reconnect with the SCNPS community, enjoy some great food, and take in one of the Upstate's best natural settings.

SC Botanical Garden Events

July 14-18: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

Time Travelers Camp

Through hands-on crafts and other activities, we'll explore everyday life for South Carolina's colonial and antebellum past, from the homes they lived in, the clothes they wore, the food they ate to the games they played. We'll explore the lives of Native, African, and European Americans.



Photos by Kerry McKenzie



**Bird clan of the Cherokee,
SCBG photo**



It's Devils Walkingstick season!



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



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the Jocassee Wild Child mascot,
Odyssey? Order yours here!

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DID YOU KNOW?

The eggs of a carpenter bee are very large relative to the size of the female, and are some of the largest eggs among all insects

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,
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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