



[Gmail messages are clipped.]

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## **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!**

## **False Alarm**

**Maybe it takes all kinds, but it takes a special kind of evil to make a prank call about a boating accident on a busy 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. The words that came through the grapevine were “bad**

boating accident at the Jocassee Dam, twelve people onboard.” Hearts raced. Rumors swirled like toilet water. Worried calls went out to guides. Helicopters—two, maybe three—responded. Ambulances gathered in the parking lot at Devils Fork State Park. Multiple rescue boats launched. In other words, our county response teams were immediate and thorough, and in the end they left with no one, because the whole thing had been a hoax. Who does that? Even if the emergency call is never traced, the Lords of Karma will be waiting.

~K



**Serenity, interrupted,  
but only briefly.  
Photo by Ansley Durden**



**Happily, these kids enjoyed a  
drama-free day on Lake Jocassee!**

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

**Full ‘Buck’ Moon Rising Tour  
[Book Now!](#)**

**July 10: 7:30-9:30 PM**

**Guided Kayak Tour [Book Now!](#)**

**July 13: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM**

**All the Falls Tour [Book Now!](#)**

**July 19: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM**

**Kids Kayak Class & Fun Adventure  
[Book Now!](#)**

**July 17, 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 12: 7:00-9:00 PM**

**Friday Private Tours [Book Now!](#)**

**Every Friday: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM**

**Sunday Afternoon Tours**

**[Book Now!](#)**

**2:30-5:30 PM**

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

**PRIVATE TOURS  
ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE**

**(864) 280-5501**

**[www.jocasseeelaketours.com](http://www.jocasseeelaketours.com)**

**CALL OR BOOK ONLINE TO  
RESERVE SEATS**



**The point of no return  
on Family Rock!**

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**OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK,  
JULY 7, 2025**

**STATE PARK EVENTS**

**Gorges State Park**

**July 9: 10:00-11:15 AM**

**July 9: 2:00-3:15 PM**

**Terrific Turtles**

**Join a park naturalist to learn all  
about the eastern box turtle—**

**THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE  
JULY 7, 2025**

It is our privilege as JLT guides to relive the wonder and awe of our own first nature experiences when a young client holds a salamander, swims under a waterfall, or tastes the “root beery” flavor of a sassafras leaf for the first time. Children are the heart of our Wild Child program and sharing the wonders of the Jocassee Gorges with them is the heart of our mission. It is just as rewarding, however, to witness this same wonder and awe in our much older guests. I watch four ladies, friends for fifty years, floating on noodles and giggling like teenagers under the chilling spray of a waterfall; I see the slow smile that spreads across an upturned face as a broad-winged hawk soars right overhead, whistling his trademark call; I see eyes widen at the sight of a kaleidoscope of eastern tiger swallowtails puddling; older and wiser, yes, but never so jaded as to not be able to experience nature with childlike enthusiasm. Jocassee has an almost magical way of bringing out the child in all of us. Come join us and experience the magic that is Lake Jocassee!  
~Betsy Lewis, JLT guide

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where they live, what they eat, and how to help protect them!



*Terpene carolina carolina*

Eastern box turtle

Photo by [ncwildlife.gov](http://ncwildlife.gov)

### **Gorges State Park**

July 10: 10:00-10:40 AM

#### **History of Gorges**

Join a Ranger to learn the story of how Gorges State Park came to be while taking a guided hike to the overlook deck to catch some views.

### **Table Rock State Park**

July 11: 9:00-10:00 AM

#### **Botany & Birds**

Take a stroll to learn some tips for identifying some of our native trees and plants and the feathered friends that they attract.

### **Table Rock State Park**

July 12: 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.

### **Table Rock State Park**

July 12: 7:30-8:00 PM

## **NEW EVENTS COMING IN JULY/AUGUST**

### **STATE PARK EVENTS**

#### **Gorges State Park**

July 16: 10:00-11:00 AM

#### **Facts, Fangs & Fiction**

#### **Gorges State Park**

July 17: 10:00-11:00 AM

#### **N.C.'s Natural Icons**

#### **Oconee State Park**

July 17: 2:00-3:00 PM

#### **Exploring Nature**

#### **Table Rock State Park**

July 23: 9:00-10:00 AM

#### **Stream Study**

#### **Gorges State Park**

July 23: 9:00-10:30 PM

#### **Mysteries of the Moth- Night Program**

#### **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**

#### **Oconee State Park**

July 26: 7:00-9:30 PM

#### **Moonlight Paddle**

#### **Table Rock State Park**

### Nature Up Close

Nature has incredible details we miss until we take a closer look. We'll view some of those details of plants and animals through the lens of a video microscope.

### OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

#### SCUMS

July 7: 6:30 PM

Fungal Tomato Disease  
Management w/ Dr. Inga Meadows

Dr. Meadows's extension and research activities focus on tools for improving the management of tomato diseases, other vegetables, and greenhouse ornamentals for commercial growers.

#### Conserving Carolina

July 8: 2:00-3:30 PM

Saluda Library Speaker Series:  
Conserving Carolina -- Creating  
Trails and Greenways to Inspire  
Appreciation of the Natural World

Kristin Cozza, Trails and Greenways Manager for CC will give an overview of CC's existing trail and greenway projects and provide an update on our ongoing efforts to promote public access to the special places we help to protect including our role in advancing greenway projects across the region.

#### Highlands Biological Station

July 8: 6:30-7:30 PM

Hunters in the Sky

Meet some live raptors and learn about their day-to-day struggle to survive in our constantly changing world.

July 29: 9:00-10:30 AM

Wonders in the Woods

### OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

#### Highlands Biological Station

July 14: 5:00 AM-1:00 PM

MAPS Bird Banding

#### Conserving Carolina

July 15: 6:00-7:30 PM

Landrum Library Speaker Series:  
The Impact of Bacteria on  
Interactions Between Plants and  
Pollinators

#### Highlands Biological Station

July 17: 6:00-7:00 PM

Zahner Conservation Lecture #5:  
Lesser Known Medicinal  
Mushrooms of the Southern  
Appalachians

#### 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

#### GNHA

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

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

#### GNHA

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

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

#### Conserving Carolina

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



GSP photo

### Hagood Mill Historic Site

July 9 & 12: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Backyard Summer Foraging Class  
1: Pain Relief with Wild Lettuce,  
Plantain & Nettles

These humble “weeds” have long been used to help relieve pain and inflammation—and now you can learn how to identify, harvest, and preserve them safely and effectively.

### Highlands Biological Station

July 10: 6:00-7:00 PM

Zahner Conservation Lecture #4:  
COHABITATE--Living with Nature

Co-habitate, a new community-based organization, is dedicated to engaging and educating our neighbors on the intrinsic value of our ecosystem and seeking solutions to environmental degradation, due to the pressures of development.

### South Carolina Wildlife Federation

July 12: 10:00-11:30 AM

Water for Wildlife Workshop

In this educational workshop you'll learn about the importance of providing water for wildlife and

### French Broad River Clean-Up with MountainTrue

#### SCNPS

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

Annual Upstate SCNPS Summer  
Social Picnic

#### Sierra Club SC

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

Hike to Get Wet w/the Foothills  
Group: Riley Moore Falls

### 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

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.

#### SC Botanical Garden Events

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

Time Travelers Camp

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**Borrowed Glimpses**

the variety of ways to add water sources to your own yard, garden, or green space.

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## SC Botanical Garden Events

More Events Coming Soon!



*Become a Friend!*

SOUTH CAROLINA  
BOTANICAL  
GARDEN  
at Clemson University

Your support ensures that SC Botanical Garden will be an exemplary admission-free public garden.

Our Friends program funds daily operations, educational programming, community events, and horticultural research.

**Become a Friend!**



How about a tee shirt featuring the Jocassee Wild Child mascot, Odyssey? Order yours here!



There's more than enough drama on Jocassee evenings.  
Photo by Geary Hughes

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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?**

One goose can poop up to two pounds per day, pooping at least almost every 12 minutes, averaging at least 100 times daily.

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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.





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

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

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