

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.](#)

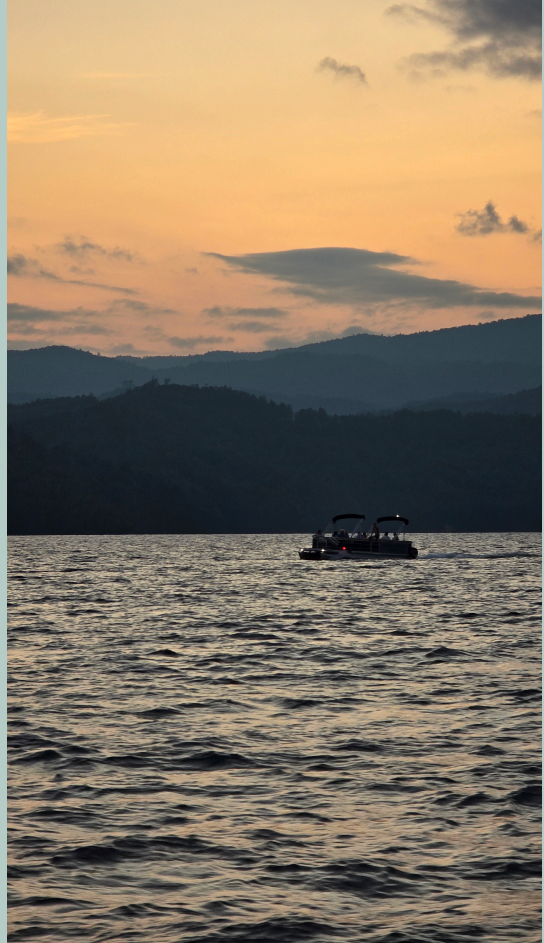
Greetings!



Welcome to the Blue Wall Weekly, your source for what's going on outside along the Southern 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!

Evening

It's that magical hour of nautical twilight on Lake Jocassee, and in the far distance, red and green running lights from our last boat of the day come towards the dock at a leisurely pace. The dark lake water is lightly rippled by a summer breeze, soft and warm as a loving caress. It's a blessed reprieve from last month's sticky heat. The moon, huge and full and cantaloupe-colored, peeks just over the horizon through a thick stand of trees on the Oconee Bell Trail. The parking lot at the boat ramp is empty but for a couple of locals relishing the quiet evening, waiting for the last guests of the Full Moon Rising tour. We hope these folks have enjoyed the evening as much as we have. ~K



Civil twilight, the following night.

SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

JOCASSEE WILD NATURALIST
CERTIFICATION PROGRAM
[BOOK NOW!](#)

August 12: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

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

August 15: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

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

August 16: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Guided Kayak Tours! [Book Now!](#)

August 24: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

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

WEEKLY EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Jocassee Lake Tours [Book Now!](#)

Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat, Sun:

10:00 AM-2:00 PM

FREE TUESDAYS at Devils Fork
State Park!

Sunset Tours [Book Now!](#)

August 16: 6:30-8:30 PM

August 23 & 30: 6:15-8:15 PM

Friday Private Tours [Book Now!](#)

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

Sunday Afternoon Tours

[Book Now!](#)

2:30-5:30 PM

**PRIVATE TOURS
ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE**

**CALL OR BOOK ONLINE TO
RESERVE SEATS**



**Bound to be friends, even before
leaving the dock!**
Photo by Wayne Brearley

**OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK,
AUGUST 11, 2025**

STATE PARK EVENTS

Table Rock State Park

August 12: 9:00-10:30 AM

Wonders in the Woods

A guided hike along Carrick Creek Trail will reveal how the geology, plants, and animals all fit into the ecology of this mountain forest.

Table Rock State Park

August 13: 9:00-10:00 AM

Stream Study

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

Gorges State Park

August 14: 10:00-10:30 AM

Animal Tracks

Come and help identify the wildlife around the park using only their

**THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE
AUGUST 11, 2025**

Last week I had the privilege to observe a phenomenon I've seen play out time and time again. Public tours for JLT often result in people from diverse backgrounds on the same boat – two, three, sometimes four or more separate family units. At the beginning, one can often sense the hesitancy. Who are these strangers I'm about to spend the next few hours with? Will it be awkward? Will this be a waste of time? However, almost without exception, conversation inevitably ensues, common ground is discovered, and, over the course of just a few hours shared in the enchantment of what we call Jocassee, connections are made. In conservation biology, one of the hallmarks of ecosystem health is diversity. However, diverse ecosystems are not healthy simply because of how many different organisms and resources are present, they are healthy because of the connections which exist between and among all the parts. Here's to diverse ecosystems, in all their forms, and to special places which facilitate them. ~Rocky Nation, JLT guide.

**NEW EVENTS COMING IN
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER**

tracks to find them!

STATE PARK EVENTS

Gorges State Park

August 15: 10:00-10:45 AM

August 15: 2:00-2:45 PM

10 Hiking Essentials & Leave No Trace

Join a naturalist to learn the 7 principles of 'Leave No Trace', as well as the 10 hiking essentials. In this program you will learn how to hike, camp, and recreate outdoors properly.

Table Rock State Park

August 15: 7:30-8:00 PM

Nature Up Close

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

Oconee Station State Historic Site

August 17: 2:00-3:00 PM

Historic Building Tour

Come for a ranger-led tour of the buildings while learning about the history of the site.

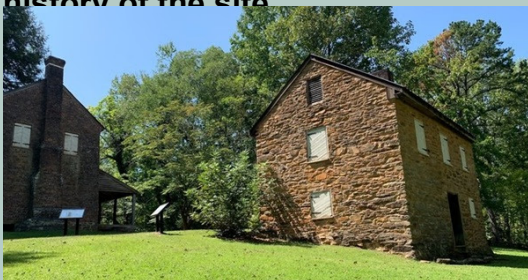


Photo by UpcountrySouthCarolina

Gorges State Park

August 22: 10:00-10:45 AM

August 22: 2:00-2:45 PM

N.C.'s Natural Icons

Oconee State Park

August 23: 10:30 AM-12:00 PM

CCC History Stroll

Oconee State Park

August 23: 7:00-9:30 PM

Moonlight Paddle

Table Rock State Park

August 23 8:15-9:30 PM

Nature at Night

Table Rock State Park

August 27: 9:00-10:00 AM

Stream Study

Table Rock State Park

August 29: 9:00-10:00 AM

Botany & Birds

Gorges State Park

August 29: 10:00-10:30 AM

August 29: 2:00-2:45 PM

Bobcat Basics

Table Rock State Park

August 29: 7:30-8:00 PM

Nature Up Close

Oconee Station State Historic Site

August 30: 2:00-3:00 PM

The Green Sisters

Oconee Station State Historic Site

August 31: 2:00-3:00 PM

Historic Building Tour

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

August 12: 2:00-3:30 PM

Saluda Library Speaker Series: Caring for Trees on Your Property

This presentation aims to educate property owners on the benefits of

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

trees, while also providing resources to help identify potential risks and health concerns that may increase the likelihood of tree failure or decline.

Highlands Biological Station

August 12: 8:00-9:00 PM

Salamander Meander

Join our Naturalists on a nighttime search for our secretive salamander friends.

Mushroom Mountain

August 14: 2:00-3:30 PM

MM Tour

During your visit, you will learn about mushroom biology and ecology- how mushrooms work in and for our environment- as well as how they can be used for medicinal uses and many other innovations.



Mushroom Mountain photo

FOLKS

August 14: 2:30-4:00 PM

Learn How Gardens Support Habitats and Water Resources

Come join us to discover how gardens help local wildlife thrive and protect our precious water sources!

Highlands Biological Station

August 14: 6:00-7:00 PM

Conserving Carolina

August 19 & 26: 9:00-11:00 AM

September 2: 9:00-11:00 AM

Pollinator Paradise Partners

Upstate Forever

August 19: 5:30-7:30 PM

Community Conversation on the Duke Gas Plant

Conserving Carolina

August 19: 6:00-7:30 PM

Landrum Library Speaker Series: Carolina Wild!

Highlands Biological Station

August 20: 12:00-1:00 PM

Not From Around Here: Invasive Species on the Highlands Plateau

Foothills Trail Conservancy

August 23

FHT Big Bend to Burrell's Ford

Mushroom Mountain

August 23: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

MINI CLINIC- Medicinal Mushrooms

Upstate Forever

August 23: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Stewardship of the Land: A Faith-Based Advocacy Event

GNHA

August 23: 1:00-4:00 PM

GNHA Summer Picnic: Oconee State Park

Mushroom Mountain

August 23-24

Wild Mushroom Food Safety Certification – Georgia

NCNPS-Oconee Bell Chapter

August 26: 5:30 PM

Nature Nights by the Pond!

Zahner Lecture #9: Southern Appalachian Forest Resilience in a Post Hurricane World
Megan Sutton from TNC's Asheville office will explore the extensive damage caused by the hurricane and will highlight both the immediate and long-term impacts on forest ecosystems.

Greenville County Bird Club

August 16: 7:00 AM-12:00 PM
(Longer Walk)

August 16: 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.

GNHA

August 16: 8:00 AM-5:00 PM

Sloan Bridge Loop to Upper Whitewater Falls

There will be great views of Lake Jocassee and the South Carolina mountains on the return--even one during the summer! The last couple of miles are shallow downhill.

Conserving Carolina

August 16: 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 and Henderson counties between Penrose Boating Access Area and Blantyre Park.

Conserving Carolina

August 28: 2:00-3:30 PM

Green River Library Speaker

Series: An Introduction To Western Carolina Butterflies

SC Botanical Garden Events

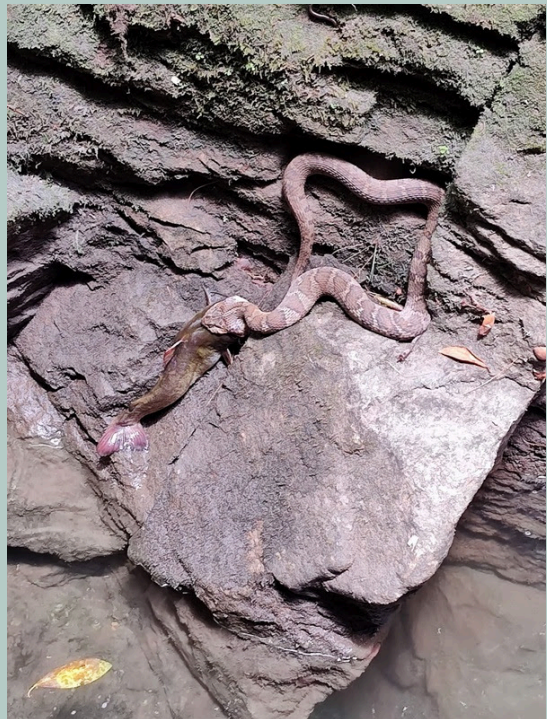
August 22: 3:30-5:30 PM

Great Southeastern Pollinator Census

August 29: 3:30-5:00 PM

Introduction to Nature Journaling

Borrowed Glimpses



Water snake eating a catfish,
Photo by G. Williams

Hagood Mill

August 16: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Rolling Waterwheel Gospel Revue

Come celebrate faith, music, and mountain heritage with us at Hagood Mill. We can't wait to see you there!

SC Botanical Garden Events

August 14: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

South Carolina Native Plant

Elective: Rain Gardens

Join Samantha Porzelt, Clemson Extension Water Resources Agent for an elective class for all those interested in rain garden design, installation, and native plant selection.



Chelone glabra, Turtleheads, just one of many native plant options for your rain gardens.

fs.usda.gov photo



Platanthera ciliaris Yellow-fringed orchids, blooming now around Lake Jocassee.



Current conditions at Lake Jocassee via Devils Fork State Park Webcam

Sponsored by Friends of Jocassee



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Jocassee Wild Child Adventures
on Facebook!

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

How about a tee shirt featuring the Jocassee Wild Child mascot, Odyssey? [Order yours here!](#)

SPONSOR A JOCASSEE WILD CHILD TODAY!



DID YOU KNOW?

Evening civil twilight begins at sunset, and ends when the geometric center of the sun is 6 degrees below the horizon. Under these conditions absent fog or other restrictions, the brightest stars and planets can be seen, the horizon and terrestrial objects can be discerned, and in many cases, artificial lighting is not needed.

In general, the term nautical twilight refers to sailors being able to take reliable readings via well known stars because the horizon is still visible, even under moonless conditions. Absent fog or other restrictions, outlines of terrestrial objects may still be discernible, but detailed outdoor activities are likely curtailed without artificial illumination. ~weather.gov

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

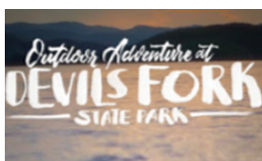
info@jocasseelaketours.com

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!



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