

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!

Zugunruhe

There's a restless edge under these bright blue skies as summer is being nuzzled by autumn. Autumn is like that dog you've allowed on your bed, only to find your furry friend is stretching across *your* space, pushing with all four paws until you are sleeping on an outside sliver of mattress,

centimeters from falling to the floor. These first cooling breezes are so welcome, and the afternoon sun is so warm, and we forget that cold windy days are ahead. But the birds know; they are winging across our night skies by the millions, resting, feeding, flying again. New birds show up daily, here today, gone tomorrow. Summer is ebbing. Enjoy it while you can. ~K



The view from above:
beautiful Lake Jocassee,
as seen from Wigington Overlook
on a sublime September day.

SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Guided Kayak Tours! [Book Now!](#)
October 5: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Full Moon Rising Tour - Hunters
Moon [Book Now!](#)
October 6: 5:30-7:30 PM

[PRIVATE TOURS](#)
[ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE](#)

CALL (864) 280-5501
or
[BOOK ONLINE](#)

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!

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

Saturday Sunset Tours [Book Now!](#)
Time varies

Sunday Afternoon Tours
[Book Now!](#)
2:30-5:30 PM

**THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE
SEPTEMBER 15, 2025**



Jocassee is the perfect outdoor classroom for students of all ages.

OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK, SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

STATE PARK EVENTS

Oconee Station State Historic Site

September 16: 4:00-5:00 PM

Hands-On History

Travel with park staff as we step back in time and place to the 1790's South Carolina frontier!

Gorges State Park

September 17: 10:00-10:30 AM

September 17: 2:00-2:30 PM

Leave No Trace

In this program you will learn how to hike, camp and recreate outdoors properly.

Oconee Station State Historic Site

September 18: 4:00-5:00 PM

Tales from the American Pen

Step into the world of classic American short stories with monthly live readings at Oconee Station.

Oconee State Park

September 20: 10:30 AM-12:00 PM

CCC History Stroll

September mornings on the lake sometimes start with a light breeze and a little chop in the main basin. As we leave the dock, most folks, including myself, have a light jacket or sweatshirt on. However, it doesn't take long this time of year before the sun warms everything sufficiently. The jackets come off, the waves lay down and the water turns to glass. The light is dramatic as you look across the water towards the mountains and the clouds and trees are reflected along the shore. This week we've hosted Lifelong Learners from Wofford College, a group of local kayakers, several public & private tours, and 'All the Falls' and 'Sunset' tours... and the weather has been fabulous. The water is still warm for swimming. We watched a swimmer in training, pulling his kayak behind him as he swam across the main basin, (assisted of course by another ever watchful kayak buddy). We also watched a woman on a stand-up paddle board brave the chop as she paddled the perimeter of the main basin. We were so impressed as we came back from the upper lake to find her still paddling on the completely opposite side of the basin, 3 hours later. Such a perfect time of year to be out here! Hence the term "Sublime September." Come experience it for yourself.
~Sheryl White, JLT guide

NEW EVENTS COMING IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

STATE PARK EVENTS

Gorges State Park

September 23: 10:00 AM-2:30 PM

Come learn about the vital role the Civilian Conservation Corps played in shaping our state parks during the Great Depression and discover several historic structures built by the enrollees



This original waterwheel was essential during park construction. It was used to generate power for the CCC workers and supplied their drinking water. Photo by HikerCynthia, info by Tara Morgan.

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

SCNPS

September 15: 10:00 AM-2:30 PM

Seed Collecting Field Trip 1

Join us on a strenuous day of searching the steep banks of the Chattooga River to find and collect seeds from Mountain Camellia (*Stewartia ovata*).

Conserving Carolina

September 16: 9:00-11:00 AM

Pollinator Paradise Partners

If you enjoy gardening and want to help create a beautiful, welcoming space for pollinators and people alike, come join us as we create a pollinator garden

National Public Lands Day Hike

Caesars Head State Park

September 27: 10:00-11:30 AM

Hawk Watch

Gorges State Park

September 28: 10:00-10:30 AM

Fall is Approaching

Oconee State Park

October 4: 10:30-11:30 AM

Art in Nature

Table Rock State Park

October 4: 3:00-10:00 AM

Sunrise Hike--Table Rock

Table Rock State Park

October 11: 2:00-6:00 PM

Music on the Mountain

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

September 23 & 30: 9:00-11:00 AM

October 7: 9:00-11:00 AM

Pollinator Paradise Partners

Conserving Carolina

September 23: 6:00-7:30 PM

Landrum Library Speaker Series:

Welcome Back to the Bluebirds

SCNPS

September 25: 10:00 AM-2:30 PM

Seed Collecting Field Trip 2

Conserving Carolina

September 25: 2:00-3:30 PM

Green River Library Speaker

Series: The Salamanders of western North Carolina with emphasis on the endangered Green Salamander

along the scenic Oklawaha Greenway.

Upstate Forever

September 16: 5:30-7:00 PM

Brews & Big Ideas at Streaking Birdies at RJ Rockers Brewing Co.

Grab a brew and join the conversation about conservation, sustainable development, and the protection of critical waterways in the Upstate.

SCNPS

September 16: 6:30-8:00 PM

Upstate Monthly Meeting- September

Join us as we welcome Josh Arrants, for his Presentation: "Falling into Autumn: Stories & Connections of Native Species in SC".

Conserving Carolina

September 17: 10:00-11:30 AM

Etowah Library Speaker Series: Renewed Hope for Hemlocks

Discover hemlocks' foundational ecological role, learn about the invasive Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and the challenges it presents, and explore the latest management practices to restore hemlock health.



Tsuga canadensis Eastern Hemlock,
Photo by B Kimball

Conestee Nature Preserve

September 25: 3:00-4:30 PM

October 9: 3:00-4:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School Club--Elementary School

Conestee Nature Preserve

September 25: 4:00-5:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School Club--Middle School

Duke Energy's World of Energy

September 26: 4:00-6:00 PM

TreesUpstate: Free Tree Giveaway

Friends of Jocassee

September 26: 6:00-8:00 PM

Fireside Chat: Hawk Migration Part 1 At Jocassee Valley Brewing

Friends of Jocassee

September 27: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Fireside Chat: Hawk Migration Part 2 at Sassafras Mountain

Hagood Mill Historic Site

September 27: 10:00 AM-12:30 PM

Woodland Foraging Class

Highlands Biological Station

September 27: 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

ecoEXPLORERS Club: Mycology Season

Mushroom Mountain

September 27-28: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Wild Mushroom Food Safety Certification--NORTH CAROLINA

Boomers Connect in Upstate SC

September 28: 2:30-5:30 PM

Jocassee Lake Tour

NCNPS Oconee Bell Chapter

September 30: 5:30 PM

Nature Nights by the Pond

Mushroom Mountain

September 18: 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.

Sierra Club South Carolina

September 18: 7:00-9:00 PM

Foraging for Fun and Food

Learn about edible native plants from Olga Katic, owner of Mushroom Mountain, and Cory Doggins.

Hagood Mill Historic Site

September 19-20: 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

Old Time Fiddlers Convention

This beloved, state-sanctioned two-day event draws competitors, music lovers, and families for an unforgettable weekend of traditional tunes, history, and community.

Greenville County Bird Club

September 20: 7:00 AM-12:00 PM (Longer Walk)

September 20: 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. 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.

Friends of the Reedy River

September 20: 8:30-11:30 AM

Friends of Jocassee

October 4: 7:30 AM-12:00 PM

Paddle Splash

GNHA

October 4: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

East Fork Trail to Spoonaugh Falls

SCNPS

October 8: 12:00 AM-11:55 PM

Upstate Fall 2025 Online Native Plant Sale--Member and Volunteer Early Access

SCNPS

October 9-11: 8:00 AM-6:00 PM

Upstate Fall 2025 Online Native Plant Sale

GNHA

October 11: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Caesars Head State Park

GNHA

October 11: 9:30 AM-1:30 PM

Table Rock State Park - The Stool

Upstate Forever

October 12: 2:00-5:00 PM

Annual Meeting

SC Botanical Garden Events

September 23: 3:00-4:30 PM

Gardening for North American Native Bees

September 26: 10:00-11:30 AM

Friday Garden Forays, Fall 2025

September 26: 2:00-6:00 PM

SCBG Members Plant Sale, Fall 2025

September 27: 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

2025 Fall River Sweep
(Registration has now closed at
maximum volunteer capacity)
Details for each site location will
be emailed to registered
volunteers and posted below
during the week of the Cleanup.
Thank you!

Jeanne Malmgren

September 21

Silent Hikes- Station Cove Falls,
Oconee County, SC

This experience allows you to try
out the practice of Noble Silence,
while enjoying the healthful
effects of fresh air and green,
living things all in the company
of like-minded others. (This hike
will include practices to observe
International Day of Peace and
Global Day of Listening.)

SC Botanical Garden Events

September 17: 8:30 -9:30 AM

Winged Wednesdays, Fall 2025

Join us on the third Wednesday of
every month for a fun and
educational birdwatching
adventure at the Garden!



Hooded Warbler,
Photo by Gene Rochester

SCBG Plant Sale, Fall 2025

October 2: 4:30-6:00 PM

SCBG Junior Naturalists, Fall 2025

October 4: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Sustainable Landscaping, SCNP
Core Class

BORROWED GLIMPSES



Photos by Kerry McKenzie

September 18: 4:30-6:00 PM
SCBG Junior Naturalists, Fall 2025
From the mountains to the sea, participants will learn about the animals and plants who call this state home, and the landscapes that define South Carolina. (Ages 6-11)

September 19: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
Basic Botany, SCNP Core Class
This introductory course develops a foundation of knowledge and a working vocabulary for gardeners and others interested in plants.



Current conditions at Lake Jocassee via Devils Fork State Park Webcam

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

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DID YOU KNOW?

Hummingbirds (migrating now) don't drink like straws. Their elastic tongues open into two tubes and snap shut—micro-pumping nectar up to

20 times per second!

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!