



[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!

BETWEEN NOW AND DECEMBER 15TH, JOCASSEE WILD OUTDOOR EDUCATION WILL FOCUS ON RAISING MONEY TO FACILITATE THESE JOCASSEE WILD CHILD OUTDOOR LAB EXPERIENCES. JOIN US!

Dacusville Elementary

They might not remember the name Attakullakulla. They might not remember feldspar. They might not remember which pines have the shortest needles, or the name of the tree with the big leaves. But they will remember finding salamanders on wet rock under a waterfall. They will remember how amazing sand looks under a microscope. They will remember how mud felt on their face. They will remember the magic of seeing mountains rising out of water. They will remember Jocassee as a place of wild wonder. Eighty-three fifth graders this past week, and another sixty on their way this coming week. A few of these schools pay full price. Most can't afford half the cost. That's where our community of supporters comes in. Thank you for continuing to contribute to the Jocassee Wild Child program! ~K



SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Guided Kayak Tours! Book Now!
October 5: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

WEEKLY EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Jocassee Lake Tours Book Now!
Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat, Sun:
10:00 AM-2:00 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

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



OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK,
SEPTEMBER 22, 2025

STATE PARK EVENTS

Gorges State Park

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

National Public Lands Day Hike

Join a park naturalist for a hike to celebrate National Public Lands Day, followed by a fun, outdoor craft. Be prepared to hike about 4 miles to Rainbow Falls.

THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE
SEPTEMBER 22, 2025

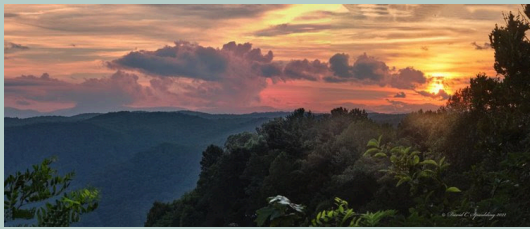
“Look carefully and tell me what you see, but don’t use the common name for it.” I hand fifth grade students from a local school some objects that I have gathered from the forest floor. The eager voices shout out the words you would expect. Leaf. Pinecone. “Those are good answers but now look carefully and try to describe it in more detail.” Oak, sourwood, black locust. Yes, they are all leaves, but they are all so different. Is this a compound leaf, or a simple leaf? How do you know? What do you see? How do you describe the shape? Later, one of them will tell me that he found a black locust leaf. This particular fact is probably not a fifth-grade science standard, but I realize that this young person is paying attention, and it makes me smile. Later in the day, when he shows me a katydid, I’m not at all surprised when he tells me how the wings look just like a leaf. “Look, the veins on his wings look just like the veins on a leaf!” Being with young people who have their eyes open to the natural world is

Caesars Head State Park

September 27: 10:00-11:30 AM

Hawk Watch

Join us and learn about hawk migration and maybe witness part of this spectacular movement.



Caesars Head State Park,
Photo by David Spaulding

Gorges State Park

September 28: 10:00-10:30 AM

Fall is Approaching

Come join us for a guided hike at the White Pines picnic area to explore the early colors of the forest.

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

September 23: 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 help us create a pollinator garden along the scenic Oklawaha Greenway.

Conserving Carolina

September 23: 6:00-7:30 PM

Landrum Library Speaker Series: Welcome Back to the Bluebirds

During this presentation, you will learn about the history of the Eastern Bluebird in North America and the role of the North American Bluebird Society and its primary goal, to protect bluebird

the best part of the Jocassee Wild Child program.

~Steve Lewis, JLT guide and JWC instructor

NEW EVENTS COMING IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

STATE PARK EVENTS

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

Oconee Station State Historic Site

October 16: 4:00-5:00 PM

Tales from the American Pen

Oconee State Park

October 18: 10:30 AM-12:00 PM

CCC History Stroll

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

September 30: 9:00-11:00 AM

October 7 & 14: 9:00-11:00 AM

Pollinator Paradise Partners

NCNPS Oconee Bell Chapter

September 30: 5:30 PM

Nature Nights by the Pond

Friends of the Reedy River

September 30: 6:00-7:00 PM

By the Banks: "From Tap to Toilet"

Friends of Jocassee

populations through education, research, and promoting the installation of bluebird nest boxes.

SCNPS

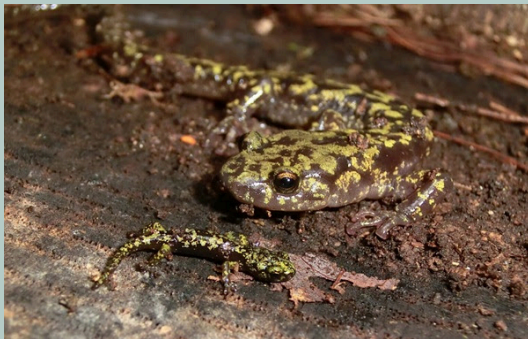
September 25: 10:00 AM-2:30 PM
Seed Collecting Field Trip 2

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 25: 2:00-3:30 PM
Green River Library Speaker Series: The Salamanders of Western NC with Emphasis on the Endangered Green Salamander

This presentation will discuss some of the salamander species found in this area but will emphasize the Green Salamander which is the only salamander in NC that is listed by the state as endangered.



Aneides aeneus Green
salamanders,
Conserving Carolina photo

Conestee Nature Preserve

September 25: 3:00-4:30 PM
Nature Discovery After School Club - Elementary School

Things the River Carries - Participants will build boats out of natural materials to float down the

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

The Farm Center

October 4: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM
Golden Corner Native Plant Festival, Wild for Natives

GNHA

October 4: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM
East Fork Trail to Spoonaugh Falls

SCUMS

October 6: 6:30 PM
DNA: The Secret History of Mushrooms w/ Danny Miller

SCNPS

October 8: 12:00 AM-11:55 PM
Upstate Fall 2025 Online Native Plant Sale--Member and Volunteer Early Access

Sierra Club SC

October 9: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
Table Rock State Park Lakeside Trail Hike and Exploration

Conestee Nature Preserve

October 9: 3:00-4:30 PM
Nature Discovery After School Club - Elementary School

Conestee Nature Preserve

October 9: 4:00-5:30 PM
Nature Discovery After School Club - Middle School

SCNPS

October 9-11: 8:00 AM-6:00 PM
Upstate Fall 2025 Online Native Plant Sale

Conestee Nature Preserve

October 11: 8:00-10:00 AM
Birding 101: Birds of Prey

river and we will discuss the other beneficial things the river brings into the ecosystem.

Conestee Nature Preserve

September 25: 4:00-5:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School Club - Middle School

This is an exclusive opportunity to experience hands-on exploration, investigation and discovery in ways unavailable to those just visiting the Preserve.

Duke Energy's World of Energy

September 26: 4:00-6:00 PM

TreesUpstate Free Tree Giveaway

In recognition of the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Helene, TreesUpstate and Duke Energy have partnered to give away trees to support ongoing efforts to revitalize the tree canopy in hardest hit areas.

Friends of Jocassee

September 26: 6:00-8:00 PM

Fireside Chat: Hawk Migration Part 1 At Jocassee Valley Brewing

Hawk watch expert Betsy Lewis will be discussing fall migration facts and tips for identifying raptors that are flying south.

Friends of Jocassee

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

Fireside Chat: Hawk Migration Part 2 at Sassafras Mountain

Hawk Watch expert Ed Moorer will be leading a broad-wing hawk count.

Hagood Mill Historic Site

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

Woodland Foraging Class

In this immersive class, you'll discover how nature provides

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

Conserving Carolina

October 14: 2:00-3:30 PM

Saluda Library Speaker Series: Update from the Green Riverkeeper with MountainTrue

Conserving Carolina

October 15: 10:00 AM-11:30 PM

Etowah Library Speaker Series: Renewable Energy 101

Mushroom Mountain

October 16: 2:00-3:30 PM

Mushroom Mountain

SCNPS

October 17-19: 7:00 PM-4:00 PM

2025 SCNPS Statewide Symposium

GCBC

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

October 18: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM

(Longer Walk)

Conestee Nature Preserve

SC Botanical Garden Events

October 2 & 16: 4:30-6:00 PM

SCBG Junior Naturalists, Fall 2025

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

Sustainable Landscaping, SCNP Core Class

nutrient-rich foods and powerful natural remedies—all hiding in plain sight.

Highlands Biological Station

September 27: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Fall Migration (All Day Drop-In)

This Saturday we'll focus on the Monarch life cycle, where they migrate, and visitors can make a paper Monarch to participate in the Symbolic Monarch Migration project.

Conestee Nature Preserve

September 27: 3:30-6:30 PM

Hops and Herons

This event is family and dog friendly, and fun outdoor activities will be provided for all ages!

Conserving Carolina

September 27: 7:30-9:30 PM

Stories of Resilience: Films From the Year Since Hurricane Helene

This special screening features a series of short films produced by PBS NC that shine a light on our region's rivers and the communities working to protect them.

Mushroom Mountain

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

Wild Mushroom Food Safety Certification - NC

This 5 year mushroom foraging permit meets the criteria required by the state health departments and formally approved for the foraging and selling of wild mushrooms in the following states: South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, Rhode Island.

October 17: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
SCBG Nature Journaling Club

BORROWED GLIMPSES



The pause that refreshes on a hot Jocassee day!



An unexpected gift from the forest.

SC Botanical Garden Events

September 23: 3:00-4:30 PM Gardening for North American Native Bees

In this program you'll learn the difference between native bees and honeybees — and why it matters, how to create bee-friendly gardens using native plants, simple steps to turn your space into a pollinator haven and natural, pesticide-free gardening practices that support biodiversity.

September 26: 2:00-6:00 PM SCBG Members Plant Sale, Fall 2025

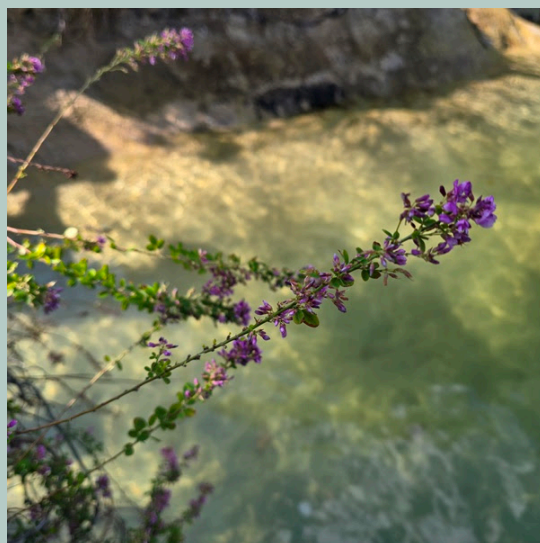
Plant Sales are major fundraising events for the SCBG, and all profits support operations and enhancements in the garden. Friends of the Garden (members) are granted early access, one day before the public sale.

September 27: 9:00 AM-1:00 PM SCBG Plant Sale, Fall 2025

Support the SCBG and enjoy a wide variety of plants, including annuals, vegetable transplants and herbs, bog plants, perennials, ferns, shrubs, grasses, trees and fruits and many hard-to-find native plants!



**Jocassee Wild Naturalist
Kerry kissed a katydid!**



Flower power, Jocassee-style.



**Current conditions at Lake
Jocassee via Devils Fork State
Park Webcam**

**Sponsored by
Friends of Jocassee**



Students help prep for the Fall sale at the SCBG



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

SPONSOR A JOCASSEE WILD CHILD TODAY!

**Follow
Jocassee Wild Child Adventures
on Facebook!**

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



DID YOU KNOW?

According to BirdCast.info from Cornell University, on the night of September 19-20, 2025, an estimated 1,182,000 birds—mostly songbirds--migrated over Oconee County. So far this season, an average of 450,000 birds per night have crossed over the same area.

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

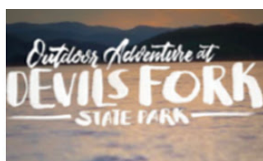
info@jocasseeuketours.com

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.