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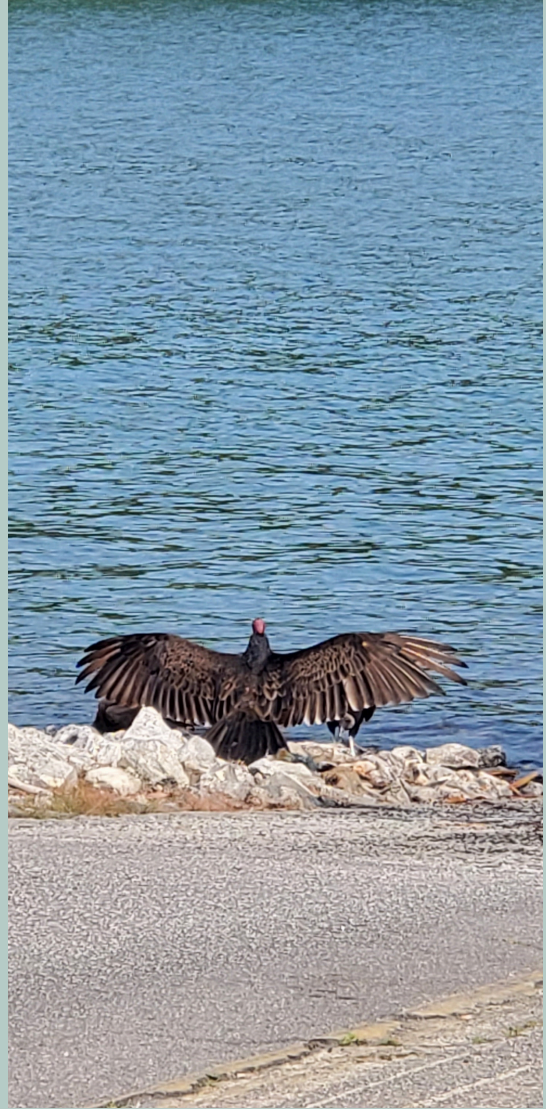
Greetings!



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!

More Vultures

Saturday was Vulture Awareness Day. Perhaps you missed the memo. For future reference, this falls on the first Saturday of September, every year. Along the base of the Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment, we are blessed with two species of vultures. They are often seen together, black and turkey, cleaning up the morning roadkill. Black vultures appear to wear a chainmail coif on their wrinkled, featherless heads, and the equally bald head of a turkey vulture—bless its heart—is a series of nested red wrinkles. But looks aren't everything! A vulture can pass the most disease-riddled meal through its body, and out the other end it comes, a disease-free whitewash flowing down the bird's legs to cool them on hot summer days. Oh, and you think you're tougher than a bird? Mess with a vulture, and it just might projectile vomit that roadkill right onto you. What's not to love? ~K



Don't mess around with these guys at Devils Fork State Park!

SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

All the Falls Tour [Book Now!](#)
September 13: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM
October 25: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

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

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

[PRIVATE TOURS](#)

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

ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE

**CALL (864) 280-5501 or
BOOK ONLINE**

Sunday Afternoon Tours

Book Now!

2:30-5:30 PM

**THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE
SEPTEMBER 8, 2025**



Jay and Dawn

Sometimes the best memories aren't made under clear skies—they're made when you're laughing through the rain. Whether it's creating cool ideas, lending a hand, or braving the elements, Jay and Dawne are always there with big smiles and bigger hearts. This photo says it all: caught in a Jocassee rainstorm, wrapped in ponchos and laughter, they embody the spirit of Jocassee Wild Child—resilient, joyful, and always ready for adventure. Jay has been a huge supporter of Jocassee Wild Child, with Dawne right alongside him. Their enthusiasm, energy, and kindness ripple through everything we do, helping us share the wonder of this wild place with kids in unforgettable ways. We are so grateful for friends like Jay and Dawne who show us—rain or shine—that joy is contagious, and community makes us stronger. ~Kerry McKenzie, JWC program coordinator & JLT guide.

**OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK,
SEPTEMBER 8, 2025**

STATE PARK EVENTS

Gorges State Park

September 10: 10:00-10:30 AM

Salamander Superheros

Join a ranger to learn about the superpowers of the endangered Green Salamander, a native species to GSP.

Table Rock State Park

September 13: 2:00-6:00 PM

Music on the Mountain

Enjoy traditional Blue Grass music as local musicians gather at TRSP to keep this inspirational talent alive. Visitors are invited to bring their acoustic instruments and join in a jam session or simply sit back to enjoy the music

**NEW EVENTS COMING IN
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER**

STATE PARK EVENTS

Oconee Station State Historic Site

September 16: 4:00-5:00 PM

Hands-On History

with the lake and mountains as a beautiful backdrop.

Oconee State Park

September 13: 9:00 AM-6:00 PM

September 14: 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Forging History

Step back in time and witness history in the making! Watch master blacksmiths heat, hammer, and forge authentic strap hinges using age-old forge welding techniques—just as artisans did over a century ago.



Photo by georgeamie.devianart

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Friends of Jocassee

September 8: 12:00-2:00 PM

Adopt-a-Highway

FOJ proudly maintains over 4 miles of roadways leading from Hwy 11 to Devils Fork State Park. We call it the “road to paradise” - help us keep it beautiful!

Conserving Carolina

September 9: 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 in creating a pollinator garden along the scenic Oklawaha Greenway!

Oconee Station State Historic Site

September 18: 4:00-5:00 PM

Tales from the American Pen

Oconee State Park

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

CCC History Stroll

Gorges State Park

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

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

Table Rock State Park

October 4: 3:00-10:00 AM

Sunrise Hike-Table Rock

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

SCNPS

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

Seed Collecting, Field Trip 1

Conserving Carolina

September 16: 9:00-11:00 AM

Pollinator Paradise Partners

Upstate Forever

September 16: 5:30-7:00 PM

Brews & Big Ideas

SCNPS

September 16: 6:30-8:00 PM

Upstate Monthly Meeting:

September

Conserving Carolina

September 17: 10:00-11:30 AM

Conserving Carolina

September 9: 2:00-3:00 PM

Saluda Library Speaker Series – Freshwater Mussels of the Western Carolinas

This engaging talk offers a comprehensive overview of these remarkable creatures, exploring their unique life cycle, habitat preferences, and the factors contributing to their alarming decline.

Highlands Biological Station

September 10: 1:00-5:00 PM

Bartram's "Rare and Elegant Flowering Shrub"

This special program, led by Dr. Jim Costa (HBS & WCU) and Cynthia Woodsong (paper flower artist), will bring *Franklinia* to life through: A lecture on its fascinating history & biology, a visit to a blooming specimen in Highlands, NC and a hands-on workshop to craft paper replicas of its delicate flowers (all materials provided!)



Franklinia alatamaha Franklin tree, HBS photo

Conestee Nature Preserve

September 11: 3:00-4:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School Club - Elementary School

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

Etowah Library Speaker Series:

Renewed Hope for Hemlocks

Mushroom Mountain

September 18: 2:00-3:30 PM

MM Tour

Sierra Club South Carolina

September 18: 7:00-9:00 PM

Foraging for Fun and Food

Hagood Mill Historic Site

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

Old Time Fiddlers Convention

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

Friends of the Reedy River

September 20; 8:30-11:30 AM

2025 Fall River Sweep

Jeanne Malmgren

September 21

Silent Hikes--Green Bird Haven, Pickens County, SC

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

Conestee Nature Preserve

September 11: 4:00-5:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School Club - Middle School

We want to grow a love of nature in your student, and train young naturalists in a casual, fun-oriented environment. These classes are always joyful and filled with wonder!

Conserving Carolina

September 11: 5:30-7:00 PM

Green Drinks: The Future of the Toilet: The Good, the Bad, and Ugly

Join Betsy Towns a member of an art, science, and communications-design team– FlushED, working to discover ways to raise curiosity and interest in changes to wastewater practices that may reach our bathrooms in the coming decades.

Hagood Mill Historic Site

September 12: 6:30-8:00 PM

Heritage Pavilion Ribbon Cutting & Celebration

Guests will enjoy a celebratory evening featuring delicious food and the opportunity to explore the Pavilion, which offers a rustic yet elegant setting perfect for community events, private gatherings, and cultural celebrations.

Conestee Nature Preserve

September 13: 8:00-10:00 AM

History Hike Part 1: Naturalist Led Walk and Talk About Conestee's Past

You'll leave this program with a better appreciation for the early development of Greenville, as well

Conestee Nature Preserve

September 25: 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

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

Lake Jocassee Lake Boat Tour

NCNPS Oconee Bell Chapter

September 30: 5:30 PM

Nature Nights by the Pond

SC Botanical Garden Events

September 17: 8:30 -9:30 AM

as the unique ecological resource that Conestee Nature Preserve now provides to both wildlife, and this community.

Friends of Jocassee

September 13: 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
V.I.P Day - Volunteer, Improve, Protect

V.I.P Day is our annual collaborative litter pickup at Devils Fork State Park, involving divers, hikers, and boaters. Hundreds of volunteers turn out annually to collect a significant amount of litter from DFSP and Lake Jocassee. Come join us!

GNHA

September 13: 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
Conestee Nature Preserve

Let's start our weekend with a moderate pace 5-mile walk in our local nature park.

Highlands Biological Station

September 13: 2:00-8:00 PM
2025 Celebration of Place

Join us for a special event celebrating the spirit of place and the beauty of native plants at Highlands Biological Station!

Mushroom Mountain

September 13-14: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Wild Mushroom Food Safety Certification-South Carolina

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, Virginia,

Winged Wednesdays, Fall 2025

September 18: 4:30-6:00 PM

October 2: 4:30-6:00 PM

SCBG Junior Naturalists, Fall 2025

September 19: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Basic Botany, SCNP Core Class

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

SCBG Plant Sale, Fall 2025

BORROWED GLIMPSES



A dog-pile-on-Dad moment.
Photo by Sheryl White



Alabama, Pennsylvania, New York,
Rhode Island.

SC Botanical Garden Events

September 13: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
Natural Plant Communities, SCNP
Core Class

Join expert naturalist Tim Lee to build your knowledge base of major conceptual issues and areas of current research in native plant ecology.

September 13: 1:00-4:00 PM
Nature Center Open House:
Animal Signs in Nature

In this free open house, learn more about animal signs through fun hands-on activities.



Skunk tracks,
Photo by Jonah Evans

Rainbow over Jocassee Dam.
Photo by Andy Douglas



Current conditions at Lake
Jocassee via Devils Fork State
Park Webcam

Sponsored by Friends of Jocassee



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How about a tee shirt featuring
the Jocassee Wild Child mascot,

Odyssey? Order yours here!

SPONSOR A JOCASSEE WILD
CHILD TODAY!



DID YOU KNOW?

As nature's clean-up crew, vultures play a crucial role in maintaining the health of our ecosystems by consuming dead animals. Their scavenging activities likely control the spread of diseases, thus protecting both wildlife and human communities from potential outbreaks.

Beyond their role as scavengers, vultures contribute significantly to various ecosystem services, which are free benefits nature provides to humans. ~vultureday.org

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-lake-tours.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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