



[Gmail messages are clipped.]

Click link on bottom left corner to view entire newsletter.]

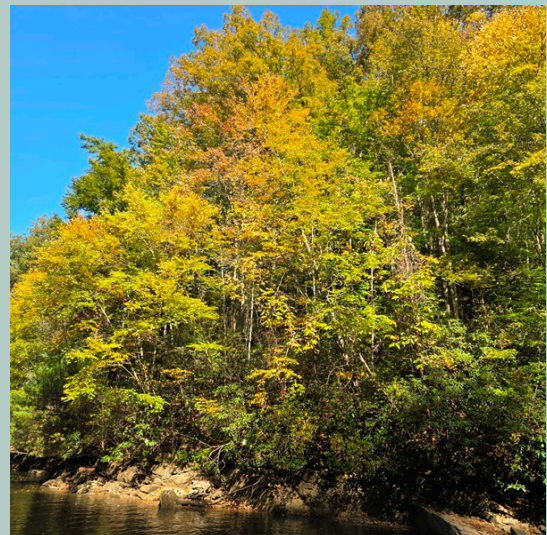
Greetings!



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!

Pre-peak

If you're not leaving that easy chair for a drive or a tour until the mountainsides are drenched in full-on, in-you-face color, fine. Stay there. You will be missing out on the best part of fall: the slow fade, pre-peak time of year when the wall of greenery is punctuated by startling splashes of red sourwood, and that red is highlighted by blonde eyelashes from summer's blooms. These are



The slow fade of chlorophyll

days when magic is quieter along the base of the Blue Wall, visible only to all who appreciate subtleties. And every day the picture changes, and yellows in the trees grow brighter, and the reds more vibrant, and singular limbs of screaming fluorescent orange hang over rock and water as if admiring their own reflection. And every day for the next month or more, we will anticipate the peak of fall color even as the buildup to that peak offers almost more pleasure than we can endure. ~K

is apparent around the shores of
Lake Jocassee



Beauty is everywhere.

SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

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

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



Centenarian, Dale Bruhn just turned 101 and chose to spend his birthday on Jocassee!

OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK, OCTOBER 20, 2025

STATE PARK EVENTS

Oconee Station State Historic Site

October 21: 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!

Table Rock State Park

October 24: 5:00-6:00 PM

Let's Get Batty.

Let's kick off Bat Week with some bat crafts and trivia games; followed by a Bat Count!

Table Rock State Park

October 24: 6:15-7:45 PM

Bat Watch

Join us for Bat Watch and learn all about bats but also help us count the bats as they leave their roost at dusk.

THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE OCTOBER 20, 2025

We thought we'd seen it all out here... until a 101-year-old Wild Child showed us otherwise!

I had the absolute joy of welcoming a living legend aboard — a centenarian whose birthday wish was to celebrate by touring the lake. He grinned as he gave a thumbs-up for the camera in front of a waterfall, then walked strong and steady down the plank onto a sandbar to toss mica buttons into the cold, clear water — his “mica birthday wish.”

Between snapping photos with his little point-and-shoot camera, he shared stories of dancing the polka and other folk dances “back when he was young(er) and light on his feet.” We spotted four bald eagles, giggled with delight, and his eyes sparkled with the same curiosity and joy we see in every Wild Child — no matter their age.

Out there on the water, it became beautifully clear to me:

being a Wild Child isn't something you grow out of — it's something you grow into. 💙

“Adventure and wonder never grow old.”

~Kerry McKenzie

Director, Jocassee Wild Child
Outdoor Education
JLT Guide

NEW EVENTS COMING IN OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

STATE PARK EVENTS

Table Rock State Park



Myotis Septentrionalis
Northern Long-eared bat,
Clemson.edu photo

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

October 21: 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!

Mushroom Mountain

October 23: 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.



Pleurotus ostreatus var.
columbinus,
Blue oyster mushroom, MM Photo

Conestee Nature Preserve

November 1: 2:45-9:45 AM

Sunrise Hike--Bald Knob

Oconee Station State Historic Site

November 1: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

First Day Hike

Oconee State Park

November 1: 10:30-11:30 AM

Art in Nature

Table Rock State Park

November 8: 2:00-6:00 PM

Music on the Mountain

Oconee State Park

November 15: 10:30 AM-12:00 PM

CCC History Stroll

Oconee Station State Historic Site

November 15: 12:00-3:30 PM

Harvest Picnic & Early American Pie Contest!

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

October 28: 9:00-11:00 AM

Pollinator Paradise Partners

NCNPS Oconee Bell Chapter

October 28: 5:30 PM

Nature Nights by the Pond

Friends of Lake Keowee Society (FOLKS)

October 28: 5:30-8:00 PM

Folks Annual Banquet- guest speaker Mac Stone

Conserving Carolina

October 28: 6:00-7:30 PM

Landrum Library Speaker Series: Owls of the Carolinas

GNHA

October 23: 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.

Conestee Nature Preserve

October 23: 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.

Palmetto Trail

October 23: 6:00 PM

Upstate Trail Talks

Helen Mohr who works with the SC Forestry Commission will be speaking on the Firewise program along with prescribed fires and the role they play in the SC mountains.

Oconee History Museum

October 24: 7:00 PM

Intriguing Tales of Crime & Punishment

Director/Curator Jennifer Moss will take you on a walking tour of downtown Walhalla while telling stories of Oconee County's most horrendous crimes.

Hagood Mill Historic Site

October 24-25: 6:00 PM-6:00 PM

3rd Annual Pickens Appalachian Folk Festival

This beloved two-day festival honors and celebrates the deep-rooted traditions, stories, and culture of the Appalachian region —particularly those found in N.

November 1: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Walhalla Fish Hatchery to Ellicott Rock- Ron Anderson

Mushroom Mountain

November 1-2: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Wild Mushroom Food Safety Certification- South Carolina

Palmetto Trail

November 1-2: 11:00 AM-6:00 PM

Everything Outdoor Fest

Conserving Carolina

November 4: 5:30-7:00 PM

Stories of Resilience: Films from the Year Since Hurricane Helene

Conestee Nature Preserve

November 6 & 20: 3:00-4:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School Club--Elementary School

Conestee Nature Preserve

November 6 & 20: 4:00-5:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School Club--Middle School

Foothills Trail Conservancy

November 7-9

FTC Fall Gathering at Table Rock State Park

Mushroom Mountain

November 8: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

MINI CLINIC--Mushroom Log Gardening

Conserving Carolina

November 12: 10:00-11:00 AM

Etowah Library Speaker Series: The Effects of Light Pollution on Wildlife

Palmetto Trail

November 13-16

Women's Outdoor Weekend

Pickens Co. and the Upstate of SC.

Highlands Biological Foundation

October 25: 8:00-9:00 AM

Morning Bird Walk

Birders of all skill levels are welcome to join us as we take an easy walk around the garden to find our feathered friends.

GNHA Hiking Club

October 25: 9:00-11:00 AM

Thompson River via Foothills Trail

Details to come.

Mushroom Mountain

October 25: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

MycoBlitz

In this LOW-COST event, you'll have the opportunity to learn all about growing mushrooms.

Hagood Mill Historic Site

October 25: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Native American Plant Medicine Class

Join us for a hands-on workshop led by herbalist and educator Donna MotherHerb, exploring the powerful traditions of Native American healing plants.

Highlands Biological Foundation

October 25: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Black Bear Bonanza! (All Day Drop-In)

Join us at the Nature Center for drop-in learning about black bears!

GNHA Hiking Club

October 26: 8:30 AM-4:30 PM

Sassafras Mtn. 12-mile Hike (GNHA Club + Make-A-Wish Training Hike)

GCBC

November 15: 8:00-10:30 AM

(Shorter Walk)

November 15: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM

(Longer Walk)

Conestee Nature Preserve

SC Botanical Garden Events

October 30: 4:30-6:00 PM

November 13: 4:30-6:00 PM

SCBG Junior Naturalists, Fall 2025

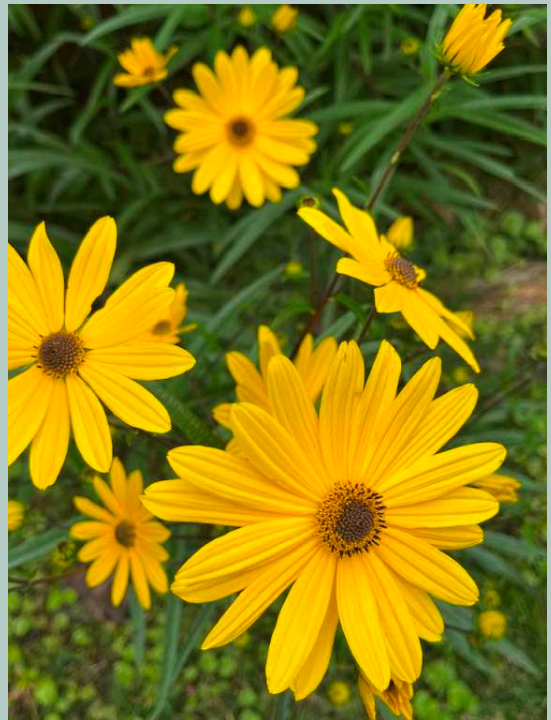
November 15: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Sustainable Landscaping, SCNP Core Class

November 15: 1:00-4:00 PM

Nature Center Open House: Creatures of the Night

BORROWED GLIMPSES



Helianthus angustifolius, a.k.a.
swamp sunflower

Photo by Betsy George

Starting at the Laurel Valley Parking area, we will hike up to the top of Sassafras Mountain and continue on the FHT to the Cantrell camp site, returning the same way after lunch.

SC Botanical Garden Events

October 24: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Wetland Ecology, SCNP Elective

In this course, you will learn the basic science behind defining wetland and riparian habitats and the special features that characterize these ecosystems in our region.

October 25: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Tree Identification, SCNP Core Class

Join Dan Whitten, president of the Upstate Chapter of the SCNPS and become familiar with our native trees, shrubs and woody vines by learning to recognize their bark, leaves, twigs, fruit, and form.

October 25: 1:00-4:00 PM

Nature Center Open House: Nature's Clean-up Crew

In this open house we'll take a close-up look at fungi (decomposers), millipedes and woodlice (detritivores) and vultures (scavengers).



Photo by Dan Whitten



Photo by Kerry McKenzie

The Jocassee Wild Child FUNDRAISER

**is 15.24% of the way
to the
\$75,000 goal.**

**THANK YOU to all who donated
this past week!**

DONATE TODAY!

Or mail to:

**Jocassee Wild Outdoor Education
PO Box 582
Salem, SC 29676**

Current conditions at Lake
Jocassee via Devils Fork State
Park Webcam
Sponsored by
Friends of Jocassee



Photo by James Hurt

***Cathartes aura* turkey vulture,
Photo by James Hurt**



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?

Approximately 97 4th graders from Six Mile Elementary will be participating in a Jocassee Wild Child Outdoor Lab Experience this coming week. It's going to be a wild week!

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!