

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!

**JOCASSEE WILD HAS BEEN
OFFERED A GRANT MATCH OF UP
TO \$75,000.00!**

**Make DOUBLE the difference with
YOUR donation!**

**Stay tuned to learn who has made
this generous offer!
DONATE TODAY!**

Harvey

Her name was Harvey. She appeared between steps and banister one mid-September morning when the rising sun slanted through the porch and illuminated her perfect web. We stopped in our tracks, not willing to damage her handiwork; carefully, we traced our fingers under the orb, feeling for her long anchor threads. Remarkably, there were none. This little creature with her two-tone legs had carefully created a wide-V of a web, so we could walk through and descend the steps without interfering with her breakfast plans. Did a spider consciously judge the height of my dear husband, and spin her web just above that height? Because that's how it appeared to us! ~K



Support Jocassee Wild Child!



**Harvey the orb-weaving spider.
a.k.a. Araneus cavaticus
a.k.a. Barn spider**

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**

Cool Season Tours Begin Oct. 1

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**

PRIVATE TOURS
ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE

CALL (864) 280-5501
or
BOOK ONLINE

Saturday Sunset Tours Book Now!
Time varies

Sunday Afternoon Tours
Book Now!
2:30-5:30 PM



THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE
SEPTEMBER 29, 2025

"Welcome to the Jocassee Gorges! This is YOUR place." I smiled and held my arms out toward the beautiful cloud-kissed wall of mountains in front of us. The Jocassee green waters shimmered all around. The slightly awkward 6th graders on my boat were from Oconee County. "We are going to get to know your place a little better today." Our first stop took us on a wander through a rain-softened pine forest. The Jocassee Gorges provide a welcome stopping place for migrating songbirds in the fall. I was hoping to hear some birds. We paused for a listen. Sure enough, the short whips of a wood thrush rang out and one of the boys pointed ahead on the ground where a wood thrush was busy foraging. Next we heard the chip of a hooded warbler. I showed them a picture of the bird we were hearing and exclamations of its beauty were given. "This looks like a rainforest bird, doesn't it?" I explained that this bird migrates from our temperate rainforest to the tropical rainforest every year. A little further down the path I noticed the canopy was busy with birds. I stopped the students and motioned for silence. I began making a soft pishing sound.

OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK,
SEPTEMBER 29, 2025

STATE PARK EVENTS

Oconee State Park

October 4: 10:30-11:30 AM

Art in Nature

Participants might create leaf and flower pressed bookmarks or framed art, pinecone bird feeders, painted rock creatures, nature mobiles or wind chimes using

found materials, sun prints with light-sensitive paper, or twig and yarn weaving.

Table Rock State Park

October 4: 3:00-10:00 AM

Sunrise Hike-Table Rock

After experiencing the nocturnal aspects of the forest, we will enjoy the pre-dawn sky from the outcrop as we anticipate the beauty of a new sunrise

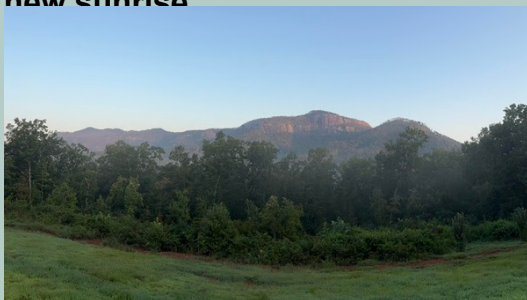


Table Rock in the morning light,
Photo by Omw Hunting

Within 30 seconds we were surrounded by birds and there right in front of us was a bright yellow hooded warbler! Even the coolest kid in the group was wide-eyed. We went on to touch jelly fungus, taste persimmons, examine coyote scat, explore river otter caves, and swim with the fish. We got a small glimpse into the rich diversity found in one amazing place. On the way back in, I asked them how nature made them feel. I got the usual answers: calm, adventurous, excited. Then the one dark-skinned boy on the boat raised his hand and said, "I feel welcomed, like I belong." ~Tricia Kyzer, JLT guide and JWC instructor.

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

September 30: 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.

NCNPS Oconee Bell Chapter

September 30: 5:30 PM

Nature Nights by the Pond

These monthly gatherings are open to everyone—bring a friend, your curiosity, and your own lawn chair! We'll hang out lakeside (weather permitting), swap native seeds and plants, and raffle off some green goodies.

Friends of the Reedy River

NEW EVENTS COMING IN OCTOBER

STATE PARK EVENTS

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

Oconee Station State Historic Site

October 18: 7:00-8:30 PM

Legends, Lore & S'mores

Oconee Station State Historic Site

October 21: 4:00-5:00 PM

Hands-on History

September 30: 6:00-7:00 PM

By the Banks: "From Tap to Toilet"

Come by Other Lands to learn how drinking water arrives at your faucet and where it goes when it exits your home in an engaging discussion with Elizabeth Pierczynski, P.E. (Greenville Water) and Tom Solon (ReWa).

Friends of Jocassee

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

Paddle Splash

Part of the Southeast Paddle Sports Championship Series, Lake Jocassee Paddle Splash is a race for kayaks, surfskis, canoes, paddleboards, and other self-powered craft.



FOJ photo

The Farm Center

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

Golden Corner Native Plant Festival, Wild for Natives

This free, family-friendly event will feature a diverse selection of native plants for sale from well-respected nurseries in our area. Our speaker lineup includes knowledgeable experts (including JLT's very own, Kay Wade) covering a range of topics sure to interest native plant enthusiasts of all experience levels.

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

SCUMS

October 6: 6:30 PM

DNA: The Secret History of Mushrooms w/ Danny Miller

Conserving Carolina

October 7, 14, 21 & 28: 9:00-11:00 AM

Pollinator Paradise Partners

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 & 23: 3:00-4:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School Club - Elementary School

Conestee Nature Preserve

October 9 & 23: 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

GNHA

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

Caesars Head State Park

GNHA

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

Raven Cliff Falls to the Suspension Bridge

Raven Cliff Falls is a spectacular waterfall on 276 just past Caesar's Head ranger station. The trail is rolling then becomes steep as we get closer to the suspension bridge where we'll stop for lunch.

Friends of Gorges State Park

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

Mountain Monarch Festival

This family-friendly event offers an experience for all with educational opportunities, interactive vendors, and more!

Chattooga Belle Farm

October 5: 4:30 PM

Farm to Table 2025

Our Farm to Table dinner is a 4-course themed meal, with each course paired with a wine from our friends at 12 Spies Vineyards.

Currahee Brewing & Chattooga Belle Farm Distillery will also be joining us for the evening!

SC Botanical Garden Events

October 2: 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).

GNHA

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

Table Rock State Park - The Stool

Conestee Nature Preserve

October 11: 10:30 AM-12:30 PM

Tree ID 101

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

Oconee History Museum

October 18: 2:00-3:00 PM

Walhalla Walking Tour

Oconee History Museum

October 24: 7:00 PM

Intriguing Tales of Crime & Punishment



SCBG photo

BORROWED GLIMPSES



Sacred moments,
Photo by Kerry McKenzie

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

Hagood Mill Historic Site

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

3rd Annual Pickens Appalachian
Folk Festival

GNHA

October 25: 9:00-11:00 AM

Thompson River via Foothills Trail

SC Botanical Garden Events

October 15: 8:30-9:30 AM

Winged Wednesdays

October 16: 4:30-6:00 PM

SCBG Junior Naturalists, Fall 2025

October 17: 10:00-11:00 AM

Friday Garden Forays

October 17: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

SCBG Nature Journaling Club

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

Wetland Ecology, SCNP Elective

October 25: 1:00-4:00 PM

Nature Center Open House:

Nature's Clean-up Crew



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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?

The Barn Spider rose to prominence in E.B. White's Charlotte's Web where it was called Charlotte A. Cavatica, the last name corresponding to its scientific name.

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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