



[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!

Christmas

Green leaves of partridge (in a pear tree) berry vining through silver (bells) tufts of (Rudolf the red-nosed) reindeer moss. (Merry) Christmas fern. Bright red holly (jolly Christmas) berries on evergreen trees. These gifts, precious as any delivered by magi who follow that familiar star on a long-ago night, are our familiars. Even in woodlands disturbed, they brighten our paths when all else is

bare-branch silhouette. We sing a litany of hosannas as we walk among these other beings; they answer with the breath that gives us life. ~K



Merry Christmas to all of you
living, breathing beings,
right down to the little leaf miner!

SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

**'Tis the Day *After* Christmas
Book Now!**

December 26: 11:00 AM-2:00 PM

**Happy New Year's Eve!
Book Now!**

December 31: 11:00 AM-2:00 PM

**PRIVATE TOURS
ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE**

CALL (864) 280-5501

WEEKLY EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Jocassee Lake Tours Book Now!

Tues, Thurs, Sat:

11:00 AM-2:00 PM

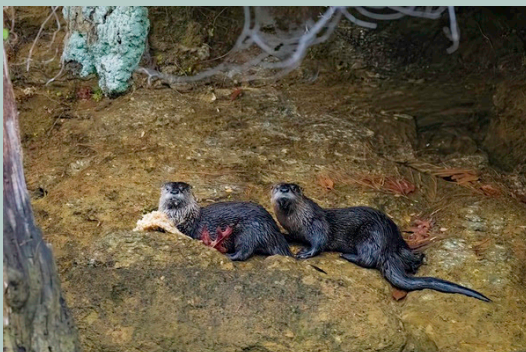
Sun. Afternoon Tours Book Now!

2:00-5:00 PM

**TUESDAYS are FREE admission
to Devils Fork State Park!**

or

BOOK ONLINE



THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE DECEMBER 22, 2025

As we head into this beautiful winter season, one thing you can count on seeing on Jocassee this time of year are our winter birds. On Wednesday, Zach saw 6 eagles, Matt caught a glimpse of a

OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK, DECEMBER 22, 2025

STATE PARK EVENTS

Oconee State Park

December 1-January 10: 6:00-10:00 PM

Holiday Light Show

Take a festive drive through the lake loop of the campground, where dazzling displays and twinkling lights create a winter wonderland right here in the park.



Come out, turn the heat up,
the Christmas music on;
roll down the windows and smell
the campfires as you enjoy the
magic of the season at OSP.

Photo by @morgan_munn

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

December 23: 1:00-3:00 PM

Pollinator Paradise Partners

If you enjoy gardening and want
to help create a beautiful,

bufflehead hanging out in a group of horned grebes and my boat was lucky enough, in addition to seeing loons, gulls and kingfishers, to catch a glimpse of two shy river otters. The Winter solstice and season of giving is upon us. Nature and humans alike are commemorating this in various ways. These animals with their specialized skills have chosen to call Jocassee home, even if just for the winter for some of them. So have we... This temperate rainforest provides security for them in so many ways. Abundant food, a mild climate, clean water, ample shelter and a space free from too much development, where they can thrive. We're equally fortunate to live and work in this beautiful area of the upstate. And as such, we have a true responsibility as a community to make sure that we take care of this spectacular place. Thank you for loving, caring and contributing to it like you do. As a constant reminder, I keep a copy of a verse on my desk... "To whom much has been given, much is required". I get to see this practiced every day with this much-loved group I work with and the folks that come out on the lake with us. Quite possibly these animals sense how much we care, as well. At least it's nice to think that.

Season's greetings to you all
~Sheryl White, JLT naturalist guide.

NEW EVENTS COMING IN DECEMBER/JANUARY

STATE PARK EVENT

welcoming space for pollinators and people alike, come join us as we create a pollinator garden along the scenic Oklawaha Greenway.



GNHA

December 27: 9:15 AM-4:30 PM
Silver Step, Jones Gap and Rainbow Falls Loop

This hike features Jones Gap and the beautiful Middle Saluda River.

SC Botanical Garden Events

More Events Coming Soon!



Juniperus virginiana,
Eastern Red Cedar
Photo by Sue Watts

The South Carolina Botanical Garden: A Living Story for Our Community

YOU DID IT!

Table Rock State Park

January 1: 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

First Day Hike: Stool Mountain

Gorges State Park

January 1: 10:00-10:30 AM

First Day Hike 2026: Upper Bearwallow Falls

Oconee State Park

January 1: 10:00-11:00 AM

First Day Hike: Lake Loop

Caesars Head State Park

January 1: 10:00-11:30 AM

First Day Hike: Wildcat Wayside Trail

Keowee-Toxaway State Park

January 1: 10:00-11:30 AM

First Day Hike: Natural Bridge Nature Trail

Devils Fork State Park

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

First Day 5K Ranger Run

Sadlers Creek State Park

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

First Day Hike: Multi Use Trail

Table Rock State Park

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

January 1: 1:00-3:00 PM

First Day Hike: CCC Lakeside Trail

Caesars Head State Park

January 1: 1:00-4:00 PM

First Day Hike: Raven Cliff Falls

Gorges State Park

January 1: 2:00-3:00 PM

First Day Hike: Raymond Fisher Pond

Thanks to the generosity of our community of givers, Jocassee Wild Child donations EXCEEDED the amount needed to match a \$75,000 grant from the Gutenstein Heritage Foundation, so your contributions were doubled!

THANK YOU!



IT'S JUST THE BEGINNING!

We believe these Jocassee Wild Child Outdoor Lab Experiences will cultivate a lasting love of place in these children, which will ripple outward into the communities they call home. Respect for the natural world, including other-than-human species. Deeper understanding of Earth's living systems. Leave No Trace ethics that guide care, curiosity, and stewardship.

Help us keep this good work going.

DONATE TODAY!

Or mail to:

Jocassee Wild Outdoor Education
PO Box 582
Salem, SC 29676

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

December 30: 1:00-3:00 PM

January 6 & 13: 1:00-3:00 PM

Pollinator Paradise Partners

GNHA

January 3: 8:30 AM-4:00 PM

Pinnacle/Bald Knob

Mushroom Mountain

January 6: 7:00-9:00 PM

Mushroom Hunting Made Easy:
Learn to Identify Edible Wild
Mushrooms (Live Online Class)

Friends of the Reedy River (FoRR)

January 7: 6:00-7:00 PM

By the Banks: Reedy River Speaker
Series

Conestee Nature Preserve

January 10: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Basic Trail Smarts and First Aid

Conserving Carolina

January 13: 2:00-3:30 PM

Saluda Library Speaker Series: The
Snakes of Polk and Henderson
Counties

GCBC

January 17: 8:00-10:30 AM (Shorter Walk)

January 17: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM
(Longer Walk)

Conestee Nature Preserve

SC Botanical Garden Events

January 16: 10:00-11:30 AM

Friday Garden Forays, Spring 2026



DONATE THROUGH SQUARE!

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**WATCH THE JOCASSEE WILD
CHILD PROGRAM IN ACTION!**

**Lake Jocassee via Devils Fork
State Park Webcam**



**Oh, December
Sunrise, 12.17.2025
Photo by Brooks Wade**

**Welcome winter.
Your late dawns and chilled breath
make me lazy, but I love you,
nonetheless.
~ Terri Guillemets**



**How about a youth tee shirt or
hoodie featuring the Jocassee
Wild Child mascot, Odyssey, for
your special Wild Child? Order
yours here!**

**SPONSOR A JOCASSEE WILD
CHILD TODAY!**

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on Facebook!
<https://www.facebook.com/jocasseewild>**



DID YOU KNOW?

Gold is a chemical element. Frankincense is an expensive fragrance or perfume made from trees in India and Arabia. Myrrh is a specific kind of costly perfume made from rare thorn bushes in Arabia and Ethiopia that is used as an antiseptic anointing oil and embalming fluid.

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!



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