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Greetings!

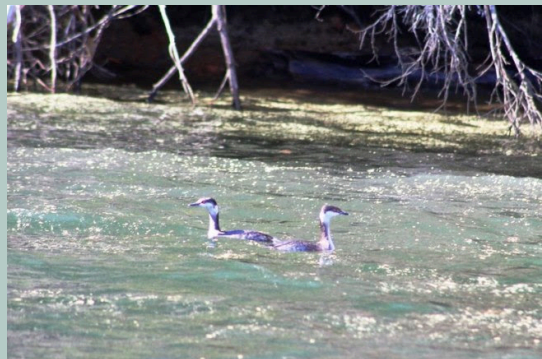


Welcome to the Blue Wall Weekly, your source for what's going on outside along the Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment. Feel free to share your own photos, videos, and adventures along the Blue Wall by sending them to the email address at the bottom of the page, and we'll do our best to make you (locally) famous!

Wet

The air this first week of December is an ocean of suspended wet. Not rain, just... wet. We swipe at boat seats one last time with a not-quite-dry towel and cover them with an almost dry blanket, admonishing "Sit! Quick! Before the seat gets wet again!" Swaddled in blankets, we cruise out into the soft gray air layering up against the great Blue Wall. Not a great time to be on Lake

Jocassee, according to a few, and the best time ever to be here, according to the majority. On this day, Bonaparte's gulls are flying lovely gyrations over this calm, smooth surface. A dozen horned grebes water-dance their way across a cove ahead of their silvery wake. An adult bald eagle drags her fish-dinner towards shore. And loons—the stars of this show—nonchalantly glide around with their big foot-paddles, hooting (but not hollering) a soft welcome to the nature-loving observers, who return from this moist day with runny noses and big smiles. ~K



Pair o'grebes

SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

'Tis the Day *After* Christmas
Book Now!
December 26: 11:00 AM-2:00 PM

Happy New Year! 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 at
Devils Fork State Park!**

or

BOOK ONLINE



Anas carolinensis,
Green-winged teal
Photo by Alan D Wilson

THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE DECEMBER 8, 2025

The false spring of early November has finally eased into more typical fall like weather but not before confusing some of the small leaf rhododendron into blooming out of season. Birds are arriving daily. Large rafts of Bonaparte's and ring-billed gulls are floating on both the surface and the breeze. We're watching grebes practice their water dance while loons peer and dive in search of a quick snack. Eagles and broad-winged hawks are taking advantage of those upper-level winds as well, surveying Jocassee from above. On Wednesday, we caught a break between the forecasted rains for our last guides day of 2025. As we were leaving the mouth of Howards Creek, to our surprise and delight, one green-winged teal, (North America's smallest dabbling duck) flew out in front of us and proceeded to swim ahead of the boat--totally undisturbed by our presence. It must have understood the intent of the day as it swam slowly along, allowing us an opportunity for a closer look. Thanks goes to Betsy Lewis, JLT Naturalist guide, for identifying it.
~ Sheryl White, JLT Naturalist guide.

OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK, DECEMBER 8, 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.

Table Rock State Park

December 13: 2:00-6:00 PM

Music on the Mountain

Enjoy traditional Blue Grass music as local musicians gather at Table Rock to keep this inspirational talent alive.



Table Rock Lodge,

NEW EVENTS COMING IN DECEMBER/JANUARY

STATE PARK EVENT

Oconee Station State Historic Site

December 16: 4:00-5:00 PM

Photo by
@upcountrysouthcarolina

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Friends of Jocassee (FOJ)

December 8: 12:00-2:00 PM

4th Quarter FOJ Adopt-A-Highway

Join us to clean up Jocassee Lake Road and the Park before the First Day Hike of 2026.

Conserving Carolina

December 9: 1:00-3:00 PM

Pollinator Paradise Partners

If you enjoy gardening and want to help create a beautiful, welcoming space for pollinators and people alike, come join us!

Conestee Nature Preserve

December 13: 8:00-10:00 AM

Birding 101: Winter Residents

The rare Rusty Blackbird will take center stage along with vultures, chickadees, and titmice. Binoculars provided.



Euphagus carolinus Rusty Blackbird,
Photo by Anthony Van Schoor

GNHA

December 13: 8:00 AM-3:00 PM

Raven Cliff Falls Overlook and the Falls Suspension Bridge Overlook

This hike is 8.2 miles with 550' EG.

GNHA

Hands on History

Oconee Station State Historic Site

December 18: 4:00-5:00 PM

Tells From the American Pen

Oconee Station State Historic Site

December 21: 3:00-4:30 PM

Frontier Fields & Festivities

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Mushroom Mountain

December 18: 2:00-3:30 PM

MM Tour

Jeanne Malmgren

December 20

Silent Hikes

Greenville County Bird Club

December 20: 8:00-10:30 AM

(Shorter Walk)

December 20: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM

(Longer Walk)

Conestee Nature Preserve

Conserving Carolina

December 21: 7:00 PM

A Nighttime Walk to Celebrate the Winter Solstice

SC Botanical Garden Events

December 17: 8:30-9:30 AM

Winged Wednesdays

December 19: 10:00-11:00 AM

Friday Garden Forays, Fall 2025

Borrowed Glimpses

December 13: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Walhalla Fish Hatchery to Spoonauger Falls-Ron Anderson

On this hike we will descend the East Fork Trail to the Chattooga River and turn south. We will go to Spoonauger Falls trail to the falls, eat lunch and return the way we came.

Hagood Mill Historic Site

December 13: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Plant Medicine 102a: Let's Make Ointments, Salves, and Lotions

This interactive class combines outdoor foraging, plant identification, and traditional herbal remedy-making.

Conestee Nature Preserve

December 13: 10:30-11:30 AM

Playscape Open House-Where the Wild Things Are

Open houses provide an opportunity for kids to interact with Conestee staff and volunteers at stations around the Playscape that provide a look at the seasonal changes the kids may see in nature.

Friends of Jocassee (FOJ)

December 13: 11:00 AM-12:15 PM

December Jocassee Fireside Chat: Bat Research Expedition

Come and learn all about bats with Dr. Susan Loeb at Stumhouse Tunnel in Walhalla, SC while also viewing Isaqueena Falls (and learning about the legend behind the name).

SC Botanical Garden Events

December 11: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

SCBG Nature Journaling Club



Team building with a few of our dedicated group on JLT guides day.

Photo by Steve Lewis

JOCASSEE WILD CHILD NEEDS YOU!

WILL we, or will we not, match the potential \$75,000 grant from Gutenstein Heritage Foundation? WE'RE SO CLOSE.

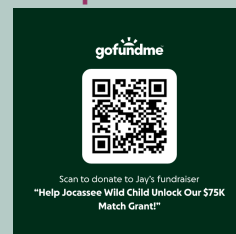
Deadline is December 15th.

DONATE TODAY!

Or mail to:

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

THANK YOU to all who sponsored a child or a classroom this past week!



DONATE THROUGH GOFUNDME!



DONATE THROUGH SQUARE!

Whether you are just getting started or are a seasoned nature journaler, this club is a great way to nurture and grow your journaling practice.



Journaling is an excellent way to hone your powers of observation!

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



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



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!**

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

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



DID YOU KNOW?

Jocassee Lake Tours will donate a **FREE** four hour tour for up to eight people, **CATERED**, for any \$10,000 donation to Jocassee Wild Child between now and December 15!

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!



JOCASSEE
REAL ESTATE
Dream it. Live it.

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