



[Gmail messages are clipped.]

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

Greetings!

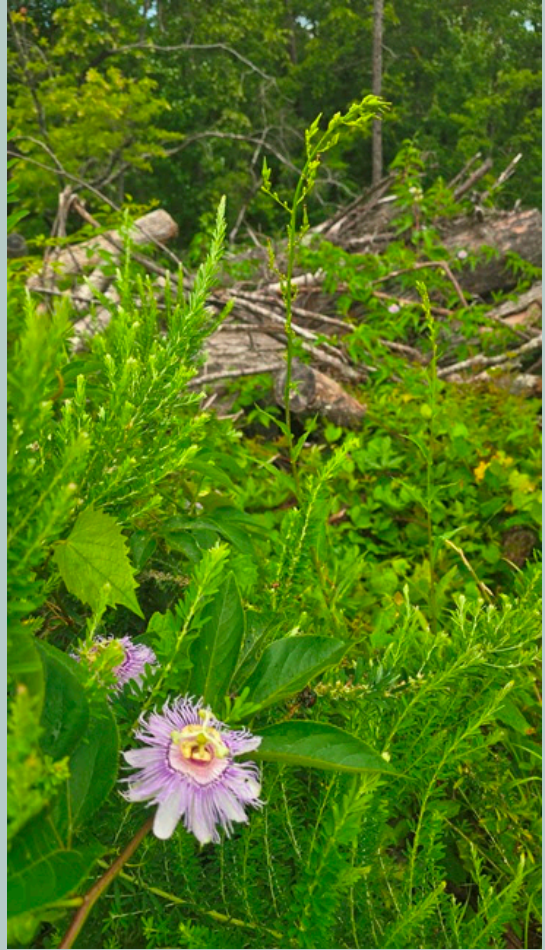


Welcome to the Blue Wall Weekly, your source for what's going on outside along the Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment. Feel free to share your own photos, videos, and adventures along the Blue Wall by sending them to the email address at the bottom of the page, and we'll do our best to make you (locally)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

Walking With Dog

Sometimes, when Devils Fork Park is unexpectedly full of humans and pets, a few laps walked around an uncrowded overflow parking lot is good enough for Mica and me. Mica, still magnificent, just had her 12th birthday, and she leads with joyful canine determination to never grow old. Surrounding this parking lot is landscape gone wild. Huge wind rows of trunks and branches from Hurricane Helene

sink back towards earth. Thick blackberry brambles camouflage the slow process of rot. Purple mandalas of passion flowers insist on adding decoration. A dense stand of thorny black locusts has sprouted in one place; a dense stand of glorious sumac in another. Invasive Japanese climbing fern is trying to settle in, certain no one will notice. Sourwoods growing along the edge of woods scent the air with subtle perfume. Mica and I hear the sharp, single note of a bird, over here, now over there, now further down. Blue grosbeaks, a pair or more. We watch until we see birds rising and dropping through the thicket of blackberries and pine sprouts. Regrowth around a parking lot. What a fine place for a nature walk.~K



Native beauties.



**SPECIAL EVENTS WITH
JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS**

Jocassee (Family) Adventure
Camp [Book Now!](#)
June 26: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
July 10 & 17: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

**WEEKLY EVENTS WITH
JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS**

Tues., Wed., & Thurs. Lake Tours
10:00 AM-2:00 PM [Book Now!](#)
Friday Private Tours

Kayak Tours Book Now!

June 28: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

July 12: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Full 'Strawberry' Moon Rising Tour

Book Now!

June 28: 6:45-8:45 PM

July 4th Book Now!

July 4: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

"All the Falls" Tour Book Now!

July 18: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Wild River Adventure Tour Book Now!

July 19: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Foothills Trail Hiking Shuttles

4 & 6 hour tours available

Book Now!

Saturday Lake Tours

10:00 AM-2:00 PM Book Now!

Sunset Lake Tours Book Now!

June 27: 7:00-9:00 PM

July 8, 11, 15 & 19: 7:00-9:00 PM

Sunday Three Hour Tours:

10:00 AM-1:00 PM Book Now!

2:00-5:00 PM Book Now!

BOOK ONLINE

or CALL (864) 280-5501

PRIVATE TOURS ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE



Nature art made by Hudson

**THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE
JUNE 22, 2026**

**Boisterous! Energetic! Curious!
Awe-inspiring!**

Apt descriptors indeed for a pontoon trip in the Jocassee Gorges with a bunch of fun-loving kids and their families. There's nothing like exploring the splendors of Lake Jocassee with children... of all ages! Marveling at undulating waves, splashing around and sifting sand at Tahiti Beach, admiring the soft flutter of a Tiger Swallowtail (our state butterfly), and wondering about the mystery of a wild-erness that lives in this special place and within our spirits. The questions abound. How wide are an eagle's wings? How fast will this boat go? Do dragonflies really eat mosquitoes? How do they catch them? Why are

**OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK,
JUNE 22, 2026**

STATE PARK EVENTS

Table Rock State Park

June 24: 9:00-11:00 AM

Critter Chronicles

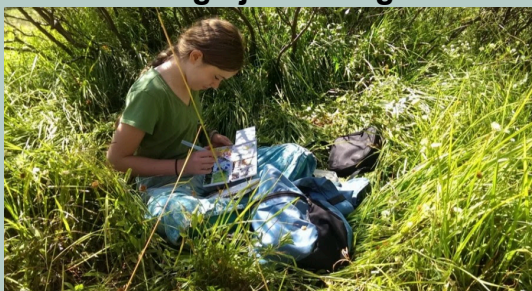
Join us as we uncover the secrets of nature, meet the creatures that call South Carolina home, and learn how we can help protect the habitats around us.

Table Rock State Park

June 24: 1:00-3:00 PM

Discover Natural Journaling

Come discover the joy of slowing down, observing closely, and building a deeper connection with nature through journaling.



Wild Wonder Foundation Photo

Table Rock State Park

June 25: 9:00-10:30 AM

Creek Detectives: Secrets of the Stream

Join us for a hands-on adventure in Carrick Creek as we search for the amazing critters that call this mountain stream home.

Oconee Station State Historic Site

June 25: 2:00-3:00 PM

Historic Building Tour

Come for a ranger-led tour of the buildings while learning about the history of the site.

Oconee State Park

June 27: 10:30 AM-12:00 PM

CCC History Stroll

these rocks so sparkly? Do you mean that these mountains used to be higher than the Alps? No way! Those fish tickled my toes! How many fish are in this lake anyway? When can we come back here again? Family adventures on Lake Jocassee are what summer is made for—giggles and bubbles, juice boxes and hugs, imagination and exhilaration. Experiencing the grandeur of one of the 50 last great natural places on Earth through the eyes and hearts of children is an incomparable experience not to be missed. Be sure to bring the kids... of all ages! ~Tony McDade, JLT Naturalist Guide

NEW EVENTS COMING IN JUNE/JULY

STATE PARK EVENTS

Oconee Station State Historic Site

June 29: 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

Historic Building Tour

Table Rock State Park

July 1, 8 & 15: 9:00-11:00 AM

Critter Chronicles

Table Rock State Park

July 2, 9 & 16: 9:00-10:30 AM

Creek Detectives: Secrets of the Stream

Caesars Head State Park

July 3: 9:00-11:00 AM

Forest Nature Walk

Oconee State Park

July 7: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Nature Scavenger Hunt

Table Rock State Park

Learn about the vital role the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) played in shaping our state parks during the Great Depression and discover several historic structures built by the enrollees themselves.

Oconee Station State Historic Site

June 27: 11:00 AM-1:00 PM

Creek Explorers

Enjoy a guided hike (2 miles round-trip) along the Station Cove Falls Trail followed by a hands-on creek exploration as we discover the fascinating world of water-dwelling creatures.

Table Rock State Park

June 27: 8:30-9:30 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.

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Hagood Mill Historic Site

June 25: 1:00-4:00 PM

Mushrooms 101

Mushrooms 101 is designed for those curious about identifying, growing, and understanding mushrooms in a safe and practical way.

Conserving Carolina

June 25: 2:00-3:30 PM

Green River Library Speaker Series: Southern Appalachians During the Ice Age

During this presentation, Dan Lazar will discuss the animals and plants that were found in this region twenty thousand years ago.

July 11: 2:00-6:00 PM

Music on the Mountain

Oconee Station State Historic Site

July 15 & 19: 11:00 AM-1:00 PM

Creek Explorers

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

June 30: 9:00-11:00 AM

July 7: 9:00-11:00 AM

Pollinator Paradise Partners

Oconee History Museum

June 30: 1:00-3:00 PM

Revolutionary Kids Day

NCNPS Oconee Bell Chapter

June 30: 5:30 PM

Nature Nights by the Pond

Highlands Biological Station

July 1: 4:00 PM

Science on the Rocks: What Trees Can Tell Us

Conestee Nature Preserve

July 1: 5:30 PM

Mindful Walk & Talk for Women

Highlands Biological Station

July 6-17

Biology of Southern Appalachian Mammals

SC Wildlife Federation

July 7: 12:00 PM

Invasive Species in SC: What Are You and Why are You Here?

Mushroom Mountain

July 7: 7:00-9:00 PM

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

**Highlands Biological Foundation,
Zahner Conservation Lectures #3**

June 25: 6:00-7:00 PM

The Blue Wall: What we know--and don't know--about Southern Appalachia's enigmatic weather-making landform

This talk will discuss both the Escarpment's well-known functions as a river divide and weather-maker and the questions surrounding its formation, history, and overall relationship to the rest of the modern-day southern Appalachian Mountains.

Upstate Forever

June 25: 6:00-8:00 PM

Inside the Process: Local Planning & State Advocacy Mixer

Join us for an evening of fun, food, and advocacy education exploring the 2026 local and state policy landscape.

Highlands Biological Station

June 26: 5:00 AM-1:00 PM

MAPS Bird Banding at HBS

Join HBS and the Blue Ridge Bird Observatory for a morning of bird banding as part of the MAPS, or Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship, program.

GNHA

June 27: 9:00 AM-4:30 PM

Chattooga River Trail--Licklog and Pigpen Falls--A Key Swap

A Key Swap is two hikes in one: We divide everyone into two groups: Upriver and Downriver Legs. Each group needs about the same number of hikers to even out the carpools and along the way, as the two groups cross

Duke Energy-World of Energy

July 9: 1:30 PM

The Critter Keeper

**Highlands Biological Foundation,
Zahner Conservation Lectures #4**

July 9: 6:00-7:00 PM

Southern Appalachian Freshwater Resilience and Recovery Post-Hurricane Helene

Hagood Mill Historic Site

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

Camp Hagood Teen Edition

Conserving Carolina

July 14: 2:00-3:30 PM

Saluda Library Speaker Series – Warblers of the Western Carolinas

Friends of the Reedy River

July 14: 6:00-7:30 PM

By the Banks Reedy River Speaker Series

Highlands Biological Station

July 15: 4:00 PM

Science on the Rocks: Bats, Geology, and Conservation

**Highlands Biological Foundation,
Zahner Conservation Lectures #5**

July 16: 6:00-7:00 PM

The Venomous Snakes of Western North Carolina

Mushroom Mountain

July 16: 6:00-8:00 PM

Mushroom Cooking Class at MM

Conserving Carolina

July 17: 10:30 AM-12:00 PM

Walnut Creek Preserve Speaker Series: Amazing Birds of Prey

paths, the drivers conduct their “key swaps”.

Conestee Nature Preserve

June 27: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Opossums and Popsicles

Come and learn all about these often-misunderstood animals from Naomi Searle, an opossum rehabilitator, and our own Preserve staff.



CNP Photo

Hagood Mill Historic Site

June 27: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Beginner Foraging Class

The class includes a brief classroom session followed by a guided foraging walk around the beautiful Hagood Mill campus.

Oconee History Museum

June 27: 1:00-2:00 PM

What is Carolina Day

Director/Curator Jennifer E. Moss will showcase the history of Carolina Day, which has direct connections to the American Revolution, and why it is so important to South Carolina.

SC Botanical Garden Events

June 26: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

July 18: 7:00 AM-12:00 PM (Longer Walk)

July 18: 8:00-10:30 AM (Shorter Walk)

Conestee Nature Preserve

Conestee Nature Preserve

July 18: 9:30-11:30 AM

Pollinators in Action: Flutter and Buzz into Community Science

Sierra Club South Carolina

July 18: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

Hike in Dupont State Forest

SC Botanical Garden Events

July 13-17: 8:30 AM-3:00 PM

Time Traveler’s Camp

Borrowed Glimpses



Sourwood season!

Invasive Plants & Pests/Diseases

Join Sharleen Johnson, founder of Native Plants to the People LLC, for a day of learning about the subset of non-native plants and plant-pests/diseases that are most harmful to SC's native plant communities, wildlife, and local biodiversity.



Invasive Paulownia tomentosa,
a.k.a. the Princess tree



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

Lake Jocassee Webcam

DID YOU KNOW?

The South Carolina Exotic Plant Pest Council ranks Japanese climbing fern, *Lygodium japonica*, as a severe threat. One of its dangers is spreading ground fire into tree canopies. [Learn more here!](#)

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!**

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**Camp Glamp
at
Lake Jocassee**



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