



[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!

Storms

The warning signs are there. It begins with a distant grumble, a closer rumble. Air hangs hot, sullen and heavy under a sky that grows darker and more threatening by the minute. Electricity brightens the world one second and deepens shadows the next. Then comes wind, first in a menacing dance with treetops,



then blowing chill air across earth. Then comes rain... fat, stinging drops that smack hard against leaves, glass, pavement. There is breakage. There is erosion. But then violent energy, which can only last so long, is exhausted. Blue sky takes over storm clouds, and tranquility is restored. And, sometimes, the storm leaves us with a rainbow. ~K

Storms: they roll in...



And they roll away again!

SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Jocassee (Family) Adventure
Camp [Book Now!](#)

July 17, 24 & 31:

10:00 AM-2:00 PM

August 7: 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

August 16: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Kayak Tours [Book Now!](#)

July 26: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

August 9: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Full ‘Buck’ Moon Rising Tour
[Book Now!](#)

July 28: 6:45-8:45 PM

Snorkel Adventure Tour
[Book Now!](#)

August 2 & 30: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

**JOCASSEE WILD NATURALIST
CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

WEEKLY EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

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

Friday Private Tours

4 & 6 hour tours available

[Book Now!](#)

Saturday Lake Tours

10:00 AM-2:00 PM [Book Now!](#)

Sunset Lake Tours [Book Now!](#)

July 8, 11, 15 & 18: 7:00-9:00 PM

July 22, 25 & 29: 6:45-8:45 PM

August 1: 6:45-8:45 PM

August 8: 6:30-8:30 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](#)

[Foothills Trail Hiking Shuttles](#)



Excuse me... do you mind?
I'm trying to sunbathe!! 😊
Nerodia sipedon, Northern water
snake, Photo by Kerry McKenzie

THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE JULY 13, 2026

Meet one of Jocassee's most misunderstood inhabitants: the Northern Water Snake! Just look at that sweet face! Listen, ya'll..... these snakes are nonvenomous and play an important role in keeping aquatic ecosystems healthy by feeding on fish, frogs, and other small critters. They are not cottonmouths! We don't have cottonmouths on Jocassee! 😊 When threatened, they may flatten their heads and put on a dramatic show, but they're usually just hoping you'll give them a little space.

🌿 Nature lesson of the day: Not everything that looks "scary" is dangerous and every creature has a role to play in a healthy ecosystem! ~Kerry McKenzie, JLT naturalist guide and JWC director

OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK, JULY 13, 2026

STATE PARK EVENTS

Oconee Station State Historic Site

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

Creek Explorers

Enjoy a guided hike along the Station Cove Falls Trail followed by a hands-on creek exploration

NEW EVENTS COMING IN JULY/AUGUST

STATE PARK EVENTS

Gorges State Park

August 4-November 3: 9:00-11:00 AM

Native Plant Gardens Volunteer Day.

as we discover the fascinating world of water-dwelling creatures.

Table Rock State Park

July 15: 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

July 16: 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.



Ischnura elegans Eastern forktail damselfly, Photo by Walter Sanford, Justforfishing

Table Rock State Park

July 17: 9:00-11:00 AM

Discover Nature Journaling

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

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

July 14: 2:00-3:30 PM

Gorges State Park

July 21: 10:00-11:00 AM

History of the Gorges Hike

Table Rock State Park

July 22 & 29: 9:00-11:00 AM

Critter Chronicles

Gorges State Park

July 23: 9:00-10:00 AM

National Moth Week Moth Hunt

Table Rock State Park

July 23 & 30: 9:00-10:30 AM

Creek Detectives: Secrets of the Stream

Table Rock State Park

July 24 & 31 : 9:00-11:00 AM

Discover Nature Journaling

Table Rock State Park

July 24 & 29: 8:00-9:30 PM

Moonlight Float

Table Rock State Park

July 25: 9:30-10:30 AM

Microscopic Mysteries

Oconee State Park

July 25: 10:30-11:30 AM

Nature Stroll

Table Rock State Park

July 25: 8:30-9:30 PM

Bat Watch

Gorges State Park

July 30: 10:00-11:00 AM

Micro Hike

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

Saluda Library Speaker Series – Warblers of the Western Carolinas
Kevin Burke will review and talk about everything warbler in this fun photographic tour of “our” warblers.



Conserving Carolina Photo

Friends of the Reedy River

July 14: 6:00-7:30 PM

By the Banks Reedy River Speaker Series: Riverside Sanctuaries, Safe Water, and Salamanders!

Grab a brew and hear from scientists, storytellers, and the river experts about everything from local ecology to urban runoff.

Highlands Biological Station

July 15: 4:00 PM

Science on the Rocks: Bats, Geology, and Conservation with Cam McClellan

Cam’s research considers how geological context can shape the way we understand bat ecology and conservation needs, encouraging us to look not only at the species themselves, but also

July 21: 6:00 PM

Landrum Library Speaker Series: Nature’s Cabinet of Curiosities

Oconee History Museum

July 21: 6:00 PM

Revolutionary Reads: The Life and Times of General Andrew Pickens

Duke Energy-World of Energy

July 22: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Wednesdays at the World of Energy.

Highlands Biological Station

July 22: 4:00-5:00 PM

Science on the Rocks: Glow Worms of the Highlands Plateau

Conserving Carolina

July 23: 2:00-3:30 PM

Green River Library Speaker Series: Hummingbirds – Flying Jewels

Highlands Biological Station, Zahner Conservation Lectures #6

July 23: 6:00-7:00 PM

Andre’ Michaux in North America: Revealing the Botanical Treasures of the Carolinas

SC Wildlife Federation

July 24-26: 9:00 AM-8:00 PM

2026 Wild Summer Nights Online Auction

Mushroom Mountain

July 25: 10:00-11:30 AM

MM Farm Tour--Fungi & Fireflies

Hagood Mill Historic Site

July 25: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Beginner Foraging Class

at the physical landscapes that support them.

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

July 16: 6:00-7:00 PM

**The Venomous Snakes of Western
North Carolina**

Learn how to identify the venomous species, how to react if you see one, and find out why we actually need these snake species in our forest ecosystem.

Mushroom Mountain

July 16: 6:00-8:00 PM

Mushroom Cooking Class at MM

Join MM's own Olga Katic for a delicious and educational hands-on mushroom cooking experience.

Palmetto Trail

July 16: 6:30-8:00

**Trail Talks with Cricket Barnett, VP
of Operations for Visit Oconee**

Visit Oconee is a destination marketing organization designed to highlight the spectacular natural assets and promote local events, entertainment venues, museums, shops, restaurants and lodging.

Conserving Carolina

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

**Walnut Creek Preserve Speaker
Series: Amazing Birds of Prey
with Jeff Curtis, Curtis Wright
Falconry**

Learn about these birds' remarkable characteristics and adaptations. You'll also be introduced to the ancient art of

Hagood Mill Historic Site

July 25: 1:00-4:00 PM

Mushrooms 101

**Chattooga Conservancy/Chattooga
Belle Farm**

July 25: 6:00-10:00 PM

Stay Wild Celebration & Fundraiser

NCNPS Oconee Bell Chapter

July 28: 5:00-7:00 PM

Nature Nights by the Pond

SC Wildlife Federation

July 30: 12:00 PM

Intro to Caterpillars

**Highlands Biological Station,
Zahner Conservation Lectures #7**

July 30: 6:00-7:00 PM

**Connecting Appalachia: Wildlife
Connectivity, Corridors, and Road
Crossings**

Friends of Jocassee (FOJ)

July 31: 9:30 AM

**Jocassee Fireside Chat on Oaks in
the Upstate**

**Highlands Biological Station,
Zahner Conservation Lectures #8**

August 6: 6:00-7:00 PM

**Plastic Pollution on the Plateau: An
Overview of Microplastics
Research in the Southern
Appalachians**

Foothills Trail Conservancy

August 8: 8:30 AM-2:30 PM

Big Bend "Area" Hike

SC Botanical Garden Events

More Events Coming Soon!

falconry and its long-standing human connection, gaining insight into the vital role raptors play in our environment.

Sierra Club South Carolina

July 17: 10:30 AM

Hike to Get Wet with the Foothills Group: Riley Moore Falls

This is a popular trail for birding, hiking and walking. The drop of the Falls is only 12', but it has an almost 100' span across the river with a swimming hole at its base.

GCBC

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

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

Conestee Nature Preserve

Longer walk- Meet behind the baseball stadium to bird a variety of paved and natural surface trails. Shorter walk- Meet at the Spanco Drive parking area next to the old Conestee Mill and Dam to bird a section of the paved trail.

Foothills Trail Conservancy

July 18: 9:00 AM

Jocassee Boat, FHT, Swim Outing

Join FTC Board member and Jocassee Wild Child Director, Kerry McKenzie, on a combination scenic boat ride, Foothills Trail hike, and fun swim in the lake!

Conestee Nature Preserve

July 18: 9:30-11:30 AM

Pollinators in Action: Flutter and Buzz into Community Science

All ages are invited to come learn about the lives and variety of

Borrowed Glimpses



This is the kind of freedom we hope every child experiences. Here's to a future where every child knows joy, wonder, and hope.

pollinators in Greenville County, identify common flower visitors, impacts of stormwater pollution, and step into community science with Greenville County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Sierra Club South Carolina

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

Hike in Dupont State Forest

Join us for this 2.5-mile hike in the D.S. Forest. Wear good hiking shoes and bring lots of water as the July temps may be high.

Mushroom Mountain

July 18-19: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Wild Mushroom Foraging Certification Course

Earn your 5-year Wild Mushroom Foraging Permit, formally approved by state health departments for the legal harvesting and sale of wild mushrooms in the following states: SC, NC, GA, VA, AL, PA, NY, and RI.

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

Time Traveler's Camp

Explore everyday life for antebellum South Carolinians! We'll learn about the houses they lived in, the clothes they wore, the food they ate and the games they played.



SCBG photo



Theo couldn't resist the chance to check out this mud puddle...



and off he goes, on to the next adventure...a true Jocassee Wild Child.



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



From all of us at JLT,
thank you for choosing to share
part of America's 250th
Anniversary with us.



[Lake Jocassee Webcam](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

On Saturday, June 11, NOAA's National Weather Service announced that El Nino has developed in the tropical Pacific. El Nino tends to be strongest during the winter months, and its global impacts are typically most significant in the northern hemisphere winter. Stormier weather is more likely in the Southern U.S., with chances of both rain and snow increased during El Nino winters. There may be changes in the migration of fish and other oceanic organisms, with warm water species moving north while cold water species move farther north or into deeper waters. These behavioral changes impact growth, survival, and reproduction.

~[NOAA](#)

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-laketours.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!**