

[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!

Bear

A little past eight pm, and the sky outside holds plenty of light. I'm inside, working on this newsletter. I'm positioned so I can watch finches and hummingbirds at the feeders outside these over-sized windows. Movement catches my eye. I look up in time to see a black bear--a big one--step politely over the three foot gate at the top of our steps. The front door is open. There is a black bear--a big one--

on our porch, Surely he means no harm. (Surely it's a he? So brazen, in the light of early evening?) But, down on all fours, his back is well above the three foot porch rail. Adrenaline snatches me to my feet, rushes me to the door. "NOOO! GO!" I shriek. Bear turns to look at this crazy shrieker. I open the storm door a few inches and slam it, hard. Twice. Bear wants nothing to do with this and, instead of stepping back over the gate, breaks right through it. Poor bear. Sorry I scared you! ~K



Not my bear. Not my porch.
But you get the idea!
Photo by Julie McKenna, Fisher
Knob

SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

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

July 24 (full) & 31: 10:00 AM-2:00
PM

August 7 & 14: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Kayak Tours [Book Now!](#)

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

August 9 & 23: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

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

July 28: 6:45-8:45 PM (Buck Moon)

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 28: 6:45-8:45 PM (Sturgeon Moon)

Snorkel Adventure Tour
[Book Now!](#)

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

“All the Falls” Tour [Book Now!](#)
August 15: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Wild River Adventure Tour [Book Now!](#)

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

JOCASSEE WILD NATURALIST
CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Introductory Class [Book Now!](#)

August 25: 10:00 AM-2:00 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](#)



Photo by Kerry McKenzie

THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE JULY 20, 2026

One of our favorite Jocassee Wild Child traditions is making a Mica Wish! Ever wondered what that sparkly, glittery "magic" is shimmering beneath the clear waters and along the sandy shores of Lake Jocassee? It's mica.....a beautiful mineral found throughout our Blue Ridge Mountains. Each child chooses a piece of mica, holds it close, closes their eyes and makes a wish. Some Cherokee traditions tell of mica reflecting light and carrying prayers or wishes heavenward. Whether it's legend or simply a beautiful story, it reminds us to slow down, wonder, and dream. Does mica really make wishes come true? We can't say for sure... but it always seems to make children's eyes sparkle just as

**OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK,
JULY 20, 2026**

STATE PARK EVENTS

Gorges State Park

July 21: 10:00-11:00 AM

History of the Gorges Hike

Join a Ranger to learn the story of how GSP came to be and take a guided hike down the Bearwallow Valley Trail to the overlook deck to catch some views.

Table Rock State Park

July 22: 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.

Gorges State Park

July 23: 9:00-10:00 AM

National Moth Week Moth Hunt

Join park staff at a lightsheeting station to learn about moths and their habits, play moth bingo, and learn about how you can help scientists using iNaturalist!



GSP Photo

Table Rock State Park

July 23: 9:00-10:30 AM

Creek Detectives: Secrets of the Stream

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

brightly. ~Kerry McKenzie, JLT
Naturalist Guide and JWC Director

NEW EVENTS COMING IN JULY/AUGUST

STATE PARK EVENTS

Table Rock State Park

July 29: 8:00-9:30 PM

Moonlight Float

Table Rock State Park

July 29: 9:00-11:00 AM

Critter Chronicles

Table Rock State Park

July 30: 9:00-10:30 AM

Creek Detectives: Secrets of the Stream

Gorges State Park

July 30: 10:00-11:00 AM

Micro Hike

Table Rock State Park

July 31: 9:00-11:00 AM

Discover Nature Journaling

Gorges State Park

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

Native Plant Gardens Volunteer Day

Table Rock State Park

August 8: 2:00-6:00 PM

Music on the Mountain

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

July 28: 9:00-11:00 AM

August 4: 9:00-11:00 AM

Pollinator Paradise Partners

NCNPS Oconee Bell Chapter

Table Rock State Park

July 24: 9:00-11:00 AM

Discover Nature Journaling

Whether you enjoy sketching, writing, making observations, or simply noticing the small details in nature, this beginner-friendly program encourages creativity, curiosity, and mindfulness at your own pace.

Table Rock State Park

July 24: 8:00-9:30 PM

Moonlight Float

Join a park naturalist for a paddle around Lake Pinnacle as night falls. Discover a calmer, cooler time of day at Table Rock and take in the beautiful mountain scenery and moonlit sky.

Table Rock State Park

July 25: 9:30-10:30 AM

Microscopic Mysteries

You never know what mysteries you'll uncover when you see nature through a different lens!

Oconee State Park

July 25: 10:30-11:30 AM

Nature Stroll

Each walk is unique, offering the chance to discover fungi, wildflowers, wildlife, and seasonal changes along the trail, so come explore the outdoors through the eyes of a park ranger.

Table Rock State Park

July 25: 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.

July 28: 5:00-7:00 PM

Nature Nights by the Pond

Hagood Mill Historic Site

July 28: 5:30-6:30 PM

Afternoon Foraging Walk for Beginners Class

Highlands Biological Station

July 29: 5:00 AM-1:00 PM

MAPS Bird Banding at HBS

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

SCNPS Upstate

July 30: 6:30-8:00 PM

Upstate Social Gathering & Membership Drive at Southernside Brewing Co.

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

Sierra Club South Carolina

August 6: 6:30-8:00 PM

Annual Picnic and Potluck

Foothills Trail Conservancy

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Friends of Reedy River (FoRR)

July 21: 9:00-10:00 AM

Wetlands Talk with City of Greenville

Come learn why wetlands matter, how they support the environment, and what lives there.

Conserving Carolina

July 21: 6:00 PM

Landrum Library Speaker Series: Nature's Cabinet of Curiosities with Tim Lee

Join us as we explore Nature and find it filled with things that spark our curiosity.

Oconee History Museum

July 21: 6:00 PM

Revolutionary Reads: The Life and Times of General Andrew Pickens

This month's selection is "The Life & Times of General Andrew Pickens" by Dr. Rod Andrew, Jr. We will discuss the book and the relating history to the area.

Highlands Biological Station

July 22: 4:00-5:00 PM

Science on the Rocks: Glow Worms of the Highlands Plateau

Come curious, bring your questions, and settle in for a relaxed evening of science and conversation at HBS with Heather Pratt.

Conserving Carolina

July 23: 2:00-3:30 PM

Green River Library Speaker Series: Hummingbirds – Flying Jewels with Pam Torlina

Discover the astonishing world of hummingbirds—tiny, dazzling

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

Big Bend "Area" Hike

GNHA

August 8: 12:00-3:00 PM

GNHA Summer Picnic: Chau Ram County Park

Conserving Carolina

August 11: 2:00-3:00 PM

Saluda Library Speaker Series – Aerial Insectivores

Highlands Biological Station

August 12: 12:00-1:00 PM

The Flower Hunter's Trail

SC Wildlife Federation

August 13: 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Things that Flutter & Gorgeous Caterpillars at Caesars Head State Park

Mushroom Mountain

August 13: 2:00-3:30 PM

MM Farm Tour

Sierra Club South Carolina

August 15: 8:15-10:45 AM

Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup Greenville

SC Botanical Garden Events

August 7: 3:00-4:30 PM

Introduction to Nature Journaling

Borrowed Glimpses

birds whose speed, beauty, and biology defy belief.



Conserving Carolina Photo

**Highlands Biological Station,
Zahner Conservation Lectures #6**

July 23: 6:00-7:00 PM

André Michaux in North America:
Revealing the Botanical Treasures
of the Carolinas

Dana explores the remarkable legacy of 18th-century botanist André Michaux, tracing his expeditions from the Carolina coast to the Southern Appalachians and his foundational contributions to North American botany.

SC Wildlife Federation

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

2026 Wild Summer Nights Online
Auction

All proceeds support our mission to conserve and restore wildlife and habitat through education and advocacy.

SCNPS Upstate

July 25: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Mafic Geology and Plant
Communities of Oconee County

This field trip will focus on mafic communities within the Long Creek and Mountain Rest areas of the Brevard Fault zone. This area is often characterized by the presence of amphibolite, a rock



A typical summer weekend on
Jocassee Lake Road...



ahhh...but this makes the line
worthwhile.

that can be rich in calcium, magnesium, and iron.

Mushroom Mountain

July 25: 10:00-11:30 AM

MM Farm Tour--Fungi & Fireflies

When the woods hum with cicadas and the fireflies begin to dance, the fungi are quietly at work. Join us for a special summer edition of our MM Farm Tour.

Hagood Mill Historic Site

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

Beginner Foraging Class

Join us for our Beginner Foraging Class taught by Donna Putney and discover the hidden bounty growing all around you!

Hagood Mill Historic Site

July 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.

Chattooga

Conservancy/Chattooga Belle Farm

July 25: 6:00-10:00 PM

Stay Wild Celebration & Fundraiser

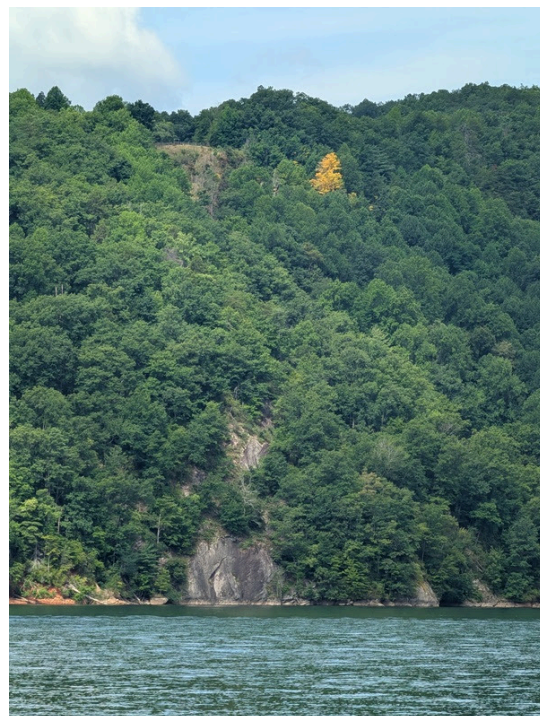
Stay Wild brings together hundreds of people who love the Chattooga River to partner in its protection while celebrating the impact the river has had on our community and our lives.

SC Botanical Garden Events

More Events Coming Soon!



The blues & the greens.
The thunder & the lightning.
The sun & the rain.
The calm & the wind.
Wild. Beautiful. Unforgettable.
Lake Jocassee.
Photo by Kerry McKenzie



It may be raining now, but this lone tulip poplar near the Bad Creek overlook speaks to the dryness of



this summer, and the stress that
puts on our native trees.



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



Lake Jocassee Webcam

DID YOU KNOW?

A bird feeder is hanging bear bait. Bears can smell bird seed from 1–2 miles away, so the best thing you can do to keep bears away is give up your bird feeding hobby and landscape with native plants that attract birds instead.

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!**

SUPPORT OUR JOCASSEE PARTNERS!

Camp Glamp
at
Lake Jocassee



JOCASSEE
— REAL ESTATE —

[Unsubscribe](#)