



[Gmail messages are clipped.]

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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!

Discovery

This child. All of eighteen months, placed into clear baptismal waters at the base of Wright Creek Falls. Grandmother captures the moment in a photo. I wish I could have captured the look on this child's face, his blond curls damp from the waterfall's spray. It is a full-face joy, transcending amazement, transcending wonder, transcending rapture. It is a look of pure... fulfillment. His is a face that

says, beyond words, that he found his place in the world, that he recognizes his place on this planet, outside, sitting on his bum in cold creek water, mica glistening at his feet, witnessing the majesty of a waterfall. ~K



SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Full Moon Rising Tour [Book Now!](#)
July 28: 6:45-8:45 PM (Buck Moon)
August 28: 6:45-8:45 PM (Sturgeon Moon)

Jocassee (Family) Adventure Camp [Book Now!](#)
July 31: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
August 7 & 14: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Snorkel Adventure Tour [Book Now!](#)
August 2 & 30: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Kayak Tours [Book Now!](#)
August 9 & 23: 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

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 29: 6:45-8:45 PM
August 1: 6:45-8:45 PM
August 8 & 15: 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**

JOCASSEE WILD NATURALIST
CERTIFICATION PROGRAM
Introductory Class Book Now!
August 25: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

[PRIVATE TOURS ARE ALWAYS
AVAILABLE](#)

[Foothills Trail Hiking Shuttles](#)



Showy blooms on the Devil's
Walkingstick,
Photo by J.K. Marlow



Beware the Prickles,
Photo by J.K. Marlow

THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE JULY 27, 2026

Now is the time to notice a quite showy plant, Devil's Walkingstick or *Aralia spinosa*. This is a woody shrub to a small tree with large compound leaves arranged bipinnately. The leaf is attached to the trunk and can be two to four feet long and three feet wide making it the biggest leaf of any plant that is not a member of the palm family. At the top of the plant, we now are seeing the beach ball size cluster of whitish flowers in a terminal panicle. These attract every type of pollinator you can think of including flies, bees, wasps, butterflies, moths and more. This is an "armed and dangerous" plant. With a specific epithet like "*spinosa*", you'd think it would have spines. But the plant technically has prickles, (think roses, greenbriers and blackberries). Prickles are epidermal and wide at the base but thin and sharp at the tip. All of us that have picked blackberries have removed prickles from our skin that have broken off the "skin" of the blackberry canes. Devil's Walkingstick likes to grow on edges whether they be forest edges, roadsides or the shores of Lake Jocassee. They usually have a straight trunk, like a walking stick, with foliage above and

**OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK,
JULY 27, 2026**

STATE PARK EVENTS

Table Rock State Park

July 29: 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.

Oconee Station State Historic Site

July 29: 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.



Photo by John Harmon

Table Rock State Park

July 29: 8:00-9:30 PM

Moonlight Float

Join a park naturalist for a paddle around Lake Pinnacle as night falls.

Gorges State Park

July 30: 10:00-11:00 AM

Micro Hike

Join a ranger for a slow, short hike to focus on the micro-world on the trail: bugs, mosses, rocks, and more!

Oconee Station State Historic Site

July 30: 2:00-3:30 PM

flowers topping it all. But only the Devil could hold onto this armed stick. The fruits are black drupes with red stems that are also attractive a little later. They don't taste good to me, but birds sure seem to like them. The next time you see this plant, try to come close to hear the hum of furious activity and count how many insect species you see busy at work. But just don't grab one when you are about to slide down a steep hillside. ~Dan Whitten, JLT Naturalist Guide

NEW EVENTS COMING IN AUGUST

STATE PARK EVENTS

Gorges State Park

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

Native Plant Gardens Volunteer Day

Table Rock State Park

August 5 & 12: 9:00-11:00 AM

Critter Chronicles

Table Rock State Park

August 6, 13 & 20: 9:00-10:30 AM

Creek Detectives: Secrets of the Stream

Table Rock State Park

August 7, 14 & 21: 9:00-11:00 AM

Discover Nature Journaling

Table Rock State Park

August 8: 2:00-6:00 PM

Music on the Mountain

Oconee State Park

August 22: 10:00-11:30 AM

CCC History Stroll

Historic Building Tour

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

Table Rock State Park

August 1: 9:30-10:30 AM

Microscopic Mysteries

Join us as we venture outdoors to collect interesting natural specimens, then head inside to investigate our discoveries under microscopes.

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Highlands Biological Station

July 27: 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.

Highlands Biological Station

July 27: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Botany Bootcamp with Dr. Paul Manos, Duke University

Botany Bootcamp is an engaging, hands-on workshop designed to introduce participants to the remarkable diversity of plant life found on the Highlands Plateau.

Conserving Carolina

July 28: 9:00-11:00 AM

Pollinator Paradise Partners

If you enjoy gardening (or the idea of gardening), and want to help create a beautiful, welcoming space for pollinators and people alike, come join us!

NCNPS Oconee Bell Chapter

July 28: 5:00-7:00 PM

Nature Nights by the Pond

Oconee Station State Historic Site

August 22: 8:15-9:15 PM

Candlelight Tour

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

August 4: 9:00-11:00 AM

Pollinator Paradise Partners

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

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

Whether you're a native plant lover, a nature newbie, or just want to enjoy some chill vibes with your neighbors, come be part of the fun! Bring a friend, your curiosity, and your own lawn chair!

Hagood Mill Historic Site

July 28: 5:30-6:30 PM

Afternoon Foraging Walk for Beginners Class

Join Donna Putney, Certified Holistic Nutrition Practitioner (CHNP), for our Beginner's Wild Plant Identification & Foraging Walk at HMHS.

SC Wildlife Federation

July 30: 12:00 PM

Intro to Caterpillars

Join Jay Keck, SCWF's Industry Habitat Manager, for an introduction to the fascinating world of caterpillars and their essential role in South Carolina's ecosystems.



SCWF Photo

Highlands Biological Station, Zahner Conservation Lectures #7

July 30: 6:00-7:00 PM

Connecting Appalachia: Wildlife connectivity, Corridors, and Road Crossings

This talk explores efforts to understand and improve wildlife connectivity across the Appalachian region, from local

Mushroom Mountain

August 13: 2:00-3:30 PM

MM Farm Tour

Conserving Carolina

August 13: 5:30-7:00 PM

Green Drinks: Mushrooms of the Forest: Ecology, Edibility, and Connections

GCBC

August 15: 7:00 AM-12:00 PM

(Longer walk)

August 15: 8:00-10:30 AM (Shorter walk)

Conestee Nature Preserve

Sierra Club South Carolina

August 15: 8:15-10:45 AM

Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup Greenville

Conserving Carolina

August 18: 6:00 PM

Landrum Library Speaker Series: The Fall Raptor Migration in our South Carolina Mountains

Palmetto Trail

August 20: 6:00-8:00 PM

Upstate Trail Talk

Conestee Nature Preserve

August 22: 11:00 AM-2:00 PM

Drop in for the Great Southeast Pollinator Census

SC Botanical Garden Events

August 7: 3:00-4:30 PM

Introduction to Nature Journaling

August 21-November 13: 10:00 AM-12:30 PM

road crossing projects to large-scale corridor planning.

SCNPS Upstate

July 30: 6:30-8:00 PM

Upstate Social Gathering & Membership Drive at Southernside Brewing Co.

Current members—bring a friend! Join us for a relaxed social gathering and help spread the word about SCNPS.

Friends of Jocassee (FOJ)

July 31: 9:30 AM

Jocassee Fireside Chat on Oaks in the Upstate

Come to our July Jocassee Fireside Chat at Devils Fork State Park (Shelter #1) to learn all about the Oaks of the Upstate and why they are important to the Jocassee Gorges.

SC Botanical Garden Events

More Events Coming Soon!



SCBG Photo

SCBG Nature Journaling Club, Fall 2026

August 21: 3:30-5:30 PM

Great Southeastern Pollinator Census 2026

Borrowed Glimpses



The slide at Jackie's Branch is a 'must do', at least once.

Photo shared by Carol Bushneck



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

Lake Jocassee Webcam

DID YOU KNOW?

Aralia spinosa is a native plant which grows from Pennsylvania and New York all the way down through Florida. The wide range of species that use this plant for food and nectar include bees, butterflies, birds, and small mammals.

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!**