



[Gmail messages are clipped.]

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

Greetings!

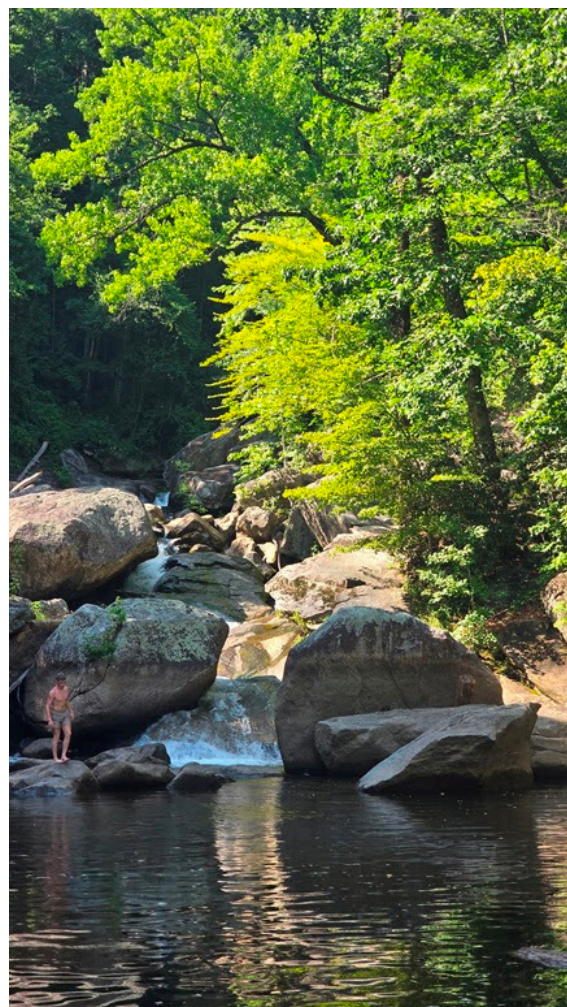


Welcome to the Blue Wall Weekly, your source for what's going on outside along the Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment. Feel free to share your own photos, videos, and adventures along the Blue Wall by sending them to the email address at the bottom of the page, and we'll do our best to make you (locally)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

The Present of Presence

These Mountains, these Gorges. They don't speak to just anybody. Some of us are in too much of a hurry to listen. Some of us are too self-absorbed to see. Some of us leave trash behind, disrespectful of our place. But these Mountains, these Rivers, surely they speak kindly to those who notice the way lichens shine silver after a rain.

Who are entranced by the pattern of leaves against sky. Who appreciate the light, sweet fragrance of sourwood blossoms. And heat held in rock. Or the song of a blue-eyed vireo. Or the mouth-watering tang of a sourwood leaf. Or the shush of water sliding down a cliff face, the graceful arc of a fern frond, the emerald gleam of droplets dangling from leafy liverwort at the edge of a waterfall, the way wind always rises in certain places. To those who will slow down to listen, who notice beauty deeper than picturesque scenery, this land does speak. Do you hear it? ~K



Awestruck on Whitewater River

SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

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

July 10, 17, 24 & 31:

10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Kayak Tours [Book Now!](#)

July 12 & 26: 10:00 AM-4:00 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

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

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
- Introductory Class Book Now!
August 25: 10:00 AM-2:00 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

Foothills Trail Hiking Shuttles



North American river otters,
(members of the weasel family)
are extremely playful and
energetic, not to mention, oh so
cute!

OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK,
JULY 6, 2026

STATE PARK EVENTS

Oconee State Park
July 7: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
Nature Scavenger Hunt

THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE
JULY 6, 2026

Stopping to admire a rosebay rhododendron in bloom, we saw a slight movement off the right, front corner of the boat. Just as we turned to look, the shape quickly & silently slipped from the rocks into the water. With gasps and exclamations, we realized we just caught a glimpse of a river otter, trying its best to make its getaway, unseen. We followed slowly at a safe distance and to our delight, instead of just one, we found three sleek, brown-furred cuties swimming together. These curious but wary creatures graciously allowed us several opportunities to snap our pictures; seemingly as interested in us as we were of them. After assessing the situation for several minutes, they must have decided we posed no threat as they casually swam away... off to do what otters do. Otters thrive in the Jocassee Gorges and were so abundant at

Pick up a BINGO card from the park office and complete it as a group while exploring different features of the park. Work together to spot wildlife, landmarks, and fun surprises!

Gorges State Park

July 7-November 3: 9:00-11:00 AM

Native Plant Gardens Volunteer Day

On the first Tuesday of each month, join Park Rangers to perform maintenance on the Native Landscape Garden's at the Park's Visitor Center so they continue to serve as a living native plant education opportunity to all who view them.



Gulf fritillary on milkweed,
Gorges State Park photo

Table Rock State Park

July 8: 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

one time the Cherokee people named one of their lower towns Tsi-ya-hi, or 'Place of the otter'. This present-day community is now known as Cheohee Valley, in the Tamassee area of Oconee County. ~Sheryl White, JLT naturalist guide and resident of Tamassee

NEW EVENTS COMING IN JULY/AUGUST

STATE PARK EVENTS

Gorges State Park

July 7-November 3: 9:00-11:00 AM

Native Plant Gardens Volunteer Day

Oconee Station State Historic Site

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

Creek Explorers

Table Rock State Park

July 15 & 22: 9:00-11:00 AM

Critter Chronicles

Table Rock State Park

July 16 & 23: 9:00-10:30 AM

Creek Detectives: Secrets of the Stream

Table Rock State Park

July 17 & 24: 9:00-11:00 AM

Discover Nature Journaling

Gorges State Park

July 19: 10:00-10:30 AM

Upper Bearwallow Falls--Guided Hike

Table Rock State Park

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

July 8: 10:00-10:30 AM

Awesome Opossums

Come join a park ranger to learn about the awesome Opossums that live in North Carolina.

Table Rock State Park

July 9: 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.

Table Rock State Park

July 10: 9:00-11:00 AM

Discover Nature Journaling

This is a welcoming weekly program designed for adults who want to slow down, connect with nature, and explore the art of nature journaling—no experience required!

Table Rock State Park

July 11: 9:30-10:30 AM

Creepy Crawly Quest

Join us on a bug-hunting adventure as we search for insects, spiders, and other creepy crawlies hiding in plain sight.

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Highlands Biological Station

July 6-17

Biology of Southern Appalachian Mammals

This intensive field course blends lecture, laboratory, and hands-on field experiences to immerse students in the biology, ecology,

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

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

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

and conservation of regional mammalian species.

Conserving Carolina

July 7: 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!

SC Wildlife Federation

July 7: 12:00 PM

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

This webinar will discuss how and why we have an invasive species problem, and participants will learn to identify common invasive animal species (vertebrates and invertebrates) found in the Southeast.

Mushroom Mountain

July 7: 7:00-9:00 PM

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

Discover the world of wild mushrooms from the comfort of home!

Highlands Biological Station

July 8: 4:00-5:00 PM

Science on the Rocks: Woodland Salamanders

Join Grant-in-Aid researchers David Adams and Evangeline Bradley for an informal conversation focused on woodland salamanders.

Walnut Creek Preserve Speaker Series: Amazing Birds of Prey

Sierra Club South Carolina

July 17: 10:30 AM

Hike to Get Wet with the Foothills

Group: Riley Moore Falls

GCBC

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

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

Conestee Nature Preserve

Foothills Trail Conservancy

July 18: 8:00 AM

Jocassee Boat, FHT, Swim Outing

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

Mushroom Mountain

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

Wild Mushroom Foraging Certification Course

Conserving Carolina

July 21: 6:00 PM

Landrum Library Speaker Series: Nature's Cabinet of Curiosities

Duke Energy-World of Energy

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

Wednesdays at the World of Energy



Ambystoma maculatum, Spotted salamander
Photo by Cantley, Quebec

Duke Energy-World of Energy

July 9: 1:30 PM

The Critter Keeper

Reptiles, critters and more! Join the Critter Keeper in this fun program and touch a critter.

Conserving Carolina

July 9: 5:30-7:00 PM

Green Drinks: We Don't Need a Strategic Reserve of Sunlight

This presentation will cover the work of Land of Sky Regional Council and Footprint Project in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Helene.

Highlands Biological Foundation, Zahner Conservation Lectures #4

July 9: 6:00-7:00 PM

Southern Appalachian Freshwater Resilience and Recovery Post-Hurricane Helene

Join Dr. Julie DeMeester from TNC's North Carolina Chapter for an engaging discussion about mountain streams, freshwater resilience, Hurricane Helene impacts, and watershed restoration efforts.

GNHA

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

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

July 11: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM
Gorges State Park--Rainbow to Windy Falls and A Few More
See five stunning falls in Gorges State Park (NC)1

Hagood Mill Historic Site

July 11: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM
Camp Hagood Teen Edition

This is a one-day immersive camp designed just for ages 13–17—
so be there! Go step back in time and learn real, old-time skills from More Events is coming soon!



Native Stewartias



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

Friends of Jocassee (FOJ)

July 31: 9:30 AM

So Essential Fire Side Chats Oaks in the Upstate

July 13-17: 8:30 AM-3:00 PM
Time Traveler's Camp

Borrowed Glimpses



JLT guide Andy Douglas, in the spirit of celebrating 250 years of independence in the United States of America!



Lake Jocassee Webcam

DID YOU KNOW?

River otters typically inhabit a range area of three to 15 square miles, but may travel as far as 10 to 18 miles a day to search for their favorite aquatic foods. Otter dens are located close to the water line of rivers and lakes, and have multiple entrances underwater and on dry land.

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!**