

# THE BLUE WALL WEEKLY

Your Source for Outdoor Activities

Along the Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment

[Gmail messages are clipped.]

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

## Greetings!

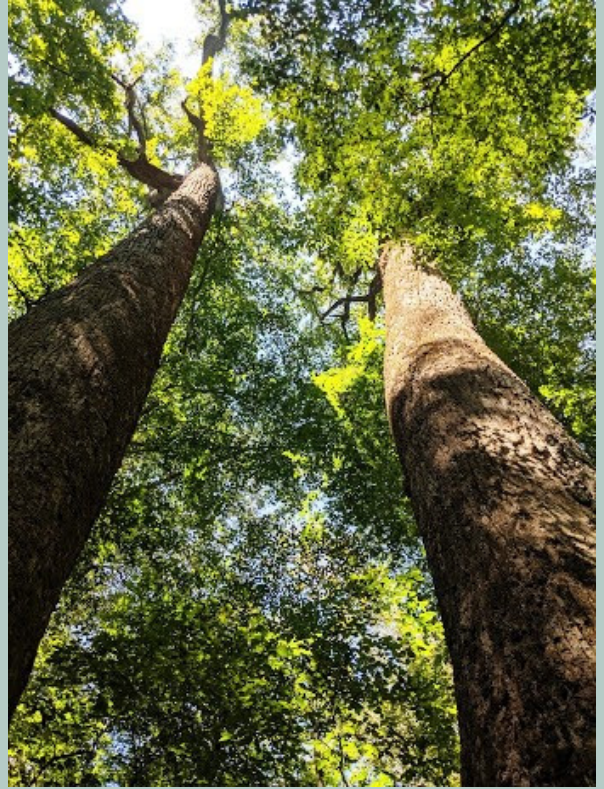


Welcome to the Blue Wall Weekly, your source for what's going on outside along the Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment. Feel free to share your own photos, videos, and adventures along the Blue Wall by sending them to the email address at the bottom of the page, and we'll do our best to make you (locally)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

## Independence

Remember our native landscape of 1776: Giant tulip poplars and white pines were not yet laid low by axes and cross-cut saws. Tonnages of native herbs--goldenseal, ginseng, cohosh--were not yet carted to market. Dark, fertile topsoil was deep across the land. Rivers ran

free to the ocean and sturgeon ran free up wild rivers to spawn. Carolina parakeets were splashes of living color, winging through overgrown fields left behind by native peoples. This was land worth fighting for. It still is. We love the United States of America. Let's spend the next two hundred fifty years taking better care of her. ~K



**“With freedom comes responsibility.”**

**~Eleanor Roosevelt**

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## **SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS**

July 4<sup>th</sup> [Book Now!](#)  
July 4: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Jocassee (Family) Adventure Camp [Book Now!](#)  
July 10, 17 & 24: 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

Sunday Three Hour Tours:  
10:00 AM-1:00 PM [Book Now!](#)  
2:00-5:00 PM [Book Now!](#)

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

[BOOK ONLINE](#)

or CALL (864) 280-5501

[PRIVATE TOURS ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE](#)

[Foothills Trail Hiking Shuttles](#)



Lunch time for this Northern water snake. Photo by Steve Lewis

## **THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE JUNE 29, 2026**

Head out of the water like a periscope, the northern water snake glides toward the shore, gripping its prey sideways. We form a semi-circle and patiently sit through one act of the ongoing drama that is the circle of life. Time passes, and our scaly companion seems to weary of the spotlight. It swims away, the small catfish still held tightly in its jaws, looking for a more secluded spot. It's lunchtime for my family adventure camp participants. We get out sandwiches and steal glances toward the pontoon of our beached boat, our snake's new hiding spot. We speculate on how long the snake's lunch will take. Some of us lose interest. We swim. We walk along the beach. We check in on the snake. Now it's under a log. Expressions of alarm when it appears that our snake is trying to consume the catfish tail-first. Great relief when we realize that it's doing it "right." The catfish slowly disappears head-first into the

## **OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK, JUNE 29, 2026**

### **STATE PARK EVENTS**

**Oconee Station State Historic Site**

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

[Historic Building Tour](#)

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

### **Table Rock State Park**

July 1: 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.

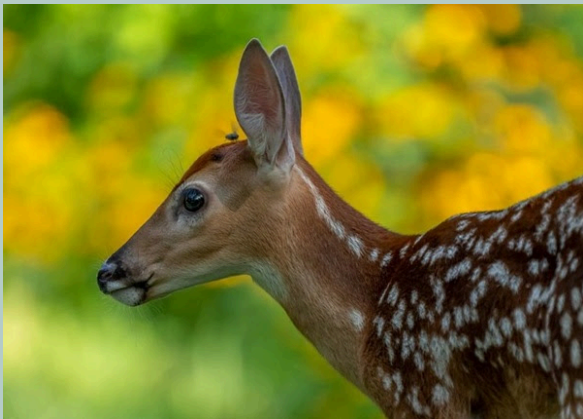


Photo by @cmozzey

### **Table Rock State Park**

July 2: 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.

### **Caesars Head State Park**

July 3: 9:00-11:00 AM

#### **Forest Nature Walk**

On this moderate two-mile walk in the forest of Caesars Head, we'll explore the unique area of this rocky ledge and the forest itself.

### **Table Rock State Park**

July 3: 9:00-11:00 AM

impossibly wide mouth of our snake. Bon appetit! ~Steve Lewis, JLT Naturalist Guide and JWC Instructor

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## **NEW EVENTS COMING IN JULY**

### **STATE PARK EVENTS**

#### **Gorges State Park**

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

#### **Native Plant Gardens Volunteer Day**

#### **Oconee State Park**

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

#### **Nature Scavenger Hunt**

#### **Gorges State Park**

July 8: 10:00-10:30 AM

#### **Awesome Opossums**

#### **Table Rock State Park**

July 8, 15 & 22: 9:00-11:00 AM

#### **Critter Chronicles**

#### **Table Rock State Park**

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

#### **Creek Detectives: Secrets of the Stream**

#### **Table Rock State Park**

July 10, 17 & 24: 9:00-11:00 AM

#### **Discover Nature Journaling**

#### **Table Rock State Park**

July 11: 9:30-10:30 AM

#### **Creepy Crawly Quest**

#### **Table Rock State Park**

July 11: 2:00-6:00 PM

#### **Music on the Mountain**

### 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**

June 30: 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!

#### **Oconee History Museum**

June 30: 1:00-3:00 PM

#### Revolutionary Kids Day

Discover what it was like to be a kid during the American Revolution!

#### **NCNPS Oconee Bell Chapter**

June 30: 5:30 PM

#### Nature Nights by the Pond

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!

#### **Highlands Biological Station**

July 1: 12:00-1:00 PM

#### Under the Canopy: A Guided Tree Walk with Dr. Paul Manos

Whether you are an experienced plant enthusiast or simply curious about the trees growing around you, this walk will offer a fresh perspective on the forest overhead.

#### **Highlands Biological Station**

#### **Oconee Station State Historic Site**

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

#### Creek Explorers

#### **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

#### 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

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### **OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS**

#### **Highlands Biological Station**

July 6-17

#### Biology of Southern Appalachian Mammals

#### **Conserving Carolina**

July 7: 9:00-11:00 AM

#### Pollinator Paradise Partners

#### **SC Wildlife Federation**

July 7: 12:00 PM

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

**July 1: 4:00 PM**

**Science on the Rocks: What Trees Can Tell Us with Liam Stiefel**

This relaxed gathering is a great opportunity to learn how trees serve as living records of the landscapes around us.

**Conestee Nature Preserve**

**July 1: 5:30 PM**

**Mindful Walk & Talk for Women**

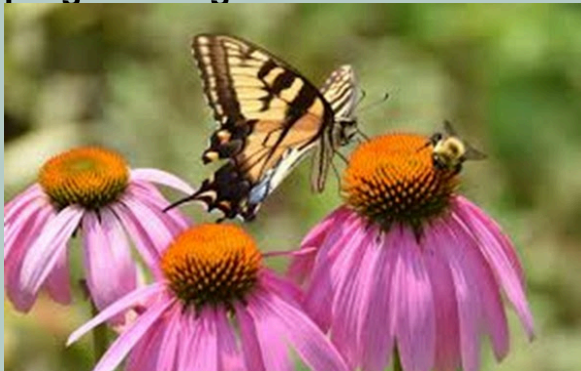
Step out of the rush and into the forest. Join us for a guided hour of intention, movement, and community connection as the day winds down.

**Conserving Carolina**

**July 2: 9:00-11:00 AM**

**Native Plant Garden Team**

Volunteers are needed to maintain the extensive garden, a collection full of native flowers, shrubs, trees and bogs plants, at the Conserving Carolina office for community use and educational programming.



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**SC Botanical Garden Events**

**More Events Coming Soon!**

**Mushroom Mountain**

**July 7: 7:00-9:00 PM**

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

**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**



**Beat the Heat: Summer Garden Survival Tips for SC Gardeners**

**Borrowed Glimpses**



**Sundogs**



**Happy Fourth of July to one and all!  
And remember...  
fireworks are strictly prohibited on Lake Jocassee and in the**

**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.**

**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**

**Highlands Biological Station,**

**Zahner Conservation Lectures #6**

**July 23: 6:00-7:00 PM**



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

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[Lake Jocassee Webcam](#)

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[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](#)

**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 SC Botanical Garden Events](#)

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

[Time Traveler's Camp](#)

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## **DID YOU KNOW?**

Albedo is the percent of sunlight reflected by Earth's surfaces and atmosphere. Surfaces with high albedo reflect more light and absorb less energy than surfaces with low albedo. In 1650, dark-colored forests covered much of the East. By 1920, nearly all the forest had been replaced with lighter-colored vegetation like crops. As the forest regrew in patches during the latter half of the twentieth century, the land began to absorb more energy and reflect less light. Each of these transitions may have influenced the weather!

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## **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.

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[www.JocasseeLakeTours.com](http://www.JocasseeLakeTours.com)

[info@jocasseelaketours.com](mailto: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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**SUPPORT OUR JOCASSEE PARTNERS!**

Camp Glamp  
at  
Lake Jocassee



JOCASSEE  
— REAL ESTATE —