



[Gmail messages are clipped.]

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

Greetings!

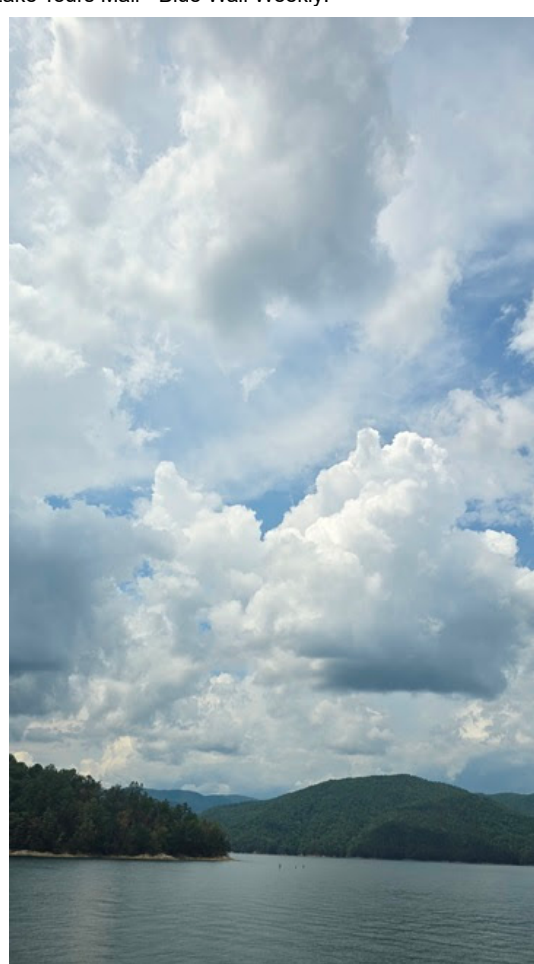


Welcome to the Blue Wall Weekly, your source for what's going on outside along the Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment. Feel free to share your own photos, videos, and adventures along the Blue Wall by sending them to the email address at the bottom of the page, and we'll do our best to make you (locally)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

August Clouds

They rise, puffy clouds piling on top of puffy clouds, rising into sky so blue and hot it hurts. A meeting room full of clouds expands into an auditorium, then a stadium. Do they bump into each other randomly and become one, these clouds, or is there some mysterious attraction of wet to wet? They pile together and rise into towering columns between place and searing sun, until sun is

blocked and earth measurably
cools under cloud shadow.
Humans, squirrels, birds, plants...
an audible sigh of relief passes
over land underneath the cooling
cloud. We watch for that first
streak of lightning in the distance,
listen for the percussive boom of
thunder. August is a month that
can be—and this year, is—
hatefully hot, but oh, these August
clouds are worth it! ~K



SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

“All the Falls” Tour [Book Now!](#)
September 19: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Wild River Adventure Tour
[Book Now!](#)
September 20: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Kayak Tours [Book Now!](#)
August 23: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM
September 13 & 27: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Full Moon Rising Tour [Book Now!](#)
August 28: 6:45-8:45 PM (Sturgeon Moon)
September 26: 5:45-7:45 PM (Harvest Moon)

WEEKLY EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday
Jocassee 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!](#)
August 22: 6:15-8:15 PM
September 5: 6:00-8:00 PM

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

Snorkel Adventure Tour
Book Now!
August 30: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Jocassee Wild Naturalist
Certification Program: Intro Class
Book Now!
August 25: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Labor Day Tour Book Now!
September 7: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

2:00-5:00 PM Book Now!

BOOK ONLINE
or CALL (864) 280-5501

PRIVATE TOURS ARE ALWAYS
AVAILABLE

Foothills Trail Hiking Shuttles
Book NOW for Autumn Hikes!



Photo by Tricia Kyzer

THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE **AUGUST 17, 2026**

A group of children stood transfixed on one side of Wright Creek. I followed their gaze and saw a bobcat kitten across the water, perched on a log no more than 10 feet away. The kitten held its steady gaze, silently assessing them. Were these smaller humans a threat? The children held their position. Was this wild kitten a threat? Both parties seemed to recognize the wonder of the moment and, as youth will, accepted it as simply part of their day before moving on to more active play. Bobcat kittens, born in April, are now about three months old—not old enough to be without their mother. What was this kitten doing all alone in an area known for humans coming and going? Its mother could have been nearby, watching from the cover of the forest. She could have been out hunting while her kitten decided to go exploring. Or, due to the growth on its eye, it could have been

OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK,
AUGUST 17, 2026

STATE PARK EVENTS

Gorges State Park

August 18: 10:00-11:00 AM

Bearwallow Falls Hike

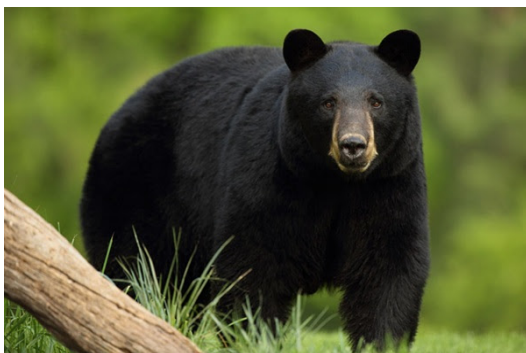
Join a Ranger on this guided hike to learn the answers to why there are so many waterfalls in the Jocassee Gorges, how they formed and many other questions!

Gorges State Park

August 20: 10:00-10:30 AM

Black Bear Basics

Learn what to do when you see one, how we can protect them, and get hands on with some black bear skins and skulls!



American Black Bear, GSP Photo

Table Rock State Park

August 21: 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.

Gorges State Park

August 21: 10:30 AM-12:30 PM

Great Southeast Pollinator

Join park staff, Friends of Gorges, and the NC Native Plant Society at the Visitor Center to capture a snapshot of pollinator activity at the park!

Table Rock State Park

August 22: 9:30-10:30 AM

Creepy Crawly Quest

orphaned. Collectively, we were now invested in the future of this kitten, each of us silently wishing the best for it as it disappeared back into the forest. ~Tricia Kyzer, JLT Naturalist Guide

NEW EVENTS COMING IN AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

STATE PARK EVENTS

Table Rock State Park

August 26: 9:00-11:00 AM

Critter Chronicles

Table Rock State Park

August 27: 9:00-10:30 AM

Creek Detectives: Secrets of the Stream

Oconee Station State Historic Site

August 27: 2:00-3:30 PM

Historic Building Tour

Gorges State Park

August 27: 3:45-4:45 PM

Invasives of Gorges--Hogs

Gorges State Park

August 29: 10:00-11:30 AM

Mushroom Hike

Table Rock State Park

August 29: 8:30-9:00 PM

Bat Watch

Gorges State Park

September 1-November 3:

9:00-11:00 AM

Native Plant Gardens Volunteer Day

Table Rock State Park

September 12: 2:45-10:00 AM

Sunrise Hike--Stool Mountain

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

Oconee State Park

August 22: 10:00-11:30 AM

CCC History Stroll

Learn about the vital role the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) played in shaping our state parks during the Great Depression and discover several historic structures built by the enrollees themselves.

Oconee Station State Historic Site

August 22: 8:15-9:15 PM

Candlelight Tour

As dusk settles over the frontier, the flicker of flames will guide your way through the historic site.

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

August 18: 6:00 PM

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

Discover why these incredible birds migrate, how they navigate such long journeys, and what makes certain weather conditions perfect for a “hawk flight.”



Sharp-shinned hawk, just one of many species to migrate through

FOJ/Devils Fork State Park

September 12: 9:00 AM-Noon

VIP (Volunteer, Improve, Protect) Day

Table Rock State Park

September 12: 2:00-6:00 PM

Music on the Mountain

Oconee State Park

September 12: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

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

Hinges and Heritage

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

NCNPS Oconee Bell Chapter

August 25: 5:00-7:00 PM

Nature Nights by the Pond

Friends of the Reedy River (FoRR)

August 25: 6:00-7:30 PM

Past, Present and Future of Friends of the Reedy River at Wild Yarrow Brewing

Conserving Carolina

September 2: 2:00 PM

Etowah Library Speaker Series: Enjoying Butterflies in Your Backyard

Conestee Nature Preserve

September 3: 3:00-4:30 PM

Elementary Nature Discovery Afterschool Club

Conserving Carolina

September 8: 6:00-7:00 PM

Landrum Library Speaker Series: The Awakening, Biodiversity and History of the Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment

Highlands Biological Station

September 11-12:

the Carolinas this fall.
Photo by Erik Bruhnke

Palmetto Trail

August 20: 6:00-8:00 PM

Upstate Trail Talk

Every third Thursday, the Palmetto Trail headquarters and Jocassee Brewery host "Trail Talk," an event featuring guest speakers or Palmetto Trail Coordinators who provide updates on the trail.

SC Wildlife Federation

August 21-22

Great Southeast Pollinator Census

Help pollinators by participating in the Great Southeast Pollinator Census, a citizen science project created by the University of Georgia to document pollinator populations and inspire the creation of sustainable habitats.

Friends of Lake Keowee Society (FOLKS)

August 22: 10:00 AM

Great Southeast Pollinator Census at South Cove County Park with FOLKS and Oconee County 4-H

Learn more about pollinators and why they are so important to the native plants that protect Lake Keowee's shoreline.

Conestee Nature Preserve

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

Drop in for the Great Southeast Pollinator Census

Participate in the Great Southeast Pollinator Census with flower and insect identification tips, assistance and resources from Greenville County Soil and Water

12:00 PM-6:30 PM

2026 NATIVE PLANT SYMPOSIUM, featuring talks by Preston Montague, Alan Weakley, and David George Haskell

Friends of Jocassee (FOJ)

September 12: 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

V.I.P Day

SC Botanical Garden Events

August 29: 1:00-4:00 PM

Nature Center Open House: The Secret World of Pollinators

Borrowed Glimpses



Razzles the dog was just as interested in sight-seeing as the rest of the crew!

Conservation District, Conestee staff, and master naturalists.

SC Botanical Garden Events

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

SCBG Nature Journaling Club

Come together with others to observe nature and develop your nature journaling skills!

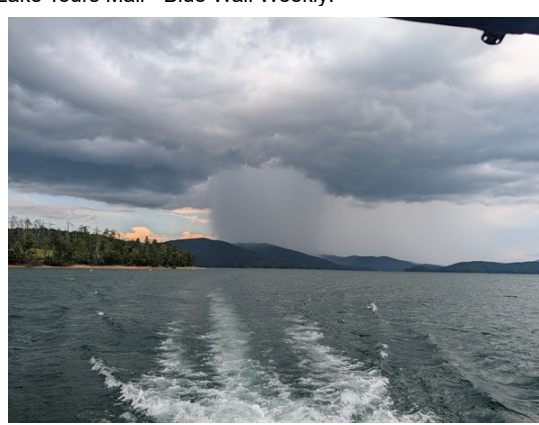
August 21: 3:30-5:30 PM

Great Southeastern Pollinator Census 2026

Join observers all over the Southeast to identify and watch pollinators!



SCBG Photo



In Time of Silver Rain

the earth puts forth new life again
green grasses grow
and flowers lift their heads
and over all the wonder
spreads

of life, of life, of life...

Excerpt from the poem

by Langston Hughes,

Photo by Sheryl White



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



Lake Jocassee Webcam

DID YOU KNOW?

A group of bobcats is called a pounce, but, being solitary animals, they are rarely seen in groups outside of mating and family rearing season. Bobcats happen to be more common in the southeastern states than they are in the west.

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!**

SUPPORT OUR JOCASSEE PARTNERS!

**Camp Glamp
at
Lake Jocassee**



JOCASSEE
— REAL ESTATE —