



[Gmail messages are clipped.]

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

Greetings!

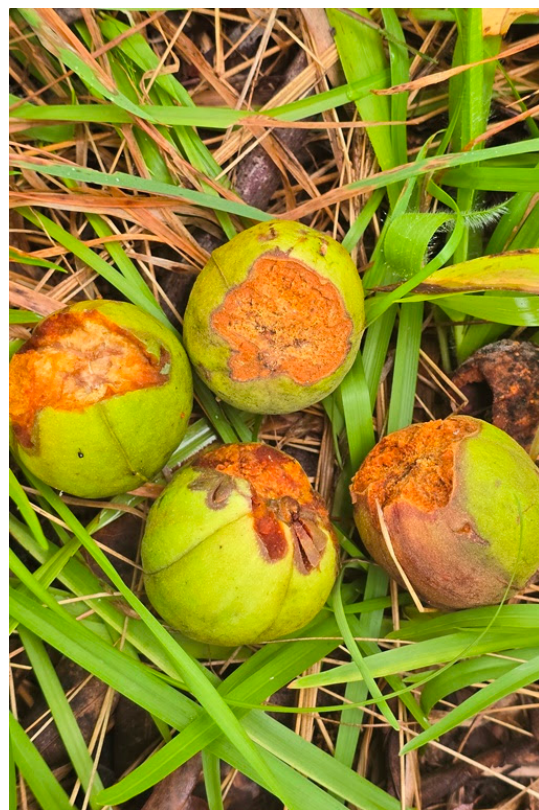


Welcome to the Blue Wall Weekly, your source for what's going on outside along the Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment. Feel free to share your own photos, videos, and adventures along the Blue Wall by sending them to the email address at the bottom of the page, and we'll do our best to make you (locally)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

Hickory Rain

The sky is cool blue. Sun, searing hot. Big fat drops of rain are falling through leaves of a nearby tree. Pitter, patter, plop, plop, plop. Thump. Thump? Wait a minute. What sounds like rain is not, it's bits of hickory husk that are raining down, with the occasional green nut thumping against soft ground. Ah, and there's the culprit, a busy gray squirrel high in the branches of this hickory tree.

Upon closer inspection, the ground under this tree is littered with nuts and pieces of husk. Each green husk has been nibbled, with the top of the hard nut exposed. Not cracked, not eaten. Just exposed. Why, little squirrel? ~K



SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

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

September 26: 5:45-7:45 PM
(Harvest Moon)

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

Labor Day Tour [Book Now!](#)
September 7: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

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

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

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

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 Tour [Book Now!](#)
September 5: 6:00-8:00 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**

**Foothills Trail Hiking Shuttles
Book NOW for Autumn Hikes!**

**PRIVATE TOURS ARE ALWAYS
AVAILABLE**



Platanthera ciliaris,
Yellow fringed orchid
Photo by Dan Whitten



THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE AUGUST 24, 2026

Phenology is phenomenal!

Phenology is a funny thing. It's that special sense in nature that while things are changing, some things remain constant as well. Some people call it "Nature's calendar," a kind of botanical clock when rooting and blooming and seeding occur in perceptible patterns that vary according to weather, seasons, and climate. Native plants are the paragons of phenology. They know when and where best to grow, how to propagate and adapt to their ever-changing environments, who to hang out with so that the entire ecosystem flourishes. The Jocassee Gorges is blessed with a variety of native plant species, ranging from the commonplace profusion of Christmas ferns to the secretive Pale Yellow Trillium growing side by side in remote rich coves. Each endemic is beautiful in its own way, and each flourishes in its time: Oconee bells are treasured harbingers of spring; the lush laurels and rhodos give way to the summer sourwoods; and then the autumnesque orchids appear in furtive glades and secluded coves, brilliant and promising. Protecting them all is

OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK, AUGUST 24, 2026

STATE PARK EVENTS

Table Rock State Park

August 26: 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.

Table Rock State Park

August 27: 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.

Oconee Station State Historic Site

August 27: 2:00-3:30 PM

Historic Building Tour

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

Gorges State Park

August 27: 3:45-4:45 PM

Invasives of Gorges--Hogs

Join a Ranger in the Visitor Center to learn about how park staff manages invasive species and their impact on the environment and see a real wild hog!

our opportunity, our challenge, and our calling as people who love the Jocassee Gorges. Fortunately, the state of SC is helping out. The SC General Assembly recently passed a concurrent resolution recognizing the "essential value of native plants to our state's environment, wildlife, history, culture, and economy." Kudos! The plants feel the seasons, adapting to fluctuating temperatures and the ebb and flow of rainfall even as drought parches our beloved temporal rainforest. They tell the story of how each season is special, both for the newness it brings but also for the memories it cherishes and the treasures it holds for the future. The seasons of Jocassee come and go, and the native plants welcome each as a friend—and invite us to do the same. ~ Tony McDade, JLT Naturalist Guide

NEW EVENTS COMING IN AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

STATE PARK EVENTS

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

FOJ/Devils Fork State Park

September 12: 9:00 AM-Noon
VIP (Volunteer, Improve, Protect)
Day



GSP Photo

Gorges State Park

August 29: 10:00-11:30 AM

Mushroom Hike

Come learn about fungi on a short, guided hike on the Bearwallow Falls Trail.

Table Rock State Park

August 29: 8:30-9:00 PM

Bat Watch

Join us for Bat Watch and learn all about bats and also help us count the bats as they leave their roost

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

September 25: 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

August 25: 5:00-7:00 PM

Nature Nights by the Pond

We're bringing the community together for a laid-back, outdoor evening of native plant fun—and you're invited!

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

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

Oconee State Park

September 19: 10:00-11:00 AM

Nature Stroll

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

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: 2:00-3:30 PM

Saluda Library Speaker Series: The

Ecology of Exposure – Rock

Outcrop Plant Communities in the

NC Mountains

Conserving Carolina

September 8: 6:00-7:00 PM

Landrum Library Speaker Series:

The Awakening, Biodiversity and

History of the Southern Blue Ridge

Escarpment

Conserving Carolina

September 10: 5:30-7:00 PM

Green Drinks: Fighting for

Farmland – Henderson County

Farmland Preservation

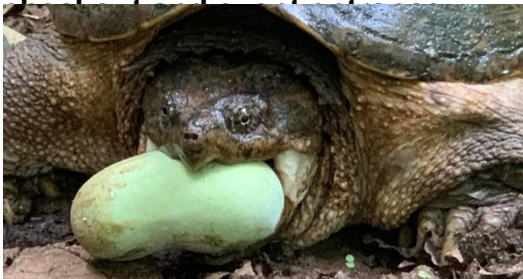
Our vision is simple: a community where everyone has a role in keeping the Reedy River healthy. We hope you'll become part of it.

SCNPS Upstate

August 29: 11:00 AM-8:00 PM

Volunteer with SCNPS at the SC Pawpaw Festival

Opportunities to assist include manning the SCNPS Info Table, helping with seed stratification, fruit tasting, plant sale floor and



Apparently, snapping turtles love pawpaws, too.

Blue Oak Horticulture Photo

SC Botanical Garden Events

August 29: 1:00-4:00 PM

Nature Center Open House: The Secret World of Pollinators

Discover how bees, flies, butterflies and other pollinators keep our ecosystems thriving.

Highlands Biological Station

September 11-12:

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

SCNPS Upstate

September 15: 6:30-8:00 PM

Upstate Monthly Meeting--Featured Speaker: Bill Jones

Mushroom Mountain

September 17: 2:00-3:30 PM

MM Farm Tour

Hagood Mill Historic Site

September 18-19

SC Old Time Fiddlers Convention

Foothills Trail Conservancy

September 19

Rainbow Falls (Jones Gap SP) with Tricia Kyzer

Green Bird Nature Therapy-Jeanne Malmgren

September 19

Silent Hikes-Green Bird Haven, Pickens County, SC

Upstate SC Young Birders

September 19

Hawkwatch at Sassafras Mountain-Pickens County (Ages 10-18)

GCBC

September 19: 7:00 AM-12:00 PM

(Longer Walk)

September 19: 8:00-10:30 AM

(Shorter Walk)

Conestee Nature Preserve



SCBG Photo

Borrowed Glimpses



Photographer Philip Culbertson recently captured this dramatic scene from Wigington Overlook.



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

Friends of the Reedy River (FoRR)

September 19: 8:30-11:30 AM

2026 Fall River Sweep

Highlands Biological Station

September 19: 10:00 AM

Hemlocks & Other Old Growth

Trees: Educational Walk

Sierra Club South Carolina

September 19: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

Bio Way Farm Tour, Happy Cow

Creamery & Cedar Falls Park

Conserving Carolina

September 19: 4:30-7:30 PM

Conservation Celebration: Planting

Hope

Conestee Nature Preserve

September 20: 10:00-11:30AM

Mindfulness with the Meadow

SC Botanical Garden Events

September 5: 1:00-4:00 PM

Nature Center Open House: Wild

Detectives-Tracks, Traces, and

Animal Clues

September 16: 8:30-9:30 AM

Winged Wednesdays Fall 2026

September 18: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Basic Botany, SCNP Core Class



Lake Jocassee Webcam

DID YOU KNOW?

Climate change alters phenology—the timing of seasonal life-cycle events like flowering, leaf-out, and migration—across South Carolina by driving warmer winters and earlier spring warming.

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 —

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