[Gmail messages are clipped.

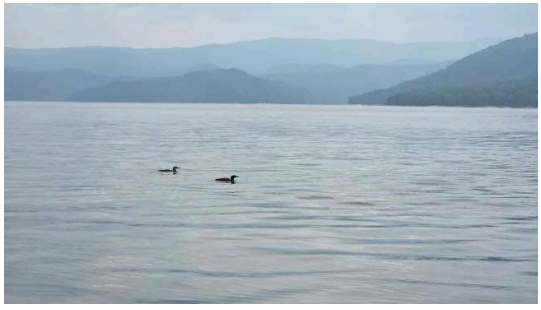
Click link on bottom left corner to view entire newsletter.]

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!

Keepers and Spoilers

You, who love this place called Jocassee… you, who understand what a special place we have here… thank you for the respect you show both land and water, flora and fauna. Thank you for leaving the lightest of footprints. Thank you for leaving with all you have brought along to enjoy the day, because it takes a village to set a good example for John Q. Public, and JQP has literally made



Here are a couple of summer visitors who know how to leave no trace.

quite an impression on Jocassee this year, from names and initials etched deep into soft rock to camping equipment—tents, wet sleeping bags, fire rings—left behind in places where no campers should be. Cans, bottles, wrappers, dirty diapers, and—most insulting—broken glass left where children play, left behind by those who treat this special place as nothing more than a personal playground to be defiled.

Thankfully these thoughtless Others are a small minority, and you, my friends, scoop up plastic bottles floating in the lake, don gloves to clean up more obnoxious messes, and band together with Friends of Jocassee to give this place a good cleanup come September's VIP Day. And Jocassee… Jocassee welcomes everyone, everyone, with equal grace. What a special place this is. ~K

Happily, this is the way most people feel about Jocassee!

SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Jocassee (Family) Adventure Camp Book Now!
August 14: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

"All the Falls" Tour Book Now!
August 15: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM
September 19: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Wild River Adventure Tours
Book Now!
August 16: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM
September 20: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Kayak Tour Book Now!
September 13: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

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

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

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

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
Book NOW for Autumn Hikes!

Pardon our Progress... 1800+ Jocassee Wild Children are coming to Lake Jocassee in September and October!

Timber rattlesnake
SCDNR Photo

OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK, AUGUST 10, 2026

STATE PARK EVENTS

Table Rock State Park
August 12: 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.

THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE AUGUST 10, 2026

Along the rocky edges and shorelines of Lake Jocassee the shy timber rattlesnake can be found resting quietly in its favorite coiled position. This is a cold blooded, venomous, ambush predator with a wide, triangular-shaped head. The end of its tail is black with a segmented rattle, active during warmer months and is commonly seen in July and August when it is seeking a mate. A timber rattlesnake waits for long periods of time for unsuspecting animals to scurry within striking distance. Mice, chipmunks, squirrels, rabbits or even a bird that gets too close can become prey. In turn, a timber rattlesnake can be preyed upon by raptors, coyotes, bobcats, wild turkeys and kingsnakes. Timber rattlesnakes are protected by state law in S.C.,

Table Rock State Park
August 13: 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
August 14: 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.

Oconee Station State Historic Site
August 14: 11:00 AM-12:30 PM
Historic Building Tour
Come for a ranger-led tour of the buildings while learning about the history of the site.

OSSHS Block house-1792 (R)
William Richards house-1805 (L)
Photo by @misstaknid

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina
August 11: 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 and it is illegal to kill, take or possess them on public lands surrounding Lake Jocassee, including state parks and National Forests. ~Deborah Girard, JLT Naturalist Guide

NEW EVENTS COMING IN AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

STATE PARK EVENTS

Gorges State Park
August 18: 10:00-11:00 AM
Bearwallow Falls Hike

Oconee Station State Historic Site
August 18: 11:00 AM-12:30 PM
August 27: 2:00-3:30 PM
Historic Building Tour

Gorges State Park
August 20: 10:00-10:30 AM
Black Bear Basics

Table Rock State Park
August 20 & 27: 9:00-10:30 AM
Creek Detectives: Secrets of the Stream

Table Rock State Park
August 21: 9:00-11:00 AM
Discover Nature Journaling

Gorges State Park
August 21: 10:30 AM-12:30 PM
Great Southeast Pollinator

Table Rock State Park
August 22: 9:30-10:30 AM
Creepy Crawly Quest

Oconee State Park
August 22: 10:00-11:30 AM
CCC History Stroll

space for pollinators and people alike, come join us!

SC Wildlife Federation
August 11: 12:00 PM
Wetlands 101 Webinar
Join the South Carolina Conservation Coalition for a webinar all about wetlands, their benefits, and how we can help preserve them as they face new threats.

Conserving Carolina
August 11: 2:00-3:00 PM
Saluda Library Speaker Series – Aerial Insectivores
In this presentation, we'll explore the fascinating group of birds known as aerial insectivores and the remarkable adaptations that make them masters of flight.

Friends of the Reedy River (FoRR)
August 11: 5:30-7:30 PM
By-the-Banks Reedy River Speaker Series w/ Neil Wilson, Raven Sterling and Kirsten Robertson
This presentation will explore protecting streams and wetlands, why soil health is the foundation of healthy waterways, and learning to identify and manage invasive plants before they take over!

Highlands Biological Station
August 12: 12:00-1:00 PM
The Flower Hunter's Trail
William Bartram. The Seminoles called him Puc Puggy — the Flower Hunter. He earned it. Come find out why!

Oconee History Museum
August 12: 12:00 PM

Oconee Station State Historic Site
August 22: 8:15-9:15 PM
Candlelight Tour

Table Rock State Park
August 26: 9:00-11:00 AM
Critter Chronicles

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

FOJ/Devils Fork State Park
September 12: 9:00 AM-Noon
VIP (Volunteer, Improve, Protect) Day

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

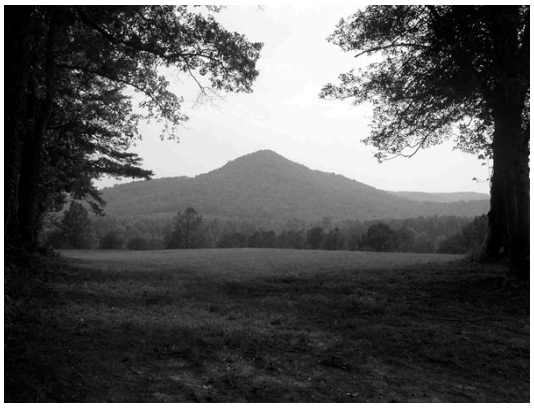
Conserving Carolina
August 18: 6:00 PM
Landrum Library Speaker Series: The Fall Raptor Migration in our South Carolina Mountains

Palmetto Trail
August 20: 6:00-8:00 PM
Upstate Trail Talk

SC Wildlife Federation
August 21-22
Great Southeast Pollinator Census

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

Lunch and Learn: The Ring Fight
On this day 250 years ago, the most famous battle to occur in Oconee County took place: The Ring Fight. Discover the Cherokee War, the famous characters, and what actually happened.



The area where the Ring Fight took place later became a homesite for Brigadier General Andrew Pickens.

Mushroom Mountain
August 13: 2:00-3:30 PM
MM Farm Tour
Join us for a 90-minute guided tour through one of the most unique farms in Upstate South Carolina.

Conserving Carolina
August 13: 5:30-7:00 PM
Green Drinks: Mushrooms of the Forest: Ecology, Edibility, and Connections
This presentation introduces the often-overlooked role fungi play in our forest, from forming vital underground partnerships with trees to breaking down organic matter and cycling nutrients through the ecosystem.

GCBC
August 15: 7:00 AM-12:00 PM (Longer walk)

Conestee Nature Preserve
August 22: 11:00 AM-2:00 PM
Drop in for the Great Southeast Pollinator Census

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

SC Botanical Garden Events

August 21-November 13: 10:00 AM-12:30 PM
SCBG Nature Journaling Club, Fall 2026

August 21: 3:30-5:30 PM
Great Southeastern Pollinator Census 2026

August 29: 1:00-4:00 PM
Nature Center Open House: The Secret World of Pollinators

Borrowed Glimpses

August 15: 8:00-10:30 AM (Shorter walk)
Conestee Nature Preserve
Longer walk-Meet behind the baseball stadium to bird a variety of paved and natural surface trails. Shorter walk- Meet at the Spanco Drive parking area next to the old Conestee Mill and Dam to bird a section of the paved trail.

Sierra Club South Carolina
August 15: 8:15-10:45 AM
Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup Greenville
Join us to meet fellow volunteers, enjoy the fresh air, and make a visible difference in our neighborhood!

GNHA
August 15: 9:30 AM-3:00 PM
Jones Gap
A variety of mountain streams will accompany this very strenuous 7.1-miles hike almost the entire time.

SC Botanical Garden Events

More Events Coming Soon!

Ecosystems of the Natural Heritage Garden

No permits were purchased and it's not stucturally sound but lasting memories WERE built.
P.S. Leave No Trace was practiced and when we left, there was no evidence that we'd even been there except for footprints in the sand.

https://www.facebook.com/jocasseewild

Lake Jocassee Webcam

DID YOU KNOW?

Mating and birthing of timber rattlesnakes occurs in late summer and early fall, with females seeking open areas with treefalls or rock outcrops. Timber rattlers studied by Jeff Mohr of Clemson University between 2006 and 2009 did not appear to have site fidelity, meaning they did not necessarily return to the same den to hibernate during the winter, and relocated snakes did not return to the site of their capture.

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!