



[Gmail messages are clipped.]

[Click link on bottom left corner to view entire newsletter.](#)

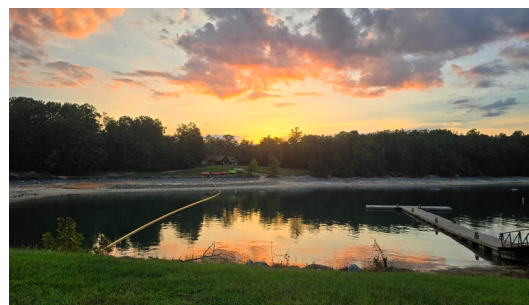
Greetings!



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!

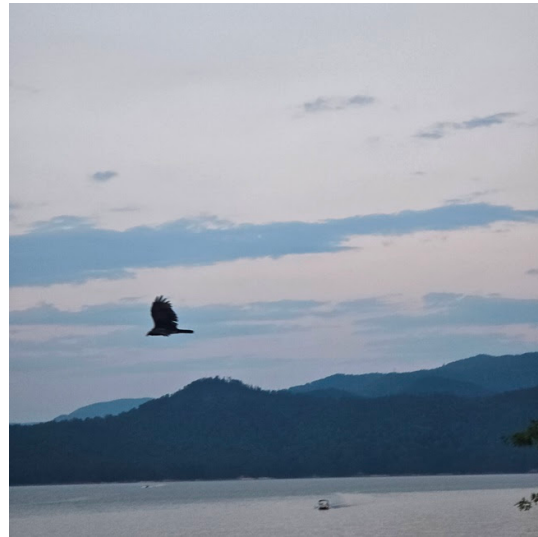
Day's End

Tip-top leaves of a chestnut oak down the hill are all a-flutter, waving like jazz hands in calm evening air. Nuthatches have returned to the bird feeders. Devils walking sticks, whose magenta panicles bent low last week under heavy loads of fruit, slowly rise back into their straight-limbed prickled glory as the blue-black drupes are consumed by bears and birds. Husband, dog and I



**A golden sun sets behind
Eclectic Sun
at Devils Fork State Park**

head over to the state park to watch the sun set and count buzzards. 11, then 12, then 15, not wheeling circles in the sky tonight but commandeering a now-empty stretch of sandy beach. One group argues over a dead fish, one bird commandeers the low wall, others line lake's edge for a drink of water. Late summer light fades into faraway cloud illuminated by flashes of lightning, and the laughter of children spreads in ripples across the lake. In this moment, all is well. ~K



This black vulture has not quite called it quits for the day.

SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

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

Kayak Tours [Book Now!](#)
September 13 & 27: 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!](#)
September 20: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

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

Private Tours are always available!

[Foothills Trail Hiking Shuttles](#)
[Book NOW for Autumn Hikes!](#)

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

[PRIVATE TOURS ARE ALWAYS](#)
[AVAILABLE](#)



Future geologist?



or maybe a wildlife biologist?

The future is Wild!

Photos by Kerry McKenzie

THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE

AUGUST 31, 2026

The Future is WILD!

Wonder. Inspire. Learn. Discover.

Wild Child season is officially underway! This week, Clemson Elementary helped us kick off a fall season that will bring nearly 2,000 local children into the Jocassee Gorges. For these children, Jocassee isn't simply a beautiful place to visit. It's a place to wonder, explore, get curious, ask questions, and discover the wild world around them. Our incredible guides and guide assistants are pumped, prepared, and ready to make this a truly WILD season....one filled with hands-on learning, meaningful connections, and unforgettable adventures. In a world where children can feel increasingly disconnected from nature, giving them a real relationship with wild places feels more important than ever. We want today's children to experience the wonder of Jocassee, create memories that stay with them, and grow into adults who carry that love forward by caring for and protecting these special places for generations to come. None of this would be possible without our incredible sponsors and supporters. Thank you for giving children the opportunity to build a lasting connection with Jocassee....and for helping us grow wild hearts in wild places! ~Kerry McKenzie Director, Jocassee Wild Child Outdoor Lab

OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK,

AUGUST 31, 2026
STATE PARK EVENTS

Gorges State Park

September 1-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 gardens so they continue to serve as a living native plant education opportunity to all who view them.



Eutrochium fistulosum

Joe Pye Weed

Photo by Kerry Woods

Table Rock State Park

September 2: 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

September 3: 9:00-10:30 AM

Experiences, Jocassee Lake Tours
Naturalist Guide & Kayak
Instructor www.jocasseewild.org

**NEW EVENTS COMING IN
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

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

Oconee Station State Historic Site

September 25: 7:30-8:30 PM
Candlelight Tour

Table Rock State Park

September 26: 2:00-10:30 AM
Sunrise Hike- Table Rock

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

September 4: 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.

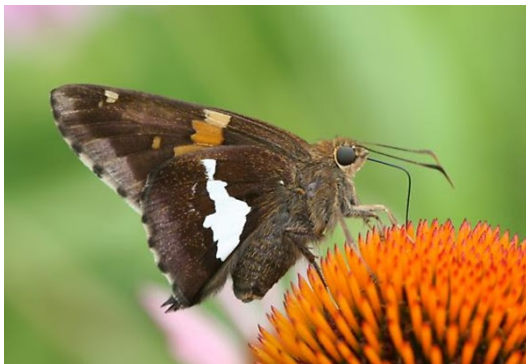
OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

September 2: 2:00 PM

Etowah Library Speaker Series: Enjoying Butterflies in Your Backyard

This presentation is an introduction to the butterflies occurring in the fields, forests and lawns of Western NC and it includes ways to use backyard plants to attract and support them.



Epargyreus clarus
Silver-spotted skipper
Photo by bugguide.net

Conestee Nature Preserve

September 3: 3:00-4:30 PM

Elementary Nature Discovery Afterschool Club

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

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

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- Volunteer, Improve, Protect Day & BBQ Fundraiser

SCNPS Upstate

September 15: 6:30-8:00 PM

Upstate Monthly Meeting--Featured Speaker: Bill Jones, Carolina Native Nursery

Mushroom Mountain

September 17: 2:00-3:30 PM

MM Farm Tour

Conestee Nature Preserve

September 17: 3:00-4:30 PM

In this twice monthly after school session, your child(ren) will discover the Preserve as young naturalists, letting their curiosity guide their hands-on exploration.

SC Botanical Garden Events

September 3: 4:30-6:00 PM

Jr. Naturalists, Fall 2026

Participants will learn about the animals and plants who call South Carolina home and the landscapes that define the state. (Ages 6-11)

September 5: 1:00-4:00 PM

Nature Center Open House: Wild Detectives--Tracks, Traces, and Animal Clues

Become a nature detective as you learn to identify animal tracks, scat and other signs of wildlife.



White-tailed deer tracks,
IDNR Photo

Borrowed Glimpses

Elementary Nature Discovery Afterschool Club

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

GNHA

September 19: 7:45 AM-3:30 PM

Caesars Head--Raven Cliff Falls-- Dismal Trail Loop

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



**Jocassee Wild Child
Fall Season has begun!**



[https://www.facebook.com/
jocasseewild](https://www.facebook.com/jocasseewild)



[Lake Jocassee Webcam](#)

**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

Conserving Carolina

September 23: 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Hawk Hike with Maddie

Conestee Nature Preserve

September 26: 3:30-6:30 PM

Hops and Herons

SC Botanical Garden Events

September 16: 8:30-9:30 AM

Winged Wednesdays Fall 2026

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

Basic Botany, SCNP Core Class

September 22: 7:30-9:30 PM

**Herbal Delight Series: Growing
Herbal**

DID YOU KNOW?

Be careful about harrassing those turkey vultures... when they feel threatened, they can projectile vomit up to ten feet, and the vomit is so

acidic it can burn human skin!

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!