



[Gmail messages are clipped.]

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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!

V.I.P. Day 2026

When sun has blistered for weeks on end, this overcast sky is a gift from gracious gods. Guides from Jocassee Lake Tours give silent, heartfelt thanks as we motor across a calm lake with V.I.P. Day volunteers, each boat intent on cleaning up a favorite area of Lake Jocassee. Our boat includes a captain with a recently replaced knee, a couple of teenaged girls, a



writer/photographer from GreenvilleOnline.com, and myself. We find little trash where I expect plenty, and we find plenty where I expect little. Maybe guests who use these shores do a better job of cleaning up behind themselves than we expected. Thank you for that! Where north-west winds push storm waters into deep coves, human trash is caught up in a serious accumulation of broken tree debris. While the girls scout sandy beaches and I check out wooded ridges, our intrepid reporter tiptoes through a tangle of broken pine tree tops to fetch wayward beer cans and bait cups. We call it a good volunteer effort after we fill two and a half garbage bags with litter that has been discarded, left behind, and blown overboard. On our way back to the dock, bulging clouds let go and hard rain falls. For this rain, especially, we give thanks! ~K



V.I.P. volunteer and FOJ board member Kristina Hernandez



Meanwhile, on another boat...

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

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

Kayak Tours [Book Now!](#)
September 27: 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 Tour [Book Now!](#)
September 12: 5:45-7:45 PM

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

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

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

[BOOK ONLINE](#)
or CALL (864) 280-5501



The many moods of August

OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK,
SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

STATE PARK EVENTS

Gorges State Park

September 18: 9:00-10:00 AM

Birds of the Gorges

Join a Ranger for a moderate, 60-minute guided birdwatching hike along the Bearwallow Valley Trail.

Oconee State Park

September 19: 10:00-11:00 AM

Nature Stroll

Join a Ranger-Led Nature Stroll and explore the outdoors through the eyes of a park ranger.

THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE **SEPTEMBER 14, 2026**

AUGUST. And just like that, it's gone. The towering, impenetrable clouds, indescribably white. Until the storms come in the afternoon. Then almost suddenly the clouds and the sky turn grey. Angry grey. Intimidating grey. Humbling grey. There is a stiff burst of wind when these summer storms turn our way, and oh how the buzzards love it. Dozens appear from their roosts in the trees, doing nothing more than riding the wind. Such effortless joy. And we think we are the superior species. And now this. Calm, almost cloudless afternoons. The air temperature has dropped from the scorching 90's to the much more benign 80's. The crowds are gone. The jet skis, the wake boats, the lines. September is the summer month for the rest of us, those who work so hard to service the public throughout June, July and August. I intend to swim each evening this month. Watching the buzzards come to roost, watching Mica the Wonder Dog get in her joyful end of day laps, submerging in the sublime waters of Jocassee. Goodbye, August. I love you like no other month. You may now take your fury, your grandeur and go rest for a while. ~B

Caesars Head State Park

September 19: 10:00-11:30 AM

Hawk Watch

Join us and learn about hawk migration and maybe witness part of this movement as they move south for the winter.



Buteo platypterus,
Broad-winged hawk
All About Birds Photo

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Friends of Jocassee (FOJ)

September 14: 12:00-2:00 PM

Adopt- a- Highway at DFSP

FOJ proudly maintains over 4 miles of roadways leading from Hwy., to DFSP. We call it the “road to paradise”. Come help us keep it beautiful.

SCNPS Upstate

September 15: 6:30-8:00 PM

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

Bill will review the many steps for growing native azaleas from seed and more, bring examples of these steps, walk us through the whole process and answer questions.

Mushroom Mountain

September 17: 2:00-3:30 PM

NEW EVENTS COMING IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

STATE PARK EVENTS

Gorges State Park

September 22: 10:00-10:30 AM

Black Bear Basics

Oconee Station State Historic Site

September 23: 11:00 AM-12:30 PM

Historic Building Tour

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

Gorges State Park

September 27: 10:00-11:00 AM

Fall Colors Hike

Gorges State Park

September 27: 3:00-5:00 PM

National Public Lands Day- Rainbow Falls Trail Sweep

Gorges State Park

October 6-November 3: 9:00-11:00 AM

Native Plant Gardens Volunteer Day

Table Rock State Park

October 10: 2:30-10:30 AM

Sunrise Hike--Bald Knob

Table Rock State Park

October 10: 2:00-6:00 PM

Music on the Mountain

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

MM Farm Tour

Join us for a 90-minute guided tour through one of the most unique farms in Upstate S.C. and discover the hidden world beneath your feet!

Conestee Nature Preserve

September 17: 3:00-4:30 PM

Elementary Nature Discovery Afterschool Club

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.

Palmetto Trail

September 17: 6:00-8:00 PM

Upstate Trail Talk

Join us at Jocassee Valley Brewing in listening to avid hiker, Paul Holleran who is currently a World Language teacher at Walhalla High School in Oconee County.

Foothills Trail Conservancy

September 19

Rainbow Falls (Jones Gap SP) with Tricia Kyzer

Join FTC Board member, Tricia Kyzer, on a hike to the base of Rainbow Falls, which plunges 80 + feet in one straight, free-falling drop!

Green Bird Nature Therapy- Jeanne Malmgren

September 19

Silent Hikes--Foothills Trail at Sassafras Mtn.

This experience allows you to try out the practice of Noble Silence, while enjoying the healthful effects of fresh air and green,

Western Carolina University

September 21-26

Mountain Heritage Days

Highlands Biological Station

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

Hawk Hike with Maddie

Friends of Lake Keowee Society (FOLKS)

September 24: 2:00 PM

Fire Prevention: Wilde Speaker Series

Conserving Carolina

September 25: 8:00 AM-2:00 PM

Fall Hiking Series: Raven Cliff Falls

Highlands Biological Station

September 26: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Surprising Skulls

Hagood Mill Historic Site

September 26: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

General Andrew Pickens Birthday Celebration

Conestee Nature Preserve

September 26: 3:30-6:30 PM

Hops and Herons

SC Wildlife Federation

September 29: 12:00 PM

Wild Webinars: Hummingbirds, The Tiny Wonders of the Americas

Conserving Carolina

September 29: 7:00-8:30 PM

Special Film Screening of "Fantastic Fungi"

Conestee Nature Preserve

October 1: 3:00-4:30 PM

Elementary Nature Discovery Afterschool Club

living things all in the company of like-minded others.

Upstate SC Young Birders

September 19

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

If you like birds or are interested, come to one of our meetings. Participants under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Email for more information about the club and meeting location. [upstateSC.youngbirders@gmail](mailto:upstateSC.youngbirders@gmail.com)

GCBC

September 19: 7:00 AM-12:00 PM (Longer Walk)

September 19: 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.

GNHA

September 19: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM

Rainbow Falls--Jones Gap SP

We will start at Jones Gap State Park and ascend to Rainbow Falls for lunch returning the way we came.

Friends of the Reedy River (FoRR)

September 19: 8:30-11:30 AM

2026 Fall River Sweep

We will have a registration cap for each site to ensure we don't put undue pressure on the river or our resources at any one location, so be sure to register before your preferred location fills up.

Sierra Club South Carolina

October 1: 6:30-8:30 PM

Sierra Upstate Fall Social

Sierra Club South Carolina

October 2: 10:30 AM-2:00 PM

Two Waterfalls and the Chattooga River (Camping too?) with the Foothills Group

Friends of Jocassee (FOJ)

October 3

Paddle Splash

SCNPS Upstate

October 3: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

Golden Corner Native Plant Festival

GNHA

October 4: 8:00 AM-2:00 PM

Wilderness Medical First Aid

Upstate Forever

October 4: 2:00-5:00 PM

Annual Meeting

Conserving Carolina

October 7: 2:00-3:30 PM

Etowah Library Speaker Series: Bioluminescence in Western North Carolina: Nature's Living Light Show

Mushroom Mountain

October 8: 6:00-8:00 PM

Mushroom Cooking Class at MM

Mushroom Mountain

October 8: 2:00 PM

Medicinal Mushrooms: Learn to Make Your Own Extracts

Conestee Nature Preserve

October 10: 8:00-10:00 AM

Birding 101: Warblers

Highlands Biological Station

September 19: 10:00 AM

Hemlocks & Other Old Growth Trees: Educational Walk

Your hike leaders will cover the ecological importance of hemlocks, what's causing their decline, and what's being done about it. A representative from HBS will teach tree species identification and share the history of the forest.



Tsuga canadensis
Eastern Hemlock, Web image

Sierra Club South Carolina

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

Bio Way Farm Tour, Happy Cow Creamery & Cedar Falls Park

All three stops are off Hwy 25, going South from Greenville. Feel free to join us for all or part of the day.

Conserving Carolina

September 19: 7:00-9:30 PM

Special Film Screening of "Raising Cane, the Cherokee and Rivercane"

Join David Weintraub and the Center for Cultural Preservation as they premiere their newest documentary.

Hagood Mill Historic Site

October 10: 1:00-4:00 PM

Mushrooms 101

SC Botanical Garden Events

September 22: 7:30-9:30 PM

Herbal Delight Series: Growing Herbal

September 25: 2:00-6:00 PM

SCBG Members Plant Sale, Fall 2026

September 26: 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

SCBG Plant Sale, Fall 2026

October 10: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Basic Horticulture (Clemson): SCNP Certificate Core Class



Golden yellow leaves on tulip poplars are appearing around the lake now as they transition into dormancy and chlorophyll production comes to a halt.

BORROWED GLIMPSES

SC Botanical Garden Events

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

Basic Botany, SCNP Core Class

This introductory course develops a foundation of knowledge and a working vocabulary for gardeners and others interested in plants.



Vernonia noveboracensis
Ironweed, Photo by Sue Watts

Lake Jocassee Webcam



Photo by Ruth McIlheney



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

DID YOU KNOW?

Birds usually begin to migrate 30 to 45 minutes after sunset, with the greatest number in flight two to three hours later. BirdCast provides live and local bird migration alerts throughout the contiguous U.S. based on a forecast model that predicts bird migration intensity from weather data. You can use this tool to determine whether birds are expected to migrate in your area tonight in low, medium, or high intensities.

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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