



[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!

17 Year old Levi slipped quietly into our Jocassee lives this summer. He's a person Mr. Rogers would have called one of "the helpers." And we do believe he "gets" Jocassee.

A Lake Made By Loving Hands by Levi Drake

**Where once the quiet earth lay
bare,
Kind hearts imagined beauty there.**

**With patient toil and steadfast
grace,
They shaped a dream, a resting
place.**

**Each stone was set with hope and
care,
Each drop became a whispered
prayer.
The winds soon learned its gentle
name,
And every season loved it the
same.**

**Morning painted silver light,
Evening crowned it gold each
night.
Birdsong drifted through the trees,
Carried softly on the breeze.
The lake, though made by human
hands,
held heaven in its calm display.**

**Its waters gathered joy and peace,
Where hurried hearts could find
release.
For sometimes mankind's greatest
art
Is giving nature one more heart.**



Photo by Elizabeth Drake



SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

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

“All the Falls” Tour [Book Now!](#)
October 24: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

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

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

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!](#)

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

[Private Tours are always available](#)



Full pond level is usually up to the
shrub line.

Zoom in to spot the bear cub.

THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE SEPTEMBER 28, 2026

Waking to mornings in the 50's this week found us grabbing jackets, hoodies and leggings. With mugs of coffee or hot tea in hand, we headed towards the dock. The Fall Jocassee Wild Child program is in full swing, and these kids don't seem to mind getting a little chilly as long as they get a chance to jump from a rock or stick their heads under a waterfall. As the temps rise by midday, we find ourselves shedding layers and swimming despite overcast skies and cooler air. September is a bittersweet month for most of us who work on Jocassee. We savor every moment before it slips away.

The Harvest full moon welcomes October and the feel of Autumn is



This family has been spotted on multiple occasions in the Whitewater arm of the lake.

OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK, SEPTEMBER 28, 2026

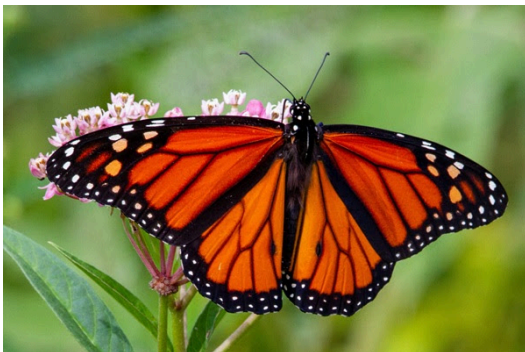
STATE PARK EVENTS

Gorges State Park

October 3: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Mountain Monarch Festival

Come enjoy live programs, kids' crafts, face painting, guided hikes, local food trucks, and featured talks from butterfly experts.



Monarch butterfly,
Photo by Joshua J Cotten

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

SC Wildlife Federation

September 29: 12:00 PM

Wild Webinars: Hummingbirds,
The Tiny Wonders of the Americas

in the air. If you haven't been out on the lake lately, we're currently about 13' below full pond. With minimal rainfall in sight, chances are we'll remain low for a while. Still, laughter echoes across the water and even the wildlife pauses for a minute, curious to see what the commotion is all about. Wild Child energy is contagious...Eagle sightings are common lately as well as glimpses of bears and bobcats exploring the caves, crevices and slopes that are normally submerged. Sulphur butterflies are moving south to Florida and we're seeing a few Monarch butterflies beginning their trek through the Jocassee Gorges on their way to winter in Mexico.

Songbirds are migrating overhead while we sleep and the instinctual patterns of Nature endure.

~Sheryl White, JLT naturalist guide and JWC educator.

NEW EVENTS COMING IN OCTOBER

STATE PARK EVENTS

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

Oconee Station State Historic Site

If you'd like to learn more about these frenetic feathered jewels, please join Jay Keck, our Industry Habitat Manager and Costa Rica guide, to become more acquainted with these birds, while learning their habitat needs.



SCWF Photo

Conserving Carolina

September 29: 7:00-8:30 PM

Special Film Screening of "Fantastic Fungi"

Fantastic Fungi is a descriptive time-lapse journey about the magical, mysterious and medicinal world of fungi and their power to heal, sustain and contribute to the regeneration of life on Earth that began 3.5 billion years ago.

Conestee Nature Preserve

October 1: 3:00-4:30 PM

Elementary Nature Discovery Afterschool Club

Bye, Bye Blackbird--Let's learn about birds and migration. Over 220 bird species visit the preserve during the year, but where are they when they aren't here?

Sierra Club South Carolina

October 1: 6:30-8:30 PM

Sierra Upstate Fall Social

October 12: 2:00-3:30 PM

Historic Building Tour

Table Rock State Park

October 17: 10:00 AM-12:30 PM

Phone Photography Workshop

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

October 7: 2:00-3:30 PM

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

Conserving Carolina

October 8: 5:30-7:00 PM

Green Drinks: Restoring Natural Floodplains – Building Resilience for Communities and Ecosystems

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

GNHA

October 10: 9:30 AM-4:30 PM

Caesar's Head SP

Hagood Mill Historic Site

October 10: 1:00-4:00 PM

Mushrooms 101

Conserving Carolina

October 13: 2:00-3:30 PM

This is a perfect opportunity to meet the new Sierra Upstate community, so be sure to RSVP and secure your spot for a night of fun and fellowship!

Sierra Club South Carolina

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

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

Let's go to Burrells Ford on the Chattooga River and from there hike to Spoonauger and King Creek Falls.

Friends of Jocassee (FOJ)

October 3: 7:30 AM-12:00 PM

Paddle Splash

Beginners and advanced paddlers are welcome and are grouped by age and the speed of the craft to keep the racing fair. Choose between long (six mile) and short (three mile) loop courses. Awards ceremony at Jocassee Valley Brewing Co., after the race.

2nd Annual Golden Corner Native Plant Festival 2026

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

Wild For Natives

This annual event is packed with native plant vendors, nature inspired craft vendors, awesome speakers, fun activities for kids, various exhibitors and of course, mouth watering food.

GNHA

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

Wilderness Medical First Aid

This will be held in the Greenville area at Paris Mountain, and the group size is limited to 15 people

Saluda Library Speaker Series- Solar Power and Electric Vehicles- How they work, reduce your environmental impact, increase resilience and save you money.

SCNPS Upstate

October 13: 5:00-8:30 PM

Golden Corner Chapter Meeting

Sierra Club South Carolina

October 13: 6:00-8:00 PM

An Evening of Local Sustainability & Bike Care at Lucky Bike with Kip Smith

Conestee Nature Preserve

October 15: 3:00-4:30 PM

Elementary Nature Discovery

Afterschool Club

Palmetto Trail

October 16: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Upstate Fall Color Walk

SCNPS Upstate

October 16: 10:00 AM-October 18: 4:00 PM

Upstate Fall 2026 Online Plant Sale

GCBC

October 17: 8:00-10:30 AM (Shorter Walk)

October 17: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM (Longer Walk)

Conestee Nature Preserve

Conestee Nature Preserve

October 17: 9:00 AM

From Earth to Paper: A Nature Journaling Class

Chattooga Belle Farm

October 17: 10:00 AM

Fall Harvest Festival

Mushroom Mountain

with hike leaders getting first dibs.

Upstate Forever

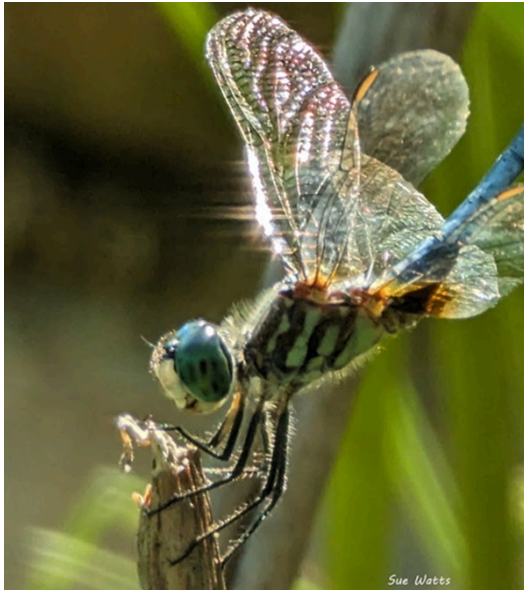
October 4: 2:00-5:00 PM

Annual Meeting

You are invited to join Upstate Forever staff, Board of Directors, and supporters as we celebrate the year's conservation successes at Elf Leaf Farm, a family-owned lavender farm located in Landrum, SC.

SC Botanical Garden Events

More Events Coming Soon!



Pachydiplax longipennis Blue dasher dragonfly

To find more information about the species of dragonflies (and damselflies) found in South Carolina, click here!

[Lake Jocassee Webcam](#)

BORROWED GLIMPSES

October 17: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

MM Farm Tour- The Haunted Mycelium Tour

Conserving Carolina

October 20: 6:00-7:30 PM

Landrum Library Speaker Series: Beneficial Bats

SCNPS Upstate

October 20: 6:30-8:00 PM

Upstate Monthly Meeting

Mushroom Mountain

October 20: 7:00-9:00 PM

Mushroom Hunting Made Easy: Learn to Identify Edible Wild Mushrooms (Live Online Class)

Upstate Forever

October 22: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Volunteer Workday: Rocky River Nature Park

Oconee History Museum

October 23: 7:00 PM

Intriguing Tales of Crime and Punishment

Hagood Mill Historic Site

October 23: 6:00 PM- October 24: 7:00 PM

4th Annual Pickens Appalachian Folk Festival

Sierra Club South Carolina

October 24: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

Bike the Doodle Trail

Conestee Nature Preserve

October 24: 6:30-8:30 PM

Night Hike-Bats, Owls and More!

SC Botanical Garden Events

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

Basic Horticulture (Clemson): SCNP Certificate Core Class



October 10: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
Fungi & Native Plant Communities,
SCNP Certificate Elective

October 16: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
Fall Herbaceous Plant
Identification, SCNP Certificate
Core Class

October 18: 10:00-11:30 AM
Friday Garden Forays, Fall 2026

October 20: 7:30-9:30 PM
Herbal Delights Series: Sachets
and Soaps

October 21: 8:30-9:30 AM
Winged Wednesdays, Fall 2026



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

DID YOU KNOW?

Rudeneja (Roo-den-Ay-Ha) The world gently falling into Autumn. The word derives from the Lithuanian root word “ruduo,” meaning autumn, and captures the poetic feeling of the world slowing down and preparing for colder months,

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
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