



[Gmail messages are clipped.]

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Greetings!



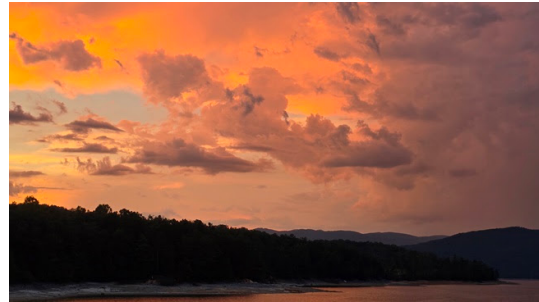
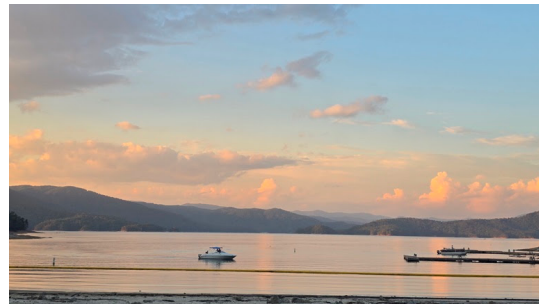
Welcome to the Blue Wall Weekly, your source for what's going on outside along the Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment. Feel free to share your own photos, videos, and adventures along the Blue Wall by sending them to the email address at the bottom of the page, and we'll do our best to make you (locally)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

Date Night

In September, every night is date night. Brooks and I golfcart to the lake, eschewing television drama for gentle rhythms of lake life. Then we walk. Narrow lines of wrack outline recent drops of water level. We walk through a short stretch of woods where whitewash from a vultures' roost has left painterly splotches on leaves and pine needles. The Day



Use parking lot is all but empty once a Harley roars to life and creeps past us. We find the vultures... they are gathered, two dozen in all, to stand unchallenged on park grills and picnic tables. We acknowledge their presence, they acknowledge ours, and no one flies. From the top of the dike, fading light reminds me of my first-ever photograph of Lake Jocassee: same muted colors, same haze over the Blue Wall. We sit a spell on a memorial bench. September is ending its daylight hours, whirling up voluminous clouds that capture an oil paint palette of evening light. Steady breeze blows away last remnants of day's heat, and we call it a good night. ~K



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

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

[Private Tours are always available](#)

[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!](#)



Lake Jocassee fishing spider

THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE SEPTEMBER 21, 2026

September is for spiders. On less humid days, the boat floats through gossamer strands carrying spiders to their next destination. Spiny back and marbled orb weavers' carefully woven dinner plates cross the trails. Joro spiders' three-dimensional golden webs are everywhere, high and low. I can't help but admire their determination to live. Recently, while enjoying the cool spray of a waterfall, a gasp of "Ahhhh, that's the biggest spider I have ever seen!" pointed me to an elegant fishing spider perched on a wet log. The beautiful brown lady was quite large in body and leg span. Her location next to cool water, her long, elegant legs, and her wavy-lined markings set her apart from the similar Carolina Wolf Spider. She carried an egg sac full of future fishing spiders in her jaw. Some will live just long enough to become fish food, or a snack for a migrating bird. Some will carry the next generation in their jaws. Either way, life goes on in the Jocassee Gorges and we get to be witnesses to it. ~Tricia Kyzer, JLT and Jocassee Wild Child guide

OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK, SEPTEMBER 21, 2026

STATE PARK EVENTS

Gorges State Park

September 22: 10:00-10:30 AM

Black Bear Basics

Learn what to do when you see one, how we can protect them, and get hands on with some black bear skins and skulls!



Ursus americanus

American Black Bear, GSP photo

Oconee Station State Historic Site

September 23 & 26: 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.

Oconee Station State Historic Site

September 25: 7:30-8:30 PM

NEW EVENTS COMING IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

STATE PARK EVENTS

Gorges State Park

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

Candlelight Tour

As dusk settles over the frontier, the flicker of flames will guide your way through the historic site.

Table Rock State Park

September 26: 2:00-10:30 AM

Sunrise Hike- Table Rock

After experiencing the nocturnal aspects of the forest we will enjoy the pre-dawn sky from the outcrop as we anticipate the beauty of a new sunrise.

Gorges State Park

September 27: 10:00-11:00 AM

Fall Colors Hike

Join a Ranger for a moderate, 60-minute hike to explore the colors of the early fall forest and learn about the changing of the seasons and the science of leaves.

Gorges State Park

September 27: 3:00-5:00 PM

National Public Lands Day- Rainbow Falls Trail Sweep

Join park staff in a group volunteer project to celebrate NPLD - a litter sweep of the Rainbow Falls Trail!

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Western Carolina University

September 21-26

Mountain Heritage Days

Experience a vibrant gathering filled with live music, traditional dance, cultural showcases, artisan crafts, delicious food, and fun for all ages.

Highlands Biological Station

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

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

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

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

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)

Hawk Hike with Maddie

Join Maddie on an interpretive hike up Whiteside Mountain in search of our resident Peregrine Falcons!

Friends of Lake Keowee Society (FOLKS)

September 24: 2:00 PM

Fire Prevention: Wilde Speaker Series

Join us for a chat on how to keep wildfires in check and protect our forests before things get heated.

Conserving Carolina

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

Fall Hiking Series: Raven Cliff Falls

Named for the ravens that nest in the high cliffs around the falls, Raven Cliff Falls is one of South Carolina's most scenic waterfalls!



Highlands Biological Station

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

Surprising Skulls

Join Alex Waite for a brief introduction to the fascinating world of bone science! Bring your questions and any skulls you'd like to have identified.

October 3

Paddle Splash

Golden Corner Native Plant Festival

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

Wild For Natives

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

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

Hagood Mill Historic Site

October 10: 1:00-4:00 PM

Mushrooms 101

Conserving Carolina

Hagood Mill Historic Site

September 26: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM
General Andrew Pickens Birthday Celebration

Join us as we celebrate the man behind our community's name and his lasting impact on our region and nation. Come be part of this meaningful tribute to one of Pickens County's most important historical figures.

Conestee Nature Preserve

September 26: 3:30-6:30 PM
Hops and Herons

Our 6th annual Hops & Herons will feature over a dozen local breweries, along with food trucks, live music, and family-friendly fun – all underneath the giant oak trees surrounded by a scenic meadow.

SC Botanical Garden Events

September 22: 7:30-9:30 PM
Herbal Delight Series: Growing Herbal

In this laid-back evening class, participants are invited to join educator Sue Watts for some herbal planting. Take home your own fall herb garden.



SCBG Photo

September 25: 2:00-6:00 PM
SCBG Members Plant Sale, Fall 2026

Friends of the Garden (members) are granted early access, one day before the public sale.

October 13: 2:00-3:30 PM
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

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

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

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

SCBG Plant Sale, Fall 2026

Plant Sales are major fundraising events for the SCBG, and all profits support operations and enhancements in the garden.

Lake Jocassee Webcam

October 16: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Fall Herbaceous Plant

Identification, SCNP Certificate
Core Class

BORROWED GLIMPSES



Proud little mama, out for a stroll with her cubs.



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

DID YOU KNOW?

The greatest number of monarch butterflies typically migrates through the Jocassee Gorges in late September. It's every monarch's first and only migration. Monarchs that migrate north in spring will breed and pass away far before their descendants are ready to migrate south again. Yet, like birds, they seem to have an innate sense of where to go.

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@jocassee-laketours.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**



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