



[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!

Wild Life

A juvenile bald eagle (first year?) swoops low beside our boat and tries to catch a fish along the shore.

A little sanderling (bird) far from its migration route hops back and forth along the boat dock, picking at invisible morsels, quite undisturbed by boatloads of fourth graders tromping past.

A mama bear with three (or four?) small cubs clambers along rocky



shoreline and all but disappears into thick understory, where the family peers through shrubbery with curiosity equal to ours.

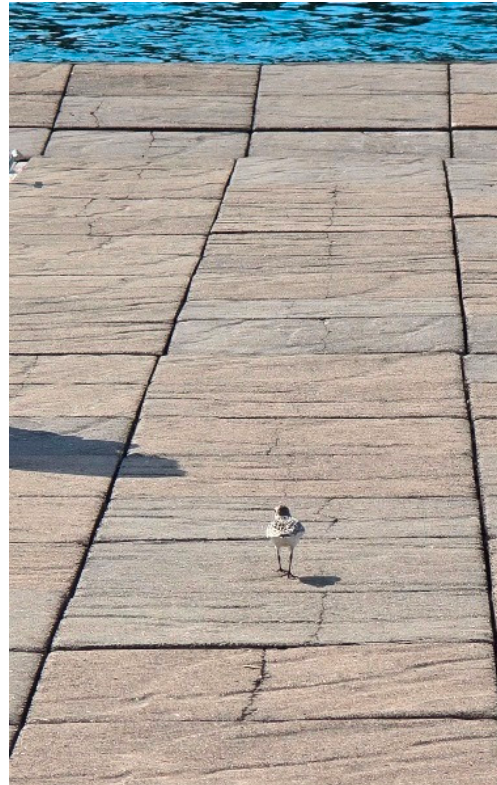
A tiny Northern water snake is surprised to suddenly find itself passed through a series of gentle fingers. A considerably larger version (maybe mama, maybe not) rests nearby under the shade of a gneiss cool boulder.

A friend sends a video of a mama bobcat and cub outside his home on Fisher Knob.

A black vulture hops to lake's edge for a drink of water. His companion opts for a full lake bath.

Maybe it's the heat. Maybe zugunruhe. Maybe little 'uns are growing up and getting restless. Maybe it's relatively quieter weekdays without jet skis and wake boats. Whatever the reason, wildlife sightings are always welcome. ~K

Meteorological summer comes to an end at Lake Jocassee.
Enjoy a safe Labor Day!



Where did he come from,
where will he go?
Only the sanderling knows!

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!](#)

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

Sunday Three Hour Tours

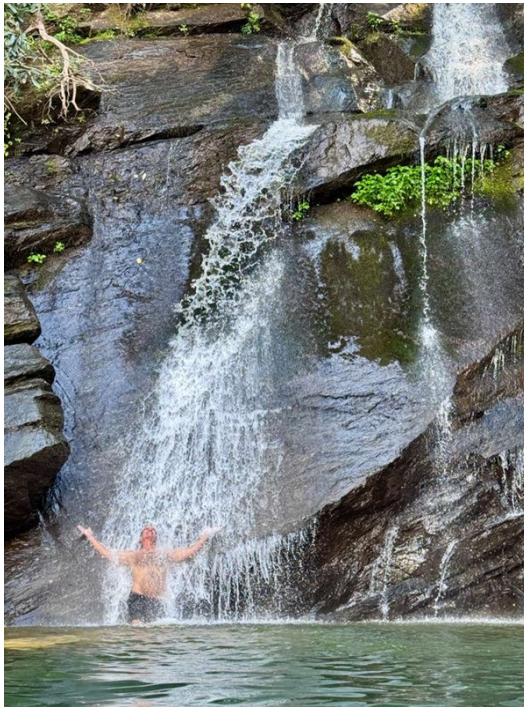
September 26: 5:45-7:45 PM
(Harvest Moon)

10:00 AM-1:00 PM Book Now!
2:00-5:00 PM Book Now!

BOOK ONLINE
or CALL (864) 280-5501

Foothills Trail Hiking Shuttles
Book NOW for Autumn Hikes!

PRIVATE TOURS ARE ALWAYS
AVAILABLE



Capt. Andy, the ultimate Wild
Child, Photo by Kerry McKenzie

OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK, SEPTEMBER 7, 2026

STATE PARK EVENTS

Gorges State Park

September 8: 10:00-11:00 AM

Bearwallow Falls Hike

Join a Ranger for a guided hike to Upper Bearwallow Falls to learn the answers to why there are so many waterfalls in the Jocassee

THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE SEPTEMBER 7, 2026

How often do you intentionally stop for a few minutes and lose yourself in the quiet?

This week, as we sat in the shade, having lunch beside a no-named trickle slipping off the mountainside into the lake, that's exactly what I asked a group of 4th grade JWC students to do. To my surprise, they sat quietly for almost 2 minutes without saying a word. Here are some of the responses I got when I asked them to tell me one thing they noticed or felt. A few silly answers at first like, "I could smell Emma's Cheetos", & "All I could hear was Dylan crunching Doritos", but then, the answers started flowing with things like, "I noticed the sun reflecting off the water onto the leaves," or, "I watched a bunch of little fish swimming beside the boat," and, "I heard the waterfall." One kid said, "I felt the wind on my face," while another said "peaceful." My favorite of all was when another boy said, "Wow, this is so cool, I've never been surrounded by this much nature." The teacher told them she was going to put a picture of a waterfall up on the big screen in the

Gorges areas, how they formed and more!

Table Rock State Park

September 12: 2:45-10:00 AM

Sunrise Hike--Stool Mountain

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

Table Rock State Park

September 12: 2:00-6:00 PM

Music on the Mountain

Visitors are invited to bring their acoustic instruments and join in a jam session or simply sit back to enjoy the music with the lake and mountains as a beautiful backdrop.

Oconee State Park

September 12: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

September 13: 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Hinges and Heritage

Experience history brought to life as the Phillip Simmons Artist Blacksmith Guild comes to Oconee State Park for a weekend of traditional blacksmithing.



cafeteria, now that she knew how to get them to be quiet for a few minutes. 😊 In the hectic pace we set for ourselves every day, hopefully you can find a moment or two to stop, relax and really notice the things around you. Sit under the shade of a tree and feel the breeze on your skin, or go wild and book a tour with us on Jocassee. We'll take you to some sweet spots where you can take a refreshing swim, feel the chill of a waterfall tumble over you and let it wash your stress away. Let's take a lesson from our little ones... get quiet, pay attention, and actually 'Be Here Now'! And, btw... there's no age limit on being a Jocassee Wild Child. 😊 ~Sheryl White, JLT Naturalist Guide and JWC Educator.

NEW EVENTS COMING IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

STATE PARK EVENTS

Gorges State Park

September 18: 9:00-10:00 AM

Birds of the Gorges

Oconee State Park

September 19: 10:00-11:00 AM

Nature Stroll

Caesars Head State Park

September 19: 10:00-11:30 AM

Hawk Watch

Gorges State Park

September 22: 10:00-10:30 AM

Black Bear Basics

Oconee Station State Historic Site

September 25: 7:30-8:30 PM

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

In this program, with Gary Kauffman, botanist and ecologist, we'll explore where different outcrop types occur and how factors like pH, slope, and geology create distinct ecological worlds.

Conserving Carolina

September 8: 6:00-7:00 PM

Landrum Library Speaker Series:
The Awakening, Biodiversity and
History of the Southern Blue
Ridge Escarpment

Join us as Rick Huffman highlights the unique geology of the Blue Ridge and how millions of years of time and space have shaped our botanical world.

Conserving Carolina

September 10: 5:30-7:00 PM

Green Drinks: Fighting for
Farmland – Henderson County
Farmland Preservation

Join Angela Price, Henderson County Farmland Preservation Coordinator, as she discusses a new agricultural conservation easement program to work in tandem with existing preservation efforts.

Highlands Biological Station

September 11-12: 12:00 PM-6:30 PM

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

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Friends of Jocassee (FOJ)

September 14: 12:00-2:00 PM

Adopt- a- Highway at DFSP

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

Elementary Nature Discovery
Afterschool Club

Palmetto Trail

September 17: 6:00-8:00 PM

Upstate Trail Talk

Hagood Mill Historic Site

September 18-19

SC Old Time Fiddlers Convention

Foothills Trail Conservancy

2026 Native Plant Symposium
with/ David George Haskell,
Preston Montague and Alan
Weakley

Join us for an exploration of the extraordinary native plant diversity of the Southern Appalachian Mountains.

Friends of Jocassee (FOJ)

September 12: 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
V.I.P.--Volunteer, Improve, Protect
Day & BBQ Fundraiser

V.I.P. Day is our annual collaborative litter pickup at Devils Fork State Park involving divers, hikers, and boaters. Join us right after at Jocassee Valley Brewing, just 10 minutes away from the park, for a fun BBQ fundraiser!



Come volunteer and help us keep this 'special place' special.

SC Botanical Garden Events

More Events Coming Soon!

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

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

Conserving Carolina

September 19: 4:30-7:30 PM

Conservation Celebration: Planting
Hope

Conserving Carolina



Heritage Amphitheater at the
SCBG

Borrowed Glimpses



That look of awe
gets us every time.

September 19: 7:00-9:30 PM
Special Film Screening of “Raising
Cane, the Cherokee and
Rivercane”

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

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”

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

GNHA
October 4: 8:00 AM-2:00 PM
Wilderness Medical First Aid

Upstate Forever



Pure joy!
Photos by Kerry McKenzie

October 4: 2:00-5:00 PM
Annual Meeting

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

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



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



Lake Jocassee Webcam

DID YOU KNOW?

Sunday, September 6, 2026 is International Vulture Awareness Day. The International Vulture Awareness Day portal notes that the day is “a chance to shatter the myths, celebrate the wonder of vultures, and take

action to protect these vital birds before it's too late." Mark your calendars now for International Vulture Awareness Day 2027 on September 4th!

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@jocasseeuketours.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!