



[Gmail messages are clipped.]

Click link on bottom left corner to view entire newsletter.]

Greetings!

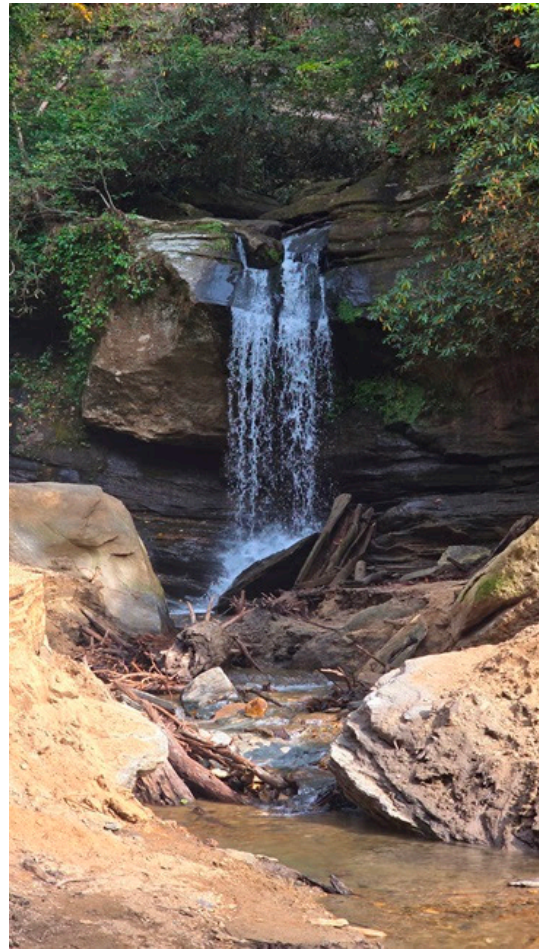


Welcome to the Blue Wall Weekly, your source for what's going on outside along the Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment. Feel free to share your own photos, videos, and adventures along the Blue Wall by sending them to the email address at the bottom of the page, and we'll do our best to make you (locally)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

Rain, Finally Rain

The awesome power of water inspires: the ease with which it carves its own rushing path, the way it tosses loads both heavy and cumbersome, crown over root, along its way. Boulder and sand, tree trunk and stone, all tumbled along together until water loses its energy and lays these things to rest. Familiar sand bars that have blocked easy entrance to waterfalls over past summers have

been blown open by a pressure wash of water, settling into new locations along the river channels. Or at least, that was the case last week. Who knows how that may change again after this long, drenching rain from Tropical Storm Isaias? ~K



SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Jocassee Wild Child: A Wild Adventure! (for kids) [Call to Book!](#)
[\(864\) 280-5501](#)

October 13: 11:00 AM-1:00 PM
October 13: 2:00-4:00 PM

Kayak Tours [Book Now!](#)
October 18: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM
(Final kayak tour of 2026!)

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

Full Moon Rising Tour [Book Now!](#)
October 25: 5:15-7:15 PM (Hunter's Moon)

[Foothills Trail Hiking Shuttles --](#)

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!](#)

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

[Book NOW for Autumn Hikes!](#)

[Private Tours are always available](#)



Out for a hike,
Photo by Steve Lewis

OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK, OCTOBER 12, 2026

STATE PARK EVENTS

Gorges State Park

October 12: 10:00-11:00 AM

Our Native Bamboo, Rivercane

Celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day with a talk in the Visitor Center Auditorium about rivercane- the Southern Appalachian region's native bamboo.

THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE OCTOBER 12, 2026

I take Wild Child students for a walk on Turtle Island because it provides easy access to a good variety of trees and shrubs that are common in the gorges. We've found at least 15 tree species, and I could talk about plants all day, but I know the attention span of the typical fourth grade class, so we walk and talk. I challenge them to find deer poop along the way. I tell them to avoid the greenbrier. I remind them to follow me, and I'll clear the Joro spider webs from the path. Some of the students are ready to race up the hill, and some of them are struggling to keep up. We wait and listen; do you know what bird that is? We nibble a sourwood leaf. What do you taste? At the top of the hill, we gather. We started climbing from the shore, and we have achieved no more than 100 feet of elevation gain and traveled no more than 1,000 yards. Nonetheless, we have a beautiful view of the valley below, and the mountains to the north. It's a simple thing, getting to the top, but we did it together. ~ Steve Lewis, JLT Naturalist guide and JWC Educator

NEW EVENTS COMING IN OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

STATE PARK EVENTS

Gorges State Park



Rivercane,
GSP Photo

Oconee Station State Historic Site

October 12, 23 & 29: 2:00-3:30 PM

Historic Building Tour

Come for a ranger-led tour of the buildings while learning about the history of the site.

Oconee State Park

October 17: 10:00-11:30 AM

CCC History Stroll

Learn about the vital role the CCC played in shaping our state parks during the Great Depression and discover several historic structures built by the enrollees themselves.

Oconee Station State Historic Site

October 17: 6:00-8:00 PM

Legends, Lore & S'mores

Gather around as we share tales of the site, on tales of daring adventures, and a few spine-

ting ghost stories from the SC Wildlife Federation.
October 13: 12:00 PM

Wetlands 102: The Value of Wetlands and Why They're Worth Protecting

Join the South Carolina Conservation Coalition for our second webinar all about wetlands, their benefits, and how we can help preserve them as they face new threats.

October 21: 10:00-10:30 AM

10 Hiking Essentials

Oconee Station State Historic Site

October 24: 6:45-7:45 PM

Candlelight Tour

Gorges State Park

October 25: 10:00-10:30 AM

Fall Colors Hike

Table Rock State Park

October 30: 5:00-6:00 PM

Let's Get Batty

Table Rock State Park

October 30: 6:15-7:45 PM

Bat Watch

Gorges State Park

October 30: 7:00-8:00 PM

Haunted History Hike

Gorges State Park

November 3: 9:00-11:00 AM

Native Plant Gardens Volunteer Day

Oconee Station State Historic Site

November 8: 12:00-3:30 PM

Harvest Picnic and Art Show

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

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

Conserving Carolina

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

Steve O'Neil will share his fully electric truck and solar powered RV, as well as his insight and experience of building and using solar power systems as well as driving 100% electric vehicles for over a decade.



Conserving Carolina Photo

SCNPS Upstate

October 13: 5:00-8:30 PM

Golden Corner Chapter Meeting

We will start with a garden tour with Rick Huffman at 5:00pm, followed by the meeting at 6:30.

Sierra Club South Carolina

October 13: 6:00-8:00 PM

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

Spend time with others who love bikes, the outdoors, and building a stronger local community.

Highlands Biological Station

October 14: 6:00-7:00 PM

Science & S'mores: What Do
Insects Have to Do with Climate?

For our first gathering, we'll dig into how insects shape forest ecosystems and how climate influences their role in nutrient cycling.

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

SC Wildlife Federation

October 23-25

Palmetto Outdoors Women's
Retreat

Mushroom Mountain

October 24: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Fall Mushroom Cultivation
Workshop

Sierra Club South Carolina

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

Bike the Doodle Trail

Hagood Mill Historic Site

October 24: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Artifact Identification Day

Conestee Nature Preserve

October 24: 6:30-8:30 PM

Night Hike-Bats, Owls and More!

Conserving Carolina

October 27: 9:00 -11:00 AM

November 3: 9:00-11:00 AM

November 3: 1:00-3:00 PM

Conestee Nature Preserve

October 15: 3:00-4:30 PM

Elementary Nature Discovery Afterschool Club

Treeific! Discover why trees are important and how we can help the environment by planting them!

Highlands Biological Station

October 16 & 23: 9:00-10:00 AM

Leaves of Change

Join us on the Kelsey Trail for a naturalist walk to learn more about fall phenology and nature's seasonal processes.

Palmetto Trail

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

Upstate Fall Color Walk

Join CVSC for an autumn trek along our state's breathtaking Palmetto Trail.

SCNPS Upstate

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

Upstate Fall 2026 Online Plant Sale

This will be an online-only sale, with purchases taking place through our Shopify page. SCNPS members can start their shopping a day early!

GCBC

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

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

Conestee Nature Preserve

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. Longer walk- Meet behind the baseball stadium to bird a variety of paved and natural trails.

Pollinator Paradise Partners

Highlands Biological Station

October 30: 9:00-10:00 AM

Creepy Critter Crawl

Foothills Trail Conservancy

October 31: 9:00 AM-12:30 PM

Lower Whitewater Falls

SCNPS Upstate

November 7: 9:30 AM-3:00 PM.

Conestee Nature Preserve 20th

Anniversary Volunteer Activity

SC Botanical Garden Events

October 20: 7:30-9:30 PM

Herbal Delights Series: Sachets and Soaps

October 21: 8:30-9:30 AM

Winged Wednesdays, Fall 2026

October 31: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Natural Plant Communities, SCNP Certificate Core Class

October 31: 1:00-4:00 PM

Nature Center Open House: After Dark- Creatures of the Night Revealed

November 6: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

Fall Invasive Plant Management Workshop

Borrowed Glimpses

Conestee Nature Preserve

October 17: 9:00 AM

From Earth to Paper: A Nature Journaling Class

Participants meet for coffee, take a guided walk through the Preserve gathering small natural treasures, then spend some time together, sketching their collections.

Chattooga Belle Farm

October 17: 10:00 AM

Fall Harvest Festival

Let's celebrate the fall season together with local vendors, live music, apples for sale, apple cider donuts, hayrides, and so much more!

Mushroom Mountain

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

MM Farm Tour- The Haunted Mycelium Tour

Step into the woods... if you dare, for this special Halloween-season experience that explores the darker, stranger side of the fungal world.

Holly Springs Center

October 17: 1:00 AM

Seasonal Class: Bats-Boxes, Behavior and Habitat

Join us for a three-hour hands-on class to make a bat box and learn about bat habitat and behavior.

SC Botanical Garden Events

October 14: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

Rain Gardens: Solutions for Managing Runoff, SCNPS Elective

In this class, participants gain hands-on experience of how water moves through the landscape and the practical strategies



Discovery



Observation

homeowners can use to reduce flooding, erosion and stormwater pollution.

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

**Fall Herbaceous Plant
Identification, SCNP Certificate
Core Class**

Join Trent Miller, former Natural Heritage Trail Manager, to explore the many habitats along the Natural Heritage Trail and learn about the foliage and flowers of mostly herbaceous plants.

October 16: 10:00 AM-12:30 PM

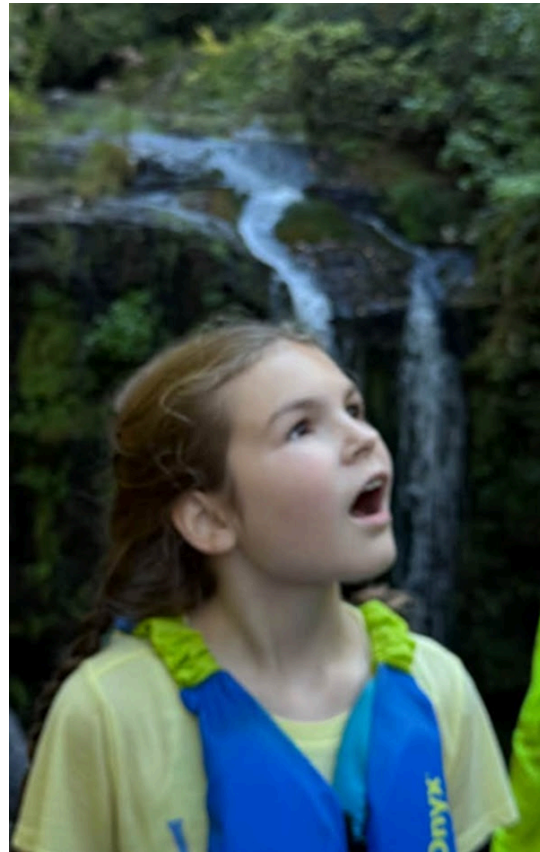
**SCBG Nature Journaling Club,
Fall 2026**

At monthly meetings, we'll come together to explore various subjects and techniques through nature walks and journaling exercises.

October 18: 10:00-11:30 AM

Friday Garden Forays, Fall 2026

Join James Wilkins and discover seasonal highlights and get up close and personal with the native plants and plant communities that support biodiversity as the seasons change.



Wonder

Photos by Kerry McKenzie

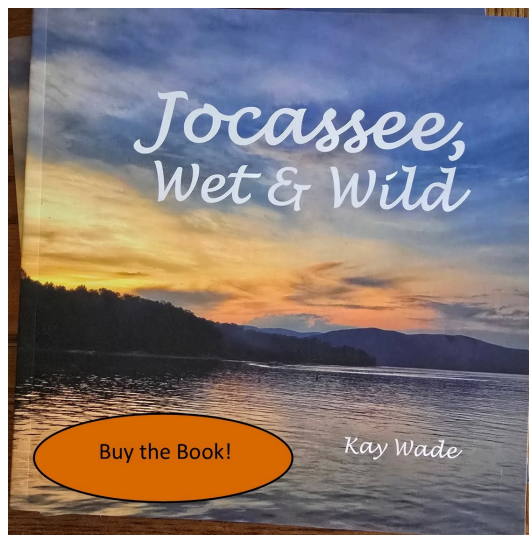
**JOCASSEE WILD CHILD
2026 FUNDRAISER
OCT. 1-DEC. 31**

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



SCBG Photo

**THIS YEAR, GIVE THE GIFT
OF JOCASSEE**



Lake Jocassee Webcam

DID YOU KNOW?

Donations from friends and neighbors have made a day on Lake Jocassee possible for 1500 Pickens, Oconee, and Anderson County schoolchildren--just since the end of August, with nearly that many yet to come between now and the beginning of November. The Jocassee Wild Child program is giving these children what many of them call "the best day they've ever had."

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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