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

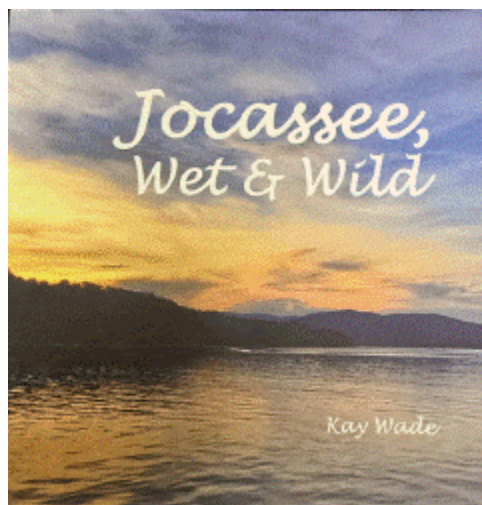
Greetings!



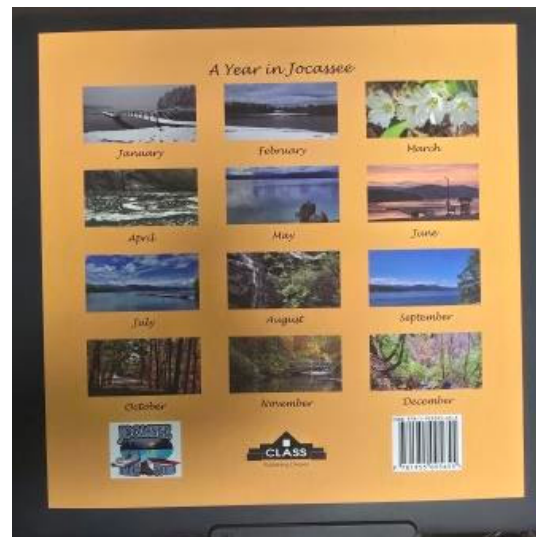
Welcome to the Blue Wall Weekly, your source for what's going on outside along the Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment. Feel free to share your own photos, videos, and adventures along the Blue Wall by sending them to the email address at the bottom of the page, and we'll do our best to make you (locally)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

So, I wrote a book...

Or, more to the point, I compiled a book. It's a book about Jocassee. Over thirteen years I've written about the nature of Jocassee every week, featuring different beings who live here: loons, Oconee bells, millipedes, Great blue herons. I've written about events that continue to shape this remarkable place: lightning storms, drought, hurricanes, ice storms. Jocassee has taken on a



personality for so many of us, as muse, as healer, as a keeper of secrets. As a place of wonder, and mystery. Jocassee, as both inspiration and solace. I've included all of this within the pages of this book, and if the words don't pull you in, maybe the photos will. The book is for sale, so consider this my one shameless plug. It is, if I do say so, a wonderful gift for anyone who has fallen in love with this beautiful lake that flows gently around the curves of these beautiful mountains. You can buy it here. ~K



SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Halloween Book Now!
October 31: 11:00 AM-2:00 PM

Thanksgiving Book Now!
November 27: 11:00 AM-2:00 PM

Foothills Trail Hiking Shuttles --
Book NOW for Autumn Hikes!

BOOK ONLINE

or **CALL (864) 280-5501**

Private Tours are always available!

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!

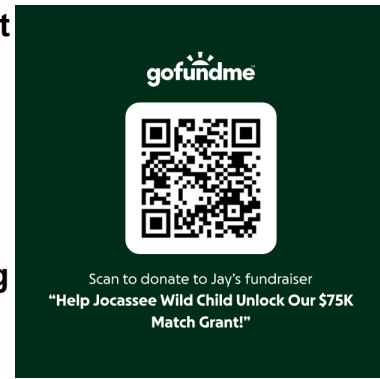
Saturday Lake Tours
10:00 AM-2:00 PM Book Now!

Sunday Three Hour Tours
10:00 AM-1:00 PM Book Now!
2:00-5:00 PM Book Now!



Donate through Square

Make every dollar count
DOUBLE!
MAIL a donation to:
Jocassee Wild Child
PO Box 582
Salem, SC 29676
THANK YOU for making
Jocassee Wild Child
possible!



Exploring a cool, spooky cave



Lampshade spider web

THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE OCTOBER 25, 2026

Spooky Season, Jocassee Wild Child Style!

With Halloween just around the corner, we added a little SPOOKY fun to our Jocassee Wild Child adventure! Armed with green laser pointers, we explored a dark cave and discovered several fascinating lampshade spiders! We also found Devil's Walking Stick plants, covered in wicked-looking thorns, and learned how this native plant earned its spooky name! Next, we swam above an old graveyard while bringing the history of the Jocassee Valley to life, from the Cherokee people to the families who once called this valley home. Then came a great question: Why is it called Devils Fork? Out came the maps! We discovered how mountain streams carved their way through the landscape, forming a trident-like pattern. Then off we went searching for those streams and waterfalls! A little spooky, a whole lot of WONDER! ~Kerry McKenzie, JWC Director, JLT Naturalist Guide

**OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK,
OCTOBER 25, 2026**

Want to help more children
experience adventures like this?
Our \$100,000 MATCHING

STATE PARK EVENTS

Oconee Station State Historic Site

October 29: 1:00-2:30 PM

Historic Building Tour

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



Photo by @jeauxsmo

Table Rock State Park

October 30: 5:00-6:00 PM

Let's Get Batty

Let's celebrate Bat Week with some bat crafts, activities, and trivia games! We will follow the activities with a bat count with which you can help!

Table Rock State Park

October 30: 6:15-7:45 PM

Bat Watch

Join us for Bat Watch and learn all about bats but also help us count the bats as they leave their roost at dusk. This survey helps SCDNR bat researchers track the health of the total bat population at the park.

CHALLENGE is ON through December 31!

Every eligible donation is matched, helping us grow more wild hearts in wild places!

Give today and DOUBLE your impact!

NEW EVENTS COMING IN NOVEMBER

STATE PARK EVENTS

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

Table Rock State Park

November 14: 2:00-10:00 AM

Sunrise Hike-Bald Knob

-

Table Rock State Park

November 14: 2:00-6:00 PM

Music on the Mountain

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

November 3 & 17: 1:00-3:00 PM

Pollinator Paradise Partners

Conestee Nature Preserve

November 5: 3:00-4:30 PM

Elementary Nature Discovery Afterschool Club

-

GNHA

November 7: 9:15 AM-4:15 PM

Jones Gap

Gorges State Park

October 30: 7:00-8:00 PM

Haunted History Hike

Join a Ranger on a hike through history- learn about local legends, ghost stories, and the people who lived on the land before Gorges was Gorges!

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Upstate SC Young Birders

October 27

Furman University, Greenville County

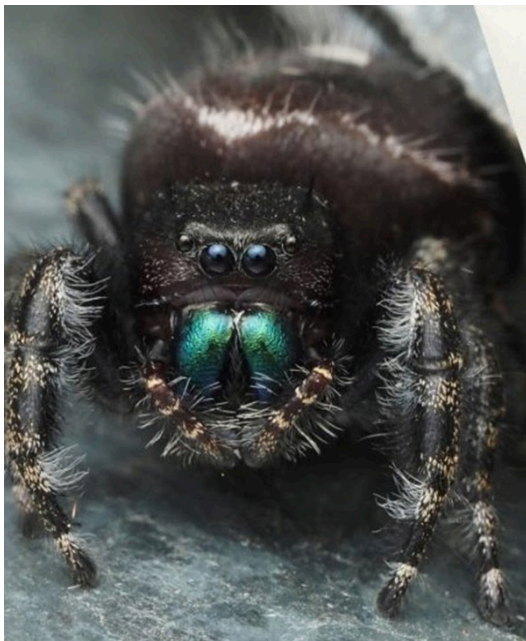
Email Aerin at UpstateSC.youngbirders@gmail.com for more information

Highlands Biological Station

October 30: 9:00-10:00 AM

Creepy Critter Crawl

Join us for a weird walk through the botanical gardens to learn about the obscure, creepy, crawly, and strange creatures that can be found on the Highlands Plateau.



Boo!

I've got my eyes on you!

HBS Photo

SCNPS Upstate

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

Conestee Nature Preserve 20th Anniversary Volunteer Activity

Hagood Mill Historic Site

November 7: 10:00 AM-8:00 PM

Midgard at the Mill: A Viking Invasion

-

Conestee Nature Preserve

November 7: 11:00 AM-2:00 PM

Celebrate 20 Years of Trail Connections

Hagood Mill Historic Site

November 7: 1:00-4:30 PM

Forage Walks at Hagood Mill

-

Hagood Mill Historic Site

November 7: 1:00-4:30 PM

Mushroom Walks with Anthony Moricoli

-

GNHA

November 8: 8:30 AM-4:00 PM

Sassafras Mountain Up and Back from Hwy. 178

Conserving Carolina

November 12: 2:00-3:30 PM

Etowah Library Speaker Series: Caring for Trees on your Property

-

Mushroom Mountain

November 12: 2:00-3:30 PM

MM Farm Tour

Friends of Jocassee (FOJ)

November 13: 5:30 PM

Jocassee Fireside Chat: Restoration and Habitat Enhancement for Southern Appalachian Brook Trout

Conestee Nature Preserve

November 14: 9:00-11:00 AM

Foothills Trail Conservancy

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

Lower Whitewater Falls

Join former FTC Board member, and retired DNR information specialist, Greg Lucas, on a hike along the John Garton Trail to the Lower Whitewater Falls overlook.

GNHA

October 31: 9:30 AM-1:30 PM

Clemson Experimental Forest- Fants Grove-Green Triangle Trail

From the Butch Kennedy Trailhead behind T. Ed Garrison Arena, we will hike the green triangle trail through a mixture of stately pines and rolling pastures, stopping along the shores of Lake Hartwell for a snack.

SC Botanical Garden Events

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

Natural Plant Communities, SCNP Certificate Core Class

Join expert naturalist Tim Lee to build your knowledge base of major conceptual issues and areas of current research in native plant ecology.

October 31: 1:00-4:00 PM

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

We'll explore the secret night-time lives of bats, moths, owls and more through family-friendly hands-on activities and crafts.

From Earth to Paper: A Nature Journaling Class

Sierra Club South Carolina

November 14: 9:00-11:30 AM

Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup Greenville

Hagood Mill Historic Site

November 14: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Beginner Foraging Walk with Donna Putney

-

Holly Springs Center

November 14: 2:00- 4:00 PM

Intro to Bee Keeping

Conestee Nature Preserve

November 15: 10:00-11:30 AM

Mindfulness with the Meadow

Conserving Carolina

November 17: 6:00 PM

Landrum Library Speaker Series: South Carolina's Botanical Treasures: Exploring Our Native and Rare Plants

SCNPS

November 17: 6:30-8:00 PM

Upstate Monthly Meeting

-

GCBC

November 21: 8:00-10:30 AM

(Shorter Walk)

November 21: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM

(Longer Walk)

Conestee Nature Preserve

-

GNHA

November 21: 8:00 AM-3:30 PM

Whitewater Falls via Bad Creek

-

Sierra Club South Carolina

November 21: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

Hike in Ashmore Heritage Preserve



Strix varia Barred Owl,
Web image

Borrowed Glimpses



Just one of several bears spotted
this week around the lake shore.
Photo by Kerry McKenzie

SC Botanical Garden Events

November 6: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM
Fall Invasive Plant Management
Workshop

November 7: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
Sustainable Landscaping, SCNP
Certificate Core Class

November 11: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
Invasive Species Management,
SCNP Certificate Elective

November 17: 7:30-9:30 PM
Herbal Delights Series: Bath Salts
and Dream Pillows

November 18: 8:30-9:30 AM
Winged Wednesdays

November 18: 9:30 AM-4:00 PM
Adopt-a-Stream Macroinvertebrate
Monitoring Workshop

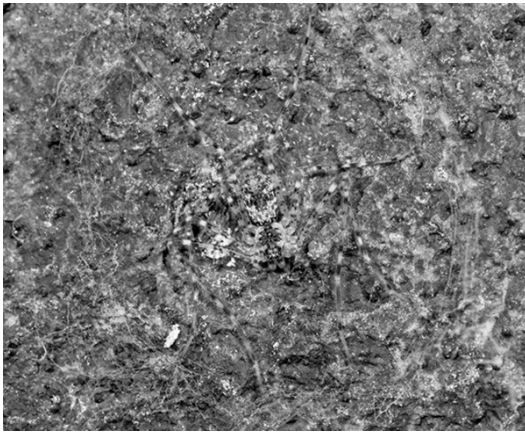
November 20: 10:00-11:30 AM
Friday Garden Forays

November 21: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
Tree Identification, SCNP
Certificate Core Class



Lake Jocassee Webcam
Sponsored by Friends of Jocassee

THANK YOU



This lampshade spider is hiding in plain sight. Zoom in... if you dare,
Photo by Marshal Hedin

to all our friends who helped us match our \$75,000 challenge in 2025.

This year, we can help even more local children experience Jocassee Wild Child, IF we can match a new 2026 \$100,000 challenge!

DID YOU KNOW?

Many species of young spiders can release a length of silk into the air and let the wind whisk them away to new, far flung adventures. Lampshade spiderlings, however, appear to simply walk away from the mother web. These spiders are found primarily in the mountains, as they use damp cliffs and rock overhangs, often near rivers, for their preferred habitat.

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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