

[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!

I wait for rain with all the patience of a five-year-old waiting for Santa Claus. Lake Jocassee's clear, cool water has dropped to a new low of 16' below full pool; ancient gneiss rocks carrying old propeller scars now rise ten feet into open air. Familiar landmarks look familiar no more. Favorite talking points—the wintergreen fragrance of yellow birch, the silky strength of a fall webworm nest, the ripe-or-not ripe dare of persimmon fruit—are all out of easy reach. A wide

exposure of shoreline reveals gaps of white sand beach between long stretches of fragmented rock. Before the lake, forests covered these slopes. Then water rose, and now water recedes, uncovering mysteries from time long passed. Come, see, before the rain returns and the lake reclaims the secrets of the land.



**This exposed Jocassee shore
has its own stories to hide.**

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!)

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

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

[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!](#)

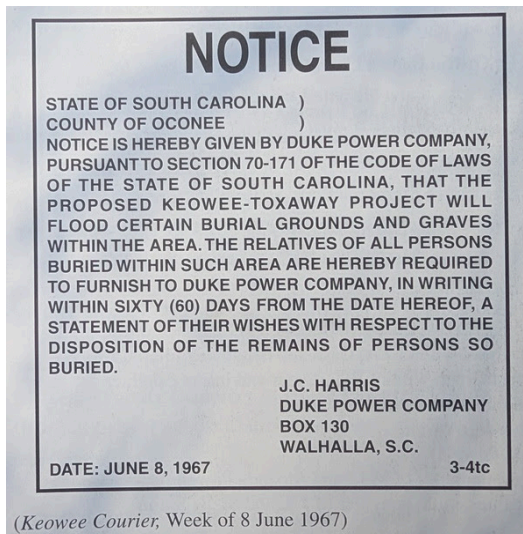
Saturday Lake Tours
10:00 AM-2:00 PM [Book Now!](#)

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

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



One of the headstones at Mt. Carmel Cemetery,
now 138' below the lake surface,
Mr. A.L. "Hig" & Louisa "Lucy"
Jane Thomas Whitmire
Photo by Stacey Wilkinson

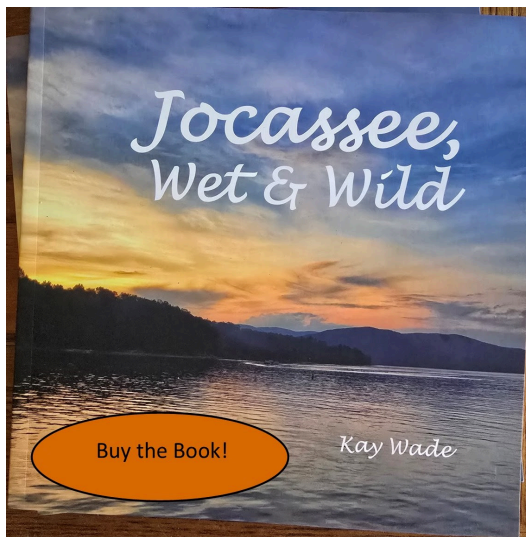


(Keowee Courier, Week of 8 June 1967)

THIS YEAR, GIVE THE GIFT OF JOCASSEE

THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE OCTOBER 5, 2026

Most often, one of the first stops on our tours is out at Mt. Carmel Church Buoy where we share a bit of history with you. 138' below that buoy lies the remnants of the old church cemetery. Mt. Carmel church was the largest church in the valley. When there was a death in the valley, the church bells were rung the number of times for the age of the person and neighbors would come to help build a coffin, dig a grave and assist the families with food or farm chores, etc.. This spot is popular with scuba divers, and one graciously shared some of her photos of the headstones with me recently. These stones were left behind when Duke Power paid to have the human remains exhumed and relocated to other local cemeteries. After doing a little research and talking with Claudia Whitmire Hembree, author of *Jocassee Valley*, I learned a little bit about who these wonderful folks were. Mr. Alson Lafayette Whitmire aka "Hig" married Louisa "Lucy" Jane Thomas. They raised 9 children, operated a hotel in the upper end of the valley, grew crops, made wine from muscadines (to sell for income) and Lucy would hitch their mule, Mack, to their buggy and tend the sick, since the closest doctor/dentist was further up in the mountains, three ridges over. Neighbors depended on each other and contributed to the overall



well-being of the community. If you enjoy history and love Jocassee, consider reading Claudia's book. It is wonderfully informative and you get a chance to step back in time and learn a little about a former way of life here. You can find a digital copy online and by the way, Hig and Lucy just happened to be Claudia's grandparents. Sheryl White, JLT naturalist guide.

OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK, OCTOBER 5, 2026

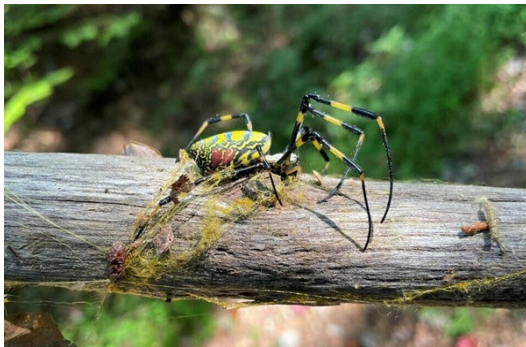
STATE PARK EVENTS

Gorges State Park

October 7: 9:00-10:00 AM

All About Arachnids

Join a Ranger for a moderate hike on the Picnic Connector trail to learn about the spiders of Gorges!



Joro spider, GSP photo

Table Rock State Park

October 10: 2:30-10:30 AM

Sunrise Hike- Bald Knob

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

October 10: 2:00-6:00 PM

Music on the Mountain

NEW EVENTS COMING IN OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

STATE PARK EVENTS

Gorges State Park

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

Native Plant Gardens Volunteer Day

Gorges State Park

October 12: 10:00-11:00 AM

Our Native Bamboo, Rivercane

Oconee Station State Historic Site

October 12: 2:00-3:30 PM

Historic Building Tour

Oconee State Park

October 17: 10:00-11:30 AM

CCC History Stroll

Table Rock State Park

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

Phone Photography Workshop

Oconee Station State Historic Site

October 17: 6:00-8:00 PM

Legends, Lore & S'mores

Oconee Station State Historic Site

October 24: 6:45-7:45 PM

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.

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

GNHA

October 5: 5:30-7:30 PM

Conestee Nature Preserve After Work Hike

This will be a 2.5 miles per hour hike over flat ground with time to stop and view the wildlife.

SCUMS

October 5: 6:30 PM

Monthly meeting: Mushroom Forager's Choice

Author Russell Cutts will share excerpts from his recently published book on the 50 best wild mushrooms to collect and why.

Conserving Carolina

October 7: 2:00-3:30 PM

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

This presentation explores the remarkable world of bioluminescence in the mountains and forests of western NC, where fireflies, glow worms, and fungi illuminate the night through natural chemical light production.

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 Hik

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

SC Wildlife Federation

October 13: 12:00 PM

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

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

SCNPS Upstate

October 13: 5:00-8:30 PM

Golden Corner Chapter Meeting

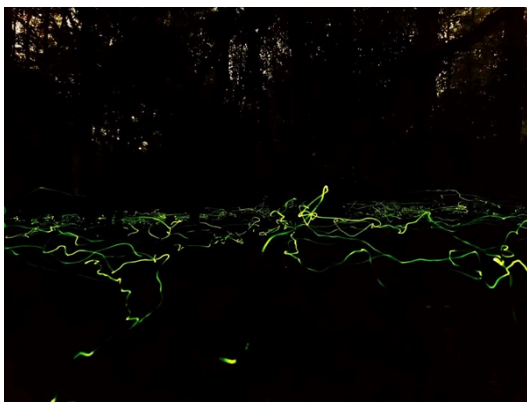
Sierra Club South Carolina

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



Foxfire

Photo by Laurie Etter

Conserving Carolina

October 8: 5:30-7:00 PM

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

Conserving Carolina's Restoration Manager, Wood Robinson, will highlight Conserving Carolina's innovative floodplain restoration projects along the French Broad River, focusing on their important role in mitigating flood risks, improving biodiversity, and enhancing water quality.

Mushroom Mountain

October 8: 6:00-8:00 PM

Mushroom Cooking Class at MM

Join Mushroom Mountain's own Olga Katic for a delicious and educational hands-on mushroom cooking experience.

Mushroom Mountain

October 8: 6:00-8:00 PM

Mini Clinic- Medicinal Mushrooms: Learn to Make Your Own Extracts

Are you interested in learning how to incorporate mushrooms into your daily life to support overall wellness, resilience, and balance? Harness the power of medicinal mushrooms!

Elementary Nature Discovery Afterschool Club

Highlands Biological Station

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

Leaves of Change

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

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

Conestee Nature Preserve

October 10: 8:00-10:00 AM

Birding 101: Warblers

This event is great for those who have never put on a pair of binoculars or for those just getting started with their birding journey.

GNHA

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

Caesar's Head SP

A beautiful, though very challenging hike virtually in our back yard.

Highlands Biological Station

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

Amazing Moths

Stop by the Cook Pavilion to learn about what makes moths amazing and how you can attract them to your own backyard!

Hagood Mill Historic Site

October 10: 1:00-4:00 PM

Mushrooms 101

~~SC Botanical Garden Events~~
Mushrooms 101 is designed for those curious about identifying, growing, and understanding mushrooms in a safe and practical way. Discover how and why native plants have the potential to transform traditional horticultural practices with Jon Fritz, owner of Bluestem Landscape Design.

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

Fungi & Native Plant Communities, SCNP Certificate Elective

This class will explore the important roles fungi play in healthy native plant communities, from mycorrhizal partnerships and nutrient cycling to

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

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

Conestee Nature Preserve

October 24: 6:30-8:30 PM

Night Hike-Bats, Owls and More!

Highlands Biological Station

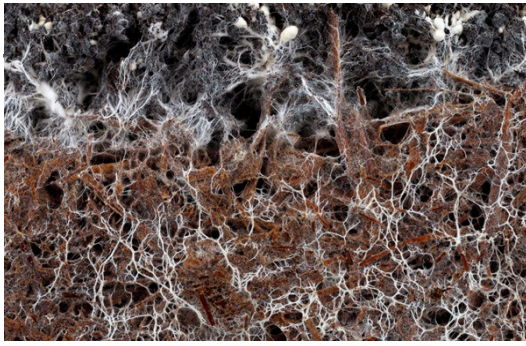
October 30: 9:00-10:00 AM

Creepy Critter Crawl

Foothills Trail Conservancy

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

Lower Whitewater Falls



Mycorrhizal fungi,
Photo by [hugokaempfer.de](https://www.hugokaempfer.de)

SC Botanical Garden Events

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

October 16: 10:00 AM-12:30 PM
SCBG Nature Journaling Club, Fall
2026

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

October 31: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
Natural Plant Communities, SCNP
Certificate Core Class

JOCASSEE WILD CHILD 2026 FUNDRAISER BEGINS NOW!!



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

Lake Jocassee Webcam

DID YOU KNOW?

Lower lake levels offer a glimpse into the processes of mountain building in the southern Appalachians. Note how exposed rock formations around Jocassee's shoreline tilt towards the northwest.

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**



**JOCASSEE
— REAL ESTATE —**

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