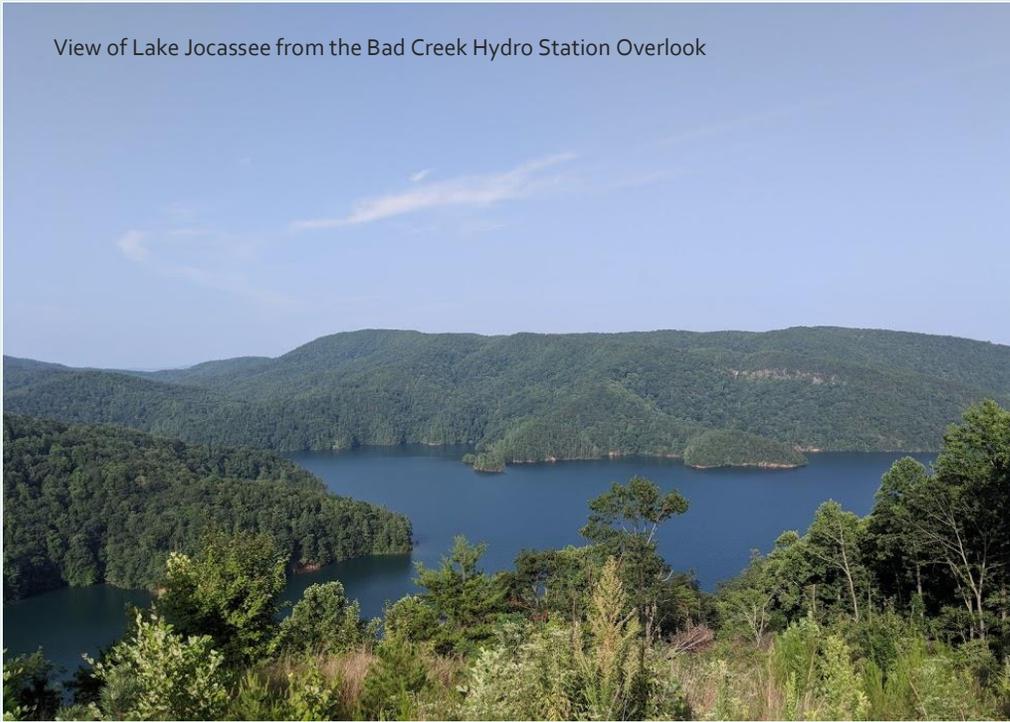


View of Lake Jocassee from the Bad Creek Hydro Station Overlook



FRIENDS OF JOCASSEE

SUMMER 2018

First Annual Paddle Splash Coming October 13th

The unspoiled mountain waters of South Carolina's premier inland paddling destination are home to the [Lake Jocassee Paddle Splash](#), offering races for kayaks, surfskis, canoes, paddleboards, rowers, and other self-powered craft. To keep the racing fair, beginners and advanced paddlers are grouped by age and the speed of their chosen craft. Participants can choose between long (six mile) and short (three mile) loop courses. No kayak? No paddleboard? No problem! Kayak and SUP rentals are available on site at the Eclectic Sun Paddlesports concession (reservation required).

All participants will receive a Paddle Splash T-shirt, and everyone is eligible for winning a door prize. The top three places in each class age group receive a prize.

Advance registration for adults is \$30 per person, and \$20 for those under 16. (To receive the youth discount, use Coupon Code "Under16" at the registration website.

Early registration closes at midnight, October 7th, and regular registration (which will cost \$10 extra per person) closes at 6pm on October 10th.

A post-race awards ceremony will be held at Jocassee Valley Brewing Co., featuring local craft beers and the Food Truckin' Food Truck from Oconee Station Grill.

Paddle Splash is part of the SEP series. <http://www.sepseries.org/>



VIP DAY COMING SEPTEMBER 8

Volunteer. Improve. Preserve. These words are the heart and mission of Friends of Jocassee, and once again we will put words into action for the 8th Annual VIP Day at Devils Fork State Park.

Volunteers of all ages are welcome to help clean up the shore, trails, and roadsides of this beautiful park. This year we also need volunteers to carry supplies down the Oconee Bell Trail for construction of a new boardwalk.

Boaters and kayakers are asked to scout popular areas around the lake where summer visitors stop on the shoreline and sometimes leave behind an un-interesting array of refuse.

Divers, who began the whole volunteer cleanup effort prior to 2011, still play a large role in VIP Day. Many pounds of debris collect under water over time, and the dive community is an invaluable resource for cleaning that up. Divers can register for the event by contacting Mike Atkins, mike@jocasseeadventures.com.

All in all, VIP Day is about giving back to a place that gives so many of us a beautiful place to relax and play.

Come out on Saturday, September 8 and join Friends of Jocassee for a satisfying half day of volunteer work.

[Sign up here!](#)

COMING EVENTS

VIP Day! (Volunteer, Improve, Preserve Day)
Saturday, Sept. 8: 9:00am
Devils Fork State Park

Quarterly Talk ~ Butterfly Migrations!
Stephen Schutt
South Cove County Park
Friday, Sept. 28: 10:00am

1st Annual PADDLE SPLASH!
Saturday, October 13: 9:00am
Devils Fork State Park

FOJ Annual Membership Meeting
Thursday, October 25: 10am
World of Energy

Water n Wildlife Day
Saturday, November 10: 9am
Keowee-Toxaway State Park

New Oconee Bell Educational Garden Greets Visitors to DFSP

Recently Dr. John Scroggins from Lenoir, NC approached the South Carolina Park Service wishing to donate to Devils Fork State Park some native Oconee Bells (*Shortia galacifolia*) that he removed from the Jocassee Valley prior to the formation of the lake. That donation helped develop a special exhibit at the park.

Viewing the beautiful blooms of the Oconee Bells in early spring is hard enough. Their native habitat is streambanks and slopes of the Jocassee Gorges in high rainfall areas, usually in the deep shade of rhododendron. Now, imagine having limited mobility. This issue has been a concern for DFSP for many years.

The Devils Fork team welcomed the opportunity, and, with the help of Friends of Jocassee and the Salem Iris Garden Club, created an exhibit that allows wheelchair access to view a colony of native Oconee Bells. The exhibit, which is located at the Ranger Station, simulates the environment of a mountain creek.

"Allowing people to connect to the natural resources of the park is one of our main goals," said Park Manager Kevin Evans. "We are so grateful to everyone who has helped us make this exhibit possible. Without the donations of the Bells, the funds to create the exhibit, and the time spend helping install the plants, this exhibit would not exist."

BELLFEST 2018 WAS A LIVELY EVENT!

The Oconee Bells were blooming, clouds parted to let through warm sunshine, and the neighborhood turned out to celebrate our famous little mountain wildflower, and the place where it's found.

This year's BellFest at Devils Fork State Park on beautiful Lake Jocassee was a lively event. Scores of hikers walked the looping Oconee Bell Trail, where SC Master Naturalists interpreted the intriguing story of the discovery and re-discoveries of *Shortia galacifolia*, aka the Oconee Bell. Funds raised by the Silent Auction at BellFest will go towards construction of a boardwalk to help protect the Trail from compaction in areas where Oconee Bells grow.

Local musicians and cloggers kept up a lively beat at the park's pavilion, and visitors browsed the Silent Auction table for deals and wandered among displays promoting the cultural and natural history of the Jocassee Gorges, including the 150th anniversary of Oconee County! One woman demonstrated the spinning of yarn to make homespun clothes, and another mounted a stump to talk about the medicine in plants growing around our feet. Other exhibitors talked about keeping bees, and saving frogs, saving historic homes, and growing native plants. Still others displayed skulls, skins, and casts of tracks of different animals that live in the area.

And there was art! Locally-themed photography, paintings, etchings, jewelry, and bowls turned from local wood proved that some serious talent hides in the folds of these mountains.

And there were tours of Lake Jocassee! FOJ Board Members provided new and renewing FOJ members with pontoon tours of a hidden gem of Lake Jocassee, where Oconee Bells were seen blooming right by the edge of the lake. The lake level, full for the first time in more than two years, gave photographers a unique and up-close perspective to photograph the beautiful blossoms!

Everyone enjoyed the BellFest entertainment!



Come see the new Oconee Bell Garden at DFSP!

SPRING QUARTERLY TALK w/ Tim Lee: Spring Songbird Migration through the Jocassee Gorges

Friends of Jocassee members and their friends flocked into the Holcombe Room at Devils Fork State Park to hear a presentation by Tim Lee, Park Naturalist for the SC Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area. Tim's talk focused on many aspects of the spring and fall migration of songbirds throughout Upstate South Carolina, particularly the ecologically important Mountain Bridges and Jocassee Gorges regions. Tim's enthusiastic presentation, intimate relationship with birds, and interesting insights into bird behavior made for a most informative morning. Tim Lee speaks at a variety of venues around the Upstate. If you get an opportunity to hear him speak, don't miss it!

WHAT'S NEW? "Know Before You Go" Brochures

Thanks to FOJ Board member Mike Atkins for putting together an informative "Know Before You Go" brochure. The brochure highlights the importance of preserving and protecting the shoreline and hiking trails around Jocassee by using "pack in/pack out" principles, removing litter others have left behind, protecting plants and animals by staying on trails, and practicing safe boating. Brochures will be available at DFSP fee booths and at Eclectic Sun, located in the pavilion/day use area at DFSP.

Know before you Go

Brought to you by Friends of Jocassee

We hope everyone has a great time at Jocassee and enjoys all this area has to offer. With hiking trails, beaches, boating, waterfalls and clear water, Jocassee has it all. Please take a few minutes to look over this flyer and help us conserve and keep this area beautiful and pristine for generations to come.

The Beaches and Hiking trails

With a number of beaches and trails to explore, Jocassee has plants and animals that are only found in this area. One such plant is the Oconee Bell. This little plant lives and thrives in the valley. Please stay on all trails and paths for the well being and safety of plants, animals and you. Climbing rocks and areas off trails kills many plants and creates an opportunity for water to erode and wash the shoreline.

The Beauty

Jocassee is a magical place that offers areas for hikers, boaters, beach goers and scuba divers to explore. Please help by bagging all trash you have or if you find it. There are drop off bins around the park. If boating, please remember to secure items and bring extra trash bags. With thousands of visitors at the lake each year, just picking up a piece of trash here and there would help.

Boating on the lake

Boaters can enjoy 75 miles of shoreline on Jocassee. With white sand beaches and waterfalls that drop into the lake, this is by far a most beautiful place. To have a safe and fun adventure make sure you have the following:

life vest for each passenger (and extra), throw cushion, fire extinguisher, signaling device, cell phone, first aid kit and lake map.



Check the weather and watch for storms as Jocassee can change in a second with over 3ft seas. Take cover in a cove if you are caught in one. Stay away from open, deep areas of lake during storms. Remember to watch for waterfowl, kayakers, swimmers and scuba divers. Lots of other water activities are taking place along the lake.

Please stay 50ft away from dive flags. Divers are 360 degrees around this flag



Enjoy your day and stay alert and safe

Join us.... and become a friend

Want to help and be apart of it all? Join Friends of Jocassee and give back. With your membership, you will help maintain beaches, trails, animal habitats, cleanups, water quality and much much more. Check us out at

www.FriendsofJocassee.com



WHAT'S NEW!



WHAT'S NEW? Fishing Line Containers at DFSP and K-TSP Boat Ramps

Did you know that ingesting a single lead weight will kill a water bird? Or that fishing line left behind on trees and shrubs can ensnare birds, turtles, and other wildlife? And yet disposing of hooks, lines, and sinkers can be a painful problem. Thanks to FOJ Board member and former DFSP assistant manager Ray Fenton, disposal units for discarded fishing line can now be found at boat ramps at both Devils Fork State Park and Keowee-Toxaway State Park. Thanks, Ray! We miss you!

UPCOMING FOJ FALL QUARTERLY TALK:

FALL BUTTERFLY MIGRATION

~ Stephen Schutt, Park Manager at South Cove County Park
Friday, September 28th, 10:00 am at South Cove County Park

CHECK OUT THESE NEW FEATURES NEXT TIME YOU'RE AT DEVILS FORK STATE PARK OR KEOWEE-TOXAWAY STATE PARK!

FOJ HOLDS 'MINI WORKDAY' AT KEOWEE-TOXAWAY STATE PARK

Hot May weather didn't stop FOJ volunteers from continuing the improvements at K-T State Park. "Cutting through" from the lower parking lot to access the trailhead has contributed to erosion made worse by stormwater runoff from the parking lots. FOJ members placed river rock in a bioswale designed to capture the runoff and planted the area with native plants that will feed pollinators and enhance the natural beauty of this special place.



New bioswale and garden at Keowee-Toxaway State Park

FOJ EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Sherrie Whitten

Vice President – Brooks Wade

Secretary – Mallory Dailey

Treasurer – Debbie Laughridge

Assistant Treasurer – Beth Clark

Parliamentarian – Dan Whitten

Members at Large:

Mike Atkins

Jennifer Bausman

Allan Boggs

Heyward Douglass

Kevin Evans

Ray Felton

Cathy Reas-Foster

Chris Rucker

Ken Sloan

Kay Wade

BECOME A MEMBER OF FRIENDS OF JOCASSEE

Or, send a completed membership form and donation to join or renew membership to:

Friends of Jocassee, PO Box 621, Salem, SC 29676

Name/s _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

- Individual = \$20
- Family = \$30 (# in Family _____)

Annual Donor Level

- Eastatoee = \$100
- Toxaway = \$250
- Horsepasture = \$500
- Thompson = \$1000
- Whitewater = \$2000

Please tell us if you have a special volunteer interest: _____

WANTED: All FOJ Board Members perform and oversee a wide variety of duties. If you are interested in donating time to preserve, promote and protect the natural, cultural, and historic resources of the Jocassee Gorges and Devils Fork State Park, please contact us at info@friendsofjocassee.org