



# Jocassee Journal

Information and News about the Jocassee Gorges

Spring/Summer 2004

Volume 5, Number 1



Jocassee Valley as it appeared prior to Lake Jocassee. The Whitewater River can be seen along the left side of the photo, and Attakulla Lodge, which offered bed and board in Jocassee Valley, is seen in the distant center. (Photo courtesy of Debbie Fletcher)

## Two books published on history of Jocassee

The history of Jocassee Valley comes alive in two books recently published by women who grew up in the area before it was flooded by the Keowee-Toxaway Project beginning in 1971.

The two books are "Whippoorwill Farewell: Jocassee Remembered," by Debbie Fletcher, and "Jocassee Valley," by Claudia Whitmire Hembree. Fletcher and Hembree are cousins.

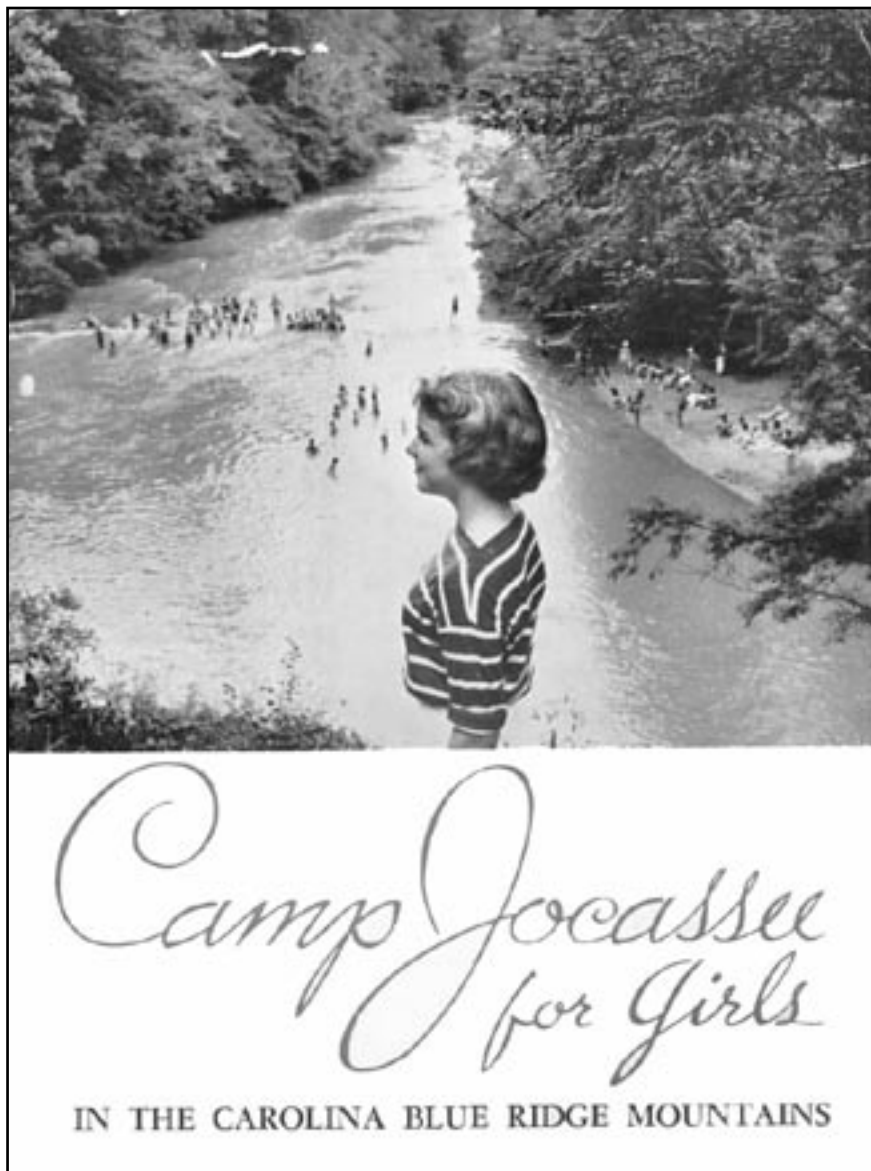
Both books are personal remembrances of Jocassee Valley. Hembree was born and raised in Jocassee Valley and lived there until 1957 when she left to attend Winthrop College. After graduation, she taught school in Greenville County and eventually retired from Dacusville Middle School in Pickens County. She lives in Taylors with her husband, Jim.

Fletcher spent the summers of her youth in Jocassee Valley. She is office manager of a Columbia architectural firm and lives in Chapin with her husband, Dave.

Hembree's hard cover book chronicles the history of Jocassee Valley with 256 pages and 165 photographs. The photographs depict both the people who once lived there and also the scenery of the valley. Interspersed among the photographs are excerpts of some 40 personal interviews as well as various items of historical research by Hembree.

Fletcher's soft cover book of 151 pages tells of her family's life in the valley, of summer suppers of fried chicken, corn bread and blackberry cobbler, and of the people who spent their summers there. The homespun book is filled with family photos.

**Continued on page 2**



Camp Jocassee for Girls was located in Jocassee Valley on the banks of the Whitewater River from 1921 until 1970 (Jocassee Valley was flooded in 1971) . The camp moved to Lake Keowee beginning in 1971, but it ceased operation after the 1976 season. (Photo courtesy of Debbie Fletcher)

## Two books published on history of Jocassee

### Continued from page 1

Some area bookstores are now carrying the Jocassee books. They can also be ordered on-line or through the mail. The Web site for “Whippoorwill Farewell: Jocassee Remembered” is [www.jocasseeremembered.com](http://www.jocasseeremembered.com). To receive a brochure, write Debbie Fletcher, 109 Copperhill Lane, Columbia, SC 29229.

The Web site for “Jocassee Valley” is [www.jocasseevalley.com](http://www.jocasseevalley.com). To receive a brochure, write Claudia W. Hembree, 19 Fernwood Drive, Taylors, SC 29687-4919. ✉

*(Jocassee Journal will carry excerpts from both books in upcoming editions of the newsletter.)*

### **Ordering Information**

For “Whippoorwill Farewell: Jocassee Remembered” write to Debbie Fletcher, 109 Copperhill Lane, Columbia, SC 29229 or visit [www.jocasseeremembered.com](http://www.jocasseeremembered.com)

For “Jocassee Valley” write to Claudia W. Hembree, 19 Fernwood Drive, Taylors, SC 29687-4919 or visit [www.jocasseevalley.com](http://www.jocasseevalley.com).



Wildlife biologist Sam Stokes Sr. played an important role in protection of Jocassee Gorges.

## ‘Living legend’ wildlife biologist retires from state wildlife agency

Sam Stokes Sr., a “living legend” among wildlife biologists in the Palmetto State, recently retired from his position as the chief wildlife biologist in the S.C. Department of Natural Resources’ mountain region. Stokes, a state wildlife biologist for 41 years, played an integral role in the protection of the Jim Timmerman Natural Resources Area at Jocassee Gorges.

“Sam Stokes was truly a living legend,” said Skip Still, wildlife biologist with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) stationed in Clemson. “His abilities reached far beyond those it took to perform his job, but because of these abilities he made us all better and he made the job better. Sam Stokes found our strengths and let us run with them. Sam is a positive person who will not allow those around him to become negative. His positive attitude is contagious. He kept an open-minded, progressive and most of all positive perspective that we should all learn to follow.”

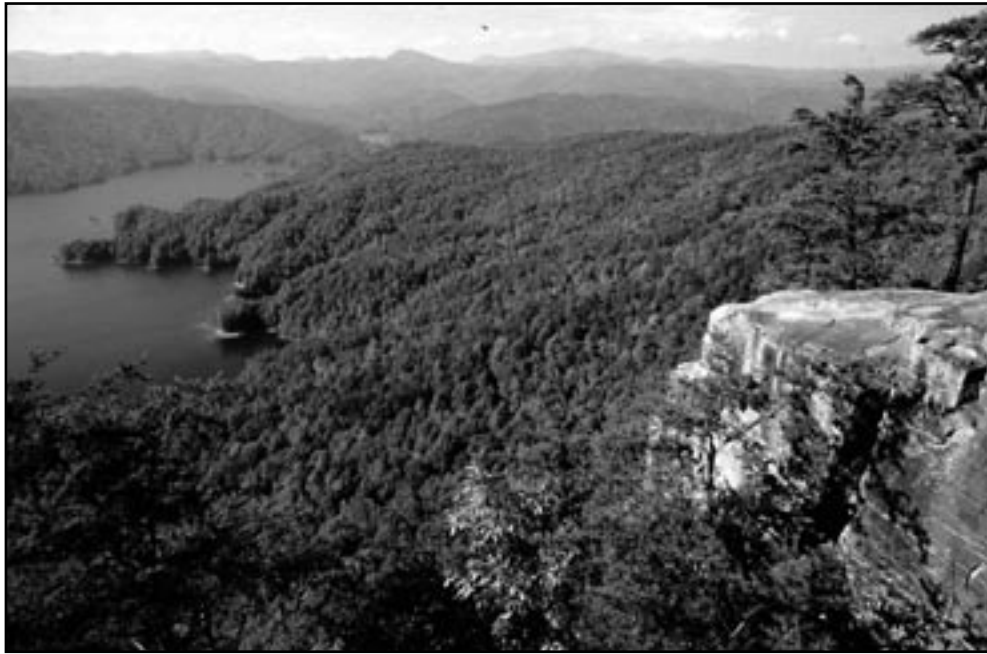
Stokes, a Pickens native, graduated in 1962 from the University of Georgia with a degree in forestry with wildlife concentration. His first job with DNR (then the S.C. Wildlife and Marine Resources Department) was in September 1963, when he was hired as a wildlife biologist in Union. He came to Clemson in June 1965,

where he remained until his recent retirement. For much of his career, Stokes was the leader of the state’s Black Bear Project.

John Frampton, DNR director, said Stokes had a tremendous positive impact on many Clemson University students who went on to become DNR wildlife biologists, Frampton among them.

“Sam also had a tremendous impact on natural resources protection in South Carolina,” Frampton said. “The Jocassee Gorges land protection project was a result of his developing a relationship over the years with Duke Power and Crescent Resources. He was the leader of the state’s Black Bear Project and research effort, and partnered with Duke and Clemson on some of the most important black bear research efforts in the state. He also developed a great partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, which is incredibly important for a whole host of reasons.”

Brock Conrad, former DNR director of wildlife and freshwater fisheries, said Stokes’ “forty years with the Department of Natural Resources is due to his love for the wildlife resource and for the mountain area where he spent most of his life. His dedication and love for the job was instrumental in the protection of much of the mountain region including Jocassee Gorges as an outstanding wildlife and natural area.” 🌲



The area historically known as the Horsepasture is underneath Lake Jocassee, and is just out of view when looking north from Jumping Off Rock.

## Where in the world is the Horsepasture?

By **Dennis Chastain**

It's an amazing phenomenon. Every year several thousand people pile into the pickup truck or other means of four-wheeled conveyance and head for "the Horsepasture." Not one in a hundred has any idea where the Horsepasture actually is—or rather, was.

You can drive the entire length of the road that people call "the Horsepasture Road" till the cows come home, but you will never even get close to the true Horsepasture. That road, the gravel road that bisects the Jocassee Gorges property, the one that turns off of US 178 at Laurel Valley Lodge with the green sign that says Horse Pasture Road, was constructed over a period of years for logging purposes.

The real, historical Horsepasture road originated in the Eastatoee Valley. It ran up what is now Mill Creek Road, then along the stream bank of Cane Creek to a twisty, winding section of the Cane Creek Road known as the Katy Wind, up Bully Mountain to the modern Horse Pasture Road near the Gantt Field. The Gantt Field is the well-known campsite in a hemlock grove with the conspicuous jiffy-johnny. The road then crossed over the ridge at the point where the Dockins Flat Road turns off the Horse Pasture Road near the Gantt Field, then down the Dockins Flat Road to the real Horsepasture.

Interestingly, people will say that they are "back in the Horsepasture" when they are just about anywhere in the vast area bounded on the east by US 178, on the south by the Eastatoee Valley, on the west by Lake

Jocassee and to the north by the North Carolina state line. This is the same area variously known as the Jocassee Gorges, the Franklin Gravely Wildlife Management Area and the Jim Timmerman Natural Resources Area. No wonder so many people manage to get themselves lost each year "back in the Horsepasture."

So, where in the world is the Horsepasture? Well, the correct answer is, it doesn't exist. It exists only in the minds and memories of those few people whose ancestors once lived there or those who visited the area before 1971, the year that Duke Power closed the gates on the Jocassee dam. The real Horsepasture is forevermore buried under about 40 feet of emerald green water in the Toxaway arm of Lake Jocassee.

The real Horsepasture was a prominent floodplain located at the point where the Toxaway River, the Horsepasture River and Laurel Fork Creek all merged. Today, the area is just out of view when looking north from Jumping Off Rock. About the only way to see the old historical Horsepasture, or where it used to be, is by boat. The area can be located precisely by taking a boat to the mouth of the Laurel Fork arm of the lake and motoring slightly back toward the Toxaway River. Any good topographic map of Lake Jocassee will clearly depict the area of the original floodplain. 🌿

*(Dennis Chastain is a Pickens County naturalist and outdoors writer who has been hunting, hiking and fishing in the Jocassee Gorges for more than 30 years. Next issue: How did the Horsepasture get its name?)*

# Predator beetles released in Jocassee To battle hemlock woolly adelgids

About 2,500 predator beetles were released May 7 in the Laurel Fork Creek drainage area of Jocassee Gorges near the Foothills Trail in northern Pickens County. These insects feed on hemlock woolly adelgids, which have been decimating Eastern hemlock populations along the East Coast.

The team that released the predator beetles was a cooperative partnership made up of representatives from the U.S. Forest Service, S.C. Forestry Commission and S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The DNR manages the Jocassee Gorges property in Pickens and Oconee counties. The predator beetles, which can cost up to \$5 apiece, were reared in a private lab in Pennsylvania. The U.S. Forest Service furnished them to DNR at no charge. The predator beetles are native to Japan and feed on adelgids there. These beetles are not the common ladybug that sometimes mass around homes—the predator beetle released in Jocassee Gorges is about a tenth the size of the well-known ladybug and never leaves the forest.

“This is an important first step in helping to control hemlock woolly adelgids in Jocassee Gorges,” said Rusty Rhea, an entomologist with the U.S. Forest Service based in Asheville, N.C. “It’s not a silver bullet or a cure-all by any means. These predator beetles will never eliminate the adelgids, but rather they can slow the adelgids’ spread and give the trees a fighting chance.”

Hemlock woolly adelgids have been in the United States since 1924. A native of Asia, it recently moved rapidly into the Southern Appalachians and decimated the Eastern hemlock in areas like Shenandoah National

Park in Virginia. The adelgids cannot fly and spread by the immature “crawler” life stage. These small immature adelgids crawl, are blown in winds or are possibly spread by songbirds. By feeding on the internal portions of young twigs, the hemlock woolly adelgid retards or prevents tree growth. This causes needles to discolor from deep green to grayish green, and to drop prematurely. The loss of new shoots and needles seriously impairs tree health. Defoliation and tree death can occur within five to seven years of initial infestation.

Foresters and scientists say that unless the hemlock woolly adelgid is controlled, it could prove as devastating

to hemlocks in the forest as American chestnut blight. Chestnut blight was introduced into the United States in 1900 and virtually wiped out the dominant tree in the Southern Appalachians by 1950. Chemical control of the hemlock woolly adelgid is possible in urban settings, but biological control of the adelgid is the only real option in the forest.

The shade of Eastern hemlocks is vitally important in cooling Jocassee Gorges trout waters. Although systematic surveys are not yet complete, the hemlock woolly adelgid has been found in many

areas of the 44,000-acre Jocassee Gorges lands.

Demand for the predator beetles far exceeds demand, and several new labs are gearing up for production this year. Clemson University has begun production of the predator beetles, and a few public and private labs will produce about a half-million or so this year, to be distributed among 13 Eastern states that have infestations. Clemson University has one of the best production units for the predator beetles. 🌲



**DNR wildlife biologist and forest planner Mark Hall and his 6-year-old son, Colter, release predator beetles in Jocassee Gorges hemlock trees. The predator beetles will eat hemlock woolly adelgids, a non-native insect that is decimating Eastern hemlock populations on the East Coast. (DNR photo by Greg Lucas)**

# Four servicemen lost their lives

## Memorial proposed to honor sacrifice of Air Force soldiers.

The evening of Saturday, Nov. 11, 1950, an Air Force C-82 twin-engine "Flying Boxcar" carrying four servicemen took off from Maxwell Field in Montgomery, Ala., due to land at Greenville Air Force Base at 10:30 p.m. They never made it.

On the approach to Greenville, the C-82 plowed into Bully Mountain in northern Pickens County, and the resulting crash claimed the lives of three crewmen who were attached to the Greenville Air Force Base and were members of a Pittsburgh reserve wing called to active duty the month before, as well as the life of one passenger. The crewmen were Capt. John Miles Stuckrath, pilot; 1st Lt. Robert P. Schmitt, co-pilot; and Staff Sgt. John Davis Bloomer. The passenger, Staff Sgt. Walter O. Lott of Pensacola, Fla., was a member of the Maxwell Field unit. A fire from the crash burned two acres of forestland.

The Nov. 16, 1950, issue of The Pickens Sentinel described the crash: "The flaming wreckage and the charred bodies of the four men were found at about midnight by County Forest Ranger Charles H. Gravely, his son, Franklin Gravely, and four residents of a community near Bully Mountain." Afterward, two parties of raccoon hunters, who had seen the fire, came to the crash site.

According to the 1950 story in The Sentinel, Gravely saw a glow in the sky shortly after 10 p.m. and four residents of the Big Eastatoee Community



The largest piece of the C-82 twin-engine "Flying Boxcar" wheels. (DNR photos by Greg Lucas)



Dennis Chastain examines a piece of supporting structure from a military plane that crashed in Jocassee Gorges in 1950.

reported seeing a forest fire. Gravely, his son, and the four residents (Junior Chappell, Dennis Morgan, Junior Patterson and Joe Stewart) took firefighting equipment and drove jeeps within half a mile of the fire. They walked the rest of the way.

According to Gravely, spilled gasoline had caused the large fire, but dampness from recent rains had stopped it from spreading. The four airmen's bodies were burned beyond recognition.

The Sentinel reported:

*"It's sad these four men lost their lives in service to their country. It's a shame that hardly anybody knows about it. It would be nice if we could get together with some organization to build a memorial at the crash site. There should be some sort of memorial for these men." — Dennis Chastain*



# in 1950 Jocassee Gorges crash



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“The plane apparently began to plunge after it sheared off tree tops. It cut a cyclonic gap through the immense trees for about 100 yards and plowed into the 2,500-foot mountain near its peak. The impact of the crash sent one motor hurling 800 feet down one side of the mountain, and the other motor landed 500 feet down the opposite side.”

Gravely and the rest of his party, and the raccoon hunters (Perry Burgess, Clarence Butler, Willie Morgan, Cris Patterson and W.K. Stancell

and his three sons) threw moist dirt over two burning bodies, found about 100 feet beyond the plane wreckage. Another body was found in the fuselage, and the last was found about 50 feet from the crash site.

At 3 a.m., Gravely returned home and called the Greenville Air Base. He was asked to return to the crash scene, along with Sheriff P.C. Bolding and Deputy Wayne Garrett, to guard the bodies until officials from the base could arrive.

Pickens County outdoorsman Dennis Chastain came upon the crash site 20 years by accident while turkey hunting. Chastain recently returned to the site and found pieces of debris still on the mountain. The largest piece is a set of landing gears with a significant portion of the fuselage. He also found the supporting network for one of the wings.

Chastain would like to see a memorial to the servicemen who lost their lives in Jocassee Gorges.

“If this incident happened now,” Chastain said, “the national media would be down here and we would know these servicemen’s families, and we’d probably have a national shrine up on Bully Mountain. The truth is that it’s kind of sad these four people lost their lives in the line of service to their country, and hardly anybody knows about it. It would be nice if we could get together with a veteran’s organization to put some kind of memorial marker on the crash site. There should be some sort of memorial for these men who lost their lives.”

*(Portions of this story were excerpted from an article in The Pickens Sentinel by M. Karen Brewer.)*



**A piece of aluminum from the crashed C-82 ended up as a piece of forest art when it embedded in a sourwood tree, and over the past 54 years the tree has grown around the metal.**



Hunters recorded the best black bear season ever in South Carolina in 2003 with a harvest of 55 bears.

## Best-ever bear hunt recorded in S.C. mountains

Hunters took a record 55 bears during the two-week bear season in October 2003, more than doubling the 2002 season total harvest of 27 bears. Thirty-nine of the bears were taken during the one-week party hunt, which typically involves trailing and treeing the bears with dogs. The remaining 16 bears were harvested during the one-week still hunt.

Pickens County led the way, with 26 total bears, including 16 males and 10 females. Oconee County yielded 16 bears, nine male and seven female. In Greenville County, hunters claimed 13 bears, eight males and five females. Bear hunting is only allowed in northern Oconee, Pickens and Greenville counties during the last two weeks in October, and much of the prime bear habitat is within Jocassee Gorges.

Skip Still, DNR wildlife biologist based in Clemson and leader of the state Black Bear Project, said hunters and wildlife managers alike emerged from the season encouraged by what they witnessed.

“A lot of people saw bears,” Still said, “and even with the harvest being that high, people were still seeing a lot of bears all through the season. And a lot of young people got their first bears, so that was a unique situation.”

One of the biggest was a 460-pound bear from Oconee County, taken between Long Creek and Mountain Rest. At least one bear was taken by a woman—Hazel Couch of Pickens.

Still said that although South Carolina’s fall acorn crop was poor, it may have been enough.

“There was a lot of bear sign,” Still said, “and even though the acorn crop was not good, it was better here than it was in North Carolina, Georgia or Tennessee. Maybe more bears were drawn here because of that.”

For years, wildlife biologists have said South Carolina’s bear population may number a few hundred strong, but that estimate is being reconsidered. During a snare study last years, only two of the 28 “trap” sites in the mountains went untouched.

“We’ve got a lot of bears,” Still said. “I think probably more than we thought, probably closer to 500. All indicators are that there are a lot of bears. We’ve had coon hunters saying they can’t run coons for the dogs crossing bear trails. The numbers seem to be increasing. The bear population is doing real well all over the Southern Appalachians. In fact, North Carolina, Georgia, South Carolina and Virginia all experienced record bear harvests this past season. The Tennessee harvest was the second-highest ever.” ❁



# Jocassee forest management plan completed

Timber thinnings to improve wildlife habitat with revenue used to support Jocassee Gorges management.

The forest management plan for the Jim Timmerman Natural Resources Area at Jocassee Gorges has been completed and is now available to the public at the DNR Web site, [www.dnr.state.sc.us](http://www.dnr.state.sc.us).

The Essential Character Statement for the Jocassee Gorges property will guide the plan. Jocassee Gorges is large, contiguous forestland with

unique biology and diversity, where special recreational opportunities exist. Inventory for the plan focused on forest types. However, other critical information was gathered for topography, property boundaries, aerial photography, adjacent landowners, soils, rare plants and animals, access points, easements, streams, cultural sites, roads, trails, geology and watersheds. Acquired in 1998, the Jim Timmerman Natural Resources Area at Jocassee Gorges includes about 32,500 acres.

DNR staff and Clemson University experts provided important guidance. Throughout the planning process, meetings were held quarterly with an ad hoc committee of representatives from different conservation entities in the area, where aspects of the plan were described and comments received.

Two-thirds of the woodlands are mixed hardwoods less than 40 years old. The balance is in white pine, young yellow poplar, mixed hemlock/pine stream corridors and dry pine ridges. Less than 2,000 acres of older-aged stands are present. Artificially regenerated pine, young yellow poplar and off-site hardwood (hardwoods that are in areas where they normally do not grow) are the primary areas for active management in the next 10 years. About 175 acres of planted loblolly pine were thinned in 2003 on the Shooting Tree Ridge Tract



**Conservation groups provided important input into the Jocassee Gorges forest management plan. Here (from left) Dr. Jim Carter of the Mountain Bridge Chapter of Trout Unlimited and Wes Cooler of the Foothills Resource Conservation and Development Council talk with Mark Hall, DNR forest planner and wildlife biologist. (DNR photo by Greg Lucas)**

within Jocassee, which was acquired under the federal Forest Legacy Program. Some timber will be harvested with the revenue used to support management. Changing market conditions will dictate opportunities for pine sales on about 2,000 acres in the next 10 years. Scattered patches of off-site hardwood will also be harvested, with the best example being solid stands of yellow poplar on dry sites, where it

does not occur naturally. Other, managed areas will not generate revenue and those sites include solid stands of young, yellow poplar and sparse, dry pine ridges. Young poplar stands may be converted to mixed hardwood with guidance from a predictive-modeling study by Clemson University. Many dry ridges will be converted to support the uncommon communities associated with Table Mountain and pitch pines. Fire will play an important role in forest restoration and also contribute to diversification of wildlife habitats.

Riparian buffers, steep slopes, rare elements and cultural sites will be key constraints in any management activity. DNR will strive to exceed minimum limits defined in Best Management Practices. Maintenance of 45 miles of main access forest management roads will support public access across the land. An additional 200-plus miles of limited use roads will be maintained for administrative purposes as well as public access and recreation.

“This is a living document,” said Mark Hall, DNR forester and wildlife biologist stationed in Rocky Bottom and author of the forest management plan, “as DNR will update the plan from time to time, at least every 10 years.”



The Natural Resources Conservation Service spent hundreds of hours assisting DNR with soil and water planning conservation in Jocassee Gorges. (DNR photo by Greg Lucas)

## NRCS pitches in to help at Jocassee

Federal agency lends conservation expertise to road projects in Jocassee Gorges.



Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

with soil and water planning matters across the land. Roads were re-engineered with modified slopes and water diversion methods.

The S.C. Department of Natural Resources has lost a lot of money and people over the past two years. However, as the noose began to tighten, the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service stepped in to play a key role with Jocassee Gorges managers to help the state agency save thousands of dollars that it would have otherwise spent on civil engineers.

The S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) inherited the 32,000-acre Jocassee property with many inherent problems. Even interstate highways need maintenance, and one can only imagine the volume of work that was needed on the 250-plus-miles system of old logging roads throughout the property. Prior to DNR ownership, many of the logging roads were gouged into the mountainside for one reason in mind—extraction of timber. Once the timbering operations were finished many roads were gated and forgotten. Some roads were well designed, but others began to erode and cause silt deposition to the water system.

Soil and water quality is a very important management objective for the Jocassee lands. Thus, it was no surprise to Dennis Bauknight, Natural Resources Conservation Service district conservationist, when he got a call for technical engineering help at Jocassee Gorges. Bauknight of Greenville is a homegrown veteran of the mountains and the task of conservation management in the rugged terrain was right up his alley. He and Ross Stewart, soil conservationist, spent hundreds of hours assisting DNR

Cleared land was surveyed and engineered to protect soil and water quality as well as provide critical wildlife habitats. Bauknight and Stewart conducted a detailed survey of one road on Jocassee, where they demonstrated the road was losing somewhere around 100 tons of soil per year. After Natural Resources Conservation Service recommendations were implemented, the estimated soils losses were negligible.

Stewart worked long and hard with Jimmy Kluge, DNR wildlife technician, on all the conservation practices. Kluge was awarded the DNR's most coveted "Outstanding Employee of the Year" award in 2001 and he manages the mammoth Jocassee property largely on his own. Kluge often gets on the site before daylight and often leaves after dark in accomplishing his tasks on the land. Kluge and the Natural Resources Conservation Service developed an excellent working relationship during all the long hours on Jocassee and as a result, the property is starting to shine as one of DNR's most well managed gems in the upstate.

Many roads were not within environmental compliance guidelines when DNR inherited the road system, and some roads had to be temporarily closed. Kluge and the Natural Resources Conservation Service worked long and hard and more than 30 miles of road have been turned around from out of compliance to some of the best mountain roads in the upstate. Hikers, outdoor enthusiasts and hunters have all benefited from

**Continued on page 11**

# Jocassee Gorges benefits from NRCS help

**Continued from page 10**

the improved access. However, some local auto repair facilities have probably seen less business from bent oil pans, damaged transmissions and other boulder-induced calamities that used to be common for those who used the Jocassee road network.

“We want to keep Jocassee wild and we don’t want every road to accommodate a Cadillac, as that would defeat our purpose,” said Mark Hall, DNR forest planner and wildlife biologist stationed in Rocky Bottom.

“However, we are committed to setting the standard on this showcase property. We all know that roads contribute substantial silt and other deposits into our streams, so we have to consider the environment first. We walk that fine balance between environmental TLC and making sure we don’t create an unnatural, park-like environment that is easy to access. Folks come up here for a rough day in the field and we want to preserve that experience.”

Natural Resources Conservation Service engineers Grady Atkins from Columbia and Eddie Martin from Greenville pitched in to trouble shoot specific problems with detailed drawings and analyses. Natural Resources Conservation Service Archaeologist Jim Errante from Columbia has made special investigations on cultural matters related to soil disturbances on the property. He has helped DNR staff with special guidance on avoiding historical sites and how to spot sites that might harbor artifacts.

“NRCS has simply bent over backwards to pitch in when we needed help up here,” said Hall. “Without their expert guidance and field work, we would all be years behind on taking care of this precious property that has so much to offer the citizens of our state.” Conservation Districts also lent considerable assistance in Jocassee soil and water conservation efforts, Hall said. ❀

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## Wildlife conservation plan meetings held in state

Many people with concerns about wildlife and conservation attended meetings held recently around the state to gather public input on the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan, which will guide conservation of many wildlife species in South Carolina for the next decade.

“This was an opportunity for people who are interested in wildlife and conservation to voice their concerns,” said Anna Huckabee, S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) wildlife biologist coordinating the plan in South Carolina, “and a chance for these concerns to be addressed in the state’s Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan. This input will help the DNR and others produce the plan, which could potentially bring millions of federal dollars to South Carolina to help protect and manage wildlife in the state.”

Public meetings were held in Florence, Charleston, West Columbia and Greenville.

The South Carolina DNR is in the process of writing a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan as part of the requirement for the State Wildlife Grants program instituted by the federal government, required to receive millions of federal dollars for wildlife in



**The loggerhead shrike, a species in decline, would potentially be helped in South Carolina by the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan.**

the state. More information on the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan planning process can be found on the DNR Web site [www.dnr.state.sc.us](http://www.dnr.state.sc.us) under the link “State Wildlife Grants” or by calling the Columbia DNR office at (803) 734-5534.

Individuals who work in a wildlife-related field have long recognized the need for a permanent funding source for wildlife conservation. Traditional funding sources tend to focus on hunted species like deer and turkey without addressing such species as reptiles, amphibians, songbirds, insects, mollusks, crustaceans, and freshwater and marine fish. The Comprehensive Wildlife

Conservation Plan will address these species.

“We know that about one-third of South Carolina’s vertebrate species and their associated habitats are in trouble,” Huckabee said. “Our biologists, scientists, conservation partners and neighboring states are in the process of identifying these species most in need of management, the problems these species face, and are working together to define strategies that we all can agree upon once the implementation phase begins, after the plan is completed and approved. That is why we are looking for public input on the plan.” ❀



# Jocassee Journal

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## Jocassee topic of seventh annual native plant symposium

By Felicity Henderson  
S.C. Native Plant Society

We hope you didn't miss the seventh annual native plant symposium hosted by the South Carolina Native Plant Society. Titled "Jocassee, Jewel of the Upstate," it was a lively discussion about the treasure trove of plants and animals present in the northwest corner of South Carolina.

We heard from Tommy Wyche, attorney and nationally recognized land conservationist, on Friday night and saw the video "Faces of Change: Conservation of the Blue Wall." It spanned 30 years of toil and effort to conserve 300,000 acres of wild lands between South Carolina and North Carolina.

The keynote speaker for our Saturday night dinner was Rudy Mancke, naturalist and the host of S.C. Educational Television's "NatureScene." Rudy as usual amazed us with his intricate knowledge of how whole systems operate. Of course, leaves were turned into deer, insects were turned into spiders, and fish were turned into eagles.

Classes and lectures spanned Saturday, topped off by a panel discussion in the afternoon. Saturday was just a



great opportunity to learn from any of the several expert lecturers, meet new people interested in the outdoors and engage in meaningful discussion and debate the future management of Jocassee.

On Sunday, many interesting field trips were held. The boat tour of Lake Jocassee was perhaps the most popular field trip. For some people, this was their first trip to the lake, and their first trip to Oconee County. The boat tour went along the edges to see the diverse and interesting plant life. No trip of Jocassee would be complete without seeing some of the waterfalls tumble into the lake.

The symposium symbolized the movement of people interested in saving, learning about and enjoying the precious natural jewel of Jocassee Gorges. If these values are dear to you, please come visit us for our next meeting, field trip or symposium.

To learn more about the South Carolina Native Plant Society, visit [www.scnps.org](http://www.scnps.org).

*(Felicity Henderson is a Greenville resident who is a member of the S.C. Native Plant Society and its Hospitality Committee.)*