

PLATEAU

April / May 2020

MOUNTAIN LIFE IN HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS NORTH CAROLINA

On The Fly

In a Land of Rivers and Streams, the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau is an Angler's Dream

Table With A View

15 Spots for Al Fresco Dining

Country Living

A Closer Look at Our Mountain Country Clubs

Fashion

At Home
in Cashiers

The Bascom's
Teresa Osborn



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Like A Daffodil

Spring has always been one of my favorite times of the year. I'm an April baby. I love change and live for the thrill of something new. With age comes a deepening of understanding, a widening of perspective. For a child that loved a beginning, the adult lesson that sometimes beginnings can only come after an unwanted end proved to be an especially painful one. I have navigated several life changing ends in my 37 years, but the most drastic came with the unexpected death of my father in November of 2019. Staring out the window from my breakfast table, I watched the foliage drop from the trees and I thought about endings as fall changed to winter. A Taurus daughter mourning her Virgo father, I let nature teach me things I couldn't understand. I thought about how the leaves would decay and benefit the soil. I was thankful for brittle fallen tree limbs that would serve as kindling for my fire. I meditated on the first rule of thermodynamics as the snow fell, stating that energy can neither be created nor destroyed, only transferred from one form to another.

One day in late February, I walked on my porch and looked down to find the first green stalk a of daffodil poking out from the ground. Winter hadn't yet released its grip, another storm came and left. Surrounded in snow, the flower persevered. Day after day I would step off my porch and look down at the daffodil who had stored enough energy for winter's end, only to rise when it was ready. Again, I thought of endings. I smiled remembering that even in the dead of winter, there was room planned

for a beginning, a transferring of energy from one form to another.

All around the plateau, our community plans for the newness of spring. And like the daffodil, we learn to both conserve and change. We excitedly bring out our hiking gear as we prepare to once again explore the trails provided to us through the conservation of the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust. We proudly watch as The Bascom: A Center For The Visual Arts, growing under the loving care of our community for decades, unveils its new strategic direction. We turn a thoughtful eye to our natural pollinators, prep our gardens, and fish our rivers. The next two months are a time to celebrate the nature surrounding us on Earth Day and those blessed with delivering new life on Mother's Day. As a community that enjoys the gift of nature's wisdom by experiencing all four seasons, we take the lessons of winter's end with us into a time of renewal. In both our heart and our mountains, spring has sprung.



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We welcome your comments. Please send us your feedback or story ideas by emailing us at editor@theplateaumag.com



CORRECTION NOTICE: In the *Enlivening Our Living Spaces* story in Feb/Mar issue, the Designer and Contractor of the opening image of the outdoor dining area for Cullasaja Club was not identified. This section of the renovation was designed by Mountainworks Custom Home Design and the contractor was Chinquapin Builders.

XIX AMENDMENT

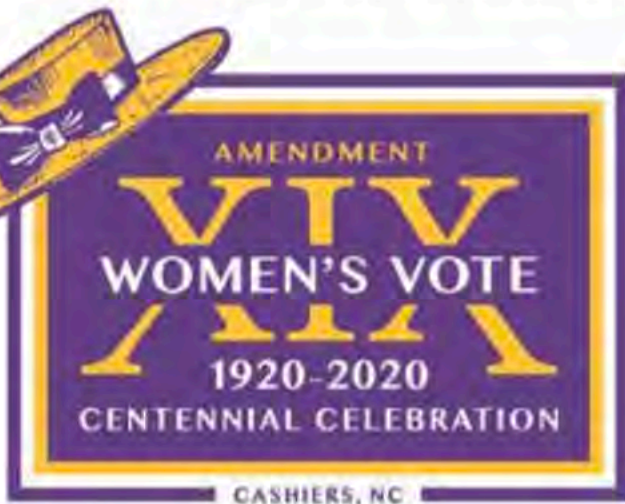
Cashiers Centennial Celebration

Tie a tri-colored ribbon around your hat and ready your sash, Cashiers has prepared a five-month long suffrage celebration

By KAT FORD

IN 1872 SUSAN B. ANTHONY ILLEGALLY VOTED IN THE PRESIDENTIAL election. She was arrested for her crime and fined \$100, which she never paid. It would take nearly 50 years for Anthony's efforts to pay off, 14 years after her death. Passed by Congress on June 4, 1919 and ratified on August 18, 1920, with the state of Tennessee tipping the scale and casting the final two-thirds vote needed for ratification, the 19th Amendment reads:

“THE RIGHT OF CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES TO VOTE SHALL NOT BE DENIED OR ABRIDGED BY THE UNITED STATES OR BY ANY STATE ON ACCOUNT OF SEX. CONGRESS SHALL HAVE POWER TO ENFORCE THIS ARTICLE BY APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION.”



The XIX Amendment Cashiers Centennial Celebration will be a season-long event commemorating women's right to vote. These events are for all ages and meant to educate, entertain, and inform attendees about the long and struggled path to full citizenship for women. This initiative of the Cultural Enrichment Task Force, Vision Cashiers (CETF-VC), is intended to inspire modern civic responsibility and engagement. The event schedule has a full line up and to read through the list of activities is to desire one's own suffragette sash- which luckily for the plateau, will be available.

Festivities started with essay and art contests at Blue Ridge School and Summit Charter School in the spring. Juniors and seniors at Blue Ridge Early College entered a research contest which promotes civics in a big way, winners receive a three day-all expense paid trip to Washington DC. In May, The Cashiers Historical Society (CHS) will team with Western Carolina University (WCU) and present a multi-month exhibition titled Votes for Women: The Struggle for Political Equality. June is action-packed with the movie Suffragette playing at the Albert Carlton Community Library (ACCL) and the annual CHS's Jan Wyatt Symposium, with a 2020 theme of A National Milestone with a Mountain View: 100 Years of Women's Suffrage in North Carolina. June also kicks off a three-part Mountain Heritage Lecture Series at CHS, lasting through August. The series boasts subjects like Bloomers and Bicycles, Suffrage Tea, and the guaranteed to be inspiring roundtable discussion, All About That Important First Vote, with personal stories from women of different ages.

In July, attend Winning Votes for Women at the Country Club of Sapphire Valley. This luncheon will include a performance by Leslie Goddard, award-winning actress and historian, who channels Alice Paul. A leader of the women's suffrage movement, Paul helped organize the parade of women that marched up Pennsylvania Avenue to coincide with Woodrow Wilson's presidential inauguration, making national headlines. On the 23rd join the ACCL for the documentary By One Vote – Woman Suffrage in the South. On the 31st, the CETF-VC will present Cornelia Powell at the ACCL. A noted fashion historian, Cornelia will lead a discussion on How Women Used Fashion to Reshape History and Win the Right to Vote.



Seamstress Barbara Short works on the hundreds of sashes she created for the 2020 celebration.

In August the ACCL presents Ken Burns' documentary Not for Ourselves Alone. On August 22nd, there will be a celebration at the Community Events Center in the Cashiers Village Green. The Grand Centennial Celebration will include a parade, an exhibit on female trailblazers in NC, booths for the Macon County Women's History Trail and the League of Women Voters, and other family fun activities. At center stage, this afternoon affair will offer Failure Is Impossible by Roadworks, featuring WCU's School of Fine and Performing Arts. Ann Van Curen will portray Gertrude Weil, North Carolina's leading suffragist, talking with attendees about the challenges faced in pursuit for the legal right to vote.

Throughout the season, these events will offer an incredible in-depth historical look at the journey it took for women to enjoy full citizenship. This is guaranteed to be an exciting five months for those who enjoy civics, history, fashion, and freedom of speech. For us to celebrate it today, it had to be rallied, picketed and petitioned over many yesterdays. **P**

Man and his best friend immersed in the nature of Silver Run Reserve.

A House That Builds *We*

Part two of Plateau Magazine's three-part series braids the past and future of the 2020 Designer Showhouse

By KAT FORD

In the 1930s, James E. Warren decided to purchase a 300-acre tract off Whiteside Cove Road in Cashiers, NC and built a small picnic cabin as a getaway. This retreat was never meant to be a summer home. He constructed a bigger house on ten acres next to Cashiers Lake, which he used as his main vacation home to escape the hot Atlanta summers. As time passed and the larger house on Cashiers Lake eventually sold, four heirs of James E. Warren became the stewards of the 300-acre paradise on Whiteside Cove. One wanted a view, another a horse pasture, one desired to restore the small chestnut log cabin and start a family with his wife. Like so many others who have blessed future generations, the Warren family put 134 acres of common land into a conservation easement with the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust to protect the beautiful ridges contained within the property. History has a way of winking back at us. In 1998, the lake house that James E. Warren built as his main vacation

home, then known as the Hooper House under new ownership, became the location of the very first Cashiers Historical Society Designer Showhouse. The smaller chestnut log cabin, on the 300 acres down the Cove, was restored by Warren's grandson, John. John and his late wife Marsha have lived in the cabin since the 1970s, where they raised their daughter, Melissa, and son, Mark.

As a child growing up in a rural mountain community, Melissa's parents exposed her to many of the opportunities provided by the area's non-profits. The Cashiers Historical Society's Designer Showhouse was one of the ways she was introduced to design, textiles, and the world beyond her mountain home. Graduating from Highlands School, she went on to attend

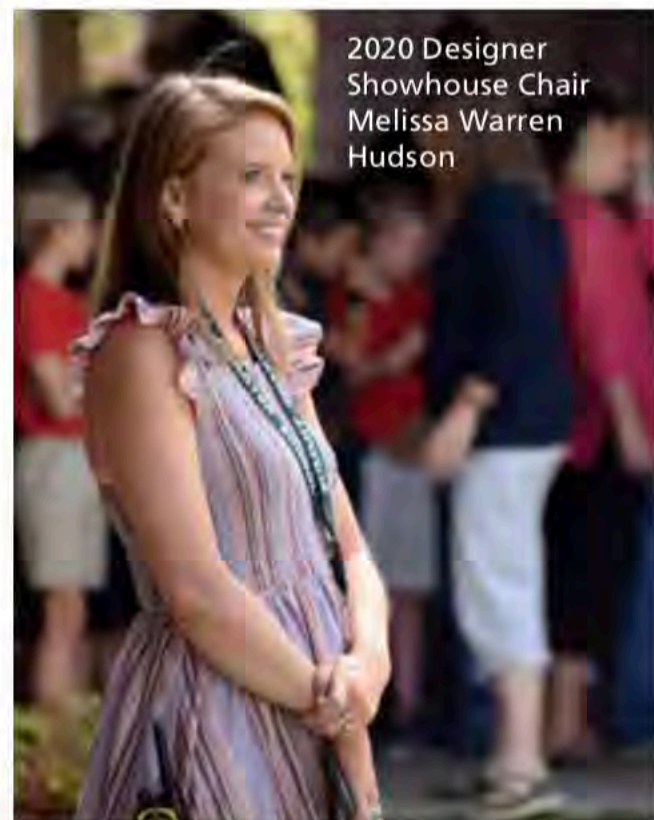


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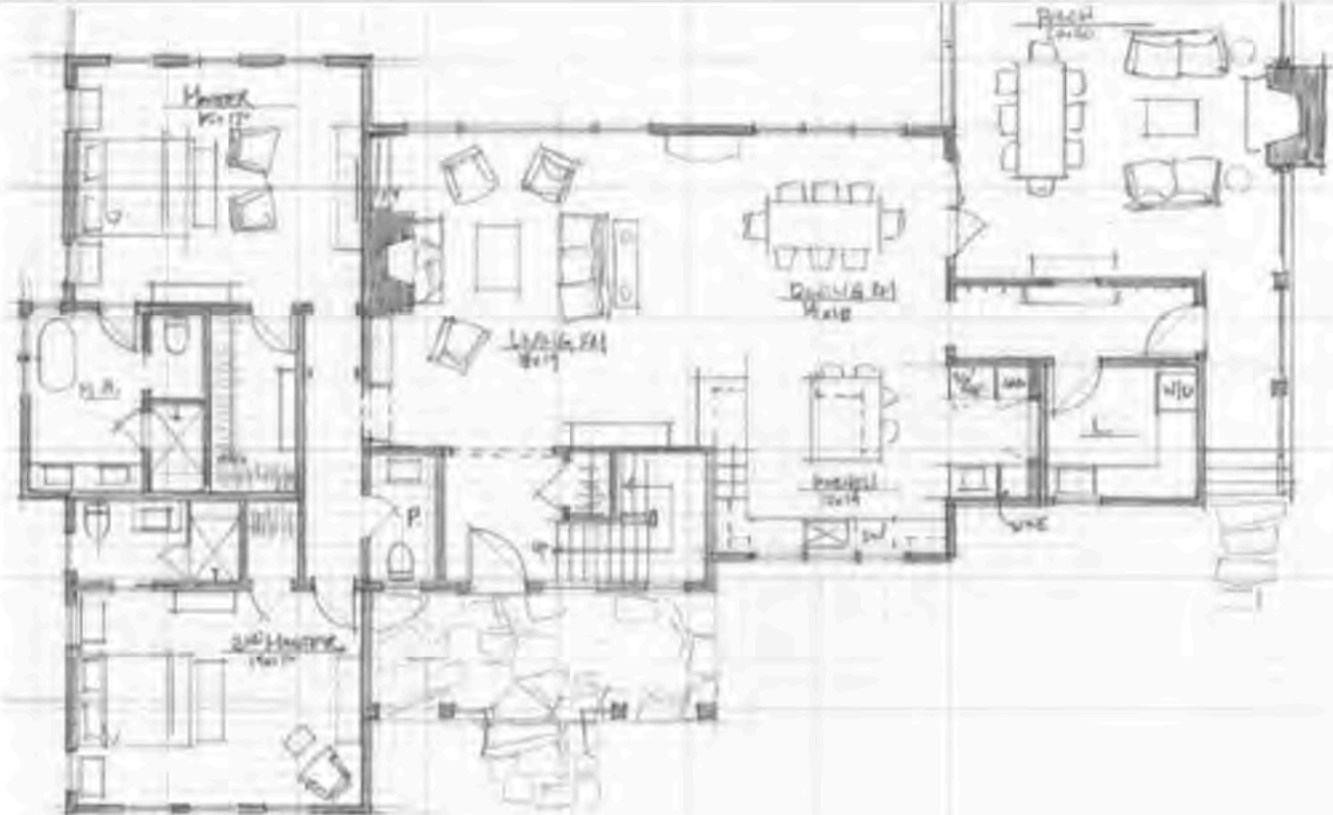
the University of Tennessee before spending ten years in Atlanta. By 2018 Melissa and her husband decided to move back to Cashiers and raise their family, like her father had done years before. A decade in marketing and fundraising had equipped Melissa with skills she was eager to share with her hometown, putting them to use as Development Director at Summit Charter School. But Melissa knew she could offer more, having volunteered with events like Atlanta's Tour of Kitchens, the Atlanta Symphony Showhouse, and working for the High Museum's annual Wine Auction. In 2019 Melissa Warren Hudson, heir of James E. Warren, agreed to volunteer as chair for the 2020 Cashiers Historical Society Designer Showhouse; the tradition started over two decades earlier in the Cashiers Lake home built by her great-grandfather.

Ben Harris did not grow up in North Carolina. The son of homesteaders, Ben was raised in a different type of wilderness, Alaska. It wasn't until he visited Cashiers with his new bride, Elizabeth, that Ben laid his eyes on the subtropical wonderland he would soon call home. It was here that the young couple would choose to construct their foundation. In 2001 Ben started Summit Building, which would later become Harris Custom Builders. Entrepreneurship is never easy, especially in a seasonal area. But over the years, Harris managed to persevere through the ups and downs, thriving on word of mouth and returning clients, assisting in building the community he loved.

Ben has been involved with past showhouses, sponsoring the event on and off for years. But until now, Harris Custom



2020 Designer Showhouse Chair
Melissa Warren Hudson



Opposite page and above: 4br/4ba Mountain Cottage designed by MGPB; A snapshot of Melissa Warren Hudson's childhood on the plateau.



Builders has not had the chance to build one of the coveted showhouse properties. A principal developing partner for Silver Run Reserve, Ben was part of the leadership team that conceived the idea to engage the historical society when breaking ground in late 2019. Ranging from 12-acre Farm Estates to half-acre Mountain Cottages, Silver Run's residential offerings consider different lifestyles, families, and needs. This year's showhouse, a Mountain Cottage, is hardly a cottage at 3,000 square feet. Designed by award-winning Meyer Greeson Paullin Benson (MGPB) out of Charlotte, these four-bedroom developer-built homes are close to the center of the community and offer exceptional design, finishes, styling, and value. MGPB, responsible for the aesthetics of several esteemed properties on the plateau, also designed Silver Run Reserve's community buildings and architectural guidelines for lots that allow for owner-built homes. It's this type of attention to detail and community planning that families looking to create generational memories at Silver Run Reserve will appreciate. Families who hope to provide the same mountain paradise for their children that Ben Harris created for his.

With so many local hands on deck, this event is destined to be plateau magic. "I

am truly honored to chair the 2020 Cashiers Designer Showhouse, benefiting our beloved Cashiers Historical Society," says Melissa Warren Hudson. "Celebrating and preserving our town's history for future generations is very close to my heart. With roots in Cashiers going back to the 1930s and now raising my young family here, it is important to me that I do whatever I can to help sustain CHS, one of our area's most vital organizations. This year's designers and the stunning backdrop of Silver Run Reserve are sure to make this the most beautiful and fun showhouse to date. Mark your calendars now; it will be the season's must-see event!" Hudson beams with excitement as she rattles off a list of opportunities that will be available. Fly-fishing, outdoor yoga, and hiking are all activities Silver Run Reserve owners envisioned for attendees enjoying the same recreational opportunities as future residents of Silver Run. Food and wine, shopping, demonstrations, and industry panel discussions are the types of offerings yearly attendees have grown to love.

Opening on the evening of August 21st and lasting through September 5th, tickets are expected to go on sale in May; private benefactor tickets will be available in April. Those interested in furthering Cashiers Historical Society's mission and cultural programming through volunteering or sponsoring the Designer Showhouse can contact the historical society directly. With a reputation for touching the plateau in so many ways, preserving history while creating financial opportunities for local businesses, teaching children, and inspiring adults, it's clear that the Designer Showhouse is not merely built. It builds us. ■

A peacock bass landed using fly rod and reel during a Brookings Anglers guided trip in the Brazilian Amazon.



A red tailed catfish, or "pirarara" in Portuguese, landed on fly rod and reel in the Amazon jungle during a Brookings Anglers guided trip.



The Science of Leadership

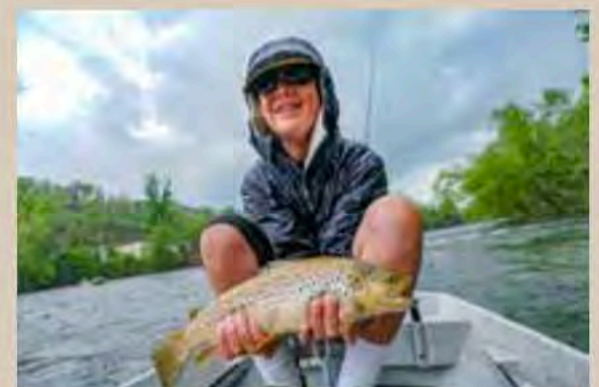
Matt Canter of Brookings Anglers grew up fishing in the Piedmont region of North Carolina. He caught his first fish at two, was fly-fishing by 12, and upon graduating, used fishing destinations as a litmus test for possible universities. Luckily for the plateau, Matt chose WCU, where he got a degree in Parks and Recreation with an emphasis in outdoor leadership. Two things are certain upon speaking with Matt, he is serious about trout, and he is a leader in protecting them.

The plateau's wild trout are in danger of losing their habitat and populations for a variety of reasons. In 2019 Matt and several of his customers joined forces to pull together private funding to secure a several year salary for a second regional staff member of Trout Unlimited in the southeast. A non-profit organization, Trout Unlimited is dedicated to the preservation of freshwater rivers for aquatic species. As with many non-profits, there are limitations in funding projects, which is why Brookings led the way in securing a staff member that could help to protect the fishable streams from Asheville to South Carolina, an area they are referring to as the "Sky Island Conservation Project."

On the plateau, our wild trout face their biggest threat from warm water. Impediments created by damming the rivers and streams for private ponds or reservoirs are part of the issue. While these beautiful landscape features are what give many backyards a fairytale quality, they also allow naturally cool river water a chance to heat up in the sun. When this warm water returns to the river as it overflows from the pond, the water temperature rises above the norm for the trout's natural habitat. Luckily for all of us, Matt says there is an easy scientific fix for private property owners. If your reservoir was installed or received maintenance in the last ten years, you likely already use this feature. For older ponds, landowners can surround the existing return pipe that sends water back into the river with a slightly larger tube. This larger pipe should be a little higher than the original and not quite reach the bottom of the pond. The addition of the second pipe will naturally force the overflow water from the bottom of the reservoir, where the water temperature is lower. This keeps the return water and the river that receives it, cool enough for our beloved wild trout.

"If you break it down into fishable miles of stream it would be really hard to find another area as densely concentrated, what we have is a lifetime's worth of exploring."

**Matt Canter,
Brookings Anglers**





The Highland Hiker is one of the plateau's knowledgeable and passionate outfitters.



Teach A Man to Fish

When David Wilkes of the Highland Hiker talks about fly-fishing, it's hard not to notice the glint in his eye- the kind of smirk that comes from years of honing one's craft. It shouldn't come as a surprise, David grew up in Guntersville, AL, Alabama's Lake City. A youth full of boats and spinning reels no doubt lay the foundation to a lifetime of being a living example of the proverb, "teach a man to fish." It was the early 1980s when David discovered the joy of fly-fishing in WNC. He made a trip to Manchester, VT, the home of Orvis, determined for his outdoor retailer, then known as the "Happy Hiker," to become one of the only dealers in the southeast. Instead, after a week, he convinced Orvis not only to allow the Happy Hiker to carry the brand but also to become the only location for an Orvis fly-fishing school outside of Vermont.

A legacy of teaching has become the mantle of the Highland Hiker. With David's first casting lesson taught over 36 years ago, students are now bringing their children in to continue the family tradition. David's son Chris, who smiles as he remembers how tedious the sport first felt as a teen, now beams about his love for the way the activity allows him to interact with nature. Mastery of anything can seem tedious at first, and David will be the first one to tell you the importance of starting with the basics, comparing casting to a golf swing. The motions are not intuitive, but once you master them, muscle memory will take over.

With so much emphasis on teaching, it seems only right for David to be one of the grandfathers of the Three River Fly Fishing Festival. Together with Steve Perry and Eric NeSmith, Wilkes started what would soon become an annual tradition. In that never-ending desire to teach, the event benefits the Highlands Scholarship Fund, which creates financial opportunities for graduates of Highlands School to pay for secondary education. This is not your average fly-fishing festival, with additional awards like "Ugliest Fish" and "Best Lie Told," it is a celebration for everyone on the fly-fishing spectrum. In its tenth year, it has grown to encompass both young and old. A family affair in the spirit of everything it means to be a fisherman: respect for nature, the thrill of the hunt, the desire to master a craft, and the joy of sharing laughs with likeminded friends. These are the things that make up that glint in David's eye, the smirk that understands the catch, the kindness that understands the release.

David Wilkes of the Highland Hiker breaks down three major fly-fishing differences for anyone who is new to the sport.

- 1 In fly-fishing, you fish with *flies*, not lures.
- 2 In fly-fishing, you fish with a *fly rod*, not a pole.
- 3 In other types of fishing you cast a **weighted lure**, and the **line goes along for the ride**. In fly-fishing, you cast **the weight of the line** and the *fly goes along for the ride*.

A Legacy of Stewardship

David and Debbi Whitmire opened Headwaters Outfitters in 1992, one of the first outfitters in Transylvania County. Conservation and stewardship have always been a part of the organization, synonymous with cleaning up the French Broad River for nearly thirty years. When they began cleaning the river it was a common dumpsite. Through the years, they have been collecting trash, old tires, and microwaves from the third oldest river in the world, even older than the mountains it passes through. Jessica Whitmire walks in her parents' footsteps, as Operations and Marketing Manager of Headwaters Outfitters, she rattles off the list of ways the company is both "family owned and community committed."

Bringing awareness is at the top of their list, which includes everything from carrying *leave no trace* products to teaching "imaginary canoe trips" at the local elementary school and working with Rosman Highschool during their yearly service day. Jessica believes that sparking passion in children at a young age will create good stewardship in adults, much as it did for her. Headwaters Outfitters' popular tap room – which serves 12 drafts brewed along the French Broad River – is accompanied by food trucks and creates an environment that is kid, dog, and family friendly. It is not uncommon to see children playing in the river during the summer, a new generation of protectors of the French Broad.

In 2020, Headwaters Outfitters hired a fly-fishing education coordinator, Patrick Weaver, to head their educational program. Patrick created the *School of Trout Headwaters Series* based on his over 30 years of experience teaching and guiding fly-fishing. This five-course program helps anglers to learn how to responsibly fish on their own and includes key components about stewardship and conservation. A further example of the way Headwaters blends business and a love for their surroundings. David and Debbi have added many bullets to their resume of conservation since the first *River Clean Up Day in 1992*. With leadership positions on local and national boards and committees, they understand the meaning of giving through time and service. The time it took to create a community atmosphere around loving and protecting natural resources. The service it took to haul 30 years of garbage out of the French Broad River. Through educational events, activities, and programs, Headwaters Outfitters proves that when it comes to the French Broad River and its Watershed, it's about more than just fly-fishing and paddling. Headwaters is the keeper of the gate.

“ There's something about moving water that brings peace to one's mind. When you're out on the river surrounded by beautiful scenery all you have to think about is breathing. There's a focus that fly-fishing requires but it is not overwhelming. It is enough though to keep work and worries out of your mind, it is an escape.”

**Chris Franzen,
Headwaters Outfitters**



Fly-Fishing Guide and Education Coordinator Patrick Weaver works with a group during the Fly-Fishing Foundations Class.