

Did you know that the Highlands-Cashiers area boasts some of the best trout fishing in the country? In 2016 the state legislature named Jackson County the North Carolina Trout Capital. Trout fishing is not only a popular pastime but a designated heritage tourism activity. This will be the subject of the first Village Nature Series of 2018. Patrick Weaver of the Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education will present the program "Hooked On Trout," focusing on past and current fishing opportunities available to area anglers. He will offer an enlightening historical perspective on anglers in this region, including some local fishing icons.

Three species of trout call North Carolina waters home: the Brook Trout, the state's only native trout; the Rainbow Trout and the Brown Trout. With more than 4,600 miles of trout streams in the area, conservation is critical. Learning about fish management, habitat needs, the life cycle of fish and the human impact on watersheds is important toward the effort to protect the North Carolina waters trout swim in. Weaver will speak to past and current concerns facing our cold-water mountain streams and how regulations help address these. He will also share current endeavors along with future opportunities for conservation work.

The Village Nature Series is sponsored by the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and The Village Green as part of their shared mission to protect and preserve the land and natural resources. The monthly presentations provide educational opportunities to learn about distinctive features of the area for residents and visitors to the Highlands-Cashiers community. The free programs are the last Tuesday of each month from May through September at The Village Green Commons on Frank Allen Road near the Cashiers post office. For more information visit [www.villagegreencashiersnc.com](http://www.villagegreencashiersnc.com) or contact The Village Green at 828-743-3434 or [info@villagegreencashiersnc.com](mailto:info@villagegreencashiersnc.com)