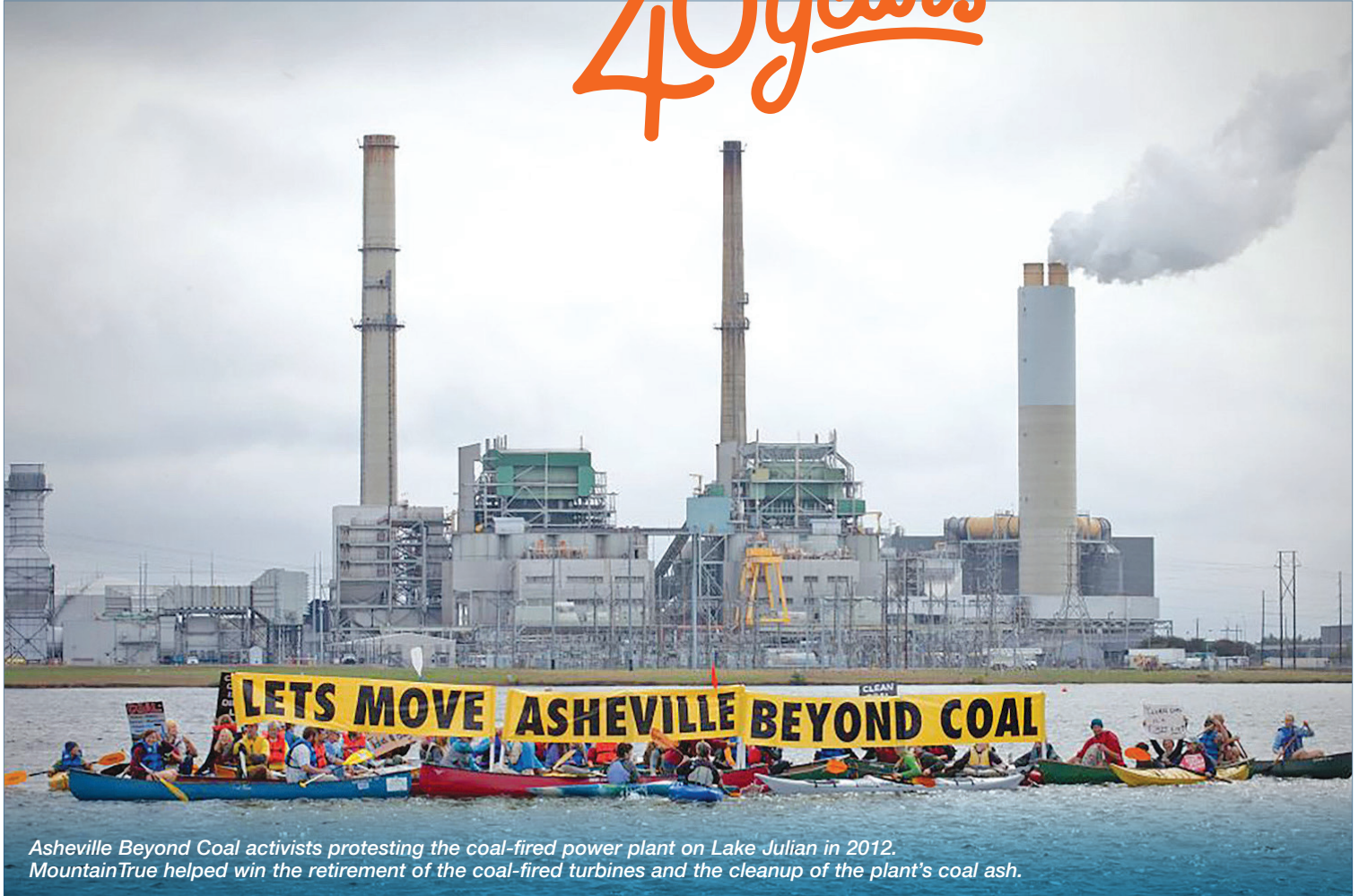




# mountaintrue.vistas

## 40 years



Asheville Beyond Coal activists protesting the coal-fired power plant on Lake Julian in 2012. MountainTrue helped win the retirement of the coal-fired turbines and the cleanup of the plant's coal ash.

## Celebrate 40 Years of Protecting the Places We Share

This year MountainTrue celebrates its 40th anniversary.

It's been a long journey since Esther Cunningham, David Liden, and a group of concerned Macon County residents formed the Western North Carolina Alliance (WNCA) in 1982 to fight the US Forest Service and beat back oil drillers in Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests.

Over the years, we've expanded our geographic footprint by joining forces and merging with the Environmental

*continued on page 2*



MountainTrue members collected more than 15,000 petition signatures to stop the practice of clearcutting in Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests. When all the petition pages were taped together, they were the length of three football fields.



MountainTrue members rallying for the Clean Smokestacks Act, which passed in 2002 and drastically improved air quality and public health throughout our region.

*article continued from cover*

and Conservation Organization of Henderson County (founded 1987), the Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance (founded 2000), and the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition (founded 1993). We've also expanded our mission by merging with the Asheville Design Center (founded 2006) and incorporating the Creation Care Alliance.

The name MountainTrue only dates back to our first merger in 2015 and represents our unwavering commitment to the people and places of the Southern Blue Ridge Mountains. It's a bold name, and we're proud to have the victories to back it up. Our founding members fought oil and gas exploration in our national forests and then went on to end the practice of clearcutting. We stopped the logging of the Asheville Watershed and helped establish both Gorges State Park and Dupont State Forest. We partnered with the community to reduce the size of the I-26 Connector highway expansion project through Asheville to make it more environmentally friendly and to protect surrounding neighborhoods. And MountainTrue was a lead partner in the Asheville Beyond Coal campaign, through which we won the retirement of Asheville's coal-fired powerplant and the clean-up of the coal ash pits at Duke Energy's Asheville and Cliffside power plants.

This year also marks the 20th anniversary of the Clean Smokestacks Act (CSA), a historic bipartisan law that drastically cut air pollution from industrial smokestacks and power stations that was causing smog and acid rain throughout the mountains. The CSA reduced childhood asthma, breathed new life into our region, and sparked our outdoor economy. It took a broad coalition of healthcare, environmental, business, and policy advocates to pass the law, and it was one of the major accomplishments of MountainTrue under the executive directorship of Brownie Newman — now Chair of the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners.

We now look forward to the next 40 years. This year is especially significant because we have embarked on a new 10-year strategic plan. We envision a Southern Blue Ridge with resilient forests, clean waters, and healthy mountain communities. The Southern Blue Ridge faces significant challenges over the next ten years. You can read our 2022-2032 Strategic Plan, where we have identified key challenges we are



*MountainTrue Riverkeepers and residents of Cleveland and Rutherford counties taking part in a protest flotilla to get Duke Energy to clean up its leaking coal ash pits.*



*Former MountainTrue Campaigns Director Joan Walker speaking at a rally in Hendersonville against Duke Energy's plans to build powerlines through forested areas and expand its fossil fuel infrastructure. PHOTO BY KATRINA OHSTROM.*



facing and the strategies that will lead us to the solutions we desire. We will invest more resources in ambitious grassroots advocacy campaigns while continuing to work directly with policymakers to pass laws that make our vision a reality. With your help, we can win a better future.

Visit [mountaintrue.org/40years](https://mountaintrue.org/40years) throughout the remaining months of 2022 to read stories from our past, remember some of the fantastic people that made this work possible, and earn a limited-edition 40th Anniversary Merit Badge by taking part in our 40 Years of Victories Challenge or participating in our 40 Years 40 Miles Hike-a-thon. We'll also be toasting all our friends with a special program at our first in-person Annual Gathering since 2019 on October 12, 2022 at the Salvage Station in Asheville.

We've been incredibly fortunate to have a broad base of committed volunteers, advocates, and members to power our successes and get us through the tough times. Our longevity and effectiveness are due, first and foremost, to your dedication. Thank you for a great 40 years and we invite you to join us for many more. ❖

Sincerely,

Bob Wagner,  
Co-Director

Julie Mayfield,  
Co-Director



Visit [mountaintrue.org/40years](https://mountaintrue.org/40years)  
to read stories from our past.



## Earn the 40th Anniversary MountainTrue Merit Badge

Show off your love for the rivers, mountains, and people of the Southern Blue Ridge with this limited edition commemorative merit badge. Earn yours by participating in either our:

### 40 Years of Victories Challenge

1) Visit three places that represent significant MountainTrue victories and take a picture of yourself in each place. 2) Write a brief explanation of why those places matters to you. 3) Send those to [susan@mountaintrue.org](mailto:susan@mountaintrue.org). 4) Respond to at least three MountainTrue action alerts, continuing our legacy of advocating to protect the places we share!

### 40 Years 40 Miles Hike-a-thon

Beginning in June and ending September 30, participants collect pledges from friends and family for each mile hiked. Every hiker who enters the 40 years 40 miles challenge will be awarded the 40th-anniversary patch. ❖



Learn more at: [mountaintrue.org/40years](https://mountaintrue.org/40years)

## Get Your Gardening Gloves on Our New Native Planting Guide

MountainTrue has published a brand new guide to help you replace harmful non-native invasive plant species with native alternatives that benefit wild birds, hummingbirds, butterflies, and other wildlife.

This beautifully designed and durable guide conveniently folds up to fit in your wallet — perfect for your next visit to the garden center or nursery. ❖



### How can you get one?

Guides are available for free at invasive plant workdays and events, [mountaintrue.org/eventscalendar](https://mountaintrue.org/eventscalendar)

1. Sign up to volunteer for one of our workdays or join us for a hike.

2. Meet us at a tabling event.

3. Buy one for \$5 and get it mailed to your door: [mountaintrue.org/plantguide](https://mountaintrue.org/plantguide)



Events  
Calendar



Plant  
Guide

# MountainTrue Objects to Forest Plan for Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests

After eight years of work and more than 25,000 public comments, the U.S. Forest Service released its Revised Forest Plan for Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests in late January.

MountainTrue Public Lands Field Biologist Josh Kelly and Western Regional Director Callie Moore immediately got to work analyzing the 2,000-page plan and crafting a response on behalf of MountainTrue and our members. We then published a critique ([mountaintrue.org/planobjection](https://mountaintrue.org/planobjection)) and filed a formal objection to the plan with the Forest Service.

MountainTrue is a longtime advocate for the sustainable management and conservation of Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests. Our members led the successful campaign to stop the practice of clearcutting in the forests in the 80s and 90s, and our staff conducted the first inventory of old-growth stands in Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests. MountainTrue's Public Lands Team is intimately involved in protecting these forests: monitoring timber sales to ensure old-growth forests, water quality, and sensitive habitats are protected; restoring and protecting native habitats by treating invasive non-native plants and pests; and helping the Forest Service design and implement restoration projects.



*MountainTrue's Josh Kelly examining a poorly maintained timbering road within the Buck Project area in Nantahala National Forest.*

Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests are crown jewels of American public lands, and nothing short of an excellent forest plan is acceptable. We hope the critiques and ideas offered in our objection will help make the final plan as good as possible. These forests and the American people deserve that.

*– MountainTrue Public Lands Field Biologist Josh Kelly*



*Josh Kelly counting the rings of an old-growth tree core sample. This tree — proposed for logging within the Buck Project area — turned out to be 231 years old.*

Our objection was influenced by our intimate history with these national forests, by our membership in the Nantahala-Pisgah Forest Partnership, and our endorsement of the Forest Plan Alternative provided to the Forest Service by the Partnership in June 2020.

The Partnership consists of 27 active member and affiliate organizations representing conservation, economic development, forest products, recreation, water, and wildlife interest groups. Our proposed alternative would have:

- protected old-growth stands, Natural Heritage Areas, backcountry wilderness, and other sensitive recreation areas;
- protected, maintained, and expanded recreation areas and trail systems;
- created new young forest habitats at biologically significant levels for the benefit of wildlife and hunters alike; and

*continued on page 5*

# MountainTrue Wins Historic Investments for WNC; Sets 2022 Legislative Agenda

The North Carolina General Assembly approved the 2021 state budget after months of wrangling among themselves and with Governor Roy Cooper.

That spending plan — the first full budget approved since 2018 — makes substantial investments in Western North Carolina, including many of MountainTrue's funding priorities.

## Here's a quick look at MountainTrue's budget victories in Raleigh:

Funding for the removal of dams across WNC - **\$7.2 million.**

Recurring funding for landslide mapping in WNC - **\$370,000.**

Restoration of the successful Waste Detection Elimination Program to help property owners identify and remedy failing septic systems - **\$200,000 in both years of the biennial budget.**

Recurring funding for water quality testing in the French Broad and other WNC rivers and streams - **\$100,000.**

MountainTrue also went to bat for several important projects to improve public access and protect water quality in rivers and streams throughout our region. New state funding for these projects included:

Watauga River Paddle Trail in Watauga County - **\$150,000.**

Permanent public access to a popular recreational area in the Green River Game Land in Henderson and Polk counties - **\$150,000.**

Removal of the Ward Mill Dam on the

Watauga River in Watauga County - **\$100,000.**

Outdoor recreation improvements at Island Park on the Tuckasegee River in Swain County - **\$200,000.**

Expanded fishing, canoeing, and kayaking on the Valley River in Cherokee County - **\$125,000.**

Improved access and stream restoration on the Bakersville Creekwalk in Mitchell County - **\$200,000.**

Other budget items that MountainTrue supported include \$12.2 million for Pisgah View State Park in Buncombe County and \$750,000 for planning and improvements to DuPont State Forest.

As the General Assembly negotiates the 2022 budget, MountainTrue's legislative team has drafted its list of budget priorities and has been meeting with state lawmakers to discuss:

## Increased funding to help farmers improve water quality.

Agricultural waste is a significant source of E. coli and other bacterial pollution in WNC rivers and streams. We can help our farmers clean up our waters by expanding funding for local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs)

and doubling the allocation to the Agricultural Cost Share Program from \$4 million to \$8 million in annual funding.

## Help property owners reduce stormwater pollution.

The Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) allows WNC's SWCDs to help property owners reduce stormwater pollution in impaired waters. Like the cost-share program for farmers, funding for CCAP is insufficient to meet demand. Providing WNC SWCDs with \$500,000 for the CCAP program will significantly reduce stormwater pollution in rivers and streams already impacted by bacterial pollution.

## Invest in the recreation economy and improve public river access.

MountainTrue is advocating for \$2.42 million in state funding to expand public access to the Green River and the Watauga River Paddle Trail, create a Blue Ridge Snorkel Trail with public access sites in 24 WNC counties, update the River Walk and Canoe Trail in downtown Murphy, expand green infrastructure in Sylva's Bridge Park, and more. ❖



Read our full 2022 legislative agenda at [mountaintrue.org/NCbudget](https://mountaintrue.org/NCbudget)

article continued from page 4

- met the Forest Service's goals to increase timbering.

Unfortunately, the Forest Service declined to adopt or even fully analyze the Partnership proposal. Instead, the Forest Service has proposed a plan that:

- offers vague assurances while placing important conservation areas in areas designed for timbering;
- expands the road network without providing plans to maintain it; and

- establishes loopholes that undermine the protection of the conservation areas that are established by the plan.

Many of our concerns relate to the potential for poorly conceived timber harvest to impact water quality, steep slopes, and areas critical for the preservation of biodiversity. We want to emphasize that we fully support meeting the timber harvest goals agreed to by

the Partnership, even going so far as to compromise in supporting rotational timber harvest in the consensus suitable timber base.

MountainTrue isn't alone in objecting to the forest plan. As of April 8, the Forest Service had accepted more than 800 objections, the most objections that any forest plan has ever received. ❖



Read our critique of the Forest Service's Revised Forest Plan at [mountaintrue.org/planobjection](https://mountaintrue.org/planobjection)

# Plastic Pollution: Global Problem, Local Solutions

We've all seen plastic litter on the side of the road, plastic bags blowing in the wind or stuck in the tree branches, and styrofoam cups floating down our rivers and streams.

When most of us think about plastic pollution, we think about oceanic pollution or the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Unfortunately, plastic pollution is a growing problem throughout the waterways of the Southern Blue Ridge.

Testing by MountainTrue shows that microplastics are present throughout the Broad, French Broad, Green, Hiwassee, Little Tennessee, New, and Watauga river basins. Our study is one of the first to examine microplastic levels across Western North Carolina and Townes and Union counties in Georgia to assess their prevalence in our waters.

Microplastics are pieces of plastic smaller than five millimeters resulting from the breakdown of larger plastic litter and debris into smaller and smaller pieces. Microplastics can enter the environment as plastic litter degrades, in runoff from landfills, and from discharge from wastewater treatment plants. Once in the environment, they can travel for thousands of miles suspended in water or carried by the wind. Microplastics are harmful to aquatic life and are considered a potential threat to human health. A new study published in Environment International is the first to



*French Broad Riverkeeper Hartwell Carson inspecting a piece of a torn plastic shopping bag caught in a tree.*

detect microplastics in human blood.

As eight states and hundreds of municipalities around the U.S. have already demonstrated, the best way to mitigate plastic pollution is to enact common-sense laws to limit the use of single-use plastics before they end up as litter and microplastic pollution in our rivers, lakes, and streams.

## Four Ways MountainTrue is Leading the Fight Against Plastic Pollution

### 1. Pushing plastic reduction ordinances in Asheville, Boone, and Buncombe County.

MountainTrue and the WNC Sierra Club chapter are teaming up to advocate for ordinances in Asheville, Boone, and Buncombe County. These local laws would encourage the use of reusable shopping bags by replacing single-use plastic shopping bags with paper bags and charging a 10-cent fee that would be waived for shoppers using an EBT card or enrolled in the SNAP or WIC programs. The ordinance would also reduce polystyrene and plastic straws, stirrers, and splash guards.

Learn more about plastic pollution, read our model ordinance, and take action at [plasticfreewnc.com](https://plasticfreewnc.com).

### 2. Installing Trash Trouts on local streams and tributaries most impacted by plastic pollution.

MountainTrue is partnering with Asheville GreenWorks to manufacture, install, and maintain Trash Trouts in streams and tributaries throughout the Southern Blue Ridge. These litter collection devices have a large cage that floats on pontoons, and booms are anchored upstream to direct large pieces of floating debris into the mouth of the cage. Smaller organic matter passes through the Trash Trouts while fish and other aquatic wildlife pass below the devices.

There are currently 11 Trash Trouts at work throughout Western North Carolina, and two more devices were recently installed in tributaries of the Watauga River in Tennessee. Want to sponsor a Trash Trout? Contact Andy Hill at [andy@mountaintrue.org](mailto:andy@mountaintrue.org).

### 3. Helping Hendersonville and its local businesses go plastic-free

MountainTrue and the City of Hendersonville Environmental Sustainability Board have launched Working To Be Plastic-Free, a voluntary program that helps participating local businesses move away from single-use plastic and opt for more sustainable, reusable, or compostable options. So far, 11 local businesses have enrolled,



*AmeriCorps High Country Water Quality Administrator Kylie Barnes inspecting a water sample for microplastics.*





George Santucci, Sustainability and Special Projects Manager for the Town of Boone, and Watauga Riverkeeper and MountainTrue High Country Director Andy Hill posing in front of the Winkler Creek Trash Trout.

The town is proud to partner with MountainTrue in cleaning up our waterways. As an organizer of hundreds of river cleanups over the years, a device like this is welcome, as it will collect trash continuously.

– George Santucci, Sustainability and Special Projects Manager  
for the Town of Boone

and the Hendersonville City Council has unanimously endorsed the program. Own a business in Hendersonville? Visit [plasticfreehendo.com](https://plasticfreehendo.com) to enroll or learn how you can support participating businesses.

#### 4. Partnering with NC Riverkeepers on a statewide microplastic study

MountainTrue is partnering with Waterkeepers Carolina to conduct the first statewide microplastics study of North Carolina's rivers and streams. Our High Country staff is now receiving, processing, and analyzing water samples taken and sent by all of North Carolina's Riverkeepers. Keep your eyes peeled for a statewide report coming out soon. ❖



## Plastic Pollution by the Numbers

**100 Billion** - The number of plastic bags used by Americans every year.

**12 Million** - The number of barrels of oil needed to produce a year's worth of plastic bags.

**12 Minutes** - The average amount of time a single-use plastic bag is used.

**25 Billion** - The number of styrofoam cups used by Americans every year.

**189** - The number of new coal plants it would take to create the amount of greenhouse gases emitted by plastic bag production each year.

**91%** - The percentage of plastics that have not and will never be recycled.

**1 credit card** - The approximate amount of microplastics that we all breathe and consume in a week.

**345** - The number of local governments that have implemented plastic bag bans as of 2019.

# Smart Growth Makes Good Sense

By Chris Joyell, Director of Healthy Communities



The state projects that in the next 25 years, over 39,000 people will move to Henderson County.

That's more than the current populations of Hendersonville, Flat Rock, Fletcher, Laurel Park, and Mills River combined. Furthermore, they'll require 17,000 new homes when they get here — that's nearly 700 new homes per year!

How will we accomplish that? Where will those houses go? Fortunately, we have an opportunity to answer those pressing questions, as Henderson County is now developing its 25-year comprehensive plan for future development. Your input in this process can ensure that the county is better equipped to meet the challenges of a growing population, climate change, and increased pressures on our built and natural environments.

Instead of expanding our infrastructure into rural landscapes, we can invest in our existing communities.

When we think of how we typically meet a huge demand for housing, we envision sprawling subdivisions and massive apartment complexes. Those projects usually require extending new water and sewer lines into rural and undeveloped land. Instead of expanding our infrastructure into rural landscapes, we can invest in our existing communities by improving

Your input in this process can ensure that the county is better equipped to meet the challenges of a growing population, climate change, and increased pressures on our built and natural environments.

aging infrastructure to accommodate the growth that cities and towns are designed to absorb.

Focusing development in established neighborhoods protects our farmland and natural areas and represents a sound financial approach to the problem. By encouraging development in existing communities, the county reduces the long-term maintenance obligation of new infrastructure. Investing in our communities supports our neighbors and is ultimately more efficient, saving the county money and strengthening its tax base.

Providing a wider range of housing options can serve as an antidote to sprawling development patterns that perpetuate gridlock, auto emissions, and the climate crisis. These housing options don't always have to be 200-unit multi-family apartment buildings. Instead, we can encourage modest forms of infill development that are comparable in size and scale to large homes. These "middle housing" types include duplexes and courtyard apartments that have been largely missing from housing production since the 1970s.

If you visit any pre-war neighborhood in the region, you'll find modest brick-faced townhouses and courtyard apartments blending seamlessly with single-family homes. These middle housing types can provide a wide range of affordable options for seniors looking to downsize or young adults looking to strike out on their own and for service workers, public servants, and school teachers looking to live closer to where they work.

If we want to preserve Henderson County's farmland, forests, and heritage, we need to find a better way to accommodate the anticipated influx of new residents while supporting our existing communities. Henderson County's ongoing comprehensive planning process allows county residents to articulate what middle housing options could look like and how they could fit in and around existing neighborhoods and town centers while preserving their unique character. ❖

Learn more and get involved through Henderson County's 2045 Comprehensive Plan website at [hendersoncounty2045.com](http://hendersoncounty2045.com)



# Jason Chambers Wins 15th Annual Holman Water Quality Stewardship Award

MountainTrue recognized local clean water champion Jason Chambers as the recipient of the 2022 Holman Water Quality Stewardship Award on April 28 at its 15th Annual Hiwassee Watershed Gala at the Hackney Warehouse in Murphy.

"I'm surprised yet honored to be chosen for this award," Jason explains. "One thing I've learned over the years is that clean water unites everyone, regardless of politics or anything else. Residents and visitors are always willing to lend a hand, whether it's picking up trash around the lakes, sampling the water in the creeks, or removing invasive plants from the shores of our rivers. I feel good about the quality of water we are leaving for the next generation."

Each year, the Holman Water Quality Stewardship Award is presented to the person or group who has done the most to sustain good water quality in rivers, lakes, and streams in the upper Hiwassee River Watershed. The award is named for Bill Holman, a life-long conservation advocate and currently the North Carolina State Director of The Conservation Fund. The Holman Award

is sculpted by David Goldhagen of Goldhagen Blown Art Glass, whose studio is located on the shores of Lake Chatuge.

"Jason is a steady, positive, and thoughtful force for the watershed in his many years of service. His commitment to clean water is persistent and commendable," says MountainTrue Board Member Katherine Taaffe.

The Hiwassee Watershed Gala is held each year to celebrate the upper Hiwassee River Watershed and to honor the efforts of those who work

to keep our waters clean and healthy. The event is also the MountainTrue Western Regional Office's largest fundraiser, with proceeds supporting water program work locally. ❖



*2022 Holman Water Quality Award Winner Jason Chambers.*

## Creation Care Alliance Hosts William J. Barber III for Discussion on Race, Class, and Climate Change



*William J. Barber III*

On February 20, the Creation Care Alliance of WNC hosted "Environmental Injustice: Race, Class & Climate Change" with William J. Barber III. Barber's presentation focused on the Southeast United States with particular emphasis on how environmental racism and other systemic means of disparity are exacerbated by climate change — with communities of color and working-class families feeling the impacts "first and worst."

The presentation was followed by a conversation and Q & A period, where more than 200 community members engaged with Barber to consider how they might create lasting change and true, realized, climate justice. This event was a collaborative effort by diverse community partners including Conserving Carolina and seven Hendersonville area faith communities — spanning two faith traditions and six Christian denominations. ❖

## Biomonitoring Program Trains Volunteers

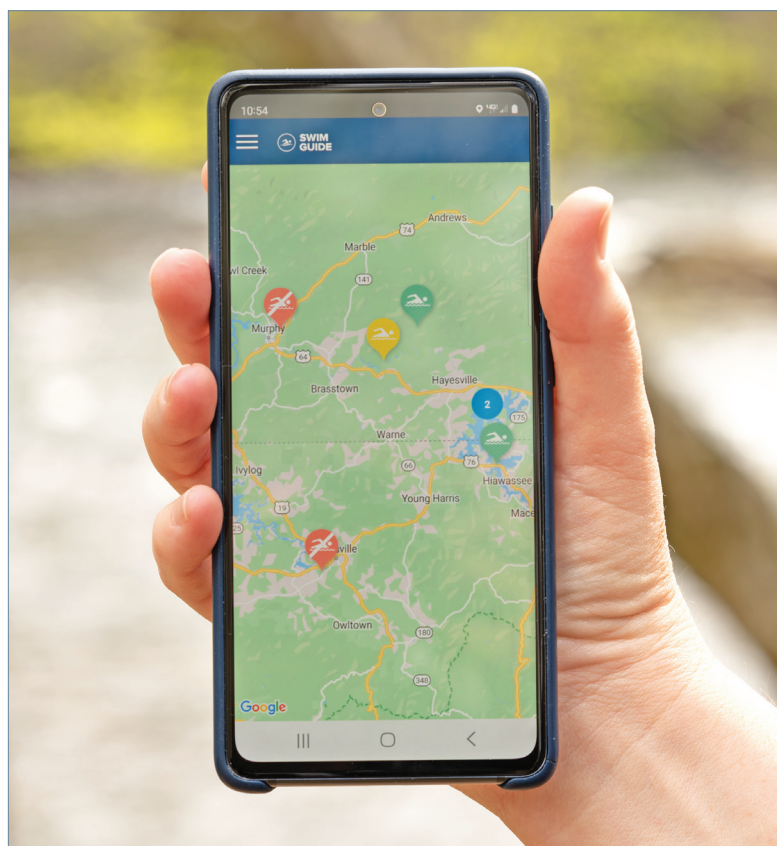
On March 5, we hosted a successful and exciting volunteer training day for our Stream Monitoring Information Exchange biomonitoring program.

We had more than 20 folks from our Southern Region and beyond join us to learn about all of the little bugs that call our streams home and what they tell us about the health of our rivers and streams. We ventured out to the Big Hungry River and hopped in the water to search for these telltale critters.

This year's spring sampling season has already wrapped up. If you're interested in joining our next training session and getting into the streams with us, contact [wqa@mountaintrue.org](mailto:wqa@mountaintrue.org). ❖



*AmeriCorps High Country Water Quality Administrator Kylie Barnes inspecting a stream for aquatic insects. PHOTO BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INSTITUTE*



## Swim Guide Season is Here! Download the App

Swim Guide season launches on Memorial Day Weekend!

Download the Swim Guide mobile app or visit the Swim Guide website for up-to-date water monitoring results for your favorite recreation spots on the Broad, French Broad, Green, and Watauga rivers.

The Swim Guide is the public's best resource for knowing which streams and river recreation areas are safe to swim in and which have failed to meet water quality standards for bacteria pollution. Our sampling results are posted every Friday afternoon so you can enjoy safe weekend recreation on or in the water. ❖



Learn more at  
[mountaintrue.org/swimguide](http://mountaintrue.org/swimguide)

We are grateful for our 40th anniversary sponsors, and we are happy to share this information from Earth Equity Advisors with you.

## Earth Equity Advisors Thanks MountainTrue for 40 Years of Protecting Our Environment and Communities

Earth Equity Advisors is a proud sponsor of Mountain True, and we graciously join them in celebrating 40 years of championing resilient forests, clean waters, and healthy communities in the Southern Blue Ridge.

We honor what has been accomplished to date, as well as the collective impact we can continue to make with our individual actions. In addition to your commitments to MountainTrue, we believe one of the most important actions you can take is to ensure that your investments are aligned with your values.

Because your investment options should not limit but amplify your impact, Earth Equity provides the broadest access to rigorously screened sustainable, responsible, and impact (SRI) investing opportunities that matter to you. As one of the Southeast's first SRI-only investment firms, we cultivate and empower a community of all generations to grow personal wealth and make a positive impact for our planet, our society, and our future. If you are interested in taking this step, we have two offerings specifically for investors like you!

Through Earth Equity Advisors, we provide investment advisory, financial planning, and wealth management services leveraging our proprietary asset allocation

model and signature portfolios for investments greater than \$250,000. You can learn more about this offering and request a free Impact X-Ray to uncover what companies might be hiding in your current investments at [earthequityadvisors.com](https://earthequityadvisors.com).

For those that are new to investing or would like to start on a smaller scale, we invite you to check out Earth Equity Align Digital, our self-guided digital investment platform, which provides access to our signature Green Sage Sustainability portfolio for a much lower minimum investment of \$5,000. You can learn more about this service at [earthequityalign.com](https://earthequityalign.com).

Thank you for all you do for our community and the environment we call home!



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**Western Regional Office**

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Murphy, NC 28906  
(828) 837-5414



[mountaintrue.org](http://mountaintrue.org)



# 2022 Guided Adventures

Join us for hikes and river adventures led by MountainTrue's expert staff. Discover wonderful new places, learn about the biodiversity of our region, and meet other people who share your passion for protecting the places we share. MountainTrue members get early access. Our Guided Adventures book up fast, so join now at [mountaintrue.org/guidedadventures](http://mountaintrue.org/guidedadventures).

