

Using art to inspire conservation



Dale Weiler of Weiler Woods for Wildlife makes a presentation with his stone sculpture at FernLeaf Community Charter School. PROVIDED BY WEILER WOODS FOR WILDLIFE

Weiler Woods for Wildlife teaches area students about endangered species

Dean Hensley

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Weiler Woods for Wildlife has been making presentations at area schools, demonstrating to students how art can be a means to save endangered species.

The founders, Dale Weiler and Loti Woods, recently made presentations at

both FernLeaf Community Charter School in Fletcher and also to eighth graders at Flat Rock Middle School. They made their presentation first to two fifth-grade classes at FernLeaf, according to Karen Dacey of Weiler Woods for Wildlife.

"Teaching two classes of enthusiastic fifth graders at FernLeaf was really rewarding," Dacey said. "About 40 stu-

dents in Alexis Hinchliffe's classes had been studying hellbenders, so the presentation included information about these shy creatures, their habitats and the challenges they face."

Dacey said students learned that hellbenders are the largest salamanders in North America and can grow more than two feet long.

"They live in rivers in 16 states in the Eastern United States and are considered threatened or endangered throughout that range. Hellbenders

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