

For Immediate Release

May 13, 2003

**CARLTON OWEN NAMED NEW CHAIRMAN OF
UPSTATE FOREVER BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

TOM KESTER AND NEAL WORKMAN JOIN BOARD

Carlton Owen has been named the new Chairman of the Board of Directors of Upstate Forever. He replaces Dr. Dave Hargett, who is leaving the Board after serving as its Chairman since the organization was founded in late 1998.

Owen is the founder and principal of The Environmental Edge, LLC, a consulting firm whose mission is to "bring business and the environment together to benefit both." He worked at Champion International Corporation for over 10 years where, as Vice President of Forest Policy, he was one of the nation's leading experts on sustainable forestry practices. He worked at Champion International Corporation for over 10 years where, as Vice President of Forest Policy, he was one of the nation's leading experts on sustainable forestry practices. He also has directed two nonprofit organizations—American Forest Foundation and the Mississippi Wildlife Federation.

Owen currently serves as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and recently stepped down as President of the University of Georgia's Warnell School of Forestry Advisory Council. He is also an adjunct faculty member at Clemson University's Department of Forestry. Owen holds a bachelor's degree in forest management and a master's degree in wildlife ecology, both from Mississippi State University.

Hargett, a principal and senior consultant with the Pinnacle Consulting Group in Greenville, has been actively involved with a number of conservation organizations, including Friends of the Reedy River, the South Carolina Wildlife Federation, the National Wildlife Federation, and the Conestee Foundation, and is an adjunct faculty member at Clemson as well.

Owen said, "I can't imagine where Upstate Forever would be right now without the leadership that Dave has provided over the last four and one half years. I aspire to be the same kind of leader. It's a hard act to follow."

Upstate Forever also announced that Tom Kester of Greenville and Neal Workman of Walhalla have joined its Board of Directors.

A certified public accountant, Kester worked for 28 years with KPMG in Fort Lauderdale, Florida and Greenville, South Carolina. Prior to his retirement in 2002, he was the managing partner of KPMG's Greenville office. In addition, he serves on the boards of the Greenville Literacy Association, the United Way of Greenville County, and the Palmetto Society. A graduate of Cornell University, Kester received a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering in 1968, and in 1974, he received an MBA degree from Harvard University.

Workman, a resident of Walhalla, is the founder and chairman of Trehel Corporation, an unlimited licensed general contracting firm with offices in Clemson and Greenville. He serves on several non-profit boards in the area, including representing Region One on the State Heritage Corridor Board. Workman also serves on Clemson University's Industry Advisory Board for the College of Architecture and Humanities, the Board of Trustees of Tri-County Tech, the Anderson Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and the Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. He holds a bachelor of arts degree in economics from Wofford College.

With Workman joining the Board, Upstate Forever has achieved its goal of having at least one representative from each of the Upstate counties.

Upstate Forever is a nonprofit, membership-based organization that promotes sensible growth and protects special places in the Upstate region of South Carolina. The organization now has over 1,000 members and a staff of seven. For more information, see www.upstateforever.org.