

For Immediate Release

November 16, 2004

UPSTATE FOREVER NAMES ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS

Upstate Forever is pleased to announce the following winners of its Annual Awards for 2004:

Jeff Randolph—Innovator of the Year

The Innovator of the Year Award recognizes an individual or firm for innovation and leadership in the field of design and development. This year's winner is Jeff Randolph.

Jeff is the principal of The Randolph Group, an award winning residential development and marketing company specializing in creating imaginative places for people to live, play, and work. Jeff has been a pioneer in bringing innovative residential development to the Upstate.

One of his most successful neighborhoods, Redfearn in Simpsonville, encompasses a number of components that make the development pedestrian-friendly, interactive, and more like traditional neighborhoods of the 1940s and 50s. Redfearn was named the Best New Community of 2003 by *Builder/Architect Magazine*.

Jeff favors enhancing his developments with ample green spaces and trails. In his Vermont development, for example, every resident is within a five-minute walk of a trail or community park.

Jeff also played a key role in the spectacular revitalization of the Viola community in downtown Greenville. A frequent speaker at conferences and seminars, he is a strong and eloquent advocate for improved and environmentally sensitive development practices.

Graham Rich—Public Servant of the Year

The Public Servant of the Year Award recognizes an employee or commissioner of a federal, state or local government agency for service "beyond the call of duty" in promoting conservation and improved development practices. This year's winner is Graham Rich.

As General Manager of the Spartanburg Water System, Graham has provided extraordinary vision and leadership in conserving both land and water

resources in the Upstate. Because of Graham's hard work and initiatives, the Water System has generously supported educational programs at both the K-12 and college levels and has been proactive in protecting important lands in its watersheds. His accomplishments include:

- Establishing the first Purchase of Development Rights program in the Upstate. To date the Water System has approved \$70,000 in funds to purchase conservation easements to protect lands along the North and South Pacolet Rivers. These rivers are the major tributaries to Lake Bowen, the county's most important source of public drinking water.
- Working with the Natural Resource Conservation Service in stabilizing and protecting the bed and banks of vulnerable sections of the Pacolet River.
- Developing Lake Blalock Park that includes a boat landing, ranger station and fishing pier for handicapped individuals. In the near future, an environmental education center and community picnic shelter will be added to the park.
- Establishing an innovative constructed wetlands project at Lake Blalock.
- Providing substantial financial support for environmental courses at Wofford College.
- Providing substantial financial support to the Watershed Ecology Center at the University of South Carolina Upstate.

Carolyn Groves—Volunteer of the Year

The Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes a person who has done exceptional work as a volunteer for Upstate Forever. This year's winner is Carolyn Groves.

A retired CPA with experience in both private and public accounting, Carolyn handles all of Upstate Forever's financial records and accounts. She spends many hours in the office each week, paying bills and keeping records on over 15 separate funds. Each month she prepares summary financial statements for the Board and management, and each year she works closely with our independent auditors to complete the annual audit of the financial statements. She has performed a vital service for Upstate Forever with professionalism and dedication, and she is a joy to have in the office.

The awards were presented at Upstate Forever's Annual Meeting at Caesar's Head Community Lodge on October 23. Upstate Forever Board Chairman Carlton Owen said, "This is one of the highlights of the Annual Meeting where we take a few moments to recognize and thank some special people for their extraordinary work. We could not have a finer group of award winners."

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Please call Mr. Wyche if you would like contact information for the Award Winners.