

For Immediate Release

IMPORTANT TRACT IN THE OLD HUNT COUNTRY PRESERVED

February 8, 2005

Upstate Forever is pleased to announce the receipt of a conservation easement protecting an important 156-acre tract in Polk County, North Carolina adjoining the South Carolina state line. The property, owned by Always Farms LLC, overlooks the Pacolet River and provides important habitat for indigenous wildlife. The farm's rolling pastures and beautiful woodlands can be seen by the public from Red Fox Road. The property is located in close proximity to three major tracts that have also been protected by conservation easements granted to Upstate Forever—Fairview Farm (1,260 acres), Cotton Patch Farm (403 acres), and the Four Columns property (120 acres).

Pat and Viviane Garner, owners of Always Farms, said, "When we first saw this property with its scenic vista of the Pacolet River against a backdrop of the Western North Carolina mountains, we knew right away that it needed to be preserved. We are delighted that through this conservation easement and with the support of Upstate Forever, we can protect this farm's natural beauty and open space for future generations."

Brad Wyche, Executive Director of Upstate Forever, said, "The Always Farms tract is worthy of protection in its own right, but its close proximity to Fairview Farm, Cotton Patch and Four Columns makes it even more valuable. These four tracts together represent approximately 2,000 acres of highly significant land in the Old Hunt Country."

Upstate Forever is a non-profit membership-based organization that manages a land trust program in the Upstate region of South Carolina and in those portions of North Carolina located in the watersheds of major Upstate rivers. It presently holds 18 easements protecting over 4,000 acres of land.

For more information, please contact:

Brad Wyche, Upstate Forever, at 864-250-0500.

A map of the property is available upon request.