

May 23, 2005

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UPSTATE FOREVER WELCOMES SIX NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Upstate Forever announces six new staff additions as the organization continues to expand its work in the Upstate area. Upstate Forever is a non-profit, membership-based organization that promotes sensible growth and protects special places in the Upstate region of South Carolina. It currently has over 1,600 members.

Nancy Eisen Fitzer, Mary Bennett Greene, Peggy O'Donoghue and Jennifer Rennicks join the Greenville office of Upstate Forever, while **Hartford Campbell, Jr.** will work in the Spartanburg office. **Meredith Retsinas** will serve as Communications Coordinator for both offices.

Executive Director Brad Wyche welcomed the new staff members. "We are delighted to have these six wonderful people on the Upstate Forever team," Wyche said. "Mary Bennett, Meredith, Peggy, Nancy and Jennifer will greatly enhance our capacity in several critical areas, while Hartford will make sure the Spartanburg office continues to run smoothly."

Spartanburg Office Director Stephanie Monroe said the two Spartanburg office staff members will help the office - which opened in August -- continue its growing presence in the community.

"We are lucky to have them both join the Spartanburg office," Monroe said. "They both bring unique experiences with them. Meredith is a great journalist who will help us continue to promote and bring active living to the forefront in Spartanburg County, while Hartford will handle the administration of the office."

Nancy Eisen Fitzer has been named Education and Advocacy Associate for Upstate Forever. She received her bachelor's degree magna cum laude in biological anthropology from Harvard and a masters degree in urban planning from Clemson. She also studied natural resource management and rainforest ecology in Australia.

Mary Bennett Greene has been named Membership Coordinator for Upstate Forever. She is a graduate of Davidson College and working toward her master's degree in interior architecture from the University of North Carolina at

Greensboro. Her primary responsibilities pertain to Upstate Forever's membership.

Peggy O'Donoghue has been named Financial Manager of Upstate Forever. O'Donoghue is a graduate of Northeastern University with a degree in accounting. She worked as an auditor for the federal government and the U.S. Military before moving to Greenville in 1997.

Jennifer Rennicks has been hired as Watershed Project Coordinator for the Saluda-Reedy Watershed Consortium, a major initiative launched by Upstate Forever and a variety of partners in 2003 that addresses the impacts of land use change on water quality in the watershed of the Saluda and Reedy rivers. She will be responsible for the day-to-day management and coordination of the Consortium's research, outreach, and advocacy efforts. Jennifer has an MS in natural resource policy and behavior from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, and has worked recently for the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition and the Southern Environmental Law Center.

Meredith Retsinas has been named Communications Coordinator for Upstate Forever. Retsinas has an extensive background in journalism, marketing and public relations. Most recently she has worked as a freelance journalist for newspapers and magazines across the country, as well as an adjunct instructor of journalism at USC Upstate. Retsinas holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama in English and a master's degree in journalism.

Hartford Campbell, Jr. has joined the Spartanburg office of Upstate Forever as Administrative Assistant. Campbell is a sophomore at Wofford College from Atlanta studying for a degree in intercultural studies for business with an emphasis on Spanish.

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