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**UPSTATE FOREVER ANNOUNCES
PROTECTION OF WARRIOR MOUNTAIN**

Upstate Forever is proud to announce that Dianne Culbertson and her son, Chad, have entered a conservation agreement to permanently protect their 297-acre property historically known as *Warrior Mountain* in Gray Court, South Carolina!

This unique property contains the monadnock commonly called the "Little Knob" by Laurens County residents. Dianne previously protected her nearby property Timber Creek Farm in 2006, but when the property containing the well-known monadnock became available earlier this year, Dianne and Chad seized the opportunity to purchase and protect this significant landmark, as well. They call the property Warrior Mountain, which is what the monadnock is called on historic maps dating back to colonial times.

Dianne's conservation agreement permanently protects her property from industrial, commercial, and retail uses, residential subdivisions, parking lots, billboards, and mining, while allowing her to continue traditional uses like hunting, fishing, farming, and harvesting timber. A conservation agreement keeps the property in private ownership, is completely voluntary, and does not impact the property's ability to be sold or left to heirs.

Many Gray Court locals know Dianne as the co-founder of the Gray Court-Owings Historical Society and the Culbertson Backcountry Settlement, but now with the protection of almost 500 acres in Gray Court she will be recognized as the land conservation champion she truly is. Dianne's dream is to create a corridor of protected lands in order to

preserve the natural beauty and rich history of this part of Laurens County.

Upstate Forever is a regional conservation organization, which works to promote sensible growth and to protect special places in the Upstate. Currently, **Upstate Forever** has worked with 73 landowners to protect 14,284 acres of farms, fields, and forests in the Upstate using conservation agreements.



Upstate Forever is a nonprofit, membership-based organization promoting sensible growth and the protection of special places in the Upstate region of South Carolina. Our three program areas are: Land Trust, Sustainable Communities, and Clean Air and Water. Founded in 1998, **Upstate Forever** now has over 2,400 members, two offices, and a staff of 21. For more information, see www.upstateforever.org.