



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Upstate Forever Promotes and Reassigns Several Staff

New Membership and Special Events Director Also Hired

Greenville, SC -- Upstate Forever is pleased to announce the promotion and reassignment of several members of its staff. In addition, the organization has hired Randall Frye as its new Membership and Special Events Director.

John Tynan is Upstate Forever's first Deputy Director, responsible for overseeing all the organization's programmatic work and outreach efforts. Tynan joined the Upstate Forever staff in 2006 and was named Co-Director of the Clean Air and Water Program in 2008. During that time he managed Upstate Forever's rural waters and clean air initiatives and become one of South Carolina's leading experts on water issues. Tynan was selected as one of "Greenville's Best and Brightest 35 and Under" by Greenville Business Magazine in 2009 and is an elected member of the Greenville Water Commission.

Angela Viney is now Director of Development after serving as Director of Upstate Forever's Sustainable Communities Program and Spartanburg Office Director since 2006. Previously, Viney served for 10 years as Executive Director of the South Carolina Wildlife Federation and for 20 years in various management capacities with the American Red Cross. She has been the recipient of the Charlie Shaw Conservation Partnership Award from the National Wildlife Federation and the Evelyn Thayer Chace award from Audubon South Carolina. Viney will continue to serve as the Director of the Spartanburg office.

Heather Nix is Upstate Forever's Clean Air and Water Program Director after serving as Co-Director since 2008. She has managed the \$5 million EPA Targeted Watershed Grant, which has included the development of the Stormwater and Floodplain Restoration Banks. These projects have received widespread local support and attracted national interest as well.

Nix joined the Upstate Forever staff in 2007, after spending six years as an environmental consultant.

Lisa Hallo is the new Sustainable Communities Program Director. Hallo joined the Upstate Forever staff in October, 2007 and played a major role in developing the Stormwater Banking Program. From 2004 to 2007, she was the Program Director for the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps where she directly supervised four staff and managed more than 50 field staff.

Erin Knight has worked in Upstate Forever's Land Trust Program since 2002 and now serves as its Director, overseeing the organization's land protection efforts. Knight has designed public landscape projects including the Children's Garden at Linky Stone Park and a neighborhood park at Sliding Rock Creek, both in Greenville. She has authored or co-authored two books on designing outdoor environments for children.

Clyde Eldridge is now Major Gifts Associate. Eldridge joined Upstate Forever after an extensive career in the investment securities industry, specializing in public finance. He has served as chairman of the South Carolina Municipal Council, board member of the Municipal Council of the Carolinas and president of Securities Dealers of the Carolinas.

Randall Frye has joined the Upstate Forever staff as Membership and Special Events Director. A native of Whitmire in Laurens County, Frye most recently served ten years as Vice President of Member Services with the Laurens County Chamber of Commerce and has been executive director of downtown development organizations in Laurens, SC and Kingsport, TN.

Executive Director Brad Wyche said, "We're fortunate and blessed to have an extraordinary staff at Upstate Forever. These changes will make us an even stronger and more effective organization."

*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 1,800 members, two offices, and a staff of 19. For more information, see www.upstateforever.org.*

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Photos are attached.