



Upstate Forever Honors Conservation Champions

GREENVILLE, S.C. –At its ForeverGreen Annual Awards Luncheon today in Greenville, Upstate Forever honored six conservation champions for significant contributions in land protection, air and water quality, sustainable development, public service and volunteer work. The award winners were:

- Tommy Wyche Land Conservation Champion Award: **Bettina George**
- Sustainable Communities Champion Award: **City of Spartanburg**
- Clean Water Champion Award: **Dan Rankin, Dave Demarest, Lynne Newton**
- Clear Skies Champion Award: **City of Greenville**
- Public Servant of the Year: **John Frampton**
- Volunteer of the Year: **Jim Gossett**

“These great champions have worked tirelessly to make the Upstate a greener, cleaner and more sustainable region,” said Brad Wyche, Upstate Forever’s executive director. “Their achievements are an inspiration to us all.”

The event’s keynote speaker was Eric Larsen, one of the world’s greatest explorers and the only person ever to have reached the North and South Poles and climbed Mt. Everest in one year. In his riveting presentation, “Into the Heart of Cold,” Larsen related his experiences on these and other expeditions to real world issues and challenges.

The lead sponsors of the event were BMW, Community Journals LLC, and George and Susu Johnson.

Upstate Forever is a non-profit organization promoting sensible growth and protecting special places in the Upstate region of South Carolina. To learn more, visit www.upstateforever.org.

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