

More trail to enjoy

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Swamp Rabbit section is open

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Although runners, cyclists, walkers and nature lovers have been on the trail for months, the Greenville County Recreation Department recently officially opened a new, 1.4-mile section of the Greenville Hospital System Swamp Rabbit Trail.

The latest section of trail connects Lake Conestee Nature Park northward to Interstate 85 at Parkins Mill Road.

The newest section and an existing 1.8-mile section of the trail at the Nature Park, sandwich an on-street connection through the Augusta Acres neighborhood.

This latest addition to Greenville County's growing greenway network was paid for with Greenville County hospitality tax money and grants from the S.C. Recreational Trails Program and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

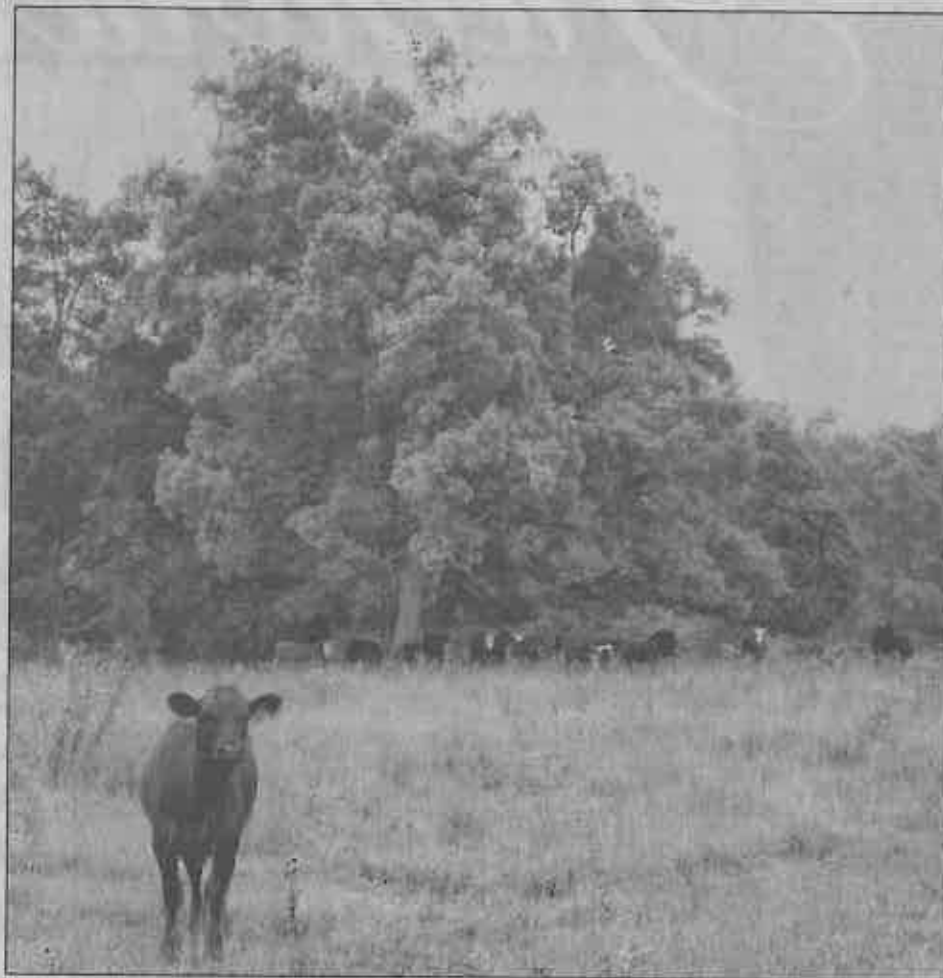
To see trail maps and get more information, visit: <http://greenvillerec.com/parks/swamp-rabbit/>

Upstate Forever announces conservation agreement

Upstate Forever has partnered with John S. and Robert M. Rainey to protect Cherokee Farms, a 182-acre parcel of land in Belton.

The Anderson County property is primarily composed of pastures and hay fields. It also includes a riparian buffer of hardwood forest around tributaries to Cherokee Creek and three small ponds, providing habitat for wildlife.

According to Upstate Forever, the Rainey family plan to protect additional acreage in the future.



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The tract is now permanently protected by a conservation agreement. Such agreements are a voluntary contract between a landowner and a qualified land trust where the land remains in private ownership although rights to develop a property are relinquished.

Upstate Forever's Land Trust program now holds conservation agreements on 81 properties, protecting a total of 15,799 acres in the Upstate. For more information, visit www.upstateforever.org.

Beekeeping introduction

Be knowledgeable and explore the world of honey bees and the art of keeping them in a new class offered by Furman University Learning for You.

Beekeeping is an 8,000-

year-old practice.

Topics in the the class include: Practical realities of beekeeping, honey bee biology, bees' relationship with flowers, management of the honey bee in each season and honey extraction.

Class members will come to understand the hive and its parts, installing bees and the various threatening parasites, diseases and hive invaders.

Buddy May, who operates 40 hives, teaches the class and offers optional field trips (weather permitting) to his bee farm. The course prepares participants for the S.C. Certified Beekeeper exam.

The class is held in eight sessions, starting Feb. 6 and going through March 26. Info: www.furman.edu/LearningforYou or call: 864-294-2153.

Hartwell Dam trail project receives \$25,000

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association (SORBA), received a \$25,000 grant from the Corps' national headquarters for phase two of construction on the Paynes Creek Multi-Purpose Trail.

The trail is located at the Hartwell Dam and Lake Project in Hartwell, Ga.

The 7.2-mile Paynes Creek Multi-Purpose Trail was completed in April using a previous Handshake Partnership grant awarded in fiscal year 2009.

The new grant will add some additional features to the trail.

Learn more at www.sas.usace.army.mil/CastleOnline/handshake.html.

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