

# Upstate Forever begins identifying special places

## Sensible growth advocate wants input about county sites worth preserving

By L.C. Leach III  
Tribune-Times Writer

**Upstate Forever**, a group dedicated to promoting what it describes as sensible growth, has begun its inventory of special places in the Upstate that residents want to see protected from development.

Suggestions have come from Greenville County residents after six public meetings in September.

The meetings were the first step toward identifying ecologically sensitive areas, wildlife habitats, historical sites, farm

land, riparian land and other special places in the county.

It is vital to get as many places identified now to minimize the loss of special historical land and places due to growth, **Upstate Forever** director **Brad Wyche** said during a Sept. 24 meeting at **Greenville Tech Brashier Campus** in Simpsonville.

"Greenville County is experiencing such phenomenal growth and change and we have lost a lot of lands that are special to the citizens of the county," Wyche said. "So if and when our locals leaders are ready to commit significant funds toward conserva-

tion and preservation, we will have already done a lot of research for them."

Places suggested at the Sept. 24 meeting included the **Burdette building in downtown Simpsonville**, the **Old St. Albans school on North Fork Shoals Road**, **Dunean Elementary School in Greenville**, the site of the **Battle of the Great Cane Brake in lower Simpsonville**, and the **Huff Cureton House on West Georgia Road**, which already is on the **National Register of Historic Places**.

"What they call the newest addition to the Huff House was built in 1900," said longtime resident and historian **Jack Pendarvis**, who attended the meeting. "But the house itself was built in

### Interested?

Call **Upstate Forever** at 241-4004, e-mail to [info@upstateforever.org](mailto:info@upstateforever.org), or visit the Web site [www.upstateforever.org/index.htm](http://www.upstateforever.org/index.htm).

1820 and has been lived in continuously since that time by someone in the family."

Pendarvis added that preserving these kinds of sites will not only keep runaway growth in check, but also will prevent the area's history from being relegated solely to a history book.

"History books are not always correct," Pendarvis said. "So having these sites allows you to go and see that what you read in a book is not fiction, it's a fact."

A \$22,500 federal grant, which came from the Communi-

ty Foundation of Greater Greenville, will go toward brochures and printing costs to help get the special places project started.

**Erin Knight**, director of natural resource protection with **Upstate Forever**, said while turnout for the meetings were low, resident interest in the project has been encouraging.

"Most of the people who've shown interest in this chose to mail in suggestions or to e-mail them in," Knight said. "So we won't have a suggested total for some time yet."

But Knight and Wyche emphasized the success of the project depends on local interest.

"They don't have to attend a meeting to make a suggestion," Wyche said. "They can call and tell us or get a form from us, work on it at home and send it to us."

**Beth Roddy**, who lives in the Greenville community of **Dunean**, said if residents don't take an interest now in local historical places, many of those places many could completely vanish.

"I think it will definitely be an advantage to our community as a whole because people in general are interested in historic areas," Roddy said. "And I think a lot can be preserved if people do take more of an interest in their past."