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University Communications

Earth Day Celebration

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Spartanburg, S.C. -- The Watershed Ecology Center of the University of South Carolina Upstate and Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve will hold an Earth Day Celebration with other local environmental, conservation, activists groups on the grounds of Hatcher Garden on Saturday, April 22 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The event will feature activities for children and families with lots of hands-on participation, animals to touch and look at as well as eggs, insect collections, and much more! Join us to learn more about your world, live music and shop for nature based work by local artists.

Carol Broadus, program coordinator for the Watershed Ecology Center, says, "The Watershed Ecology Center's Goal for the Earth Day Celebration is to bring our local communities together to celebrate our natural resources. Our daily lives and our environment are intricately connected and everyone has a vested interest in the preservation and care of our planet. We hope that the Earth Day Celebration brings people of all backgrounds and beliefs together under the umbrella of a sustainable future. The earth, and our relationship to it, is something that we all have in common. This is also an opportunity for the community to get to know local artists, groups, and organizations, and find out how they can become involved. But best of all, it is a special occasion to celebrate and to have a good time with great friends!"

Children ages four to 12 can participate in the free Recycled Critter Contest. Children will put their creative and artistic talents to the test by creating an animal, real or imaginary, from only items you might find in the trash. The animal must be made up entirely of trash except for glues or tapes. Trash item examples include (but are not limited to) packing pellets, bottles, cans, bags, wrappers, and boxes. For rules and registration, contact the Watershed Ecology Center at USC Upstate 503-5728 or wec@uscupstate.edu. Judging and prizes will be awarded on April 22nd at the Earth Day Celebration.

Biomes Around the World is a display of animal artifacts from all over the world representing several of the world's major biomes. Artifacts include a walrus tusk, queen conch shell, ostrich egg, raccoon skin, American alligator, caiman specimen, spitting cobra, rock python, bull shark jaws and insects. Other activities for children include making a dragonfly, fishing for items that can be recycled, and looking at point and non-point pollution while using this interactive hands-on model.

Activities for adults include a sidewalk art show, live music by The Front Porch Kings, and information booths by the Sierra Club, S.C. Wildlife Federation, Palmetto Conservation Foundation, and Upstate Forever. Discover fun things to do in Spartanburg with HUB-BUB.COM and Hollywild Animal Park.

Joe Mullinax, Executive Director of Hatcher Garden, says "We've gotten great participation from local groups. Hollywild Animal Park is going to have a great booth—lots of animals to touch and feed and some fun activities for the kids. HUB-BUB.COM is bringing the Front Porch Kings, a fantastic local band, to perform and several artists to set up in a sidewalk art show style. They've also put together veggie picnic items for sale to snack on by working with local restaurants that cater to vegetarians. There will be lots of booths to visit and many fun things for the children to do. Come out and celebrate Earth Day with us!"

Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve is a 10-acre public garden located at 820 John B. White Sr.,

Blvd. The Garden features a series of ponds, walking trails, plantings of annuals, perennials and shrubs, a native woodland of mixed hardwoods, and a diverse population of wildlife. The Watershed Ecology Center at USC Upstate collects, analyzes, and disseminates sound scientific information on the ecology of the region. The Center places special emphasis on watershed conservation, water quality, and the study of organisms living in the area encompassed by a watershed; serves as a repository for regional ecological information, providing education and research assistance to individuals, communities, and governmental organizations; and is dedicated to providing research opportunities for the faculty and students at the University of South Carolina Upstate.

For more details, contact Joe Mullinax at 864-574-7724. To learn more about the origin of earth day visit <http://earthday.wilderness.org/history>.

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USC Upstate, a coeducational, public, comprehensive metropolitan institution, is located conveniently along the thriving economic I-85 corridor with campuses in Spartanburg and Greenville. As a senior comprehensive public institution of the University of South Carolina, the University's primary responsibilities are to offer baccalaureate education to the citizens of Upstate South Carolina and to offer selected master's degrees in response to regional demand.

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Spartanburg, SC 29303 • 864-503-5000 • info@uscupstate.edu

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