

Upstate Forever adds five new employees to staff

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Upstate Forever, a Greenville-based nature conservation organization, has added five employees to its staff.

■ Ned Barrett has been named program manager of Upstate Forever's Spartanburg office.

Barrett has 18 years of education experience, having taught history, English, and French in secondary schools in New Hampshire, California, Virginia, and South Carolina. He earned his BA from Colgate University and an MA in English from the University of Virginia. A 10th-generation West Virginian, Barrett has lived in Spartanburg since 1992.

■ Kirbie Crowe, who has a liberal arts background, is now membership and special events director.

Her responsibilities include membership acquisition, managing special events, and grant writing. A Greenville native, Crowe spent eight years in Colorado while attending college and graduate school, and also has lived briefly in the United Kingdom.

■ Laura Garrett is mountain streams and rural waters project associate for the organization's Clean Air and Water Program staff.

The Pickens native returned to the Upstate after spending several years teaching environmental education at Barrier Island Environmental Education Center on the South Carolina coast, collecting field data for the Alaska Bird Observatory in Fairbanks, Alaska, and leading a local stream-monitoring group in Tuxedo, N.C.

She also served as associate director at Camp Glen Arden, a girl's summer camp in Tuxedo, N.C. Garrett holds a BS in biology from Furman University and received a master's in environmental management from Duke University in 2007. For her master's project, she developed an invasive species management plan for Falling Creek Camp, a boy's summer camp also in Tuxedo, N.C.

■ Lisa Scott Hallo is urban rivers project associate for the Clean Air and Water Program staff.

Hallo spent the past six years in northern Vermont, most recently serving as the year-round program director at the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps., a non-profit conservation organization which employs teams of young adults in the completion of high-priority conservation projects throughout Vermont. She has also worked

as a project associate with Antioch New England Institute in Keene, N.H., an environmental educator at Glen Helen Outdoor Education Center in Yellow Springs, Ohio, and a Student Conservation Association intern at Arches National Park in Moab, Utah. Hallo holds a BS in magazine journalism as well as an MS in environmental studies.

■ Shelley Robbins, project coordinator for Upstate Forever's Spartanburg office.

She holds a degree in economics from Duke University, where she spent time at the Duke Marine Lab, and an MBA from Southwestern Oklahoma State University. Robbins' experience includes studying lemurs at the Duke Primate Center, regulating water and wastewater utilities for the Florida Public Service Commission, advocating for the protection of the Florida coast and outer continental shelf. in Governor Lawton Chiles' Environmental Policy Unit, and facilitating technology transfer at the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. She and her family have lived in Spartanburg since 1998.

Upstate Forever is a non-profit, membership-based organization promoting sensible growth and the protection of special places in the Upstate region of South Carolina.