



**Upstate Forever has heroes, too**, and the region's premiere conservation organization honored them at its annual meeting earlier this month.

And the winners are:

Land Conservation Champions Alice and Fred Stanback of Salisbury, North Carolina, for generous support of a variety of projects in both Carolinas including \$2.4 million for the Green River Preserve that connects DuPont State Forest to Jones Gap State Park; a challenge gift of \$300,000 for the Stumphouse Mountain project; and \$1.1 million for the recent acquisition of the Nine Times tract in Pickens County.

Sustainable Communities Champion Todd Usher of Addison Homes bucked conventional wisdom with a commitment to build exclusively EarthCraft House and Energy Star certified homes. Now, seven years later, Addison Homes is an industry leader.

Clean Water Champion: Save Our Saluda is a grassroots organization founded in early 2008 in response to threats facing the North Saluda River. SOS is now focused on the long-term protection and improvement of all rivers in the Saluda watershed.

Outstanding Public Servant: Mike Caston is the Executive Director of the SJWD Water District, which supplies water to a 130 square-mile area in western Spartanburg County.

Volunteers of the Year: Donna and Lou Astle became members of Upstate Forever in 2003 and since then have been two of the organization's most loyal and dedicated volunteers. In fact, they are often confused for staff members because they are in the office so much, assisting with a myriad of tasks. *Greenville Journal 10/23/08*