



December 14, 2008

## Individuals, groups honored for conservation efforts

Upstate Forever cites seven, is itself cited, for work to protect the environment

Greenville-based Upstate Forever was on the giving and receiving ends at recent award ceremonies.

At its annual meeting held at the Piedmont Forestry Center, the conservation group presented its 2008 awards to the following recipients:

- Land Conservation Champions -- To Alice and Fred Stanback of Salisbury, N.C., for their support for acquisition of thousands of acres of land for numerous projects in the Southeast, including three in the Upstate: \$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 -- To Todd Usher of Addison Homes, for his commitment to build exclusively EarthCraft House- and ENERGY STAR-certified homes. Now, seven years later, Addison Homes is an industry leader. Usher shares his knowledge with others in the Upstate through free quarterly seminars, a biweekly e-mail newsletter, and numerous speaking engagements, all focused on green building and remodeling. He was also recently appointed to serve on the Greenville County Planning Commission.
- Clean Water Champion -- To Save Our Saluda, a grassroots organization founded in early 2008 in response to serious threats facing the North Saluda River and now focused on the long-term protection and improvement of all rivers in the Saluda watershed.
- Outstanding Public Servant -- To Mike Caston, executive director of the SJWD Water District, which supplies water to a 130-square-mile area in western Spartanburg County. Working with Upstate Forever, Caston devoted hundreds of hours over five years to the acquisition and protection of property on Berry's Pond, a site with great conservation and historic significance at the boundary of Greenville and Spartanburg counties. The resulting conservation easement on Berry's Pond was only the second one ever granted by a public agency in the Upstate.
- Volunteers of the Year -- To Donna and Lou Astle, organization members since 2003.

### Green Building award

Also, Upstate Forever was presented one of this year's Leadership Awards by the South Carolina chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council.

As a private sector organization, Upstate Forever was cited for its longstanding commitment to sustainable communities and outreach and education about green building and sustainability.

The other recipients were:

- North Charleston Mayor Keith Summey, public sector;
- Georgetown Middle School seventh-grade science teachers, education sector;

- Dennis Knight, of Liollo, a Lowcountry-based engineering firm, for individual leadership.

Upstate Forever is a membership-based, nonprofit organization working in the nine-county Upstate South Carolina region with three main programs: Land Trust, Sustainable Communities and Clean Air and Water. It has offices in Greenville and Spartanburg.

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