

See what's doing with Paris Mountain State Park

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The Friends of Paris Mountain State Park hosts its annual meeting on Jan. 23 starting at 5 p.m.

The meeting at the park's Camp Buckhorn is a session for meeting fellow Friends, board members and park staff. Those gathered can share hot drinks, wine and cheese and talk about past accomplishments and upcoming plans.

A wide variety of chili will be served. All are invited. And those attending are asked to bring a salad, dessert or bread to share.

Park in the parking

areas of Shelters A & B and Sulphur Springs Shelter. A van will carpool attendees to Camp Buckhorn.

Please RSVP to: friends@pmspf.org

Cross-state ride

The Greenville Spinners annual cross-state ride is set for May 13-17.

The 2009 David Sutton Memorial Tour starts in Greenville and will have a final destination of Beaufort.

Applications and more information on the 2009 DSMT will be released in a week or two. Visit: www.greenvillespinners.org

S.C. Triathlon Series

The 16-race schedule for the 2009 South Carolina Triathlon Series, presented by the Steadman Hawkins Clinic of the Carolinas, has been announced.

Starting March 14 with a sprint triathlon at Parris Island, the series travels across South Carolina and includes a variety of distances to challenge newcomers and professionals alike.

This year's series includes two triathlons in Greenville and one in Clemson. Full details of the 2009 South Carolina Triathlon Series can be found at: www.setuvents.com

Conservation Agreements seminar

With dramatically increased federal tax incentives for land protection scheduled to expire at the end of 2009, there has never been a better time to learn about conservation agreements.

The popular and widely used means of protecting privately owned natural, scenic, agricultural and historic lands is the subject of a conference at the Carolina First Center in Greenville. Upstate Forever hosts the conference, titled "Conservation Agreements: The Voluntary Protection of Land," on Feb. 3 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

The session is open to landowners, professional advisers and concerned citizens.

A conservation agreement — sometimes known as a conservation easement — is a contract between a landowner and a qualified organization like Upstate Forever in which the landowner voluntarily limits some uses, such as mining or subdivision. By permanently protecting the property, often the landowner becomes eligible for significant tax benefits.

For more information or to register for the conference, visit: www.upstateforever.org or call: 864-250-0500.