

## Conservation group honors retired Clemson prof, city of Clemson

By John Staed

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ANDERSON — Larry Dyck, a retired Clemson professor and river restoration expert, has been named the Clean Water Champion by Upstate Forever, a South Carolina conservation group.

Also, the city of Clemson was named Clear Skies Champion by the group.

Dyck, a member of the Lake Hartwell Association, has worked to restore the lake and Twelve Mile Creek after PCB contamination of the waterways 30 years ago. He has been a leading proponent of removing all three dams along Twelve Mile Creek to allow fresh sediment to cover the PCB-tainted soil on the bottom. Two of the dams are being removed under a court settlement, but removal of the third has not been decided.

Herb Burnham, president of the Lake Hartwell Association, said Dyck has worked tirelessly to promote an open waterway for Twelve Mile Creek. Dyck has said that removing the third dam would open 100 miles of waterways for recreational use. By removing just two dams, only two miles is affected, he has said.

“Larry has put in hundreds and hundreds of hours on this,” Burnham said. “And he has done it all gratis. It’s a real honor.”

Dyck has testified in federal court on the options related to uses of nearly \$9 million in funds for restoring the waterways and emphasized the need to open up Twelve Mile Creek. He also was critical in developing a proposal to present to the Natural Resource Trustees, who oversee spending the \$9 million, on the removal of the third dam.

Clemson City Administrator Rick Cotton said the city’s award is related to “efforts the city has taken on promoting environmental practices.” Examples would be constructing buildings to LEEDS certification, but not going to the expense of having them certified, or considering hybrid buses when replacing old ones for the transit system, he said.

A Green Ribbon Committee, appointed by Mayor Larry Abernathy, has developed a comprehensive plan for energy efficiency, among other proposals. The City Council adopted the plan several months ago, Cotton said.

Dyck and the city of Clemson, among other award winners, will be honored at a luncheon Feb. 4 at the Westin Poinsett Hotel in Greenville.



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