

G Magazine
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Rising High

*Environmental organization
Upstate Forever keeps
up the good work*

As citizens of a community, our actions inevitably affect the whole. And though we don't always succeed in doing good, it's good to know there is a place we can at least start. Upstate Forever is such a place. The membership-based, nonprofit organization promotes sensible growth and protection of special places in the Upstate of South Carolina by overseeing land trust, sustainable communities, and clean air and water programs. And its offshoot committee, Upstate Protectors (UP), is a group created with the express goal of attracting new supporters and promoting the growth of Upstate Forever through social, educational, and volunteerism events. (And, hey, if that comes

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with a tray of crudités, even better.)

With the focus on fun and furthering Upstate Forever's goal, UP launched last November with a wine-and-cheese open house at Upstate Forever's LEED Platinum-certified office.

UP co-founder Brice Hipp sees the organization as vital to fostering and maintaining Greenville's inherent greenness. "In the last five to ten years, it has become chic to be 'green.' UP, under the umbrella of Upstate Forever, is capitalizing on this popularity to encourage lasting changes in Greenville," says Hipp.

Events like the recent Farm to Table dinner held at Greenbrier Farms in Easley, which displayed local, seasonal, and organic bounty, helped raise not only appetites, but also awareness of Upstate Forever, as will other activities like family-friendly nature hikes and excursions.

The future is now, the saying goes, but one that is clean and sustainable is also wholly dependent on how we treat our present. Having clean air to breathe and clean water to drink is definitely something that not just a few of us want—it's part of that greater good which truly is good for us all. —*Jac Chebatoris*