

Upstate Forever Kicks Off New Speaker Series, Water: Securing Our Future

Spartanburg, S.C.— On Tuesday, October 12, 2010 Upstate Forever, the City of Spartanburg, the City of Greer and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) will kick off a new speaker series entitled Water: Securing Our Future. This speaker series is generously funded by the J.M. Smith Foundation.

Water: Securing Our Future is a six-part series focusing on water-related issues in the Upstate. Session topics will include Keep It Clear: Protecting the Waters of our Region; Riparian Buffers: Construction Impacts; Total Maximum Daily Loads; Pervious Pavement; and Pond Maintenance.

The series is free and open to the public. Developers, engineers, contractors, lawn maintenance services, city and county council members, homeowner association representatives and the general public will find topics of particular interest.

Session One, Keep It Clear: Protecting the Rivers in our Region

October 12, 2010

The first session, Keep It Clear: Protecting the Waters of our Region, will take place Tuesday, October 12, 2010 at Greer City Hall. Participants may choose to attend the event at one of two different times: from 7:30am – 9:00am or 5:30pm – 7:00pm.

Speakers and topics for this session will include:

- US Geological Service: Celeste Journey, Water Quality

Specialist: The impact of pesticides and fertilizers on our waters;

- Spartanburg Water: Sue Schneider and Rebecca West: Causes and

prevention of sanitary sewer overflows;

SC Department of Health and Environmental Control: Amanda Ley, Watershed Manager for the Broad & Pee Dee Basins: The effects of automotive fluids, auto washing, septic tanks, bare soil and pet waste on our waters; and

- Spartanburg Master Gardeners: Dr. Jim Weeks and Joe Maple:

Household hazardous waste and yard waste disposal and the benefits of

composting.

For more information or to register for this session, contact Upstate Forever at 864.327.0090 or email spartanburg@upstateforever.org.

Why should we worry about Upstate rivers and streams?

Most people don't realize that stormwater runoff is the main pollutant to the water quality of our streams and waterways. It is unfiltered water that reaches streams, lakes, sounds, and oceans as it flows across surfaces like roads, parking lots, driveways, and roofs. Stormwater runoff from construction and industrial activities also significantly impacts water quality because it flows over these sites and picks up sediment, debris, and chemicals. Polluted stormwater runoff lowers water quality and also harms and can kill fish and other wildlife. Sedimentation can destroy aquatic habitat, and high volumes of runoff can cause stream bank erosion.

The impacts of stormwater quality are not understood by most people, even though they may realize the impacts of stormwater quantity through their personal experiences with driving during or immediately after a large storm. Dirt and oil that accumulate on road surfaces can be hazardous when combined with rain during a major storm. It takes time for all of that dirt and oil to disperse.

No one pays much attention to where that water goes, though. Most of the stormwater runoff is directed from our streets and parking lots into drains that lead to a stormwater sewer system. Water that reaches a stormwater sewer system does not receive any sort of treatment before it enters the nearest stream. So, all of the pollutants it picks up along the way go directly into the stream.



Each session of Water: Securing Our Future will address threats to Upstate water systems, such as stormwater runoff, and also offer practical solutions to help Upstate communities better meet these challenges.

Upcoming Water Quality Workshops

This fall Upstate Forever is offering other stormwater related workshops that include:

Tuesday, October 19:

Pickens Stormwater Solutions Speaker Series "Impacts of Construction on Water Quality." Hampton Memorial Library, Easley, 12-1pm

Rsvp required (ehollis@upstateforever.org), lunch provided

Thursday, October 28: Anderson County Stormwater Speaker Series

"Landscaping for Shoreline Buffers," Anderson County Museum, 12-1pm,

Rsvp required (mwalsh@upstateforever.org), lunch provided

Tuesday, November 9: Anderson County Stormwater Speaker Series

"Pervious Pavement Workshop," Anderson County Museum, 12-1:30pm

Rsvp required (mwalsh@upstateforever.org), lunch provided

Wednesday, November 10: Pickens Stormwater Solutions Speaker Series

"How to Design and LID Project in the Upstate," Hampton Memorial

Library, Easley, 12-1pm Rsvp required (ehollis@upstateforever.org), lunch provided

For more information on how to protect our Upstate water systems, see:

The Saluda-Reedy Watershed Consortium: <http://www.saludareedy.org/>

SC DHEC Water: <http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/>

Upstate Forever Clean Air and Water:

http://www.upstateforever.org/programs_airWater.html

Clean Water America Alliance: <http://www.cleanwateramericaalliance.org/>