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How do we get numbers we can rely on?"

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GSA Daily Staff Report

Published Dec. 16, 2010

The nonprofit conservation group [Upstate Forever \(http://www.upstateforever.org/\)](http://www.upstateforever.org/) has expanded its Board of Directors with four new members.

Dianne Culbertson is a native of Gray Court. She has been an active volunteer in her community, schools, and scouting. A graduate of Bauder College and Kennedy Western University, Culbertson has worked in interior design, banking, juvenile justice and social services. For the past decade, she has been heavily involved in historic preservation and conservation. Culbertson is founder and president of the Gray Court-Owings Historical Society, state chaplain of the SC Daughters of the American Revolution and vice chair of the Tamassee DAR School Board. She has served on the boards of Laurens County Community Foundation, Laurens County First Steps, Laurens County Museum, Rosemont Preservation Society, Conservation Voters of South Carolina, and the Joe Adair Outdoor Education Foundation. She has worked on the Laurens County Land Trust Task Force and was named Upstate Forever's 2009 Land Conservation Champion in recognition of her remarkable achievements in the conservation field.

Writer, birder and naturalist J. Drew Lanham is professor of forestry and natural resources at Clemson University, where he earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. The Edgefield County native teaches and conducts research in forest wildlife management and conservation biology with an emphasis on the effects of forest management on nongame wildlife and habitats. A certified wildlife biologist, Lanham aims to increase the involvement of ethnic minorities and other under-represented stakeholders in natural resources-related issues, with a particular emphasis on black rural property owners. He was awarded a 2008 Audubon Society Together Green Fellowship, serves on the boards of the South Carolina Wildlife Federation and South Carolina Audubon, is an affiliate representative to the National Wildlife Federation, and is a four-time recipient of the Clemson University Wildlife Society Excellence in Teaching Award.

Mary Miller is a journalist and artist who has worked in newspapers, magazines, video, web and university administration. A graduate of the University of Georgia, she spent 14 years as an award-winning and Pulitzer Prize-nominated reporter and columnist at The News & Observer in Raleigh, N.C. When her family moved to Greenville in 2004, she became a special assistant to the provost at Clemson University. In 2007, Mary launched a story-based surface design studio for the creation of custom toile de jouy textiles, furniture and paper products.

A native of Gainesville, Fla., Susan Stewart Riordan graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in telecommunications- broadcast journalism. She worked as a television anchor and reporter in Florida and Georgia before moving into the field of public relations and health care with positions at the University of Florida, Mercer University and Emory University. Over the past decade, Riordan has volunteered for numerous organizations, including the Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust and the Court Theatre in Chicago, and Euphoria, The United Way, Artisphere, Local Boys Do Good, and St. Mary's School in Greenville.

Upstate Forever is a membership-based nonprofit organization that promotes sensible growth in 10 Upstate counties: Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville,

Greenwood, Laurens, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg and Union. It's three main program focus on land trusts, clean air and water, and sustainable communities.