

Upstate Update

NUMBER 109

SEPTEMBER
2 0 1 0

Upstate Forever's Monthly Bulletin on
Important Issues and Events in the Upstate

In this Upstate Update:

1. Extreme Heat! Study Finds Sprawling Cities Experience Hotter Summer Temperatures
2. Trustees Fund Feasibility Study of Removal of Third Dam from Twelve Mile River
3. Urge Senators to Support Full LWCF Funding!
4. The Loss of a Champion
5. Highway 11: Scenic No Longer?
6. Spartanburg Retrofits Diesel Fleet
7. *Upstate Forever* Members Assist Gulf Wildlife
8. Swamp Rabbit Section Closes, But a Resolution is Near
9. GWS Customers Eligible for Free Irrigation Inspection
10. *Upstate Forever* a Top Place to Work
11. Help *Upstate Forever* with a Matching Gift
12. Upcoming *Upstate Forever* Events
13. Lots o' Links
14. Quote of the Month

1. Extreme Heat! Study Finds Sprawling Cities Experience Hotter Summer Temperatures

After the unrelentingly hot summer of 2010, here comes some chilling news: U.S. cities are experiencing more extremely hot days than they did fifty years ago, but sprawling cities are experiencing even more of them. Researchers from Georgia Institute of Technology, National Center for Environmental Health, and Emory University Schools of Medicine and Public Health have published a study examining the relationship between urban form and the frequency of extreme heat events (EHEs) in 53 metropolitan areas for the years 1956-2005. EHEs are days when the "apparent temperature," a measure reflecting both temperature and humidity, exceeds the 85th percentile of the base period, and are associated with an increase in heat-related deaths.

Researchers Brian Stone, Jeremy J. Hess, and Harold Frumkin found that, over the 50-year study period, major US cities have seen an average increase in EHEs of 0.2 days per year. This amounts to ten more extremely hot days in 2005 than in 1956. But there were significant differences among the cities studied: the most compact cities, including Chicago, Boston, and Baltimore, had an average increase in EHEs of 5.6 days; meanwhile cities with the highest "sprawl index," including Atlanta, Grand Rapids, Tampa, and - right here in the Upstate - Greenville, averaged 14.8 more extremely hot days over the same period.

According to Dr. Stone, "Greenville was the 4th most sprawling region out of the 53 regions included in our study. There were 7 extreme heat events in 1963, the first year for which we have data in Greenville, and 32 events in 2005. This ranks Greenville as the 13th most rapidly warming city (by the metric of EHE increase) out of the 53 included in the study and places Greenville among the top 25% in terms of rate of warming."

Severe heat kills an average of 400 Americans each summer. How can metro areas avert this major health threat? The study's authors cite the loss of tree cover as the main source of the urban heat island effect. In addition to identifying vulnerable populations, such as low-income elderly residents, and creating emergency response plans for protecting those citizens during heat waves, cities and their surrounding areas can reduce the incidence of EHEs by promoting more compact design. Suggested strategies include preserving forests and green space; planting street trees; installing green roofs and reflective surfaces on roads and buildings; and increasing the percentage of travel undertaken on foot,

Promoting sensible growth and protecting special places in the Upstate

by bicycle, and on public transit.

This data should serve as a wake-up call for local governments in the Upstate. If improved air quality, water quality, and public health weren't reasons enough to implement policies to promote compact development, this study confirms that reducing sprawl can also be a matter of life and death.

The full article, "Urban Form and Extreme Heat Events: Are Sprawling Cities More Vulnerable to Climate Change than Compact Cities?" was published in the journal *Environmental Health Perspectives* and is available online at <http://ehponline.org/article/info:doi/10.1289/ehp.0901879>; click on the "download: pdf" link on the right-hand side of the page to open the article.

2. Trustees Fund Feasibility Study of Removal of Third Dam from Twelve Mile River

The proposal to study the sediment behind the third dam on Twelve Mile River and determine the feasibility of removing all or part of the dam has been approved! Just as this newsletter was going to press, the Natural Resource Trustees charged with disbursing \$9 million in restoration funds announced that \$225,000 will be released to study the volume of sediment behind the Easley-Central Dam and its concentration of PCBs. Sponsors of the proposal – *Upstate Forever*, the Lake Hartwell Association, the Easley-Central Water District, and the Pickens Soil and Water Conservation District – hope the study will lead to the allocation of funds to remove the dam and to provide an alternative water supply system for the Easley-Central Water District. Removal of the dam would restore the natural, free-flowing character of over 100 miles of this beautiful river system and address the PCB contamination in both the river and the lake. For more background on this issue, visit our website or read [UU 106](#) and previous issues. See also related articles in [The Greenville News](#) and the [Anderson Independent Mail](#).

3. Urge Senators to Support Full LWCF Funding!

Without grants provided by the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Caesar's Head and Jones Gap State Parks, along with many other public parks, forests, and natural areas in our state and across the county, would not exist. The LWCF was established in 1964, but it has been fully funded only two times in its entire history.

A bill now pending in Congress [Consolidated Land, Energy and Aquatic Resources (CLEAR) Act] would guarantee full funding for the LWCF at \$900 million a year beginning in fiscal year 2011. The legislation was recently approved by the House (many thanks to South Carolina Reps. Jim Clyburn and John Spratt for voting in favor of the bill) and will now be considered by the Senate. Please contact our Senators to urge their support of the CLEAR Act as they return from the August recess. The protection of our natural resources is an investment that pays for itself many times over.

Contact information:

Sen. Jim DeMint
340 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-6121

Sen. Lindsey Graham
290 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-5972

For more information about the LCWF and the CLEAR Act, read Brad Wyche's [op-ed piece](#) published in *The Greenville Journal* on August 13: www.upstateforever.org/newsviews_ufnews/UFN_2010/ufn100813GJ_WaterMatters.pdf.

4. The Loss of a Champion

Jimmy Chandler, one of the greatest environmental champions in our state's history, passed away on August 7. The founder and long-time director of the South Carolina Environmental Law Project, Jimmy

devoted almost his entire 30-year legal career to fighting for and protecting our state's environment and natural resources. His record is extraordinary and includes many outstanding victories at all levels of the court system. Just two months before his death, Jimmy won a huge victory in the South Carolina Supreme Court with a decision that upheld the validity and enforceability of our state's coastal zone management program. He was *Upstate Forever's* lawyer in our case against the Cliffs and represented us, as he did all his clients, exceptionally well. Not only was Jimmy a terrific lawyer, he was an all-around great guy—kind, friendly, and selfless, with a wonderful sense of humor. We will never forget Jimmy and all that he did to make South Carolina a better place.

5. Highway 11: Scenic No Longer?

According to a recent article by Andrew Moore in *The Seneca Journal*, the National Scenic Highway status of SC Highway 11 is in jeopardy. In 2008, the South Carolina Scenic Highway Committee found continued designation of Highway 11 as scenic to be questionable, and is likely to revoke the designation on at least some sections of the road when it conducts a biennial review of the state's designated Scenic Highways later this month, according to Oconee County Council Chairman Reg Dexter. If the state designation is revoked, the Federal Highway Administration would likely revoke National Scenic Highway status as well.

Billboards and commercial development are among the threats to the scenic status of Highway 11. Two years ago, Oconee County Planning Commission proposed a zoning overlay district along Highway 11 to protect the rural and scenic nature of the byway, but this provision was dropped before zoning enabling legislation was approved by County Council. Sadly, no serious efforts are being pursued in any Upstate county to protect the beauty of the road. Without such legal protection, there is little local communities can do to prevent inappropriate and unsightly development. Losing state and federal Scenic Highway status, which attracts tourists to a region, would be a blow both to the pride and to the pocketbooks of Oconee County and other communities along Highway 11. Surely, we can do better than this.

6. Spartanburg Retrofits Diesel Fleet

Every \$1 spent on clean diesel projects produces up to \$13 of public health benefits, according to US Environmental Protection Agency estimates, by reducing the incidence of asthma and allergies and alleviating conditions for those with respiratory and pulmonary conditions. *Upstate Forever* has partnered with Spartanburg County to obtain a \$148,000 grant from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to retrofit nine vehicles in the County's diesel truck fleet to reduce the particulate emissions that cause these serious health problems. The funds were made available to states through the federal Diesel Emissions Reduction Act.

On July 27 the partners publicly unveiled several newly retrofitted diesel trucks at the Spartanburg headquarters of Cummins Atlantic, the contractor for the project. Innovative purification filters trap up to 85% of each truck's diesel emissions. At the end of each day, trucks are plugged into an electric heating system that incinerates the exhaust matter into ash. The project will improve Spartanburg County's air quality and provide a working model for retrofitting other diesel fleets in the area.

For more information about the efforts of *Upstate Forever* and its partners to improve air quality in Spartanburg County, visit www.cleanairspartanburg.com.

7. Upstate Forever Members Assist Gulf Wildlife

The Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was one of the worst environmental disasters in our nation's history. The devastating impacts of the spill on the Gulf's economy and natural resources will be felt for decades to come. But it is heartening to know that so many of you responded generously to a call for help to alleviate some of these impacts.

Numerous organizations have sent volunteers to the Gulf to help recover, rehabilitate and relocate wildlife directly impacted by the oil spill. Many more will remain to assess the long term impact of the oil on the more than 15,000 species of wildlife in the region. These volunteers are in need of supplies ranging from sunscreen and clipboards to gas cards and GPS units.

This summer, *Upstate Forever*, The South Carolina Coastal Conservation League, and the South Carolina Wildlife Federation collected supplies urgently needed by The Wildlife Federations in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. We sent out alerts in July with an inventory of needs and a list of our organizations' office locations, where donations could be dropped off. By the time the collection ended on August 9, *Upstate Forever's* reception area was stacked with boxes of supplies for Gulf volunteers!

Sincere thanks go out to the many generous donors to this effort, including Joe Barron, Elaine Brummett, Paige Caraway, Clyde Eldridge, Davis Enloe, Laura Garrett, Peg O'Donoghue, Naomi Richardson, Bruce Rowland, Diane Smock, John Tynan, Gretchen Wilson, Brad Wyche, Mimi Wyche, Custom Images, Greenville Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Neal Prince Architects, RBC, Liberty Life, and ScanSource.

8. Swamp Rabbit Section Closes, But a Resolution is Near

Since its official "Grand Hoppening" weekend in early May (see [UU 108](#)), the Greenville Hospital System Swamp Rabbit Tram-Trail, stretching 13.5 miles from Travelers Rest to Greenville Technical College, has proven to be hugely popular with runners, walkers, and cyclists (even unicyclists!) of all ages and fitness levels. The Greenville County Recreation District (GCRD) is already exploring ways to expand the trail throughout the county and beyond. Unfortunately, in early June an irresponsible cyclist was spotted at a trail crossing pulling his bike over the coupling between two stopped train cars, an extremely dangerous and irresponsible practice. As a result, the GCRD closed the trail section at Bramlett Road at the request of the CSX railroad. While the rest of the trail remains open, the connection from one end to the other has been severed.

While GCRD did not establish an official detour, the agency is referring users to a YouTube video by local cyclist Jonathan Pait showing a route bypassing the closed section: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKlqOYyczUc>. Users who ignore the barricades are jeopardizing future extensions of our trail network, much of which depends on reaching agreements with private property owners.

Meanwhile, GCRD has been working with CSX on a solution that would reconnect the trail while ensuring safety. In mid-August the agency announced that an agreement had been reached with CSX and the South Carolina Department of Transportation to re-route the trail closer to Bramlett Road. The trail work should be completed this fall.

Additionally, beginning in mid-September, a section of the Swamp Rabbit trail between Furman University and Roe Ford Road will be closed for 30-45 days while buildings along the route are demolished. Detour signs will be posted.

For more information (including trail maps) about the Swamp Rabbit Trail, go to greenvillerec.com/parks/swamp-rabbit (Greenville County) and www.greenvillesc.gov/ParksRec/Trails/ (City of Greenville).

In other greenways news, plans and funding are in place for a new three-mile trail along Brushy Creek in Easley to provide bicycle and pedestrian access from downtown to the site of the future Easley High School. Greenville Pickens Area Transportation Study Policy Committee approved \$20,000 in funding for the City of Easley to implement the project, and the City of Easley will provide \$5,000 in matching funds. The trail will provide alternative transportation and recreational opportunities for city residents while serving as a catalyst for downtown investment.

9. GWS Customers Eligible for Free Irrigation Inspection

If you have an in-ground sprinkler system and are a Greenville Water System customer, you are eligible for a free irrigation check by Pickens and Greenville Soil & Water Conservation District personnel. The irrigation audit will analyze the efficiency of your in-ground sprinkler system and provide you with a customized watering schedule to help you conserve water and save money. Interested customers should contact Anne Haueter of Pickens SWCD at PSWCD@innova.net or (864) 878-4801.

10. Upstate Forever a Top Place to Work

The NonProfit Times has named **Upstate Forever** one of its “50 Best NonProfits to Work For” in 2010! The national publication ranked us 26th in the nation and eighth among small organizations. This honor is particularly notable because groups are nominated and assessed by their own employees on such measures as internal communications, organizational leadership, work environment, training and education, benefits and work/life balance, role satisfaction, relationship with supervisors, and employee engagement. We knew **Upstate Forever** was a great place to work – now everyone knows it! Having flexibility and feeling valued in our jobs enable our staff members to stay focused on our mission, and it shows.

To read the full report, go to [www.nptimes.com/10Apr/NPTBestPlaces2010\(web\).pdf](http://www.nptimes.com/10Apr/NPTBestPlaces2010(web).pdf). Also honored is another Upstate organization, Baptist Easley Hospital, which came in second in the overall ranking. Congratulations!

11. Help Upstate Forever with a Matching Gift

Does your employer offer a matching gifts program? If so, please consider leveraging your donation to enable us to maintain our vital work promoting sensible growth and protecting special places in the Upstate! Contact Kirbie Crowe at kcrowe@upstateforever.org or (864) 250-0500x21 for more information.

12. Upcoming Upstate Forever Events

Swamp Rabbit Bike Ride Field Trip

Saturday, September 18, 10:00 a.m., meet at Sunrift Adventures, Travelers Rest

Cost: \$10, **Upstate Forever** members only

Cruise down the popular GHS Swamp Rabbit Tram-Trail along with Laura Garrett from our Clean Air & Water program! Experience Greenville County’s most popular greenway along with other **Upstate Forever** members. Ty Houck, Director of Greenways for the Greenville County Recreation District, will also be joining us. To register, contact Gretchen Wilson at (864) 250-0500 or gwilson@upstateforever.org.

Tyger River Clean-up Day

Saturday, September 18, 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Rose Hill State Park, Union County

Cost: Free

Join us for a clean up of the Tyger River in Union County from Hwy 49 to Beattie Bridge on 176 – a total of about 13 miles. It will be strenuous work – participants should wear old tennis shoes or lightweight boots, strong gloves, and lightweight pants. Water will be ankle deep to four feet deep. Participants should bring snacks, water and a change of clothing. Lunch will be provided for volunteers after the clean-up at Rose Hill State Park. If you are interested in participating, contact Angela Viney at aviney@upstateforever.org. Carpools will leave from Greenville and Spartanburg at approximately 8:00 a.m.

National Hunting and Fishing Day: An Outdoor Family Adventure

Saturday, September 25, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Duke World of Energy, Seneca

Cost: Free

The Upstate's Outdoor Family Adventure Day in celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Day returns with outdoor activities for the whole family! Step outside and experience the many activities the outdoors has to offer: kayaking, boating safety, fishing, archery, air rifle shooting, fly-tying demos, fly fishing, "Take One Make One" trailer, butterfly exhibit and presentation, beekeeping, wildlife artifacts and much more. Learn about the work of the many conservation organizations in our area. Spend an hour or spend the day; bring your lunch or purchase lunch from the onsite concessionaire; no gear necessary – everything will be provided and there is no admittance fee. The event, organized by Duke Energy, *Upstate Forever*, SC Department of Natural Resources, Trout Unlimited, 4-H Shooting Sports, and the South Carolina Wildlife Federation, is sponsored by the Weatherby Foundation and the Harry Hampton Memorial Wildlife Fund. For more information, contact Angela Viney at aviney@upstateforever.org or (864) 327-0090. The World of Energy is located at 7812 Rochester Highway, Seneca, SC 29672. For directions, go to www.duke-energy.com/visitor-centers/we-visit-us.asp or call (800) 777-1004.

Stormwater Solutions Speakers Series: The Use of Native Vegetation for Site Stabilization
Wednesday, September 29, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m., Hampton Memorial Library, Easley
Cost: Free; pre-registration required

Join us for the first event in a fall speaker series co-sponsored by *Upstate Forever* and the Pickens County Stormwater Consortium. Speakers Rick Huffman of Earth Design and J.P. Johns of Woolpert will discuss the use of native vegetation in stormwater management. Professional development credits will be available for engineers and surveyors, and lunch will be provided. For more information or to register, contact Erika Hollis at ehollis@upstateforever.org or (864) 250-0500x18. The series will continue on October 19 with "Impacts of Construction on Water Quality" and on November 10 with "How to Design an LID Project for the Upstate."

South Carolina Erosion and Sediment Control Training and Field Day
Thursday, October 7, TRI Denver Downs Research Facility, Anderson
Cost: \$25 (\$50 after September 15)

The IECA (International Erosion Control Association) Southeast Chapter is hosting this training event, which is being co-sponsored by *Upstate Forever* and other partners. Morning sessions will be devoted to technical presentations by local experts on sediment control best management practices (BMPs) and construction site turbidity control. Afternoon sessions will focus on specific BMP applications, testing, and demonstrations. For additional information and to register online, go to www.geosyntheticstesting.com/reg, or print a registration form at http://www.upstateforever.org/index_doc/IECARegistrationForm-8_16_2010.pdf. Registration fee includes a light breakfast, snack breaks, and lunch.

Ramsey Creek Preserve Field Trip
Saturday, October 16, 10:00 a.m., Ramsey Creek Preserve, Oconee County
Cost: \$10, *Upstate Forever* members only

This is a unique opportunity to experience one of the few "green burial" sites in the country as well as a property protected by *Upstate Forever*. Memorial Ecosystems Inc. opened Ramsey Creek Preserve in 1998, the first "green cemetery" in the United States. The preserve was formed to harness the funeral industry for land protection and restoration, to fund worthy causes, and to provide a less expensive and more meaningful burial option. Billy and Kimberley Campbell, owners of the preserve, will be our guides. To register, contact Gretchen Wilson at (864) 250-0500 or gwilson@upstateforever.org.

Introduction to Creation Care Workshop
Sunday, October 24, 2:00 - 6:00 p.m., Greer City Hall
Cost: Free

This workshop will bring together congregations, resources, and inspiration relating to stewardship and the care of God's creation. Keynote speaker will be Rusty Pritchard, with presentations by area congregations and the SC Energy Office. To learn more, visit www.creationcare.org. For more information about the meeting, contact Shelley Robbins at (864) 327-0090 or srobbins@upstateforever.org.

Fall Color Hike Field Trip

Saturday, October 30, time tba, Mountain Bridge Wilderness, Northern Greenville County

Cost: \$10, *Upstate Forever* members only

See our website for details!

Foxbrier Farm Field Trip

Saturday, November 6, 10:00 a.m., Foxbrier Farm, Laurens County

Cost: \$10, *Upstate Forever* members only

See our website for details!

Upstate Forever Annual Celebration

Saturday, November 13, 10:00 a.m., Chattooga Belle Farm, Long Creek, Oconee County

Cost: Free

Enjoy meeting other *Upstate Forever* members as we hear about the accomplishments of the past year. The farm provides a truly magnificent view of the mountains – tours will be available in the afternoon, and there are lots of opportunities for hiking nearby, so plan to make a day of it!

13. Lots o' Links

[What's Worse than the Gulf Oil Leak?](#) It's about the carbon, says Bill McKibbin in *The Christian Century*.

[Former Congressman Conserves WNC Land.](#) The family of former Rep. Charles Taylor, once known as "Chainsaw Charlie," is selling 8,000 acres along the South Carolina border in Transylvania County to the Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy at a price 40-50 percent below appraised value.

[What to Buy – and Not to Buy – Organic.](#) The Environmental Working Group's "Shopper's Guide to Pesticides" has been updated for 2010, naming the "Dirty Dozen" and "Clean 15" produce items you should or should not buy organic. An iPhone app is also available!

[Speak Up on Proposed Coal Ash Rules.](#) The federal government is proposing to regulate the 150 million tons of toxic coal combustion waste generated each year at coal-fired power plants across the U.S., but conservation groups are alarmed that one proposed option would regulate this dangerous waste like household garbage. A public hearing on the issue is scheduled for September 14 in Charlotte.

[Walking to School Reduces Stress.](#) *Time Magazine* reports that a stroll to school in the morning can help kids prep for the stresses that await them in the classroom.

[Keeping Rural America Rural.](#) How do rural areas maintain their quality of life, preserve their landscapes, and sustain their small towns and cities?

[Private Forests, Public Benefits.](#) Our region's private forests are among the nation's top 15 watersheds projected to experience increased housing density, according to a new U.S. Forest Service report.

[The Future of Planning, Utah Style.](#) Envision Utah, long touted as a model for growth planning in South Carolina's Upstate, is moving forward despite the economic downturn.

[Getting Some Green Out of a Green House.](#) Green homes are said to sell faster, but appraisals remain a sticking point.

[Good News for Happy Cows.](#) Twelve Aprils Dairy in Pelzer has been featured in the *Mother Earth News*.

[Free Energy-Efficiency Studies for SC Businesses.](#) The S.C. Energy Office has received \$1.7 million in stimulus funds to provide energy audits and assessments for private, public, and nonprofit entities.

Upstate pdate

NUMBER 109
SEPTEMBER
2010

[Master Naturalist Class Begins September 11](#). FENCE (Foothills Equestrian Nature Center) is partnering with Clemson University's Cooperative Extension to offer a twelve-week accredited South Carolina Master Naturalist course.

[Water Resources Conference](#). The second biennial South Carolina Water Resources Conference will be held in Columbia October 13 - 14.

[The World Clock is Ticking](#). Check out this continually updated tracking of our planet's statistics, including births, deaths, extinctions, desertification, bicycles produced, and more.


14. Quote of the Month

"The rising levels of very hot days are a significant public health threat...Residents need to be thinking about how to adapt to land-use patterns and sprawl."

– Brian Stone, lead author of the study "Urban Form and Extreme Heat Events: Are Sprawling Cities more Vulnerable to Climate Change than Compact Cities?", which ranked Greenville as the 13th most rapidly warming city of the 53 U.S. cities studied, quoted in *USA Today*, 6/24/10

Local boards and commissions are where many decisions affecting land use, natural resources, and development are made. Check the website of your city and county to learn what vacancies are available and consider applying to serve on a board or commission.

Upstate Forever
PO Box 2308 • Greenville, SC • 29602



Upstate Update 109

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES • CLEAN AIR & WATER • LAND TRUST