

# Upstate update

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

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**Don't miss *Upstate Forever's* 2010 Annual Celebration!**

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

More details below, or

Contact Kirbie Crowe at (864) 250-0500x21 or [kcrowe@upstateforever.org](mailto:kcrowe@upstateforever.org)

### **1. Crucial Vote Coming Up on Pickens County Comprehensive Plan**

In early 2009, Pickens County established a citizens committee to provide advice and input on revisions to the county's comprehensive land use plan. Two *Upstate Forever* staff – Lisa Hallo (a Pickens County resident) and Laura Garrett (a Pickens County native) – served on the committee. After many meetings and much discussion, debate, and hard work, a draft plan was recently presented to the Pickens County Planning Commission. A public hearing on the draft plan was held on October 11, and *Upstate Forever* has submitted our recommendations for strengthening and improving the plan ([www.upstateforever.org/index\\_doc/PickensPlanComments101011.pdf](http://www.upstateforever.org/index_doc/PickensPlanComments101011.pdf)).

The Planning Commission held a workshop on October 20 to review the draft plan. They did not have time to discuss the entire document, but one of the Commissioners adamantly demanded that several key provisions relating to growth and natural resources be weakened or deleted. For example, he wants to eliminate these policies from the plan:

- Maintain regular assessments of natural resources such as water quality and air quality, and implement conservation or remediation policies.
- Create ordinances and policies that protect critical areas from inappropriate and harmful development.
- Focus population growth in towns and cities.

Regrettably, the other Commissioners did not voice any strong opposition to his demands.

The Planning Commission will consider and probably vote on the plan at its next meeting on November 8. If you live or work in Pickens County, please contact the Commissioners immediately and express your support for *Upstate Forever's* recommendations. Please let them know that you strongly oppose any weakening of the plan.

For the names and contact information for the Commissioners, go to [www.co.pickens.sc.us/Planning/BoardsCommissions/default.aspx](http://www.co.pickens.sc.us/Planning/BoardsCommissions/default.aspx).

**Promoting sensible growth and protecting special places in the Upstate**

## 2. Developing a Shared Vision for the Upstate

In 2030, we want the Upstate to be a great place to live, do business, and raise a family. That is the overarching message gleaned from a survey of more than 6,000 residents conducted earlier this year by Ten at the Top (TATT), a nonprofit organization created to foster regional collaboration and cooperation in the Upstate. The survey results were released during TATT's Regional Vision Summit on September 28 at the Carolina First Center. More than 400 public, private, educational and nonprofit leaders from all ten Upstate counties gathered for the event, which included 40 small-group discussions about the key issues facing our region over the next 20 years, including economic development, education, transportation, and land use.

Overall, 95 percent of respondents are pleased with life in the Upstate, with 77 percent reporting attendance at local festivals and community events and 83 percent participating in outdoor recreation and/or enjoying our region's natural amenities. However, 80 percent are concerned that traffic will get worse in the future, 81 percent support a reduction in future land consumption, and 81 percent also supporting local or regional planning that will result in cost savings. A whopping 98 percent consider air and water quality to be important.

Using the results of the survey, the Reality Check event held last year, and other public input, TATT has drafted a "Shared Upstate Growth Vision" that is based on the following elements:

- Human potential
- Entrepreneurial vigor
- Sustainable growth
- Natural beauty and resources
- Community vibrancy

To read the entire vision, go to [www.sharedupstatevision.org](http://www.sharedupstatevision.org).

Throughout October and the first week of November, TATT hosted a series of community forums to receive comments on the draft vision statement. If you were not able to attend one of these meetings, it's not too late to be a "Voice of the Upstate" and submit your comments: [www.sharedupstatevision.org/pages/voices\\_of\\_the\\_upstate](http://www.sharedupstatevision.org/pages/voices_of_the_upstate). TATT plans on releasing the final version this spring.

## 3. Twelve Mile River: Progress and Controversy

For more than a year, *Upstate Forever* has been actively involved in the effort to clean up polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination in Twelve Mile River and the Seneca arm of Lake Hartwell in Pickens County (see [UU 109](#), [UU 106](#), and previous issues). From 1955 to 1977, Sangamo-Weston's capacitor plant dumped over 400,000 pounds of PCBs into Town Creek, a tributary to Twelve Mile River, which flows into Lake Hartwell. A 2006 consent order signed by U.S. District Judge G. Ross Anderson, Jr. required Schlumberger, Inc. (the successor to Sangamo-Weston) to remove contaminated sediments from the river and then to dismantle two of the river's three dams. The consent order also required Schlumberger to pay \$13 million into a "restoration account" to be used to restore natural resources damaged by the PCB releases. *Upstate Forever*, the Lake Hartwell Association, the Easley-Central Water District, and the Pickens Soil and Water Conservation District (PSWCD) are advocating that a portion of this account be allocated for the removal of the third dam and for providing an alternative water supply system for the Easley-Central Water District, the current owner of the dam. Removal of the third 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.

In September, the \$225,000 proposal by *Upstate Forever* and its partners to study the sediment behind the third dam and determine the feasibility of removing all or part of the dam was approved by the federal and state agencies responsible for the restoration account. This study should begin shortly.

In October, a dispute developed between Schlumberger and the government agencies on whether Schlumberger's sediment removal plan was adequate. *Upstate Forever*, the Lake Hartwell Association, and PSWCD were disappointed that the agencies resolved the dispute by requiring only minor modifications to the plan. At our request, Judge Anderson held a hearing on the matter on October 13. Dr. Larry Dyck, who has been Twelve Mile River's great champion for years, explained that Schlumberger's plan, if accepted, would leave massive amounts of sediment in and along the river, much of which would be covered with rip-rap (see October 13 [article](#) from the *Anderson Independent Mail*). Judge Anderson listened carefully and promised to consider Dr. Dyck's testimony. As this newsletter went to press, the judge had not made a decision.

Also in October, *Upstate Forever* received some good news: Our application to the National Park Service for technical assistance in establishing a Twelve Mile River "Blueway" (a water trail) was approved.

#### 4. Read *Outdoor Adventures in the Upcountry*, Help Conservation

Hub City Press is rolling out a wonderful new book, *Outdoor Adventures in the Upcountry*, edited by Michel Stone with Lydia Dishman. This book is a collection of true stories about hunting, fishing, paddling and other recreational pursuits by 36 of the area's best nature and outdoors writers.

Two book release events are on tap for next month: in Spartanburg at The Hub-bub Showroom on November 9 from 6-8 pm, and in Greenville at FYI on November 17, also from 6-8 p.m. (more details below, under *Upcoming Upstate Forever Events*). At the Greenville event, *Upstate Forever* will receive twenty percent of the proceeds from your book purchases; in Spartanburg, twenty percent of the proceeds will benefit *Upstate Forever* or another green charity designated by the buyer. Both events will include readings from the book and refreshments. The price of the book is \$19.95.

The colorful, large-format book is beautifully illustrated with dozens of images by nature photographer Ted Borg, whose work has appeared for decades in *South Carolina Wildlife* magazine. Among the adventures readers will enjoy are a deer hunt among loblolly pines, a hike around the gem that is Lake Jocassee, and the acrobatics of ravens at Caesars Head. For more information, go to <http://hubcity.org>.

#### 5. Conservationists Talk Trash for 2011

For conservation leaders, "talking trash" means finding ways to reduce, reuse and recycle the millions of tons of trash that South Carolinians throw away each year. On September 24, over 50 conservation leaders gathered at the University of South Carolina's Green Quad to "talk trash" and also vote on which issues should be top priorities for next year's conservation "Common Agenda."

Recycling creates local jobs, protects the environment and reduces trash in our landfills, and was voted the number one priority by the group. Other top 2011 priorities include: creating a clean energy future, advocating for adequate funding for the Conservation Bank and South Carolina's natural resource agencies, and reducing pollution from wastewater treatment plants with repeated violations.

More than 36 organizations, including *Upstate Forever*, representing over 45,000 South Carolinians participate in the Common Agenda, hosted by Conservation Voters of South Carolina Education Fund (CVSCEF). Representatives from conservation groups will meet again in early November to finalize action plans. The Common Agenda proposals will be formally presented to legislators, the media and the public on January 13 as the General Assembly reconvenes for 2011. Efforts will continue throughout the legislative session as conservation organizations and allied groups seek to pass bills that benefit all South Carolinians.

For more information about the South Carolina Conservation Common Agenda, contact Debbie

Parker at [debbie@conservationvotersofsc.org](mailto:debbie@conservationvotersofsc.org). To subscribe to *Upstate Forever's* weekly *Legislative Alert* or to get involved with legislative efforts from the Upstate, contact Nancy Fitzer at [nfitzer@upstateforever.org](mailto:nfitzer@upstateforever.org).

## 6. Upcoming Upstate Forever Events

### Foxbrier Farm Field Trip

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

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

Join us for a guided tour and nature walk around this diverse property! Foxbrier is a 940-acre family farm located in the rolling piedmont hills of South Carolina. Originally part of an old land grant, Foxbrier today is a working cattle ranch. They grow their own hay, most of which is used as cattle feed. Much of Foxbrier has been returned to a natural state with over one-third of its acreage set aside as a wildlife refuge. To register, contact Gretchen Wilson at (864) 250-0500 or [gwilson@upstateforever.org](mailto:gwilson@upstateforever.org).

### Belk Charity Sale

Saturday, November 6, 6:00 - 10:00 a.m., all Upstate Belk store locations

Cost: \$5 tickets available from *Upstate Forever* (serves as a \$5 coupon at the sale)

On November 6, enjoy savings of 20-70% off storewide at Belk's exclusive sale, including special savings on rarely discounted brands! You can attend the sale and support *Upstate Forever* at the same time by purchasing a \$5 ticket to the sale from us. You'll then be treated to \$5 off your purchase on the day of the sale – a win-win! To purchase your \$5 tickets from us, go to [www.upstateforever.org/join\\_events.html](http://www.upstateforever.org/join_events.html) and click on the PayPal button, or contact Kirbie Crowe at (864) 250-0500 x21 or [kcrowe@upstateforever.org](mailto:kcrowe@upstateforever.org). For a directory of Upstate Belk locations, click [here](#).

### Stormwater Speaker Series: Pervious Pavement Technical Workshop

Tuesday, November 9, 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., Anderson County Museum, 202 E. Greenville Street, Anderson

Cost: Free, pre-registration required

Anderson County and *Upstate Forever* host the third Stormwater Speaker Series event, featuring Jason Wimberly of Carolinas Ready Mixed Concrete Association. Check-in begins at 11:30 am. Lunch will be provided. There is no cost to attend, but seating is limited. RSVP to Mary Walsh at [mwalsh@upstateforever.org](mailto:mwalsh@upstateforever.org) or (864) 250-0500 x17. Professional Development Credits will be available for engineers and surveyors.

### Outdoor Adventures in the Upcountry Book Release Party

Tuesday, November 9, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., The Showroom, Hub-Bub, 149 S. Daniel Morgan Avenue, Spartanburg

Cost: Free

Hub City Press and *Upstate Forever* invite you to a book release event celebrating the publication of *Outdoor Adventures in the Upcountry* (see article 4, above). Paperback copies of the book will be available for \$19.95. At this event, you'll be able to designate a "green charity" in Spartanburg to receive 20 percent of the proceeds from your purchase (we hope you choose *Upstate Forever*, of course!). There will be readings from the book and refreshments. For more information, contact Hub City Press at (864) 577-9349 or <http://hubcity.org>.

### Stormwater Solutions Speakers Series: Designing an LID Project for the Upstate - Benefits and Challenges

Wednesday, November 10, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m., Hampton Memorial Library, Easley

Cost: Free; pre-registration required

Join us for the third event in our fall speaker series co-sponsored by *Upstate Forever* and the Pickens County Stormwater Consortium. Joe Bryant, P.E. and Clint Rigsby, Senior Landscape Architect, of Seamon

Whiteside and Associates will be our presenters. Lunch will be provided. Seating is limited - RSVP by November 5. Professional Development Hours will be available for engineers and surveyors. For more information or to register, contact Erika Hollis at [ehollis@upstateforever.org](mailto:ehollis@upstateforever.org) or (864) 250-0500x18.

### **Upstate Forever Annual Celebration**

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

**Cost: Free, pre-registration required**

Enjoy meeting other *Upstate Forever* members as we hear about the accomplishments of the past year and discuss our plans for next year. The 138-acre working farm provides a truly magnificent view of the mountains. After the presentation, lunch will be provided and a local bluegrass band will play. In the afternoon, a guided tour of the farm will be available. We'll also provide suggestions and directions for those who wish to explore further afield! Families are welcome to attend, as childcare will be available during the meeting (you must RSVP and indicate you require childcare). RSVP by November 5 to Kirbie Crowe at (864) 250-0500x12 or [kcrowe@upstateforever.org](mailto:kcrowe@upstateforever.org).

### **Outdoor Adventures in the Upcountry Book Release Party**

**Wednesday, November 17, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., FYI, 612-C South Main Street, Greenville**

**Cost: Free**

Hub City Press and *Upstate Forever* invite you to a book release event celebrating the publication of *Outdoor Adventures in the Upcountry* (see article 4, above). A dozen authors will be on hand for this reading and signing in Greenville's West End. Paperback copies of the book will be available for \$19.95, and Hub City will donate 20 percent of all sales that evening to *Upstate Forever*. For more information, contact Hub City Press at (864) 577-9349 or <http://hubcity.org>.

### **Water: Securing Our Future – Total Maximum Daily Loads & 303d Impaired Waters**

**Friday, November 19, 7:30 - 9:00 a.m. OR 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., City of Greer Municipal Complex, 301 E. Poinsett Street, Greer**

**Cost: Free, pre-registration requested**

*Upstate Forever*, the City of Spartanburg, the City of Greer and the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control are proud to host the second event in a six part speaker series. There is no cost to attend, but seating is limited. Water: Securing our Future Speaker Series is sponsored through the generosity of the JM Smith Foundation. For more information or to register, please contact Angela Viney at (864) 327-0090 or [spartanburg@upstateforever.org](mailto:spartanburg@upstateforever.org).

### **Ten Thousand Villages Community Shopping Night**

**Thursday, December 2, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

**2 W. Lewis Plaza, Augusta Street, Greenville**

**Cost: Free**

Join us for a special night of shopping at Ten Thousand Villages! Purchase your holiday gifts at this unique nonprofit, fair trade retailer that features handicrafts made by people in developing countries. Proceeds help pay for food, health care, housing, and education in these countries. You can make a local impact, too, when you shop on the 2nd – Ten Thousand Villages is generously donating 15% of their proceeds that evening to *Upstate Forever*! Exquisite jewelry, crafts, soaps, kitchen goods, and much, much more can be found. As a bonus, the Little Village, a special shopping area just for kids, will be open that evening as well. Bring the whole family and support two great causes as you shop for the holidays!

## **7. Lots o' Links**

**[Free CFLs for Duke Energy Customers.](#)** One of the easiest ways to lower your energy bill is by replacing standard incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs. Duke Energy customers can receive a free box of CFLs by mail. Have your account number handy and click on the link or call (800) 943-7585.

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**Dispose of Unneeded Pharmaceuticals.** Project Rx is a drug takeback program providing a safe alternative to flushing medications down the drain. An inaugural collection event will be held on November 13 at Greenville Technical College. Call (864) 299-4000 or click on the link for more information.

**Sewage Overflow Info Now Available Online.** For the first time, South Carolina residents can access information about wastewater overflows into our waterways on DHEC's website, the result of advocacy by conservation groups statewide.

**Cycling to Success: Lessons from the Dutch.** "A commitment to biking is not uniquely imprinted in the Dutch DNA. It is the result of a conscious push that began in the 1970s," states author Jay Walljasper in this eye-opening piece from Citiwire.net.

## 8. Quote of the Month

"If we don't work together we will become less and less competitive and we will become a less attractive place for jobs and opportunities for our people. We have many issues, and not just workforce, that are clearly regional in nature - transportation, air quality, water quality - those issues know no jurisdictional line."

— Irv Welling, Chairman, Ten at the Top, at the September 28 Regional Vision Summit, quoted in *The Greenville News*, 9/29/10

