

Upstate Update

NUMBER 53

APRIL
2004

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

Shop Till You Drop and Help Upstate Forever on June 5!

Once again, Mast General Store will honor Upstate Forever in its Main Street Greenville store on "Land Trust Day," June 5 by donating a percentage of all sales made that day. Please join us for a day of fun, fellowship, and shopping, and help make this event a huge success! Upstate Forever staff and board members will be on hand to talk with you about our mission and projects. Watch your email or call our office at 250-0500 for more details.

In this Upstate Update:

1. Legislative Update
2. Spartanburg's Glendale Mill Destroyed By Fire
3. New Legislation Would Provide Mill Restoration Incentives
4. Eastatoee Valley Owner Protects Land With Conservation Easement
5. More Highways, More Air Pollution
6. Upstate Resident Wins National Conservation Award
7. New Book By Upstate Forever Board Member
8. Sue Priestler Joins Upstate Forever Advisory Council
9. Did You Know...?
10. Upcoming Events
11. Lots of Links

Legislative Update

Conservation Bank Act---There's Still Hope In The Senate! Please Call Your Senators Today!

As we reported in last month's *Upstate Update*, the House of Representatives made the shocking decision to remove 75 per cent of the funds for the Conservation Bank and use it for the Medicaid program and for renourishing the beach at Hunting Island State Park. In recent guest editorials in the Spartanburg Herald Journal, Upstate representatives Ralph Davenport and Dwight Loftis defend the House's action by arguing that the Medicaid program is important and that Hunting Island needs help. But that's not the issue. The issue is not whether the park is a wonderful place that is suffering serious erosion—everyone agrees with that. All agree, too, that Medicaid is an important program. Rather, the issue is whether it is right to establish and fund a statewide conservation program and then just a few months before the program is supposed to be launched, to take most of the money away.

It has become an all too common practice for the General Assembly to establish restricted funds for specific programs and later raid them for other purposes. In the last three years, the legislature has gutted these funds to the tune of over \$200 million. The most egregious raid has been the removal of about \$90 million from the fund set up to monitor the radioactive waste landfill at Barnwell.

In the case of the Conservation Bank, the law establishes a "Bank Board" of volunteer citizens to review applications for funding in light of specific financial and conservation criteria and to decide which ones to fund. The Board has been appointed, a director hired, and several applications already submitted. Why go to all the trouble when the legislature preemptively steps in and diverts most of the funds to other projects and programs?

Promoting sensible growth and protecting special places in the Upstate

But there's still hope in the Senate. The Senate Finance Committee recently voted to restore all of the funding for the Conservation Bank. We urge all *Upstate Forever* members and concerned citizens to contact their Senators and ask them to approve the committee's action. Then, representatives in the House should be asked to reconsider their decision and to restore full funding for the Bank.

"Robbing Peter to pay Paul" is an irresponsible way to run state government and diminishes public confidence and trust in our elected leaders.

Please call or write your Senator today!! You can find contact information by typing your address in the form on the following website: <http://congress.org/congressorg/state/main/?state=SC&view=myofficials#0>

Wetlands Bill All Wet

What is so hard to understand? Wetlands are one of nature's most sophisticated systems. They are nature's way of handling stormwater and filtering pollutants out of our water supplies. They provide wildlife habitat and nurseries, both important to the state's fishing and hunting industries. And they provide these services for free! Yet many of our state's legislators fail to recognize their value and have continuously resisted passing regulations that provide significant protection for these important resources.

The House Agriculture Committee has voted to disapprove DHEC regulations (R.2871) that would establish a wetlands permitting program and reaffirm the agency's authority over 300,000 acres of the state's isolated freshwater wetlands. The House's joint resolution (H. 5061) to disapprove the bill was submitted by the House Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Environmental Affairs Committees.

Instead of approving the DHEC regulations, which were based on comments from the regulated community and conservationists, the House is considering a bill (H.43940) that would give DHEC permitting authority only over wetlands that are more than five acres in size. Yet an estimated 75 per cent of the state's isolated wetlands are smaller than five acres! Talk about an exception that swallows the rule! In essence, the bill, known as the "Isolated Wetlands Act of 2004," opens the door for the indiscriminate destruction of wetlands smaller than 5 acres. On the other hand, the regulations (R.2871) would require a permit to fill any isolated wetlands and provide DHEC the authority to prevent the destruction of those that are particularly important to environmental and biological health.

Please contact your Senator and Representative and urge them to:

- Support the pending DHEC regulations, R.2871, by voting against the resolution against them (H.5061).
- Vote against H.4394, which gives authority over wetlands of less than five acres to the development community instead of to DHEC.

You can find contact information by typing your address in the form on the following website: <http://congress.org/congressorg/state/main/?state=SC&view=myofficials#0>

Spartanburg's Glendale Mill Destroyed by Fire.

This article is from a letter written by Upstate Forever board member John Lane on the morning after the fire.

Glendale Mill burned early in the morning on Sunday, March 21st. That part of our Upstate will no longer be around forever. It's, for many of us, the biggest loss of a historic place in many years. I don't even know how to begin to come to terms with this event. Our house, a half-mile upstream on the Lawson's Fork, is still littered with the ashes from the fire, a reminder of how quickly a building (or an important tract of land) can disappear from our heritage.

Upstate update

NUMBER 53
A P R I L
2 0 0 4

On that Sunday morning I became aware of the fire about 8:30 when I was headed to get some coffee. I saw the plume of blue-black smoke soon as I turned right toward Glendale and I knew my worst fear was true. When I reached Glendale I saw a big water pipe blocking Emma Cudd Road and I could see the smoke billowing from the ruins. The scene was terrible. A news helicopter had landed nearby. A news truck with its portable antenna stabbed the air. Tired firemen in their yellow space suits, lolled about catching a cigarette on the steps of the old post office. Women were crying. The streets were a snarl of pipes and in the morning air hung the smell of wet burnt wood and even a slight chemical smell. One Glendale fire truck was still pumping a huge plume of water on a small spot fire amid the burned-out walls of the mill. The bell tower was still standing, but burned out. There was one wall with "1890" etched on it standing. The fire still raged on down toward the east end, the oldest, most historic part of the mill. It seemed like down there they were just letting it burn. Everybody seemed in shock. I talked to a couple of firemen, but they didn't really know much. They said it seemed to start about 2:30.

That's all they knew. One said somebody in a house nearby thought they heard an explosion about 2. I looked on in dismay, filled with a sadness beyond description.

Some say the mill site was the most historic industrial site in the upstate (ironworks in 1760s, mill operations dating from 1832) and the mill itself was stunning, located on a large shoals of the lower Lawson's Fork. It had been closed (and used for storage) for 40 years and therefore had undergone none of the alterations we've come to expect of mills-- bricked up windows, added wings for new processes. The old mill store is still standing, as is the original office building. Nearby stands a house that the original owner, James Bivings, built in 1840 when the village was called Bivingsville. In '99 the Lawson's Fork Festival showcased the old mill and thousands of people came to Glendale to celebrate. Now it's gone. What was probably the best, most scenic example of an intact mill village in our area has now lost the sprawling mill that was its centerpiece.

As I kicked at the ashes of Glendale Mill, I keep thinking about how good Spartanburg feels about itself right now-- with all the new building downtown and its true sense of vitality-- and yet the community was powerless against losing something as impossible to replace as Glendale Mill.

What lessons should we take away from this tragedy? What resolve should we show toward saving special places? I would hope that we could somehow become more aware of threats against both historic buildings like Glendale Mill and important tracts of land. In 1861, less than a year before he died, Henry David Thoreau wrote in his journal: "What are the natural features which make a township handsome? A river, with its waterfall and meadows, a lake, a hill, a cliff or individual rocks, a forest, and ancient trees standing singly. Such things are beautiful; they have a high use which dollars and cents never represent."

Across the creek from Glendale Mill is the 13 acre SPACE (Spartanburg Conservation Endowment) preserve and if not redeveloped, maybe the site of the mill can now be added to SPACE's land holdings. Maybe this tragedy will be a way to focus some of Spartanburg's leading citizens on the large tracts of wooded land up and downstream from the burned-out mill that can still be protected.

The loss of the Glendale Mill makes me realize how central the work of conservation is to the future of Spartanburg County and this region.

Speaking of Mills...New Legislation Would Provide Restoration Incentives

You don't need an economist to tell you what is happening to the textile industry in South Carolina. In the last three years alone, about 40 textile mills in our state have closed down for good. This is on top of the hundreds of mills that have already shuttered their doors over the last few decades. Given current economic policies and trends, it may not be long before the century-long marriage of textiles and the Carolinas will be nothing but a memory.

But memories are not without substance, and history can have real value - economic as well as sentimental. Mills were often the flagships of the towns they anchored, and the central location and grand construction that were typical of such institutions mean that many mills have the potential to be among the Upstate's most important cultural and economic resources. Mills that are redeveloped as residential or office space can bring back whole neighborhoods with them, often spurring private investment on a scale not seen since the mill itself was built.

The most important word here, though, is potential. As they stand, most of the Upstate's closed or abandoned mills are in fact significant resource sinks for local municipalities, with increased crime and depressed property values as common by-products of such sites. And all such disused properties are tremendous liabilities as well, for they burn down at much higher rates than properties that are actively looked after. The Glendale Mill in Spartanburg County is a perfect example of what happens when the potential in the Upstate's old mills goes unrealized for too long: last month it burned to the ground in a catastrophic fire that left almost nothing standing.

It is with losses like this one in mind that the South Carolina state legislature is considering passage of a bill (H4979 and S1075) entitled the "South Carolina Textiles Communities Revitalization Act," a piece of legislation that would expand South Carolina's historic rehabilitation tax credit to include abandoned textile mill sites. *Upstate Forever* wholeheartedly supports this initiative, for it would provide a much-needed bridge between the current depressed state of most mill sites and the potential that such sites hold.

Here's how the legislation would work. In order for a property to be eligible for the credit, the municipality in which it was located would have to establish specific criteria for eligibility. Once the necessary standards are in place and a property is deemed eligible, a property owner who rehabilitates an old mill structure or site would receive up to a 75% credit against their property taxes each year for up to eight years. Since the goal of the legislation is to help projects that were previously considered economically infeasible to move ahead, the legislation would not apply retroactively to existing projects.

The sponsors of the bill are Rep. Scott Talley (R-Spartanburg) and Sen. Linda Short (D-Chester), with an additional 60 co-sponsors in the House and 15 in the Senate. If approved, the legislation would take effect on January 1, 2005. *Upstate Forever* urges all its members to contact their legislators and ask them to support this valuable piece of legislation. Contact information can be found at the following website: <http://congress.org/congressorg/state/main/?state=SC&view=myofficials#0>

Eastatoee Valley Owner Protects Land With Conservation Easement.

The Eastatoee Valley in northern Pickens County is a place of stunning beauty and extraordinary ecological importance. The 2,500-acre Valley is traversed by the fast-flowing Eastatoee River and surrounded by the magnificent Jocassee Gorges. The Valley and its adjoining mountain slopes provide habitat to a spectacular diversity of plant life, including 41 rare species, three very rare species, and a species of goldenrod that is new to science.

The Valley also has great historic significance. Before the Europeans arrived, the Valley was home to the largest of the Lower Towns of the Cherokee Nation. There is evidence that native people farmed the rich soils along the river for thousands of years. The first European settler established a fur trade there in the 1720s.

For several years, a serious effort has been underway to protect and preserve the Valley. The goal is achievable because there has been little development to date and 15 property owners control over half of the land in the Valley. Yet the Valley faces grave threats as land begins to be transferred to the next generation and growth and development pressures intensify.

Several landowners in the Valley have been seriously considering the use of the conservation easement to protect their properties. Last month one of these owners—Linda Bowie—stepped forward and became the first Eastatoee Valley landowner to protect his or her property with a conservation easement. The owner of about 25 acres, including substantial frontage along the Eastatoee River, Ms. Bowie granted the easement to **Upstate Forever**, in which she reserves the right to build only one small residence; all other development rights are forever relinquished.

Ms. Bowie was born and raised in the Valley and has lived there almost her entire life. “The Eastatoee Valley is truly the most beautiful and special place in the world,” said Ms. Bowie. “While I don’t own much land, I hope that what I have done will inspire my neighbors to do the same thing. Together we can make sure that this amazing place is preserved forever.”



Forever Friends



If *Upstate Forever* is to promote sensible growth and protect special places in this beautiful region, we must engage the interest and support of growing numbers of people who care about clean air and water, open space and community revitalization.

Help us expand the reach and impact of our work by nominating several friends for membership. Please send us complete names and addresses by email to info@upstateforever.org, by writing us at P.O. Box 2308, Greenville, SC 29602, or by calling 864-250-0500. We will extend an ever-so-gentle invitation to join. Your friends will be grateful you cared enough to recommend them for membership. So will the Upstate.

More Highways Lead to More Air Pollution, And The Upstate Is No Exception.

Since the Clean Air Act was passed in 1970, emissions controls on cars and trucks have steadily improved, resulting in vehicles that are 80 to 99 per cent cleaner than their 1970 counterparts. However, the number of vehicle miles traveled (VMTs) on U.S. roads has jumped 159 per cent during the same period, wiping out many of these potential gains. A growing body of evidence suggests that expanding the nation’s highway network has helped fuel this increase by triggering changes in driver behavior and land use - a phenomenon known as “induced” travel.

One might expect air pollution to improve with the combination of higher efficiency automobiles and more highways. However, building more and more roads makes it easier for people to make more trips and supports sprawling development patterns, making it necessary to drive longer distances. Any emissions savings generated by cleaner-burning automobiles has largely been offset by an increase in VMTs.

According to a report released in March by the U.S. Public Interest Research Group entitled *More Highways, More Pollution: Road-Building and Air Pollution in America’s Cities*, VMTs traveled on urban roads and highways have tripled from 570 million in 1970 to 1.73 trillion¹ in 2002. The study also reports that cities with more highway capacity per capita tend to have higher levels of air pollution from vehicles, undermining the assertion that increasing highway capacity will reduce vehicular pollution.²

¹ How much is a trillion? It’s one million million, or a one followed by 12 zeroes. 1.73 trillion miles is enough to circle the Earth’s equator nearly 70,000 times!

² The American Highway Users Alliance and other highway interests contend that building more roads will ease congestion, leading to a reduction in smog-forming emissions.

Upstate update

NUMBER 53
APRIL
2004

The study compared the number of per capita major highway miles and per capita emissions among 314 metropolitan areas throughout the United States, separating them into three categories according to size. The Greenville-Spartanburg-Anderson area was included among the 112 regions with populations between 250,000 and 1,000,000. Rankings were assigned for the number of lane miles per capita as well as the amount of vehicular Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)³ and Nitrogen Oxides (NOx)⁴ per capita. Both VOCs and NOx contribute to the formation of ozone.

Our region ranked in the top 25 per cent for highest VOC and NOx emissions, a fact that comes as no surprise, considering the Upstate's ongoing problems with air pollution.⁵ In fact, this month the EPA designated Anderson, Greenville, and Spartanburg counties as "non-attainment" for the national ozone standard. For further information, see Upstate Updates Number 48 and 50.

What do these facts suggest? That we cannot build ourselves out of congestion and air pollution problems - the more miles of roads we have available to us, the more we will drive on them and the more emissions we will produce.

What are some logical solutions? Here are just a few:

First, we must promote alternative methods of transportation, including public transportation for longer trips and safe pedestrian and bicycle networks for shorter trips.

Second, we must reconsider our typical development patterns. Building residential, commercial, retail, and schools far apart from each other forces residents to drive more miles. Building these types of development closer together, or mixing uses, will enable us to drive shorter distances, or even bike or walk, to complete some of our trips.

Third, we should increase the connectedness of minor streets and roads in neighborhoods and communities, allowing for shorter distances between destinations and less congestion on major roads.

And last, we can reduce the amount of VOC and NOx emissions we produce by driving hybrid or other high-efficiency automobiles and by requiring our government agencies to replace at least part of their fleets with them.

The key is to reduce miles driven, not increase the number of road miles available for driving.

To download the entire report from USPIRG, visit http://www.uspirg.org/reports/MoreHighwaysMorePollution3_04.pdf. For more information about the EPA designations, see www.epa.gov/ozonedesignations/.

Upstate Resident Wins National Conservation Award.

The National Wildlife Federation has honored Greenville's Tommy Wyche with its National Conservation Achievement Award for exemplary leadership in protecting the environment and natural resources. The award, given for special achievement, recognizes Wyche's efforts to conserve 40,000 acres of wilderness spanning the Blue Ridge Mountains of northern Greenville County along the border of North Carolina. The area, known as the "Mountain Bridge," includes the Table Rock Reservoir, the Poinsett Reservoir, and the 10,000-acre bridge of land between the two. Wyche received the award at the Federation's national awards banquet on March 13 in St. Louis. <http://www.scwf.org/articles/index.php?view=264>

³ VOCs result from fuel evaporation and incomplete fuel combustion and are precursors to ground-level ozone, a serious air pollutant in cities across the U.S. Ozone pollution contributes to health problems such as breathing difficulty, lung damage, and reduced cardiovascular function. Many VOCs are considered toxic and can cause cancer or other health problems.

⁴ Nitrous Oxides react with VOCs in the presence of sunlight to form ground-level ozone, a key component of smog.

⁵ Here is how the Greenville-Spartanburg-Anderson region fared in the rankings among 112 cities with populations of 250,000 - 1,000,000: Lane miles .00199 per capita, Rank 63rd; Vehicular VOCs .0251 tons per capita, Rank 25th; Vehicular NOx 0378

New Book by Upstate Forever Board Member.

Upstate Forever Board member and Wofford professor John Lane has written a gripping new book about the Chattooga River entitled Chattooga: Descending into the Myth of Deliverance River, published this month by the University of Georgia Press.

The following abstract is from the publisher:

Big water and big questions churn up the river made famous by James Dickey's *Deliverance*. Before the novel and the film *Deliverance* appeared in the early 1970s, any outsiders one met along the Chattooga River were likely serious canoeists or anglers. In later years, untold numbers and kinds of people have felt the draw of the river's torrents, which pour down the Appalachians along the Georgia-South Carolina border. Because of *Deliverance* the Chattooga looms enigmatically in our shared imagination, as iconic as Twain's Mississippi—or maybe Conrad's Congo. This is John Lane's search for the real Chattooga—for the truths that reside somewhere in the river's rapids, along its shores, or in its travelers' hearts. Lane balances the dark, indifferent mythical river of *Deliverance* against the Chattooga known to locals and to the outdoors enthusiasts who first mastered its treacherous vortices and hydraulics. Starting at its headwaters, Lane leads us down the river and through its complex history to its current status as a National Wild and Scenic River. Along the way he stops for talks with conservation activists, seventh-generation residents, locals who played parts in the movie, day visitors, and others. Lane weaves into each encounter an abundance of details drawn from his perceptive readings and viewings of *Deliverance* and his wide-ranging knowledge of the Chattooga watershed. At the end of his run, Lane leaves us still fully possessed by the Chattooga's mystery, yet better informed about its place in his world and ours.

John Lane's writing has been published in American Whitewater, Southern Review, Terra Nova, and Fourth Genre. His books include Waist Deep in Black Water (Georgia), several volumes of poetry, and Weed Time, a gathering of his essays.

John will be reading and signing his book on May 8 from 12:30 to 2:30 at the Open Book, located at 110 S. Pleasantburg Drive in Greenville. Please come!

Sue Priester Joins Upstate Forever Advisory Council.

We are delighted to announce that Sue Priester of Greer has joined our Advisory Council. Priester is an outstanding leader in both the business and community sectors. In 1981, she and her late husband took an idea and turned it into a highly successful computer manufacturing company. She was recently elected as the chair of the Greer Chamber of Commerce.

Sue has played a key role in the revitalization of downtown Greer, both as an owner of important properties in the area and as a champion for the city. She was a past chair of the Greer Strategic Planning initiative, one of the groups that provided a catalyst for the downtown area's rebirth. She also serves on the boards of the Warehouse Theatre, the Greenville Symphony, the Greenville Tech Foundation, and the Alliance for Quality Education.

Sue has long been a strong supporter of Upstate Forever's mission of promoting sensible and well planned growth and protecting many of our region's special places. She has been an active member since the organization was founded and we are deeply honored to have her working more closely with us as a member of our Advisory Council. Sue is not only a visionary—she also does the hard, day-to-day work to make her visions a reality. Her guidance and leadership will be invaluable.

Did You Know.....

...that April is National Landscape Architecture Month? April was selected because it includes Earth Day (April 22) and the birthday of Frederick Law Olmsted (April 27), the founder of the American landscape architecture profession.

...that students at the University of Tennessee (UT) recently voted to raise their own fees to purchase "green power" for the Knoxville campus? Part of the \$8.00-per-semester hike will be used to purchase clean energy from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), making UT one of the region's largest purchasers of clean, renewable energy. (The TVA generates clean energy from wind turbines, landfill gases, and solar panels.) The rest of the fee increase will go to other methods to improve campuswide energy efficiency.

...and that students of Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina similarly voted to approve a \$10 per year fee to pay for a conversion to more environmentally friendly energy sources? The fee, which will stay in place for three years, will generate approximately \$390,000 to outfit new or existing buildings with alternative-fuel technologies like solar and electric water-heating panels, wind generators, and furnaces that burn bio-fuels. More than 80 per cent of the school's 4,000 students agreed to the higher fee, which now must be approved by the school's leadership before going into effect.

...that Anderson County has recently made its mapping database available online? Visitors will be able to view information on geography and property ownership countywide by logging on to <http://gisserve.andersoncountysc.org/viewer.htm>

...that Governor Sanford and his family - including all four sons and his wife - will begin a bike ride on May 14 in Spartanburg County, biking for a total of 160 miles over the course of three days, and ending in North Charleston on May 16. Sanford's "Family Fitness Challenge" is aimed at encouraging South Carolinians to make better health choices in their day-to-day lives. Details can be found at www.scgovernor.com

Upcoming Events.

Upstate Forever Events

April 24, Upstate Forever Field Trip: Photography Outing with Bill Robertson. Bill Robertson, award winning photographer, will share his ideas and techniques on light, perspective, and composition as we hike along the Horsepasture River to Rainbow Falls. Spaces are filling up fast! To register for the field trip or for more information call us at 864-250-0500 or e-mail info@upstateforever.org.

May 20, "The Envision Utah Program and Applications for the Upstate," Palmetto Expo Center, Greenville, South Carolina. Plan to attend an early evening presentation by Utah Senator Greg Bell, a former chairman of the nationally acclaimed Envision Utah program in the Salt Lake region. The Envision Utah Public/Private Partnership was formed to develop a quality growth strategy for the region in anticipation of an expected one million new residents during the next 20 years. Senator Bell will share his experience in developing a regional vision for the Greater Wasatch Area of Utah, a region similar to the Upstate in many ways. The program will also examine growth in the Upstate, what is projected for the future, and what lessons we may learn from the Envision Utah process. Sponsored by *Upstate Forever*, the Upstate Alliance, and Clemson University's Center for Community Growth and Change and several other organizations, the program is free and open to the public. More detailed information will be available shortly. Please contact Upstate Forever at 864-250-0500 or e-mail info@upstateforever.org if you are interested in attending.

May 25, Conservation Easement Workshop, North Carolina Arboretum, Asheville, N.C., 1:00-5:00 p.m. Stephen J. Small, renowned tax attorney who authored the Federal Income Tax Regulations on conservation easements, will discuss tax law and charitable giving as they relate to the preservation of private land. Continuing education credits are available for attorneys, accountants, realtors, appraisers, land planners and financial planners. The conference is sponsored by the Mountain Land Conservancy and co-sponsored by *Upstate Forever*, the Conservation Trust for North Carolina, the Land Trust Alliance, Dixon Hughes, Strauss and Associates, Lake Toxaway Company, and Doctors Management. For more information, call the Carolina Mountain Conservancy at (828) 697-5777 or email Kieran@carolinamountain.org

Other Events

April 3 - July 1, Heritage Corridor Farmer's Association "Nothing Could Be Finer" Farm Festivals, Located throughout the Upstate Along the SC National Heritage Corridor. The Heritage Corridor Farmer's Association is sponsoring "Nothing Could Be Finer," a series of farm festivals to be held between April and July at various farms along the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor. For more details, contact Elizabeth Harm at 803-608-0501 or visit www.sc-heritagecorridor.org/html/events.html. Brochures with dates and descriptions of each site's festival are available online, at welcome centers and other selected outlets in the fourteen counties, or upon request.

April 21, May 18, June 9, 2:00 p.m., Three Webcasts, At Your Own Computer. Registration is open for three different 90-minute webcasts hosted by ICMA's Local Government Environmental Assistance Network on the following topics: 1) Collaborative Problem Solving and Consensus Building: Effective Approaches for Watershed Protection and Restoration, 2) Seeing Green With Trees: The Economic and Environmental Benefits of Urban Forests, and 3) Health and Community Design: The Local Government Role in Promoting Active Living. You can participate in the privacy and comfort of your home or office - all you need is a computer and a phone (for the audio portion). The webcasts are free to the first 100 registrants, and \$95.00 for all others. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.lgean.org/html/whatsnew.cfm?id=695>

4/24/04, Art and Earth Day, S. Main Street, Greenville, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Celebrate art and nature at the Art and Earth Day Festival, sponsored by SEW-EURODRIVE, West End Friends and Artists, the Sierra Club, and Furman University. The festival includes booths by over 60 local artists and environmental groups, live music, food, and activities. *Upstate Forever* will participate in this event.

April 24-25, South Carolina Native Plant Society's 7th Annual Native Plant Symposium, Greenville, South Carolina. This conference, hosted by the Upstate Chapter of the SCNPS, will be held April 23-25, 2004 at the Palmetto Expo Center in Greenville. The program is entitled "Jocassee, Jewel of the Upstate," and will focus on the flora and fauna of the Jocassee Gorges region. *Upstate Forever's* Brad Wychewill moderate a discussion by a panel of experts who will address the management issues facing this spectacularly beautiful and biologically diverse region. To register for the symposium or for more information, please visit www.scnps.org/activities.html or call Harry Davis at 864-235-2850.

May 6-7, Franklin, Tennessee. Case Study Critiques of Traditional Neighborhood Developments. Sponsored by the Seaside Institute and the City of Franklin, this conference will feature in-depth presentations of three developments, including a review of the planning process and approvals, deal structure and financing, architectural regulations, construction and marketing, and other topics. Discussions will address how to apply the new Traditional Neighborhood Development land use regulations, and the audience will be encouraged to ask questions and discuss their own issues and challenges.

For more information, visit <http://www.theseasideinstitute.org/page.aspx?s=16963.0.79.7801>

Earth Day Events

April 22 is Earth Day!!! There are numerous events and celebrations to attend here in the Upstate and across South Carolina, including the following:

April 22, 'Earth Today' (Television Program). Statewide on SC ETV and Nationwide on satellite. 1:00-1:30 p.m. Visit <http://www.scdhec.net/earthtoday/index.html> or call 1-800-768-7348 for additional details.

April 22, BMW Earth Day Fair, BMW, Greer, South Carolina, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., and 5:00-7:00 p.m. Contact Aili Spearman at ailli.spearman@bmwmcext.com for additional details. *Upstate Forever* will have a booth at this event.

April 22, Michelin Earth Day Fair, Michelin, Greenville, South Carolina, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Contact Kay Acker kay.acker@us.michelin.com or call 864-422-4329 for additional details.

April 22, Earth Day Celebration, Lander University, Greenwood, South Carolina, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Contact Rowdy Harris at essolander@yahoo.com for additional details.

April 24, Art and Earth Day Festival, Greenville, South Carolina, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Contact Alysen Woodruff at wooda@greatergreenville.com for additional details. *Upstate Forever* will have a booth at this event.

April 29, GROW Workshop, Greenwood County Public Works Building, Greenwood, South Carolina, 9:00 a.m. - noon. Contact Donna Sightler at donnas@co.greenwood.sc.us for additional details.

April 30, Fuji's Health and Environmental Fair, Fuji, Greenwood, South Carolina. 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Contact Donna Sightler at donnas@co.greenwood.sc.us for additional details.

Lots o' Links.

Architect's Journal Highlights Livable Design. The ability to live an active, healthy lifestyle in today's built environment presents a number of challenges, many of which are the results of poor design. The December 2003 issue of the *AIA Journal of Architecture* addresses the issue of physical health as it relates to the design of physical spaces and highlights a number of innovative projects. Download the PDF at http://www.aia.org/pdf/aiaj/0312_aiaj.pdf

APA Ranks Top 25 Planning Stories. The American Planning Association has chosen the top 25 issues and events that have had the greatest impact on U. S. and global planning since 1978. Among the top five stories on APA's list: The nuclear meltdown at Three Mile Island (1979); Sagebrush Rebels (1980); UNESCO's designation of World Heritage Cities (1982); The worst U.S. banking crisis since the Great Depression (1982); and the first National Forum on Biodiversity (1986). <http://www.planning.org/25anniversary/topstories.htm>

A New Vocabulary for Sprawl. Do you know the difference between a "boomburb" and a "zoomburb?" These and other interesting new terms are becoming part of urban planners' lexicon. http://www.abqtrib.com/archives/news04/032304_news_sprawl.shtml

Global Warming Treaty Turns 10. The Kyoto Protocol is 10 years old. What has it achieved? The Kyoto Protocol was signed as a framework agreement in 1997 under which industrialized countries would curb emissions of "greenhouse" gases -- carbon pollution from the burning of fossil fuels that scientists say is dangerously affecting Earth's fragile climate system. <http://www.commondreams.org/headlines04/0319-09.htm>

South Carolina's New School Siting Regulations Make National News. The cover story in the March 2004 edition of *Governing* magazine touts the benefits of a bill passed by South Carolina's legislature in 2003 eliminating minimum acreage requirements for new schools. Passage of the bill gives local districts more flexibility in choosing sites for new construction and increases the oppor-

tunities to build schools in existing communities where large parcels are often scarce and land is expensive. The article, entitled “Edge-ucation: What compels communities to build schools in the middle of nowhere?” addresses the connection between large schools in remote areas and sprawl, and discusses the advantages of renovation of older schools instead of building new ones. <http://governing.com/articles/3schools.htm>

Raleigh Sees Greenville as Model for its own Downtown. Raleigh leaders want to breathe new life into their downtown and change it into something more like Greenville, where there always seems to be something to do and where everyone in the community can gather. <http://www.wral.com/news/2895478/detail.html>

Dollars in the Dirt: The Economic Value of Living Trees. Even the Federal Reserve is touting the benefits of trees! An article on their website recognizes the myriad environmental services trees provide, including trapping carbon dioxide, filtering water, and cleaning the air we breathe. It also quantifies some of the monetary value of some of these benefits, including air pollution removal and stormwater control. <http://www.rich.frb.org/pubs/regionfocus/winter04/dollars.htm>

National Wildlife Week is April 19-25, 2004. What’s YOUR Habitat? A celebration of wildlife and wild places since 1938, National Wildlife Week encourages kids and adults across the country to learn and experience nature - starting in their own community. The National Wildlife Federation’s website features a special section with downloadable activities geared to children up to the eighth grade. <http://www.nwf.org/nationalwildlifeweek/guide.html>

Farmland Information Center. A clearinghouse for information about farmland protection and stewardship, this website contains statistics about land cover changes and loss of farmland, links to state laws on conservation, land use and many other topics, and an abundance of resource information. <http://www.farmlandinfo.org/>

The Practice of Low Impact Development. Prepared by the National Association of Home Builders for the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, this report simultaneously incorporates economic and environmental considerations into the land development process. <http://www.huduser.org/Publications/PDF/practLowImpctDevel.pdf>

Smarter Growth Can Save Taxpayers Billions of Dollars. A new report from the Brookings Institution Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy entitled *Investing in a Better Future: A Review of the Fiscal and Competitive Advantages of Smarter Growth Development Pattern* discusses the tax benefits of compact development and investments in urban core improvements. The study reports that governments nationwide can save billions on road construction, schools, water and sewer systems, and operation and service delivery through thoughtful design and planning with more compact development in 2000-2025. http://www.brookings.edu/urban/publications/200403_smartgrowth.htm

Quizzes!!

Environmental News Network’s Green Car Quiz. “Choosing an energy-efficient vehicle is a first step toward environmental stewardship, but how we drive and maintain our cars may be as important as what kind of cars we buy. To find out how much you know about minimizing your car’s impact on the environment, take ENN’s green car quiz.” http://www.enn.com/news/enn-stories/2001/03/03022001/cars_42177.asp

Environmental News Network’s Tree Quiz. “By definition, a tree is nothing more than a very large plant. But few plants have such a large impact on our daily lives. Trees are a palpable presence in the world and a gentle influence on virtually everything we do...Trees are nearly everywhere around us. But how much do we know about them? Find out by taking ENN’s tree quiz.” http://www.enn.com/features/2000/05/05232000/treequiz_13052.asp

Upstate pdate

NUMBER 53
A P R I L
2 0 0 4

Your Ecological Footprint. You might be surprised to learn how much “nature” your lifestyle requires. Measure the amount of land and water you need to support what you use and how much you discard. The results might shock you! <http://www.myfootprint.org/>

Quote of the Month.

“From New Hampshire down to Georgia, across Texas to Arizona and up through California, you now have the booming exurban sprawls that have broken free of the gravitational pull of cities and now float in a space far beyond them.”

- David Brooks, “Our Sprawling Supersize Utopia,”
New York Times, April 4, 2004.

Shameless Advertisement

As a not-for-profit organization, Upstate Forever depends on the financial support of people like you if it is to fulfill its mission of promoting sensible growth and protecting special places. As the Upstate comes alive with the sights and sounds of Spring, we are reminded even more of the growing threats which jeopardize our quality of life in this beautiful region.

If you are not already a member, please consider joining today. If you are a member, but have not yet renewed, please send in your check today. If you want to honor a special person in your life (on an anniversary, birthday or for no specific occasion at all), or if you want to memorialize a loved one who cared about our special places, please consider making a gift in that person’s honor or memory. You can make a gift by mailing us your check at P.O. Box 2308, Greenville, SC, 29602. A downloadable form is available on our website at http://www.upstateforever.org/i_want_to_join.htm. All gifts are tax deductible.

EDUCATION • ADVOCACY • LAND TRUST