

Upstate Update

NUMBER 85

J U N E
2 0 0 7

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

In this Upstate Update:

1. **Upstate Forever** Hosts Stormwater Symposium
2. Spartanburg Residents Get Educated on Comprehensive Planning
3. Mast General Store Donates Proceeds from Land Trust Day
4. Greenways Planning Takes Off
5. Conservationists Convene in Columbia
6. Colin Hagan Awarded Compton Fellowship
7. **Upstate Forever** Offsets CO₂ Emissions
8. Sustainable Living Tips of the Month
9. Upcoming Events
10. Lots o' Links
11. Quote of the Month

1. **Upstate Forever Hosts Stormwater Symposium**

Upstate Forever and Greenville County presented a daylong symposium entitled “*Stormwater Management in Greenville County: Where It’s Going and Why it Matters*” on May 30. Over 100 development and community leaders were in attendance. The symposium offered an in-depth look at how Greenville County’s stormwater management efforts have changed over time and what further improvements are needed in the future.

“Greenville County is working to promote innovative and creative ways to manage stormwater and land development while working with the development community,” said Paula Gucker, Greenville County Assistant Administrator of Public Works. Ms. Gucker’s remarks were echoed throughout the day by a variety of engineers, researchers, and other stormwater professionals.

Researchers from Furman and Clemson Universities concluded that improvements in stormwater quantity and quality benefit everyone. “Development as it is currently practiced is really hard on stream health,” said Dr. Steve Klaine of Clemson University. Dr. Klaine’s presentation documented the impacts of a recent development project in Greenville County on local streams. His work is part of the Changing Land Use and the Environment project, which takes a broad look at the impacts of change from forested to suburban land use on rivers in our region.

The symposium was a great success in demonstrating to community leaders how stormwater management can be both efficient and effective. “Through changes to our stormwater programs, we are working to meet the needs of all members of the community related to property development, stormwater management, and water quality and quantity,” stressed Gucker.

All presentations from the conference are available online at www.saludareedy.org/outreach/stormwatersymposium.html. For more information about **Upstate Forever’s** stormwater advocacy work, visit www.saludareedy.org/outreach/stormwateradvocacy.html or contact Heather Bergerud at (864) 250-0500x34. For more information about Greenville County’s stormwater program, contact the Land Development Division at (864) 467-4610.

Promoting sensible growth and protecting special places in the Upstate

2. Spartanburg Residents Get Educated on Comprehensive Planning

South Carolina state law requires counties to revise their comprehensive plans every ten years. Elements of these plans include population, economic development, natural resources, cultural resources, community facilities, housing, and land use. The General Assembly recently passed legislation mandating the inclusion of a priority infrastructure investment areas element as well. The review provides an opportunity for counties to adopt provisions promoting quality growth.

In Spartanburg County, the next revision is due for completion by 2008, so this year the County Council has begun work on its comprehensive plan update. To help residents stay informed and get involved in this comprehensive planning process, *Upstate Forever*, League of Women Voters of Spartanburg County, and PRIDE Task Force sponsored a free workshop entitled “Great Expectations: Spartanburg County Citizens and the Land Use Planning Process.” A whopping 120 attendees came out to Wofford College’s Olin Theater on March 22 to hear Spartanburg County Assistant Administrator Chris Story and Planning Director David Rutherford clarify the process of updating the County’s comprehensive plan and highlight opportunities for public participation. Way to go, Spartanburg County citizens!

3. Mast General Store Donates Proceeds from Land Trust Day

On June 2, Greenville’s Mast General Store donated 20 percent of its gross sales revenue to *Upstate Forever* as part of its annual celebration of Land Trust Day. Response from the public was outstanding, and *Upstate Forever’s* share totaled over \$7,000! In addition, artist Bruce Bunch is generously donating 30 percent of his day’s sales. Our deepest thanks go out to John and Faye Cooper, Mast General’s owners; Mary Nase and her wonderful staff at the Greenville store; the *Upstate Forever* board and staff members and volunteers who greeted the customers all day; and to all of you who shopped and spread the word about Land Trust Day.

4. Greenways Planning Takes Off

Greenways are a very hot topic in Greenville County. Recent developments include:

- Removal of rails and ties began early this year along nine miles of track extending from Greenville’s northern city limits to approximately one mile north of Travelers Rest. Clearing of the railbed should be complete by the end of the summer, and then the Greenville County Recreation District can begin developing the long-awaited Swamp Rabbit Rail-Trail. For more information, contact Don Shuman, Greenville County Recreation District, at don@gcrd.org.
- Greenville County Recreation District has hired its first Director of Greenways, Natural and Historical Resources: Ty Houck, who in his former position as Park Ranger at Paris Mountain State Park implemented many wonderful improvements to the park over the past several years. In his new role, Ty will focus on developing a county-wide master plan for Greenways as well as site plans for passive recreation areas and the historical resources of the county.
- The City of Greenville is in the final stages of developing a Greenways Master Plan that proposes nearly 100 miles of on-street bicycle lanes and off-street multi-use paths. The planning process has been led by Greenways Inc. The firm’s president, Chuck Flink, spoke about the economic benefits of greenways at Furman University last fall in an appearance co-sponsored by *Upstate Forever*.

Upstate update

NUMBER 85
J U N E
2 0 0 7

For more information, contact Andrew Meeker, City of Greenville, at meekera@greatergreenville.org.

- Plans incorporating greenways components are under development in several other areas around the county, including the East Woodruff Road area and the City of Fountain Inn. A plan for the Scuffletown Road area, which includes a proposed area-wide greenway, has recently been completed. For more information, contact Eric Vinson, Greenville County Planning Commission, at evinson@greenvillecounty.org.

5. Conservationists Convene in Columbia

On May 8, more than 100 conservationists from around the state gathered in Columbia to lobby our legislators and celebrate the year's accomplishments. *Upstate Forever* was represented at the annual Conservation Lobby Day by a large contingent, including members Mary Lou Jones, Robert Stenhouse, Wayne Pendergrass, Dick Carr, Emily Davis, Paul Jansen, and Mary Walter, accompanied by interns Colin Hagan and Mary Hays Huguley and twelve staff members.

Attendees heard a detailed briefing on pressing issues before the General Assembly, focusing on Priority Investment Areas (since passed), DOT reform and additional Conservation Bank funding (both still pending at press time). Senate President Pro Tempore Glenn McConnell educated the group about the ins and outs of the legislative process, while Rep. Ben Hagood outlined specifics about proposed bills. The day included lobbying at the State House and legislative offices, luncheon speakers, a tour of USC's West Quad green dormitory and office complex, and a celebratory evening oyster roast.

Thank you to everyone who joined with us to make the voices of conservationists heard in Columbia. We hope to see you again next year! To subscribe to *Upstate Forever's* Legislative Alert, emailed weekly January through June while the General Assembly is in session, contact Nancy Fitzer at nfitzer@upstateforever.org.

6. Colin Hagan Awarded Compton Fellowship

Colin Hagan of the Furman University Class of 2007, and longtime intern with *Upstate Forever's* Clean Air and Water program, has won a prestigious \$36,000 Compton Fellowship for 2007-2008. With his fellowship funding, Colin will be developing a "South Carolina Guide to Climate Change." He will be mentored in this effort by Jen Rennicks, Federal Policy Coordinator for the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (and former *Upstate Forever* staff member). Congratulations, Colin!

7. Upstate Forever Offsets CO₂ Emissions

Upstate Forever has received a gift of a "Terra Pass" that offsets all of the projected carbon dioxide emissions from our two offices for the next year. For more information, see www.terrapass.com/home/index.php.

8. Sustainable Living Tips of the Month

“I always get paper bags at the grocery store and then use them for my kitchen trash, so I never buy trash bags.”

Jacqueline Oliver

Land Protection Specialist

“By biking to work whenever possible, I get to ‘practice what I preach’ in my work with *Upstate Forever*. Choosing this alternative mode of transportation provides me with an opportunity for daily exercise, reduces my personal impact on global climate change and air pollution, serves as a statement to drivers that other options are possible, and saves money in car maintenance and gas expenses. Basically, I can’t lose by biking to work!”

John Tynan

Watershed Conservation Associate

“Instead of buying the expensive, one-time-use dusting cloths for my Swiffer mop, I went to Target’s automotive section and bought a big pack of microfiber cloths for under \$10. They attach onto the Swiffer mop easily and not only can be washed, but they clean so well! I lightly spray it with a water bottle when I want to dampen the cloth.”

Stephanie Wagner

Land Use Planning Specialist

What’s your favorite personal resource-conserving idea? Send your sustainable living tip to nfitzer@upstateforever.org and we’ll print a selection in future publications!

9. Upcoming Events

Upstate Forever Events

June 21, Upstate Forever Golf Tournament, Carolina Springs Golf and Country Club, Greenville, SC, 11:00 a.m. Please join us for our second annual benefit tournament, complete with lunch, fantastic prizes, a silent auction, and hors d’oeuvres. Entry fees are \$720 per team or \$180 per individual. To register, contact Ralph Settle at rsettle@upstateforever.org or (864) 250-0500x21.

July 10, Making Stormwater Facilities Functional AND Attractive, University Center, Greenville, SC, 7:45 - 9:00 a.m. Join *Upstate Forever* and the Home Builders Association of Greenville for the fifth and final event in our 2007 Low Impact Development Breakfast Series. For more information, visit www.saludareedy.org/events.html. The event is free of charge and breakfast will be provided. Contact John Tynan at jtynan@upstateforever.org or (864) 250-0500x31 to reserve your place.

August 24, Preserving Local Character, Spartanburg Marriott at Renaissance Park, Spartanburg, SC, 7:30 a.m. The next “Building our Future” speaker series event, hosted by *Upstate Forever*, Partners for Active Living, and the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce, will feature Ed McMahon, Senior Resident Fellow for Sustainable Development at the Urban Land Institute. For more information, contact Upstate Forever’s Spartanburg office at (864) 327-0090 or spartanburg@upstateforever.org.

September 22, National Hunting and Fishing Day: An Outdoor Family Adventure, Duke World of Energy, Seneca, SC, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Come one, come all to the Upstate’s first celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Day, sponsored by *Upstate Forever*, the South Carolina Wildlife Federation, 4-H Shooting Sports, Trout Unlimited, SC Department of Natural Resources, and Duke Energy. The free event

Upstate update

NUMBER 85
J U N E
2 0 0 7

offers participants the opportunity to experience a wide variety of outdoor activities including kayaking, boating, fishing, archery, air riflery, fly-tying, butterfly observation and tree stand safety. Food will be available for purchase. For directions to the World of Energy, visit www.duke-energy.com/visitor-centers/world_of_energy.asp. For other information, contact Angela Viney at aviney@upstateforever.org.

Other Events

June 18, Conestee Nature Park Paved Trail Opening, Conestee, SC, 5:30 p.m. The Conestee Foundation will mark the opening of a new, 2/3 mile-long paved greenway trail, which serves as a spine and provides connections to the natural surface trails in the park and will ultimately connect to the Reedy River greenway trail system. The ribbon cutting event will take place at the Henderson Avenue access; for a map of and more information about the park, visit www.upstateforever.org/programs_conestee.html.

June 21, Symphony Earthcraft Model Home Grand Opening Party, Greenville, SC, 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. The Guild of the Greenville Symphony Orchestra and Addison Homes are sponsoring this “Summer Fling” event to showcase a model home built to Earthcraft standards. Tickets are \$15 and include hors d’oeuvres and spirits; the home is located at 18 Plyler Drive in the Carilion Community, near Furman University and the Green Valley Country Club. For tickets and more information, email guildgso@bellsouth.net or call (864) 370-0965.

June 23, Great American Backyard Campout. Folks across America are invited to come together every fourth Saturday of June and camp in their backyards, local parks and camp grounds to discover the whole other world living in their “backyard”. Sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation; for more information, visit www.nwf.org/playandobserve.

August 16-19, Thinking Green Today...for Tomorrow, Greenville, SC. The annual meeting of the South Carolina Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects will cover a variety of topics, from facilitating public design charrettes to sustainable community planning practices to water quality best management practices. Scheduled speakers include *Upstate Forever’s* Angela Viney and John Tynan. For more information, visit www.scasla.org.

10. Lots o’ Links

[Greenville County Public Transportation Survey.](#) Complete this survey and give Greenville County feedback on how to improve public transportation and better serve local citizens, companies, employees, and potential clients.

[Certified SC Grown.](#) The SC Department of Agriculture has launched a campaign to promote rural economic development and build state pride and loyalty.

[The Nation’s Most Sustainable Cities.](#) SustainLane has ranked the 50 largest U.S. cities on sustainability; Portland, OR came in first place and Columbus, OH was last.

[“Change is inevitable. Ugliness is not.”](#) Scenic America works to reduce billboard blight and keep America’s highways and byways scenic.

[Builders Create Suburbs with Downtown Appeal.](#) Transit-oriented developments—without the transit.

[Transportation Costs Make Atlanta Unaffordable.](#) The Atlanta metro area sells itself as an affordable city based on housing costs, but moderate-income families spend more on transportation than on housing.

11. Quote of the Month

“But here’s the really inconvenient truth: we have not even begun to be serious about the costs, the effort and the scale of change that will be required to shift our country, and eventually the world, to a largely emission-free energy infrastructure over the next 50 years.”

--Thomas L. Friedman, “The Power of Green,” *The New York Times Magazine*, 4/15/07.

