

# Upstate Update

NUMBER 86

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

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### 1. Conservation Bank Funds Five Upstate Projects

At its biannual meeting on June 20 in Greenville, the SC Conservation Bank Board reviewed applications and awarded over \$13 million in funding for 21 conservation projects across the state.

We are pleased to announce that *Upstate Forever* had three applications approved for this funding cycle:

- Stumphouse Mountain/City of Walhalla, 440 acres, Oconee County (see following article)
- Lake Jemiki, 129 acres, Oconee County
- Chattooga Valley and Rocky Fork Farms, 263 acres, Oconee County

In addition, two other important Upstate projects received land protection funding:

- Asbury Hills Camp and Retreat Center, 1892 acres, Greenville County, granted to The Nature Conservancy
- Lake Conestee Nature Park, 12 acres, Greenville County, granted to the Conestee Foundation

To date, the Bank has helped preserve 107,551 acres statewide at an average cost of \$616 per acre. For more information, visit <http://sccbanc.sc.gov/>.

### 2. Your Help is Needed to Protect Stumphouse Mountain and Issaqueena Falls!

As noted above, *Upstate Forever* has just received funding from the SC Conservation Bank for the City of Walhalla's former watershed property on Stumphouse Mountain. The grant will be used to purchase a conservation easement, permanently preserving the tract. In addition, The Nature Conservancy has an option to purchase 510 adjoining acres, currently under private ownership, which include the popular destinations of Stumphouse Tunnel and Issaqueena Falls and border the Sumter National Forest (to see a map of the area, visit [www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/southcarolina/files/stumphouse\\_map.pdf](http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/southcarolina/files/stumphouse_map.pdf)).

**The campaign to protect Stumphouse Mountain and Issaqueena Falls is the most important conservation project in the Upstate, and we need your help!**

The site has it all:

**Issaqueena Falls.** This waterfall is one of the state's premier natural landmarks, 100 feet high and visible across the gorge along Highway 28. This project will protect the waterfall and ensure public

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access to it forever!

**The Blue Ridge Escarpment Viewshed.** Stumphouse Mountain is the view of the Blue Ridge as motorists drive up Highway 28 through Mountain Rest and into North Carolina.

**Ecological Significance.** Stumphouse Mountain is part of the Blue Ridge Escarpment, an ecological region of global significance. The area contains extensive wildflower diversity, habitat for migrating songbirds and numerous species of salamanders. The remaining tunnels provide homes to six species of bats, in particular the rare Rafinesque's Big-Eared Bat. Stumphouse also protects the headwaters to Cane Creek, which flows directly into Lake Keowee.

**Pre-Civil War History.** John C. Calhoun dreamed of connecting the South by rail to the Midwest--through Stumphouse Mountain. The Blue Ridge Railroad blasted three tunnels but financial problems and the Civil War ended their plans. Clemson University owns one of the tunnels, where it once stored its famous blue cheese. The other two tunnels lie within the 511-acre tract.

**The Cherokee.** Before the Irish, the Germans, and the railroad came to Stumphouse Mountain, the Cherokee Indians lived there. According to published accounts, there is a burial site on the property, which the Cherokee Bear Clan believes it has located.

**Public Use.** If the campaign is successful, the entire site will be available for public use and enjoyment.

In January, the public found out about a plan to sell the entire site to a Florida developer. To make a long story (see [UU 83](#) and [UU 82](#)) short, we now have the opportunity to acquire and protect the site, but we have to raise \$4.3 million by **August 29, 2007**. *Upstate Forever*, The Nature Conservancy and many other organizations and individuals are tirelessly working on the campaign and we are making great progress, including:

- The \$1.2 million Conservation Bank grant to *Upstate Forever*.
- \$1.5 million from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.
- \$180,000 from the Graham Foundation.
- A \$300,000 challenge grant from an anonymous donor (for every \$2 raised, the donor will contribute \$1).
- A \$100,000 state competitive grant.
- About \$200,000 in private contributions as of this date.

But we still have to raise about \$800,000 and have five weeks to do so! We hope that Oconee County will commit some funding for the project, but it is now obvious that our success depends on substantial support from the private sector.

**PLEASE HELP** by sending your tax-deductible contribution today to:

The Nature Conservancy  
Stumphouse Mountain Project  
P.O. Box 5475  
Columbia, SC 29250

With your support, we can keep this special place from being covered with houses and asphalt and ensure that it is preserved forever for public use and enjoyment. Thank you!

### 3. GHS Makes \$1 Million Gift to Tram-Trail

The Greenville Hospital System announced on June 26 a \$1 million commitment to the Swamp Rabbit Tram-Trail. Over the next 10 years, this generous gift will support maintenance on the 11.8-mile stretch from Travelers Rest to Greenville.

The rails along the trail, which is owned by the Greenville County Economic Development Corporation and operated by the Greenville County Recreation District, have been removed. Work is currently underway to remove the railroad ties. The trail is expected to be walkable within six months, with a paved trail completed by early 2009.

### 4. Greenville County Tree Ordinance Update

Last February, the Greenville County Tree Policy Advisory Committee submitted its final report to County Council, recommending the adoption of a comprehensive tree conservation ordinance for the county. Those recommendations have been turned into a draft ordinance, ([www.greenvillecounty.org/County\\_Council/Agenda/Council/tree%20ordinance%20pwpd%20draft.pdf](http://www.greenvillecounty.org/County_Council/Agenda/Council/tree%20ordinance%20pwpd%20draft.pdf)) which received first reading by County Council on July 17. The proposed ordinance would require trees in every new development—residential, commercial, and industrial—in the county.

Under the provisions of the proposed ordinance, developers must achieve a set number of “density units,” which are based on the diameter of the trunks of existing and planted trees. Buffers are required along streams and wetlands, and “root protection zones” around existing trees designated for preservation must remain undisturbed. A position of County Arborist would be created to oversee monitoring and make technical judgments.

*Upstate Forever* has submitted extensive comments (see the complete document at [www.upstateforever.org/prog\\_tree/0707TreeOrdinance.pdf](http://www.upstateforever.org/prog_tree/0707TreeOrdinance.pdf)) on the draft ordinance urging County Council to clarify and strengthen several provisions, including:

- Clarify the tree protection plan provision.
- Specify the requirements pertaining to new trees planted on a site.
- Do not exempt manmade water resources from buffer requirements.
- Require a survey to clearly identify all wetlands, water resources and buffer areas to be protected.
- Allow the removal of invasive species.
- Make clear that the use of a tree bank is truly a last resort, not a way to avoid tree requirements.
- Clarify that trees required under the buffer requirements and parking lot landscaping ordinance do not count toward meeting the density requirements of the tree ordinance.
- Authorize the County to issue “stop work” orders if violations are found.

Greenville County residents, contact your Council representative and let him or her know that you want a comprehensive tree ordinance enacted and that you support the changes recommended by *Upstate Forever*. The second and third readings as well as a public hearing will be scheduled in the coming weeks. We will keep you abreast of the schedule and any opportunities to make your voice heard!

### 5. Furman President Helps Lead National Environmental Effort

Furman president David E. Shi appeared in Washington, D.C., on June 12 for a formal announcement about the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment. Furman is among more than 250 colleges and universities that will address the problems of global warming and pursue the goal of making their campuses climate neutral. Shi, who also serves in the group’s Leadership Circle, was one of

three presidents asked to participate in the news conference in the nation's capital. Furman's sustainability efforts were cited in the resulting national news coverage (for an example, see <http://insidehighered.com/news/2007/06/13/climate>). Way to go, Furman!

## 6. Job Openings

*Upstate Forever* currently has four full-time positions available. For complete job descriptions and information on how to apply, visit our website: [www.upstateforever.org](http://www.upstateforever.org).

- **Rural Lands Specialist.** We seek a highly motivated and full-time Rural Lands Specialist to work in our Land Trust Program, specifically on our ongoing Land Trust Outreach Campaign, an initiative that seeks to educate rural landowners in the Upstate region about conservation agreements and the benefits of land conservation. Application deadline is August 10.
- **Program Manager, Spartanburg Office.** We seek a highly motivated self-starter familiar with the Spartanburg County area to serve as full-time Program Manager. The Spartanburg office focuses on our Sustainable Communities program, implementing strategies and objectives set forth in the Active Living initiative of the Mary Black Foundation, which currently provides most of the funding for the office. Application deadline is July 27.
- **Clean Air and Water Program Associates.** Two positions are available in our Greenville office, both providing support for project managers and other Clean Air and Water program staff on a wide range of initiatives. Applications will be accepted until both positions are filled.

## 7. Sustainable Living Tip of the Month

"I feel an awesome "solar"darity with everyone on the planet, past and present, when I hang the laundry outside to dry under our magnificent, benevolent, sun. (The communal clotheslines of our college days are a pleasant, vivid memory even now 35 years later.) If you can't have a clothesline, wooden racks work well on a deck. The sun dries, freshens, and sanitizes as it saves you money on electricity, dryers and vitamin D tablets!"

-Barbara Allen  
*Upstate Forever* member

For more information about drying clothes outdoors, see this excellent recent article from the Minneapolis Star-Tribune: [www.newsobserver.com/2174/story/637302.html](http://www.newsobserver.com/2174/story/637302.html). Send your best sustainable living tip to [nfitzer@upstateforever.org](mailto:nfitzer@upstateforever.org); we may use it in a future publication!

## 8. Upcoming Events

### Upstate Forever Events

**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](mailto: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

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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](http://www.duke-energy.com/visitor-centers/world_of_energy.asp). For other information, contact Angela Viney at [aviney@upstateforever.org](mailto:aviney@upstateforever.org).

**November 10, Upstate Forever Annual Meeting, Camp Spearhead, Cleveland, SC.** Mark your calendar for Upstate Forever's annual celebration of the year's accomplishments, complete with good food, good company, and beautiful hikes.

## Other Events

**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](http://www.scasla.org).

**August 25, Biodiversity Study in the Clemson Forest, Clemson, SC, 9:00 a.m.** Guides John Garton and Skip Still will lead participants on trails through hardwood stands, along creeks, and beside wetlands to look at wildflowers, various species of trees, and critters from birds to salamanders. Biologists from the SCDNR will sample sections of a stream with electro-fishing equipment, which will allow us to capture and identify some of the 26 species of fish known from the creeks on the forest. Cost is \$10 plus SCWF membership. To register, visit [www.scwf.org/images/PDFs/scwf\\_events\\_reg\\_form\\_07.pdf](http://www.scwf.org/images/PDFs/scwf_events_reg_form_07.pdf) or call (803) 256-0670.

**September 7-9, Women's Outdoor Recreation Retreat, Camp Bob Cooper, Summerton, SC.** Sponsored by the SC Wildlife Federation, the Women's Outdoor Recreation Retreat is a multi-faceted opportunity to challenge the "woman within you." Nature hikes, kayaking, birding, canoeing, fishing, and many more outdoor adventures can be enjoyed in the company of like-minded ladies in a non-competitive environment. Open to females aged 16 and older. Registration fee is \$75; all equipment and supplies are provided. For more information and to register, visit [www.scwf.org/images//wor\\_registration\\_form07.pdf](http://www.scwf.org/images//wor_registration_form07.pdf) or call (803) 256-0670.

**September 15, Beach Sweep/River Sweep, 9:00 a.m. - noon.** South Carolina's annual waterway clean-up includes events statewide, including one in Spartanburg along the Pacolet River. For more information, visit SPACE at [www.spartanburgconservation.org](http://www.spartanburgconservation.org) or call (864)948-0000.

## 9. Lots o' Links

**[Spartanburg's ReGenesis Project Subject of EPA Documentary](#)**. The USEPA has released a DVD, "Environmental Justice: The Power of Partnerships," a documentary about the contaminated, low-income and minority Arkwright community in Spartanburg that is being transformed into a vibrant community.

**[America's #2 Greenest City: Pelzer!](#)** No, that's not a misprint; the Upstate town was a winner in Yahoo!'s recent "Be a Better Planet" promotion.

**["Make It Your Own" Grants Available](#)**. The Case Foundation has launched a grant program designed to help grassroots leaders involve their fellow citizens in dialogue, deliberation, and action on community problems. Awards range from \$10,000 - \$35,000; applications are due by August 8.

**[SC #2....in Oil Vulnerability](#)**. A new study by the Natural Resources Defense Council finds that South Carolina ranks second in the nation in "oil vulnerability," or sensitivity to increases in oil prices, likely due to high sprawl and low income levels. The average SC driver spends 5.6% of his or her income on gasoline, compared to 2.5% for the average Connecticut driver.

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[CA Sees Sprawl as Warming Culprit](#). California is pioneering the next battleground against global warming: filing suit to hold cities and counties accountable for greenhouse gas emissions caused by poorly-planned suburban sprawl.

[A Zero-Carbon, Zero-Waste City, Coming Soon](#). Would you like to live in a pedestrian-friendly city that is free of cars, powered by renewable energy, and surrounded by wind and photovoltaic farms? In 2009, you'll have the chance, but you'll have to move to Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates.

[Junk Mail Reduction](#). Greendimes will delete your name off catalog lists (for a fee) to decrease junk mail waste and save you the time of sorting through all of it.

## 10. Quote of the Month

"I like nuclear power. I'm a big fan of fusion. I think we should invest lots of money into nuclear power and consider using it for all our energy needs. And look - we've already got the perfect nuclear power plant. It's 93 million miles away. It's wireless. The construction costs are zero. Its operable lifetime is infinite. It's right there. What are we waiting for?"

- Bill McDonough, Green Architect & Designer speaking at a White House briefing to 40 federal agencies on sustainable energy, quoted in *Blue Ridge Outdoors*, June 2007

