

# Upstate Update

NUMBER 88

OCTOBER  
2007

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### 1. Upstate Forever Supports a More Stringent Ozone Standard

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to strengthen the nation's air quality standards for ground-level ozone, revising the standards for the first time since 1997. The proposal is based on the most recent scientific evidence about the health effects of ozone, the primary component of smog.

EPA's recommendation, made in June of this year, is to change the current standard of 80 parts per billion (ppb) to a range between 70 and 75 ppb. EPA also requested public comment on whether a new cumulative secondary standard for protecting crops and trees should be established.

*Upstate Forever* submitted a letter supporting EPA's proposal as well as a new secondary standard. EPA is expected to issue final standards in March 2008.

Ground-level ozone is not emitted directly into the air, but is created through a reaction of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compound emissions in the presence of sunlight. Emissions from industrial facilities, electric utilities, motor vehicle exhaust, gasoline vapors, and chemical solvents are the major human-made sources of these ozone precursors. Ozone can be harmful to people's lungs and is particularly dangerous for the elderly, people with respiratory illnesses, and children.

Here in the Upstate, most industry is already doing a good job of reducing ozone emissions. But transportation sources of ozone, especially cars, are a huge problem that is only getting worse. As development continues to sprawl outward, the number of vehicle miles traveled continues to increase each year. To reduce ozone emissions, it will be necessary to focus on more compact development and transportation alternatives. Thus, a more stringent ozone standard will not just protect public health: it will mean that the Upstate must finally get serious about land use planning.

And reducing ozone may take on even greater importance in the future. A new study, *Heat Advisory: How Global Warming Causes More Bad Air Days*, looks at global warming, ambient ozone, and public health in 10 U.S. cities, including Greenville. The study confirms that higher temperatures mean more smog for a given level of ozone precursor emissions, and concludes that Greenville could experience nearly a doubling in the number of "red alert" air pollution days in coming years as rising temperatures due to global warming increase smog in our region.

For more information about the EPA proposal to strengthen ground-level ozone standards, visit <http://epa.gov/groundlevelozone>. To read the full *Heat Advisory* report, visit [www.nrdc.org/global-warming/heatadvisory/contents.asp](http://www.nrdc.org/global-warming/heatadvisory/contents.asp).

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

## 2. Asbury Hills Methodist Camp Saved!

For over 30 years, one of the most important conservation projects in the nation has been the protection of the 1,900-acre Asbury Hills Methodist Camp in Northern Greenville County. With funding provided by the SC Conservation Bank, that goal was achieved last month with the signing of a conservation agreement between the Camp and The Nature Conservancy! *Upstate Forever* is honored to be named as the back-up land trust organization in the agreement. This tract was one of the last large forest blocks remaining unprotected in South Carolina's Southern Blue Ridge and connects with other protected lands at Table Rock Reservoir and Caesars Head State Park, where thousands of annual visitors gaze upon it from the viewing platform. Asbury Hills is also a biological hotspot, home to several rare and endangered plant and animal species and a pristine freshwater stream, Matthews Creek. Congratulations to everyone involved in this great accomplishment!

## 3. WNC Land Preserved

Another important conservation agreement signed in September by two adjoining landowners will protect 3,145 acres in western North Carolina. The land along the Green River borders DuPont State Forest in North Carolina and Jones Gap State Park in South Carolina and includes a summer camp and environmental education center. The agreement, held by the Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy, is one of the most significant agreements in Western North Carolina and was funded by grants from the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund and a large donation from Salisbury, NC residents Fred and Alice Stanback, who also were major contributors to the successful effort to save the Upstate's Stumphouse Mountain property this summer. Great work!

## 4. Pickens County Rolls Out Vision Plan; Oconee's is Underway

Last month, Pickens County unveiled its exciting "Vision 2025" long-range plan. The plan, available at [www.pickensvision2025.org](http://www.pickensvision2025.org), is divided into five sections: Planned Community, Working Community, Healthy and Safe Community, Sense of Place, and Educated Community. Specific goals include a land use plan accommodating smart growth, intergovernmental coordination, a "vigorous" public transportation plan, downtown revitalization, adaptive reuse of mills and other vacant buildings, expansion of land conservation programs, the preservation of natural and historic treasures, and the expansion of land conservation programs. We applaud the steering committee and all citizens involved for creating this wonderful plan, and we are eager to see the implementation phase begin. As the Vision 2025 logo aptly states to the people of Pickens County: "Your choice. Your voice."

Meanwhile, in Oconee County, now is the time to get involved in the planning process. Oconee by Choice (<http://oconeebychoice.com>) is creating a vision for the county up to the year 2028 and seeks citizen input. Visit the website to complete a [survey](#), or attend an upcoming public meeting. Meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, October 9 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Seneca High School and Thursday, October 11 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Walhalla High School. All of us who live, work, or play in Oconee County should take this opportunity to voice our vision for the future of the county.

## 5. Volunteer Update: New Projects and a New Coordinator

*Upstate Forever* is very fortunate to have a cadre of talented and dedicated volunteers who assist the staff in many critical areas. Recently, Donna and Lou Astle, Jason Hayden, Dan Roberts, Eston Rodgers, Virginia White, and Board member Kris Yon shared their time and talents in preparing materials and helping to host the Conservation Agreement Symposium on September 19, while Kris and Dan Gerst helped run our booth at the National Hunting & Fishing Family Adventure Day on September 22 at the World of Energy in Seneca. Dan, an experienced kayaker, also assisted in the canoeing and kayaking event. Thanks to our volunteers for making these projects so successful!

To further organize and publicize volunteer opportunities, we are thrilled to announce that volunteer Dan Roberts has recently taken on the role of Volunteer Coordinator at *Upstate Forever*. Dan is organizing volunteer participation and updating our database on volunteer contacts, talents, interests and availability through a Volunteer Feedback form. You may have received an email on this subject from Dan, but if not, you can soon find all the information on our website at [www.upstateforever.org/about\\_vol.html](http://www.upstateforever.org/about_vol.html) or you can contact Dan at [droberts@upstateforever.org](mailto:droberts@upstateforever.org).

Volunteering for *Upstate Forever* is a great way for us to host first-class events, to supplement our staff and to control our costs on many important *Upstate Forever* projects. Plus, our volunteers benefit by widening their circle of friends and picking up many new skills and talents! Upcoming projects are:

- Clean-up and preparation of the new office site at 507 Pettigru Street, Greenville;
- A “Save the Links” effort where we need to capture important articles and information from website sources before these web links “expire” and disappear from the Internet forever;
- Set-up, registration, child-care, clean-up and other tasks at our Annual Meeting on November 10.
- Preparing for our next Art and Conservation Celebration on January 31.

We also have the following ongoing projects that can always use your help:

- “Clip and Scan” weekly sessions to capture important print articles on conservation;
- “Compliance Hawks” sessions to ensure we are in audit compliance for our land trust record-keeping;
- “E-Team” project to build and maintain email distribution lists.

In addition, we are planning a Volunteer Training Day to teach (and learn!) such valuable skills as compass and GPS usage for mapping projects. Please [contact Dan](#) if you are interested in helping in these areas or in volunteering in any other way with *Upstate Forever*.

## 6. Annual Report Available Online

To reduce our consumption of natural and financial resources, we did not mail hard copies of *Upstate Forever's* 2006 Annual Report to our membership. We are proud of our many accomplishments last year and encourage you to view the full report on our website at [www.upstateforever.org/about\\_reports/ar\\_2006.pdf](http://www.upstateforever.org/about_reports/ar_2006.pdf). If you would like to have a printed copy mailed to you, please call our office at (864) 250-0500 or email [info@upstateforever.org](mailto:info@upstateforever.org).

## 7. Spartanburg Recognized as Bike-Friendly City

The City of Spartanburg is the first city in South Carolina to be named a Bronze Level Bicycle-Friendly Community by The League of American Bicyclists. The City was recognized for the recently completed two-mile rail-trail through downtown, financed with more than \$1 million in local funds. The honor is the result of three years of hard work by the City's Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee and the Bike Town Initiative of [Partners for Active Living](#). Congratulations, Spartanburg!

## 8. Update: No New High School on Clemson Forest Land

In [UU 87](#), we reported on the response to the Pickens County School Board's plan to build a new Daniel High School on 40 acres of Clemson Experimental Forest land. The good news is that Clemson President Jim Barker informed the School Board that the University would not sell any of the Forest, but the bad news is that the proponents are not giving up and apparently will try to convince the Clemson Board of Trustees to reverse President Barker's decision. So please ask the Trustees to stand by their President and protect the Clemson Forest! For Trustees contact information, visit [www.clemson.edu/bot/board.htm](http://www.clemson.edu/bot/board.htm).

## 9. Upcoming Events

### Upstate Forever Events

**October 6 - October 27 (Saturdays), Flicks at Furman: A Series of Environmental and Agricultural Topics, Furman University Amphitheatre, Greenville, SC, 8:00 p.m.** Join *Upstate Forever*, Greenville Organic Food Organization, and Furman University for free Saturday showings of six wonderful films:

**October 6:** *Freedom Fuels*, an in-depth look at renewable fuel sources, such as bio-diesel, ethanol and vegetable oil.

**October 13:** *The Future of Food*, an in-depth investigation into the disturbing truth behind the unlabeled, patented, genetically engineered foods that have quietly filled U.S. grocery store shelves for the past decade.

**October 20:** *Blue Vinyl*, part family comedy and part horrifying investigative reportage, a fascinating exploration of the need for alternative materials, examining the vinyl chloride industry and the health consequences.

**October 27:** *Beyond Organic: The Vision of Fairview Farms*, the story of a farm and its long battle to survive in the face of rapid suburban development.

Admission to the films is free of charge. In case of inclement weather, movies will be shown in Furman's University Center. For more information, contact John Tynan at [jtynan@upstateforever.org](mailto:jtynan@upstateforever.org) or (864) 250-0500.

**October 11 - October 25 (Thursdays), Green Screen Film Series, Hub-Bub Showroom, Spartanburg, SC, 7:00 p.m.** Join *Upstate Forever*, Hub-Bub, Partners for Active Living, and the Spartanburg Nutrition Council for free Thursday screenings of films focusing on conservation and community:

**October 11:** *Kilowatt Ours*, a journey from the coal mines of West Virginia to the solar panel fields of Florida, discovering common-sense solutions to America's energy-related problems. **Special guest speaker: Jeff Barrie, filmmaker.**

**October 18:** *Turn Here Sweet Corn*, a case study of the tragic loss of prime farmland to suburban sprawl, touching on the relationship between producers and consumers of food and the disappearance of rural culture.

**October 25:** *Third Ward TX*, about the economic and creative redemption of a traditionally

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African-American neighborhood in decline, through the efforts of a group of local artists, residents and volunteers.

For more information, contact *Upstate Forever's* Spartanburg office at [spartanburg@upstateforever.org](mailto:spartanburg@upstateforever.org) or (864) 327-0090.

**October 12, Building Our Future Speaker Series: Design-Based Planning Models, Spartanburg Marriott at Renaissance Park, Spartanburg, SC, 7:30 a.m.** The next event in our free breakfast series will feature Rick Bernhardt, Director of Planning for Nashville/Davidson County, Tennessee. This event is hosted by *Upstate Forever*, Partners for Active Living, and the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information or to register, contact [spartanburg@upstateforever.org](mailto:spartanburg@upstateforever.org) or call (864) 327-0090.

**November 3, Chuck Leavell in Concert, Centre Stage South Carolina, Greenville, SC 7:00 p.m.** Join us for a fabulous event benefiting *Upstate Forever* and sister land trusts in the Upstate. Spend an intimate evening with legendary rocker Chuck Leavell, fresh off the highly successful Rolling Stones Bigger Bang Tour of Europe, through the generosity of the Greenville-based U.S. Endowment for Forestry & Communities. General admission is \$100 with a limited number of VIP tickets available for \$250 (50% of ticket value is tax deductible). VIP packages allow you to sit front row and attend a private reception with Chuck where you will receive an autographed copy of his book *Between Rock and a Home Place* and a CD. To reserve your seats for this one-night-only performance, call Gretchen Wilson at (864) 250-0500 or email her at [gwilson@upstateforever.org](mailto:gwilson@upstateforever.org).

**November 10, Upstate Forever Annual Meeting, Camp Spearhead, Cleveland, SC, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.** Mark your calendar for *Upstate Forever's* annual celebration of the year's accomplishments, complete with good food, good company, beautiful hikes, and a performance by national banjo champion Charles Wood. For more information, contact Kirbie Crowe at [kcrowe@upstateforever.org](mailto:kcrowe@upstateforever.org) or (864) 250-0500.

## Other Events

*In late September, we launched a separate email bulletin with listings of events around the region that might be of interest to our members. If you already receive the Upstate Update by email, you are automatically subscribed to the events bulletin. If you are not on the events bulletin subscription list and would like to be added, email Nancy Fitzer at [nfitzer@upstateforever.org](mailto:nfitzer@upstateforever.org).*

## 10. Lots o' Links

**[CLEMP-sun, CLEM-zun, or CLEM-sun?](#)** Natives and newcomers alike will find answers to this question and many others in the entertaining and well-researched *SC Place Name Pronunciations Guide* from [www.sciway.net](http://www.sciway.net).

**[Complete Streets Gaining Traction.](#)** More municipalities and states are designing roads for pedestrians and bicycles as well as automobiles, as documented in this *USA Today* article.

**[Getting Greener: Progressive Environmental Ideas for the American South.](#)** The Center for a Better South has published a new book and website to help Southern policymakers move forward and respond responsibly to environmental challenges.

**[Outdoor Leadership School Opens in Upstate.](#)** The Glendale Outdoor Leadership School, a project of the Palmetto Conservation Foundation, has opened in Spartanburg County, and is offering outdoor recreation classes for all ages.

**[Uphill, Both Ways.](#)** October 3: International Walk to School Day.

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[Happy 40th Birthday, Bike Lanes.](#) In 1967 in Davis, CA, creating the nation's first bike lanes was an uphill climb.

[Commuting Creeps Earlier and Earlier.](#) Americans are leaving home earlier and earlier to beat the rush and get to work on time. This 'commuting creep' affects the breakfast-food industry, television viewership trends, traffic-signal timing, newspaper delivery times, carpooling patterns, personal fitness routines, and workers' relationships with their families.

[A Green Hotel Grows in Greensboro.](#) The new Proximity Hotel in Greensboro will feature 100 solar panels and will recycle 75 percent of its construction waste.

[Furman Named to Green College List.](#) Furman University was named one of 50 most environmentally conscious colleges and universities by KIWI Magazine.

## 11. Quote of the Month

"Based on current science, our current [ozone] health standard is insufficient to protect public health."

-Stephen Johnson, USEPA Administrator, quoted in the *Seattle Times*, 6/22/07

