

# Upstate update

NUMBER 95

J U L Y  
2 0 0 8

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

## In this Upstate Update:

1. Update on Dispute at the Cliffs
2. SC Conservation Bank Funds Nine Times and More
3. Spartanburg County Looks Ahead
4. Greenville's Carbon Footprint Small, But Growing
5. Golf Tourney and Land Trust Day Raise 15K!
6. Upcoming *Upstate Forever* Events
7. Lots o' Links
8. Quote of the Month



### 1. Update on Dispute at the Cliffs

As reported in [UU 94](#) and previous issues, there is a heated, ongoing controversy over the proposed plans for the 5,000-acre Cliffs at Mountain Park development in northern Greenville County. There is recent news about both disputed topics: the development's wastewater disposal system and its planned golf course.

- On June 17, we learned that the Cliffs had withdrawn its NPDES permit application to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) for the discharge of up to 175,000 gallons of treated wastewater per day into the North Saluda River, a high-quality stream that supports trout. Back in November, *Upstate Forever* led a coalition of conservation and community groups in strongly opposing the permit request. In January, in response to this outcry, the Cliffs proposed to treat the wastewater and then spray it on the land. However, the Cliffs declined to withdraw the original permit request—until now. They will be seeking a new permit for either a land application or a subsurface drip disposal system. We will carefully review the permit application after it is filed and actively participate in the administrative process. You can read more in this article from *The Greenville News*: [www.upstateforever.org/newsviews\\_ufnews/UFN\\_2008/ufn080618GN\\_CliffsChangesPlans.pdf](http://www.upstateforever.org/newsviews_ufnews/UFN_2008/ufn080618GN_CliffsChangesPlans.pdf).
- On June 24, the DHEC Board agreed to hear the appeal filed by *Upstate Forever* and five other conservation organizations concerning the design of the development's golf course. This is an encouraging sign, since the Board usually declines to hear appeals and allows cases to proceed directly to the South Carolina Administrative Law Court. The proposed golf course would be built along both sides of the North Saluda River for a distance of 2.5 miles and would include 16 bridges across the river. The appeal is based on the Cliffs' failure to consider and evaluate all feasible alternatives and the impact of the current design on water quality and wildlife habitat. The conservation organizations joining *Upstate Forever* in the appeal are Save Our Saluda, Sierra Club, South Carolina Native Plant Society, Trout Unlimited, and South Carolina Wildlife Federation, representing over 20,000 citizens. (To read the [press release](#) about the appeal, visit [www.upstateforever.org/newsviews\\_pr/PR08\\_05\\_29Cliffs.pdf](http://www.upstateforever.org/newsviews_pr/PR08_05_29Cliffs.pdf).) The appeal will be heard by the DHEC Board at its July 10 meeting.

### 2. SC Conservation Bank Funds Nine Times and More

In a year that almost saw funding for the South Carolina Conservation Bank disappear entirely, we are excited to announce that several of *Upstate Forever's* applications were approved at the Bank's biannual board meeting on June 18. The biggest news: \$1.5 million was awarded to The Nature

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

# Upstate update

NUMBER 95  
JULY  
2008

Conservancy to fund the purchase of a 560-acre section of the Nine Times tract in Pickens County, one of the most ecologically significant properties in the Southeast. Last fall, Crescent Resources announced that it was going to put the entire tract on the market. To keep the property from being lost, **Upstate Forever** borrowed the entire amount of the purchase price (\$2.7 million) to acquire the 560-acre section and obtained an exclusive two year option to purchase the remaining 1,648 acres. With the Conservation Bank award and private funds that have already been raised, The Nature Conservancy will be able to purchase the 560 acres from **Upstate Forever**, which will use the proceeds to completely pay off the debt and other costs. The Nature Conservancy will own and manage the property as a nature preserve for public use and enjoyment. We are working closely with The Nature Conservancy and other partners on strategies to acquire and protect the remainder of the Nine Times property. For more information, see [UU 90](#).

Although Nine Times was not a candidate for a conservation agreement, **Upstate Forever's Land Trust Program** focuses on these voluntary legal agreements with landowners to permanently limit or prohibit development on their properties while retaining private ownership. The Conservation Bank Board approved five applications submitted by **Upstate Forever** to fully or partially fund conservation agreements on these significant Upstate properties:

- Lakemont, a 75-acre property in the Blue Ridge Escarpment in Northern Greenville County, adjacent to Asbury Hills United Methodist Camp;
- Sutherland Tract, a 130-acre property along the Twelve Mile River in Pickens County;
- Bird Point Farm, an 80-acre tract in Anderson County that forms part of the largest wetland in the Upstate (the conservation agreement on this property will be held by Ducks Unlimited);
- Rose Hill Phase 1, a 336-acre property that will fill in a missing piece in the protected landscape between Stumphouse Mountain, Oconee State Park, and Sumter National Forest in Oconee County; and
- Tumbling Shoals, a 650-acre property in Laurens County with three miles of frontage on the Reedy River.

In all, the five conservation agreements plus the Nine Times purchase were granted \$2,995,000 out of a total of \$9.5 million distributed by the Bank in this funding cycle. For more information about the SC Conservation Bank, visit <http://sccbanc.sc.gov/>.

### 3. Spartanburg County Looks Ahead

Spartanburg County is carefully evaluating its Unified Land Management Ordinance (ULMO) and other growth management policies and regulations. A consultants' draft audit report, available at [www.spartanburgcounty.org/govt/depts/cc/gmlu.htm](http://www.spartanburgcounty.org/govt/depts/cc/gmlu.htm), has identified many weaknesses in current regulations. The report suggests numerous policy changes to preserve rural character, protect natural resources, improve both vehicular and pedestrian connectivity, protect the character of neighborhoods and corridors, acquire parkland, manage road access (i.e. curb cuts), and more.

One glaring limitation identified in the current ULMO is that there is no zoning or other regulation of land uses in Spartanburg County, yet mixed-use development is effectively banned. So a developer can locate incompatible uses adjacent to one another, but cannot construct residential and retail units in the same development. For further comments on this issue, read the article by **Upstate Forever's** Spartanburg Office Director Angela Viney in the June 2008 issue of *On the Move*: [www.upstateforever.org/onthemove/OTM\\_14\\_jun08.pdf](http://www.upstateforever.org/onthemove/OTM_14_jun08.pdf).

Spartanburg County is also updating its Stormwater Management Ordinance to comply with Federal requirements. This presents a golden opportunity to incorporate low impact development techniques into

their regulations. Conventional development relies on directing stormwater runoff into a pipe system, which leads to a detention pond, which ultimately releases into a local waterway. Such a system does not provide adequate treatment for the runoff and results in further water quality degradation. In contrast, low impact development utilizes a variety of methods to reduce the quantity while also improving the quality of stormwater runoff.

*Upstate Forever* is advocating for the inclusion in Spartanburg's updated stormwater ordinance of mandatory stream buffering, allowing alternatives to detention ponds, and the identification of flood-prone zones in areas lacking official floodplain maps. These policies would serve to protect the health of the County's rivers and streams and maintain the water table. For more information, see *Upstate Forever's* Urban Rivers Project Manager Heather Nix's op-ed in the *Spartanburg Herald-Journal*: [www.goupstate.com/article/20080629/NEWS/806290303](http://www.goupstate.com/article/20080629/NEWS/806290303).

#### 4. Greenville's Carbon Footprint Small, But Growing

Greenville's carbon footprint is surprisingly small compared to cities nationwide, according to a new report released by The Brookings Institution. The report, titled "Shrinking the Carbon Footprint of Metropolitan America," quantifies the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of the transportation (passenger and freight) and residential (energy use by buildings) sectors for the 100 largest metropolitan areas from 2000-2005.

Greenville had the 13<sup>th</sup> smallest footprint, with 1.859 tons of carbon from highway transportation and residential energy emitted per capita in 2005, as compared with 2.24 tons of carbon emitted by the average resident of the 100 largest metro areas and 2.60 tons by the average American. While no other Upstate metro areas were included in the rankings, we can favorably compare Greenville's data with nearby cities: Charleston ranked 43<sup>rd</sup>, Columbia 52<sup>nd</sup>, Atlanta 67<sup>th</sup>, and Charlotte 72<sup>nd</sup>.

While ranking #13 is something to celebrate, the report also notes a troubling trend: Greenville's carbon emissions are increasing at a rate many times faster than that of the rest of the nation. "Metropolitan Greenville's per capita footprint from transportation and residential energy use increased 9.79 percent between 2000 and 2005. The average per capita footprint of the 100 largest metro areas and of the nation increased 1.1 percent and 2.2 percent during this time, respectively," according to the report. Investing in transportation alternatives and promoting compact, walkable communities are two ways we can reverse this trend. The complete report and metro area profiles are available at [www.brookings.edu/reports/2008/05\\_carbon\\_footprint\\_sarzynski.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/reports/2008/05_carbon_footprint_sarzynski.aspx).

#### 5. Golf Tourney and Land Trust Day Raise \$15K!

Two of our biggest fundraising events, Land Trust Day and the *Upstate Forever* Golf Tournament, take place each June. For the fifth year in a row, Mast General Store's Greenville location has designated *Upstate Forever* as the land trust organization to receive 20% of gross sales on Land Trust Day, which this year took place on June 7. *Upstate Forever* staff and volunteers welcomed shoppers all day long, while Mast's enthusiastic staff sported Upstate Forever t-shirts. Wildlife artist Bruce Bunch set up a temporary studio among the camping gear, donating 20% of his sales to our organization.

*Upstate Forever's* annual charity golf tournament was held at Carolina Springs Golf Club on June 19. Participants enjoyed a lovely day on the links, lunch, and silent auction thanks to presenting sponsor Carpenter Investors and additional sponsors Fairway Ford, Phillips Staffing, Eagle Zone, Whole Foods, and Capita Employer Resources. Together, the two events raised over \$15,000! Thank you to our generous benefactors, as well as to all the wonderful shoppers and duffers!

## 6. Upcoming Upstate Forever Events

Sunday, July 6

**Flicks For Thought: A Film Series about Sustainable Solutions  
“Food”**

**Upcountry History Museum, Greenville, SC, 2:00 p.m.**

We’ve all been told to “eat local,” but what does that really mean? The next film in the series presented by *Upstate Forever*, Greenville Organic Foods Organization, and the Upcountry History Museum, “Food” examines current food systems around the globe and suggests how these systems could be altered to increase affordability and access for all segments of the population. Organic farmers, food co-op participants, and food system innovators are all interviewed for this eye-opening, hour-long documentary. Snacks and drinks are generously provided by Whole Foods Market. Admission to the film is included in the museum entrance fee (adults: \$5, students and seniors: \$4, children 4-12: \$3, children under 4: free). Contact Kirbie Crowe at [kcrowe@upstateforever.org](mailto:kcrowe@upstateforever.org) or (864) 250-0500x21 for more information.

Thursday, July 17

**Flicks for Thought: A Film Series about Sustainable Solutions  
“The Next Industrial Revolution”**

**Upcountry History Museum, Greenville, SC, 7:30 p.m.**

In the next film in the series presented by *Upstate Forever*, Greenville Organic Foods Organization, and the Upcountry History Museum, architect William McDonough and chemist Michael Braungart, authors of the groundbreaking text *Cradle to Cradle*, are the subjects of this 55-minute documentary. McDonough and Braungart have partnered with corporations such as Ford and Nike to reshape existing business practices on an innovative, ecologically-sound model. The museum will re-open at 6:00 p.m. so that filmgoers can explore the museum’s exhibits. Snacks and drinks are generously provided by Whole Foods Market. Admission to the film is included in the museum entrance fee (adults: \$5, students and seniors: \$4, children 4-12: \$3, children under 4: free). For more information, contact Kirbie Crowe at [kcrowe@upstateforever.org](mailto:kcrowe@upstateforever.org) or (864) 250-0500x21.

Saturday, July 19

**Rain Barrel Workshop**

**Carolina Garden World, Spartanburg, SC, 10:00 a.m.**

Outdoor watering accounts for as much as 50% of a typical household’s water use. Rain barrels are easy to use and can be connected directly to a hose or used to fill up watering cans. *Upstate Forever* and Carolina Garden World are hosting a workshop to teach the ins and outs of rain barrel installation, use and maintenance. The \$50 fee for the workshop includes a rain barrel, which normally retails for \$100, to take home. To register, contact Ned Barrett at [nbarrett@upstateforever.org](mailto:nbarrett@upstateforever.org) or (864) 327-0090 by July 11. The workshop is sponsored by SJWD Water District and the Spartanburg Water System.

Thursday, July 24

**Low Impact Development Breakfast Series: Designing Effective Bio-Retention Systems**

**Speaker: Frank Hahne, PE, former Project Manager, Mecklenburg County Water Quality**

**Innovate Building, 148 River Street, Greenville, SC, 7:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.**

Low Impact Development, an alternative stormwater management strategy, uses a decentralized design that may include a number of integrated management practices, such as bio-retention systems. Frank Hahne will address concerns that bio-retention systems cannot be implemented in the Upstate and will share lessons learned during his career regarding the design, construction, and maintenance of bio-retention systems in Charlotte-Mecklenburg County. Coffee and breakfast will be provided free of charge. To register, contact Lisa Hallo at [lhhallo@upstateforever.org](mailto:lhhallo@upstateforever.org) or (864) 250-0500x33.

# Upstate update

NUMBER 95  
J U L Y  
2 0 0 8

**Saturday, July 26**

**10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Field Trip**

**Swamp Rabbit Bike Ride**

**Swamp Rabbit Tram Trail, Travelers Rest and Greenville, SC, 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

The Greenville County Recreation District is graciously allowing *Upstate Forever* to preview the Greenville Hospital System Swamp Rabbit Tram Trail! Enjoy a guided ride on the trail with staff from *Upstate Forever*, Sunrift Adventures, and GCRD. Cost: \$15, with bike rental available for an additional \$20. This trip is limited to just 15 *Upstate Forever* members, so register today by contacting Gretchen Wilson at [gwilson@upstateforever.org](mailto:gwilson@upstateforever.org) or (864) 250-0500x28.

**Thursday, August 28**

**Saving More than Money: Energy Efficiency in the Home**

**Barrett Room, Spartanburg County Public Library, Spartanburg, SC, 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

This workshop -- designed for architects, engineers, real estate professionals, builders, homeowners, and home renovators -- will address the range of green residential options available. Hear testimonials from Upstate residents who have built various green homes, greening options for renovators, and low cost energy conservation options for anyone. This workshop, sponsored by *Upstate Forever* and the South Carolina Energy Office, qualifies attendees for four hours of professional development for architects and engineers. For more information, contact Ned Barrett at [nbarrett@upstateforever.org](mailto:nbarrett@upstateforever.org) or (864) 327-0090.

**Thursday, August 28**

**Low Impact Development Breakfast Series: Using Rain as a Resource**

**Speaker: Cullen Pitts, AIA, McMillan Smith & Partners Architects**

**Innovate Building, 148 River Street, Greenville, SC 7:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.**

Harvesting rainfall not only reduces runoff from development sites but also provides developers and owners an opportunity to make use of this natural resource by capturing it for later non-potable uses such as irrigation. Rain harvesting also reduces the need for public potable water supply and thus reduces costs. Cullen Pitts will discuss the rain harvesting system at QS/1 Data Systems in Spartanburg. Mr. Pitts's discussion will be complemented by a local landscape architect who will discuss the use of native plants to reduce the need for permanent irrigation. Coffee and breakfast will be provided free of charge. To register, contact Lisa Hallo at [lhalla@upstateforever.org](mailto:lhalla@upstateforever.org) or (864) 250-0500x33.

**Thursday, September 11 - Friday, September 12**

**Creating Partnerships for Healthy Communities:**

**The Priority Investment Act and School Facility Planning**

**Barrett Room, Spartanburg County Public Library, Spartanburg, SC**

This two-day conference is designed for school administrators, county and city administrators, and planners throughout the Upstate. With the passage of the Priority Investment Act (PIA) in 2007, school siting and building will require coordination between various sectors of government. This conference is intended to facilitate that process. The first day will focus on analysis of the PIA and barriers to and strategies for collaboration. The second day will spotlight neighborhood schools, historic preservation, and the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System for Schools. For more information, contact Ned Barrett at [nbarrett@upstateforever.org](mailto:nbarrett@upstateforever.org) or (864) 327-0090.

## 7. Lots o' Links

**[Sustainable Greenville - Online](#)**. A new website is devoted to connecting citizens with green organizations, businesses, and events in the Greenville area.

**[Get a CFL](#)**. Greenville and Greenwood Counties are participating in a national challenge to citizens to pledge to switch to CFLs and take other energy-saving measures. Log on and help your county win 1,000 efficient light bulbs!

# Upstate Update

NUMBER 95  
J U L Y  
2 0 0 8

**And Recycle Your CFLs.** The Home Depot now accepts used compact fluorescent light bulbs for recycling at all of its U.S. locations, which is great news for those concerned about mercury contamination.

**RIP SUV.** Is the SUV dead?

**Bottled Water May Be Tapped Out.** Tap water is making a comeback.

**The Challenge of Urban Trees.** Cities across the country are undertaking ambitious tree-planting programs, but getting them in the ground and keeping them alive can be a trial.

**Climate Legislation Stalls, But Vote Creates Momentum.** Last month the US Senate voted to discontinue debate on a historic global warming bill, but support for climate solutions is increasing.

**The Latest SCORP.** The South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism has recently completed the 2008 South Carolina State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).


## 8. Quote of the Month

“The green collar job boom is here. Renewable energy and energy efficiency are economic powerhouses.”

--Neal Lurie, American Solar Energy Society, quoted in *Nation's Cities Weekly*, 5/12/08

**Upstate Forever**  
PO Box 2308 • Greenville, SC • 29602

---



---

**Upstate Update 95**

### ***Subscribe to the Upstate Update by email!***

Send your email address to [kcrowe@upstateforever.org](mailto:kcrowe@upstateforever.org). You'll receive these monthly updates and other important info sooner *and* save paper and postage.

(If you wish to continue to receive a paper copy, no action needs to be taken.)

6

*Upstate Forever*

---Promoting sensible growth and the protection of special places in the Upstate since 1998---