

Upstate Update

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

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October 23, 2004, Caesar's Head Lodge, 10:30 a.m.

Upstate Forever's Fifth Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars and join us at beautiful Caesar's Head Lodge. Following lunch we will offer hiking trips for every ability level. More information to follow by mail, or feel free to contact our office at (864) 250-0500 or info@upstateforever.org. For *Upstate Forever* members.

Upstate Forever Asks For Comprehensive Study of Proposed Lake in Union County.

Local officials and business leaders in Union County have launched a vigorous and well organized campaign to construct a 5,300-acre lake within the Sumter National Forest. The proponents believe that the lake, which would be created by constructing a dam on the Tyger River just below its confluence with Fairforest Creek, would attract both tourists and permanent residents, thus boosting Union County's struggling economy. The plan also involves transferring about 1,400 acres of Forest Service lands to private interests for lakeside development.

Three prominent conservation organizations—the Sierra Club, the National Audubon Society, and the South Carolina Wildlife Federation—have announced their strong opposition to the project.

Given the great importance of free-flowing rivers and streams and the large number of lakes and reservoirs that we already have in our region, *Upstate Forever* would normally oppose a project of this nature. We cannot, however, ignore the severe economic challenges facing Union County—an unemployment rate of 14 per cent, a population in decline (young people and professionals are leaving the county), high rates of poverty, and low per capita incomes. Nor can we deny that many proponents of the project are long time Union County residents motivated only by a heartfelt desire to address the area's economic plight.

In the spirit of seeking solutions that balance both environmental and economic needs, *Upstate Forever* has decided at this time to ask only for a comprehensive, objective and independent study of the costs and benefits—both economic and environmental—of the project. In an August 30, 2004 letter to William Jeter, the leading proponent of the project, we list and briefly describe the major topics that should be considered in such a study. The entire letter is posted on our website, http://www.upstateforever.org/front_union.htm. (If you do not have access to our website, please call and we will be glad to mail you a copy of the letter).

Promoting sensible growth and protecting special places in the Upstate

Below is the list of the topics that we believe should be thoroughly evaluated in the study:

ECONOMIC BENEFITS AND IMPACTS

- Market for and Benefits of Private Lakefront Development
- Cost of Providing Services to Lakefront Residents
- Benefits of Constructing Project
- Impact of Lake on Upstream Dischargers
- Water Supply

ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE IMPACTS

- Impacts on Fish and Wildlife
- Impacts on Public Lands and Uses
- Impacts of Urbanization on the Lake
- Water Quality Impacts of Upstream Point Source Dischargers on the Lake

Most Upstate House Members Receive Poor Marks on First Conservation Scorecard.

The First Conservation Scorecard from the Conservation Voters of South Carolina (CVSC) is out, and most of the 35 Upstate representatives in the South Carolina House did poorly. The Scorecard rated votes on the following key environmental issues during the 2004 session of the General Assembly: Raiding Conservation Trust Funds, Isolated Wetlands Protection, Increased Nuclear Waste at Barnwell, Priority Investment Areas, Legislative Control of Agency Regulations, and Local Control/ Factory Hog and Poultry Operations. Points were awarded for each pro-environment vote and for the first non-vote. Points were not awarded for anti-environment votes or for subsequent non-votes. Excused absences were not included when averaging scores.

House Member & Home County	Score	House Member & Home County	Score
Karl Allen, Greenville	25%	Bill Sandifer, III, Oconee	10%
Harry Cato, Greenville	0%	Phil Sinclair, Spartanburg	22%
Daniel Cooper, Anderson	0%	B. R. Skelton, Pickens	30%
G. Randolph Davenport, Jr., Spartanburg	44%	Fletcher Smith, Greenville	0%
Jeffrey Duncan, Laurens	11%	Garry Smith, Greenville	25%
Glenn Hamilton, Greenville	22%	Doug Smith, Spartanburg	13%
Gloria Arias-Haskins, Greenville	22%	Scott Talley, Spartanburg	60%
Bob Leach, Greenville	11%	J. Adam Taylor, Greenville	13%
Brenda Lee, Spartanburg	63%	Michael Thompson, Anderson	40%
Lanny Littlejohn, Spartanburg	40%	Ronald Townsend, Anderson	0%
Dwight Loftis, Greenville	0%	Daniel Tripp, Greenville	0%
Joseph Mahaffey, Spartanburg	40%	Teddy Trotter, Pickens	10%
Becky Rogers Martin, Anderson	22%	Lewis Vaughn, Greenville	20%
David Owens, Pickens	0%	Bob Walker, Spartanburg	0%
J. Anne Parks, Greenwood	89%	W. Brian White, Anderson	0%
Gene Pinson, Greenwood	22%	William Whitmire, Oconee	10%
Michael Pitts, Laurens	22%	David Wilkins, Greenville	10%
Rex Rice, Pickens	40%		

Of the 124 total members in the House, only eight earned a perfect score of 100, and none were from our region. Another 14 members scored an absolute zero - nine of these represent Upstate counties. While the average score statewide was a dismal 41 per cent, in the Upstate it was even worse at 21 per cent.

The CVSC was unable to rate members of the South Carolina Senate because a recorded vote occurs only when five Senators request it, and that happened only once during the 2004 session on a significant environmental issue. Our Senators should demand more recorded votes on these issues.

If more South Carolinians will hold our legislators accountable, they will vote more often to protect our clean air, water and quality of life.

Below is a list of the Upstate representatives and their average scores. To view the entire list, visit this website: <http://www.conservationvotersofsc.org/scorecard.pdf>

SRWC Launches Web-Based Survey

Upstate residents will have a unique opportunity to express their opinions about a variety of issues related to water quality. The Saluda-Reedy Watershed Consortium (SRWC), in collaboration with Clemson University and the Center for the Advancement of Marketing and Social Science (CAMSS), has designed four online surveys, each for a different audience: Upstate residents in general; municipals officials; environmental professionals; and developers and construction professionals. The goal of the surveys is to determine the water quality issues the public feels are most important and how these issues drive residents' attitudes and actions. Please follow the appropriate link below to complete the survey.

General public: http://johnryan.clemson.edu/SRWC_Public/servlet/Page1

Municipal officials: http://johnryan.clemson.edu/SRWC_Municipal/servlet/Page1

Environmental professionals: http://johnryan.clemson.edu/SRWC_Professional/servlet/Page1

Developers: http://johnryan.clemson.edu/SRWC_Developer/servlet/Page1

In the interest of ensuring the widest possible respondent pool, the project team is looking for agencies willing to host a link to the surveys from their websites.

If you are interested in hosting this survey on your own website, please contact one of the following project researchers: Catherine Mobley, 864-656-3815, camoble@clemson.edu; James Witte, 864-656-3816; jwitte@clemson.edu

Thank you for your interest and participation!

Upcoming Events

Upstate Forever Events

October 2, Garner's Natural Foods, Grand Re-Opening Celebration, Greenville, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Music, food, classes, and many other activities. *Upstate Forever* will have a table at the store, and Garner's will donate \$5 for every new individual membership and \$10 for every new family membership. So please ask your friends to come to the store that day, have a lot of fun, and join *Upstate Forever*!

October 12, Open House, Upstate Forever's Spartanburg Office, 100 E. Main Street, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Please plan to join us as we celebrate the opening of our new office in Spartanburg! Stop by and meet our outstanding Spartanburg staff, learn about our Active Living Initiative, and enjoy some light refreshments. Please RSVP to Molly Parnes at (864) 327-0090 or mparnes@upstateforever.org Hope to see you on October 12!

October 23, Upstate Forever's Fifth Annual Membership Meeting, Caesar's Head Lodge, 10:30 a.m. Mark your calendars and join us at beautiful Caesar's Head Lodge. Following lunch we will offer hiking trips for every ability level. More information to follow by mail, or feel free to contact our office at (864) 250-0500 or info@upstateforever.org For *Upstate Forever* members.

Ongoing, Garner's Natural Foods, Greenville, S.C. Recycle your grocery bags and help raise funds for *Upstate Forever*. If you are shopping at Garner's on Antrim Drive, you can help *Upstate Forever* by taking your own shopping bag for your groceries. For every bag you save Garner's, they will give you a bean to drop into your choice of three jars - one jar is for *Upstate Forever*. At the end of the campaign, we will receive 5 cents for every bean.

Other Events

October 6-8, New Bern, North Carolina. "Growing Economies with Community Design." Presented by the North Carolina Smart Growth Alliance. The focus of this summit is strengthening our economy through the application of the ten principles of smart growth. <http://www.ncsmartgrowth.org/events/2004Summit/>

October 9, Pee Dee Conservation Symposium, Darlington, SC, 9:00 a.m. This seminar will address the issue of conservation and agriculture - what's being accomplished in the Pee Dee region and how it's done elsewhere. Dana Leavitt, *Upstate Forever's* Land Trust Director, will make a presentation about conservation easements. <http://www.peedee.org/landtrust/PDConsSymp.pdf>

October 13-15, Georgia Planning Association 2004 Fall Conference, Young Harris, GA. This conference's 40 breakout sessions are arranged to accommodate 5 tracks, including Transportation Planning, Comprehensive Planning and Quality Growth, Environmental Planning, Zoning and Development, and Professional Development. For more information or to register, visit http://www.georgiaplanning.org/stuff/registration_form_color.pdf

November 10-12, Green Planning 2004: Integrating Urban and Community Forestry in Planning. Crowne Plaza Hilton Head Island Resort. This conference is co-sponsored by the SC Urban and Community Forestry Council and the SC Chapter of the American Planning Association. <http://www.scurbanforestry.org/pages/760088/index.htm>



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.

Did You Know....

... that at 3,560 feet, Sassafras Mountain in Pickens County is South Carolina's highest mountain peak?¹

....that the greatest distance across South Carolina is 275 miles?²

.... and that our state has more than 800 miles of interstate highways and 40,000 miles of primary and secondary state roads?³

....that the Carolina mantis was designated the official South Carolina state insect in 1988?⁴

Lots o' Links

"Connectivity and What It Means For Your Community." Read about how building streets in a grid network instead of a series of cul-de-sacs helps diffuse traffic congestion. This, and other articles about land use issues, are in the latest issue of GCPC News from the Greenville County Planning Commission. http://www.greenvilleplanning.com/GCPCnews_summer04.pdf

Traffic Calming Measures Gaining Popularity Across U.S. Communities across the country are narrowing existing thoroughfares and abandoning plans for multi-lane highways in favor of boulevards. <http://mlui.org/growthmanagement/fullarticle.asp?fileid=16739>

Worsening Congestion Costing Billions of Dollars and Hours. Throughout the nation, drivers are spending more time tied up in traffic, according to a recent study of 85 urban areas by the Texas Transportation Institute. According to the 2004 Urban Mobility Report, Americans spent 3.5 billion hours stuck in delays and wasted 5.7 billion gallons of fuel, at an estimated national cost of \$63.2 billion. To download the report or to see specific information for each of the 85 areas, visit <http://mobility.tamu.edu/ums/>

AIA's List of the Top Ten Green Buildings of 2004. This list by the American Institute of Architects include an affordable house with a green roof, a 27-story residential tower, and several buildings constructed on former brownfields. <http://www.aia.org/aiarchitect/thisweek04/tw0423/0423cote.htm>

Four Threats. U. S. Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth has identified the four biggest threats facing our nation's forests and grasslands in the twenty-first century: Fire and Fuels, Invasive Species, Loss of Open Space, Unmanaged Recreation. To learn more, visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/projects/four-threats/>

"Green" Products and Organizations. This year's "Green Festival" will feature numerous exhibitors that represent environmentally-friendly products and practices, and they have listed them on their website. For a list of more than 250 links, click here: http://www.greenfestivals.com/green_exhibit_dis.php

How Much Do YOU Contribute in Greenhouse Gases? Use the EPA's calculators to estimate your household's greenhouse gas emissions, and find out how you can reduce them. <http://yosemite.epa.gov/oar/globalwarming.nsf/content/ResourceCenterToolsGHGCalculator.html>

S. C. Heritage Preserves. In its 69 different sites throughout the state, SCDNR's Heritage Trust Program has protected more than 81,000 acres of land rich in natural and cultural features that are representative of the state's heritage. Fifteen of the sites are right here in the Upstate. Click here for a map and a little information about each one. <http://www.dnr.state.sc.us/wild/heritage/hp/hpmap.html>

¹ <http://www.sciway.net/facts/>

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ <http://www.scstatehouse.net/studentpage/insect.htm>

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Upstate Waterfalls. The Upstate is home to some of the nation's most spectacular waterfalls. Here are just a few links to websites that highlight some of them. <http://www.mountaintravelguide.com/Waterfalls/southcarolina/oconee/OconeeCountyWaterfalls.htm>
<http://www.mountaintravelguide.com/Waterfalls/southcarolina/pickens/PickensCountyWaterfalls.htm>
<http://www.ncwaterfalls.com/sc1.htm>
<http://www.sctrails.net/Trails/ALLTRAILS/waterfalls/Waterfalls.html>
<http://www.discoverouthcarolina.com/whattodo/hiking.asp>

Quote of the Month

"The extinction crisis is over. We lost."
Stephen M. Meyer, "The End of the Wild"
Boston Review, May/June 2004

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