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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Upstate Forever Offers Free Water Quality Field Trips and Tours for Community Leaders

Local conservation nonprofit Upstate Forever recently announced the launch of its 2006 water quality field trip and watershed tour series. These events are offered free of charge to community leaders of all kinds, from local government officials to business leaders to neighborhood advocates.

“Our tours and field trips are designed to give community leaders the information they need to be better stewards of our rivers and lakes,” said Jason Van Driesche, Director of Watershed Conservation for Upstate Forever. “Clean, abundant water is a critical resource for the Upstate, and protecting our water quality will require broad collaboration across the entire region.”

The focus throughout is on the water resource issues that are most important to our region’s future: controlling stormwater, reducing erosion and sedimentation, and managing floodplains. In addition, speakers emphasize the opportunities for high-quality development that come with effective protection of our water resources. “Everyone has seen the recent success of development projects along the Reedy River in downtown Greenville,” Van Driesche noted. “Those projects wouldn’t have happened without clean water in the river.”

The events range from intensive 90-minute in-the-field seminars to half-day multi-site field trips to full-day tours that cover a wide range of issues. All events feature expert speakers onsite, and longer trips include lunch and transportation.

For more information on these tours and trips, including detailed agendas, please visit the project website at www.saludareedy.org and click on “Upcoming Events.” To inquire about registering for a particular event, contact Kathy at 864-596-5075.