

THE PALMETTO PLANNER



American Planning Association
South Carolina Chapter
Making Great Communities Happen

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Presidents Message

I hope that 2009 has been productive for each of you so far and are ready for an exciting year ahead. Positive things are happening in the planning field and we should all look forward to new ideas and programs within the next few years.

Infrastructure – this is the word that we are hearing over and over. Infrastructure improvements are at the forefront of political discussions and now is the time for us to update our plans in these areas of our local communities. Become a part of the discussions in your local city or county. Be knowledgeable of the implementation programs that may be initiated at the national and state levels. Be prepared. We have been advocating for Planning as a term on the national stage: it is here – let's make the most of it.

In a recent APA conference call for chapter presidents, APA outlined infrastructure as the top priority in planning legislation over the next year as economic recovery continues. You can see this focus from the program outline for the

APA National Conference in April in Minneapolis. I hope that you will be able to attend this exciting conference.

Continuing education is an issue that all of us face from state required training to AICP continuing education. Even though the costs of hosting these events continues to rise, SCAPA will strive to provide quality programs at a manageable cost. Three conferences will be offered in 2009 across the state that will provide you and your staff the opportunities to continue to learn new things in our profession. With budgets being restricted, we understand that quality and affordability are paramount and we will look at new opportunities to provide this service to you.

The SCAPA Executive Committee met in December to begin discussions on chapter policies for the next year and we are excited to begin work. Additional information will be provided over the next few months by email and our website. Be on the lookout



for this.

Lastly, I want to thank you for electing me President of SCAPA. Our organization is a great way to hone your skills, share your ideas and network with others. It's also a great place to make new friends. I encourage you to participate, get active in the organization and assist us in 'Making Great Communities Happen'.

Phil Lindler, AICP

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2009 SCAPA Spring Conference— March 20th
Anne Springs Close Greenway Dairy Barn, Fort Mill, SC
Details on page 3

SCAPA AWARDS

Every two years, the South Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association recognizes outstanding efforts and achievements that advance the art and science of planning in the Palmetto State. Each of the plans, projects, and individuals recognized will demonstrate a contribution to the improvement of the quality of life for South Carolinians. These awards were announced Friday, October 17th at the Chapters Annual Conference held in Pawley's Island, South Carolina.

Outstanding Planning Project – Large Jurisdiction, Small Jurisdiction, and Multi-jurisdictional

Awarded in three separate categories for a policy, plan, study, inventory, program, development project, implementation strategy, ordinance, or other product of planning practice which meets some overall of the following evaluation criteria:

- **Innovation:** originality of concept or appreciable refinement of existing techniques.
- **Transferability:** potential application to other geographic areas, jurisdiction, or to other projects.
- **Quality:** excellence of thought, analysis, writing, graphics, presentation, or communication.
- **Implementation:** success and effectiveness of project or potential for such if not already implemented.
- **Comprehensiveness:** consideration of planning principles and broad range of public and private objections.
- **Significance:** overall importance at local, regional, and/or state planning level.

Large jurisdiction are those with a service area of 50,000 population or greater. Small jurisdiction are those serving a population base of less than 50,000. A multi-jurisdictional project is a partnership of multiple local governments or multiple levels of government.



The Distinguished Planner 2008 was awarded to

Nathaniel “Chip” Land, AICP



Award of Merit Large Jurisdiction: Richland County Transportation



Outstanding Planning Project Small Jurisdiction: Southeast/Lower Richland Subarea Transportation Study

LEFT—Outstanding Planning Project Multi-Jurisdictional: York County/Rock Hill

RIGHT –Outstanding Project Innovative Use of Technology: Cherrydale Area Plan



Not pictured Outstanding Planning Project Large Jurisdiction: Johns Island Community Plan

2009 SCAPA Conferences

Codes: Challenges and Opportunities

March 20, 2009

2009 SCAPA Spring Conference

Anne Springs Close Greenway Dairy Barn

Fort Mill, South Carolina



Please plan to join your fellow planning and zoning professionals for the SCAPA Spring Conference at the Dairy Barn, built in 1946, on the Anne Springs Close Greenway in Fort Mill. This one-day workshop will focus on the development, administration, and enforcement of local zoning and development codes. Sessions will be geared toward demonstrating and providing tools to design, redevelop, and regulate ordinances as well as empower and engage staff, planning commissions, and zoning boards in the decision making process. If you write, administer or enforce a zoning ordinance, this workshop will give you an opportunity to learn the latest thinking to assist you in meeting the challenges and seizing the opportunities in a changing economy.

Conference sessions:

Using Form Based Codes to Retrofit Suburbia
Craig Lewis, Principal, The Lawrence Group

The Current Top Five Issues in Zoning Enforcement
Moderator: Leah Youngblood, Zoning Administrator, Town of Lexington
Panel: Bill Meyer, Development Services Director, City of Rock Hill, Dave Pettine, Zoning Administrator, York County, and Bob Vecchio, Zoning and Codes Administrator, City of Clemson

Keynote Speaker
Incorporation of greenways, trails, and open space in zoning codes
Dave Cable, Director Catawba Lands Conservancy

Providing Quality Customer Service in the Office and the Field
Carol Rhea, Assistant Director for York County, APA Board Member

Incorporating CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) Principles in Zoning
Art Hushen, President, National Institute of Crime Prevention

Summer Conference in Columbia

Don't miss this exciting one-day event on July 17 at The Hilton Columbia Center. This conference will focus on redevelopment strategies and economic recovery for future investment. Attendees should be able to acquire at least 5 hours of continuing education credits as required by SC Code 6-29-1310 as all SCAPA conference sessions are pre-approved

Fall Conference in Greenville

Be prepared to celebrate SCAPA's 40th year as a professional organization on October 14-16 at The Hyatt Greenville. The theme of this conference is the evolution and status of planning in South Carolina. Downtown Greenville should be an excellent venue with graphic representation of where we have been and where we are going.

To commemorate this auspicious occasion a 40th Anniversary Celebration Committee has been formed and is being lead by Cheryl Matheny (cmatheny@sc.rr.com). The Committee is collecting and organizing a display of documents, photos, and other SCAPA memorabilia. Tony Bebber (tbebber@scprtc.com) has volunteered to head the collection of items for display. Please contact him if you have items to lend. Kelly Mezzapelle (kmezzapelle@cityofmyrtlebeach.com) is leading the development of a photo display. Please contact Kelly if you have photos to donate or lend.

SC PLANNING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All SCAPA conference sessions are approved for continuing education (CE) required by SC Code 6-29-1310 et. SEQ., Educational Requirements for Local Government Planning or Zoning Official and Employees. SCAPA will provide the confirmation in the form of a certificate of attendance within a few weeks of the conference.

AICP CERTIFICATION MAINTENANCE

This workshop has been approved by the American Planning Association for Certification Maintenance (CM) credits.

SCAPA Elects New Officers



SCAPA Executive Committee members from left Skip Grkovic, AICP, Immediate Past President, Barry Nocks, Ph.D., AICP, Clemson University Representative, Phil Lindler, AICP, President, Marc Mylott, AICP, Director at Large, Tyson Smith, Esq., AICP, Director at Large, Susan Britt, AICP, President Elect, Robert Moody, AICP, Secretary Treasurer, and Leigh Wood, President, Clemson Student Chapter

SCAPA Headed to Litchfield for its 2008 Annual Fall Conference

The 2008 SCAPA Fall Conference was held at the Litchfield Beach and Golf Resort on beautiful Pawley's Island on October 15 through 17. The conference was well attended and provided planners from across the state an opportunity to gain insight on a number of training sessions. The conference began with a welcome and networking reception Wednesday evening followed by the Clemson University Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture Alumni Reception.

Thursday provided a full day of activities as the conference officially began with a presentation by keynote speaker Chad Prosser, Director of the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism. Mr. Prosser's presentation focused on the economic dependency that South Carolina has with tourism and how tourism provides opportunities throughout the state.

From there, the conference was broken down into six tracks: Planning Practice, Wetland and Stormwater,

Implementation and Action, Growth and Policy, Technology in Planning, and Planning Excellence in South Carolina. This last track highlighted the projects that were 2008 SCAPA

award winners for outstanding planning projects.

The Clemson Student Auction was held on Thursday evening during the evening luau-themed reception that provided a relaxing end to the day.

Sessions were continued on Friday and the conference ended with a luncheon where the new SCAPA officers were announced. Tiffany Wedmore, a Planning Student at Clemson University, was presented the Debbie Lieu Scholarship. The SCAPA 2008 Outstanding Planning Project recipients were also recognized for their innovation and success. The Distinguished Planner Award was presented to Chip Land, AICP of the City of Columbia for his ongoing support and dedication to SCAPA and the planning profession. Congratulations

to all of the 2008 award winners!

Lastly, we must thank our sponsors who provided support for the 2008 conference: Benchmark, BP Barber, the Brick Industry, Clarion Associates, HNTB, Infovision Software, Kimley-Horn and Associates Urban Resource Group, the Manufactured Housing Institute of South Carolina, Sports Consulting Group, Thomas and Hutton Engineering, TischlerBise, Urban Edge Studio, URS, White and Smith, and Wilbur Smith Associates.



Legislative Update

Phil Lindler, AICP,
Chair, Legislative Committee

Tyson Smith, Esq. AICP
Vice Chair, Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee of SCAPA continues to monitor pending and proposed legislation pertinent to planners in the state. The 2009 Legislative Calendar has been shortened, but there is legislative movement on many levels. Comprehensive tax reform appears to be the major issue that legislators will face in this session followed closely by economic growth. However, there are no shortage of bills that, if passed, will affect planning professionals.

For the bills we are following, we have indicated the House or Senate bill number, the title, the legislator who introduced the bill, and the home county of the introducing legislator. Note that in a number of cases, additional legislators have added their names as sponsors.

Please note that these amendments change frequently – some will be amended and some may not get past their review committee. If there is legislation that interests you, please follow the legislation as it goes through the process. The State Legislature's website is at www.scstatehouse.gov and both the SC Association of Counties and the Municipal Association of South Carolina provide excellent summaries of pending legislation as well.

Annexation

H 3074: Density Requirement after Annexation (Annette Young – Charleston and Dorchester)

Provides that when a municipality annexes property in a county that has a land use or zoning policy, plan, regulation or ordinance and the municipality

density allowance or regulations allow for a greater density than the county allows, then the county density requirement must remain in effect for five years after the annexation.

Status: Referred to Judiciary Committee – January 13, 2009

H 3253: Changes to Current Annexation Law (William Herbkersman – Beaufort)

Requires a "plan of services" before approval of all annexation proposals. Also requires a new annexation be consistent with local comprehensive land use plans. This bill, as it relates to the 75 percent annexation method, gives standing to other individuals or entities to bring suit to challenge a proposed or completed annexation, requires public notice of a public hearing before acting on an annexation petition. Additionally, the bill further defines urban area and contiguous.

Status: Referred to Judiciary Committee – January 13, 2009

S 0246: Annexation and County Density (Michael Rose – Charleston and Dorchester)

Provides that when a municipality annexes property in a county, any county density requirement or regulation remains in effect and applies to the annexed area for five years after the annexation, unless

otherwise approved by the county council. This bill also allows a county council to approve a proposal by a municipality for greater density for a defined area with the annexed property.

Status: Referred to Judiciary Committee – January 13, 2009

S 0247: Annexation and Land Use or Zoning Policy (Michael Rose – Charleston and Dorchester)

Provides that when a municipality annexes property in a county that has a land use or zoning policy, plan, regulation, or ordinance requiring concurrency of public facilities with development, the county concurrency requirement must remain in effect for a defined period. The bill also allows the county council to approve a proposal by the municipality for a lesser concurrency requirement for a defined area within the annexed property.

Status: Referred to Judiciary Committee – January 13, 2009

Public Facilities

H 3148: SC Rural Infrastructure Act (William Clyburn – Aiken and Edgefield)

The SC Rural Infrastructure Act would establish a rural infrastructure authority to provide loans and other financial assistance to municipalities, counties,

The Act also would provide for the establishment of a public works commission to finance rural infrastructure.

Status: Introduced

Read First Time and Referred to Ways and Means Committee – January 13, 2009; gaining sponsor support

S 0234: Report of development on schools in Dorchester County (Michael Rose – Charleston and Dorchester)

This bill, if adopted, would require the Dorchester County District 2 Superintendent to submit a report to Dorchester County and its municipalities related to the impact of development on the school system. Conversely, the Superintendent also would be required to request from the County and municipalities the proposed applications that include residential development meeting certain criteria and to determine whether a particular project will result in a “substantial impact” on the District’s ability to serve the new students and to submit a report to the County and municipalities detailing this information.

Status: Read Third Time in the House and Enrolled – February 4, 2009

S 0235: Authorizes Dorchester School District 2

to Impose an Impact Fee (Michael Rose – Charleston and Dorchester)

This legislation would authorize the Dorchester School District 2 to impose school impact fees on new residential development within the district. School impact fee revenues would be limited to the funding of public education facilities within the district for K-12 and the payment of principal and interest on existing or new bonds issued by the District. Fees could not exceed the actual cost a new dwelling unit imposes on the District to provide school facilities to the new students.

Status: Read Third Time in the House and Returned to Senate with Amendments – February 6, 2009

S 0249: Land Development Applications Provided to a Local School District (Michael Rose – Charleston and Dorchester)

This bill would require local governments and their planning commissions in “high growth counties” to provide to the local school district all “land development applications” that include residential developments greater than 25 acres in size or which have an anticipated density equal to or greater than the average within the district. Similar to S 0234, this bill also would require the school

district to determine whether a particular project will result in a “substantial impact” on the District’s ability to serve the new students and to submit a report to the governing body and the planning commission detailing the impact and the need for additional resources.

Status: Referred to Judiciary Committee – January 13, 2009 (to subcommittee on January 23) and carried over

S 0235: Authorizes Dorchester School District 2 to Impose an Impact Fee (Michael Rose – Charleston and Dorchester)

This legislation would authorize the Dorchester School District 2 to impose school impact fees on new residential development within the district. School impact fee revenues would be limited to the funding of public education facilities within the district for K-12 and the payment of principal and interest on existing or new bonds issued by the District. Fees could not exceed the actual cost a new dwelling unit imposes on the District to provide school facilities to the new students.

Status: Read Third Time in the House and Returned to Senate with Amendments – February 6, 2009

Environment and Energy

H 3008: Public Funds to Acquire a Conservation Easement (Michael Pitts – Abbeville, Greenwood, and Laurens)

Provides that the state and its political subdivisions may not use trust or public funds to acquire a conservation easement or other riverbank property unless the easement specifically continues to allow public access for fishing and hunting.

Status: The Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee adjourned debate on this bill – January 27, 2009

H 3046: Committee to Study Wind Energy (James Merrill – Berkeley and Charleston)

Creates a study committee to determine the feasibility of establishing wind energy production farms in the state. The study committee must report findings before January 1, 2010.

Status: Referred to Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee – January 13, 2009

H 3088: Local Stormwater Fees on Agricultural Lands (Robert Brown – Charleston and Colleton)

Provides a local government may not impose a fee on agricultural, forest or undeveloped lands for a stormwater, sediment, or erosion control program except in specific circumstances. This bill also provides that a place, structure, or

building primarily used as a place of worship is exempt from a fee imposed by a local government for a stormwater, sediment or erosion control program.

Status: Referred to Ways and Means Committee – January 13, 2009

H 3132: SC Comprehensive Statewide Water Management Act of 2009 (Don Bowen – Anderson and Oconee)

Enacts the SC Comprehensive Statewide Water Management Act of 2009 and provides the development of a statewide comprehensive water management program.

Status: Referred to Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee – January 13, 2009; gaining sponsor support

S 0008: Financial Assistance to Low-Income Households for Energy Efficiency (Glenn McConnell – Charleston, et al.)

This bill would create a non-profit entity called "Operation Empowered" that would assist the Office of Regulatory Staff with programs to assist low-income households implement energy efficiency and conservation measures. "Low-income households" would include those below the federal poverty level as defined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Status: Referred to Senate Subcommittee – February 6, 2009.

S 0010: Income Tax Credits for Solar and Fuel Cell Property (Glenn McConnell – Charleston, et al.)

This bill, if adopted, would create a tax credit equal to 20% of the credit allowed against a taxpayer's federal income tax liability for qualified expenditures on photovoltaic, solar, and fuel cell property. In addition, the bill would exempt from the state sales tax the purchase of machinery, machine tools, and any part thereof, that is used in the production of electricity from a renewable energy source.

Status: Referred to the Finance Committee – January 13, 2009

Miscellaneous

S 0065: Coin-operated amusement or gaming machine operation (Robert Ford – Charleston)

This is a joint resolution proposing amending the state constitution to authorize the operation or possession of coin-operated amusement or gaming machines in counties that pass an ordinance allowing this use, either by majority vote of the governing body or by citizen petition and referendum. The amendment would require a vote of the South Carolina electorate to become law.

Status: Referred by the Senate to the Judiciary Committee – January 13, 2009

**S 0085: Condemnation Powers
(Robert Ford – Charleston)**

This bill would amend the SC Statutes related to municipal condemnation powers to prohibit condemnation of owner-occupied residential property, taxed under § 12-43-220(c), located outside a municipality.

Status: Referred by the Senate to the Judiciary Committee – January 13, 2009

S 0091: Eminent Domain for Slum Clearance and Redevelopment (Robert Ford – Charleston)

This bill, if adopted, would remove the authority of municipalities and counties to exercise the power of eminent domain for purposes of slum clearance and redevelopment. The bill also specifies particular uses that are *not* a “public use,” and, therefore which could not be the subject of the exercise of eminent domain; including a number of private developments, enhancement of tax revenue, or the transfer of the land to certain

nongovernmental entities.

Status: Referred by the Senate to the Judiciary Committee – January 13, 2009

Conclusion

We encourage you to track the status of these proposed bills and to make your councils and commissions aware of legislation relevant to your jurisdiction. Also, feel free to contact either of us if you have questions, concerns, or updates on these or other proposed legislation pending this session. You may contact Phil Lindler at (864) 942-8636 or Tyson Smith at (843) 937-0201.

SCAPA Welcomes Our New Members

The following are the new members that have joined SCAPA since October 1, 2008. Welcome to all of you.

Carly	Aubrey	Christopher	Haynes	Shannon	Meder
Joe	Baird	Ellen	Heath, AICP	Guang	Miao
Ned	Barrett	Michael	Hurst	Yingnan	Ming
Jeff	Blair	Samantha	Jackson	Dustin	Pate
Patricia	Buchanan	Gerald	Jeferson	Luke	Pokrajac
Stephen	Burr	Mary	Johnson	Tracey	Queen
Thomas	Coker	Stephanie	Johnson	Alissa	Ritzo
Ronald	Combs	Michael	Kelley	Maureen	Sevigny
Rhonda	Connelly	Kris	Kronlein	Leah	Sirmin
Jeremy	Dreier	Terry	Lacio	Andy	Smith
Tyler	Elmendorf	Melinda	Lucka	Mary	Springs
Jason	Epley, AICP	Matthew	Manley	Tamara	Tavares
Benjamin	Fields	Arnold	Mann	Paul	Thebo
Kyle	Flanders	Glenda	Matute eyes	Andrew	Uhrich
Annalise	Fonza	Daniel	McGee	Brad	West
Krista	Hampton	James	McMullen	Grant	Wigmore
				Christopher	Yonke

Envisioning The Future By Revitalizing The Past

By Glenn Pace Planning and Zoning Coordinator for Greer, SC

The city of Greer, S.C., is located in the foothills of upstate South Carolina along I-85, and is situated in both Greenville and Spartanburg counties. It is one of South Carolina's fastest growing cities, with a current population of 26,040 that is expected to reach 30,000 in the next four years. Each day, more than 75,000 people travel the two highways that run through the city, making Greer one of the most frequently visited historical and industrial destinations of South Carolina.

Greer is the epitome of the new urbanism motto of "live, work, and play". Downtown Greer, known locally as Greer Station, includes approximately 12 square blocks of retail, dining, entertainment and professional service organizations. Greer Station has more than 40 buildings on the National Historic Register and the downtown area itself is designated as a National Historic District. The industrial area of Greer is home to Honeywell, Mitsubishi Polyester Film, and the only BMW plant in the United States, which collectively employ the majority of the city's population.

The industrial boom Greer experienced led to rapid growth in population and local business expansion. The influx of new residents and businesses began to attract developers eager to accommodate the burgeoning needs of the city. In addition, revitalization of the city had long been a priority of the Mayor and City Council, which increased in importance as entrepreneurs flocked to downtown Greer hoping to make it the site for their next business venture.

Many business design plans submitted to the City Council were inconsistent with the strong brick architectural heritage for which Greer was known. Because the Mayor and City Council did not



want the city's newfound industrial growth to jeopardize the historical legacy on which it was built, the Council passed an ordinance that clearly defined primary building materials and architectural design to give developers a uniform design guideline. With the downtown district being the focal point of the community, the Mayor and City Council wanted to ensure that the architecture reflected the distinctiveness of Greer.

On April 22, 2008, the Mayor and the City Council of Greer, S.C., adopted a commercial masonry ordinance within the Central Business District. The ordinance requires 100 percent brick with stucco being allowed only as an accent for trim work or detailing. Requiring brick as the primary building material for Greer's downtown area was a natural decision. Greer Station is a red brick district with the majority of the current buildings dating back to the 1920s and 1930s. Brick is synonymous with Greer's architectural history and having a masonry ordinance guarantees that developers will create higher-quality buildings that

not only will stand the test of time, but also are consistent with the city's design.

The masonry ordinance was well received by developers and has not hindered the city's growth. Implementing a masonry ordinance has conserved the historical uniqueness of Greer, I highly recommend other communities consider a masonry ordinance to preserve the charm and distinctiveness of their city.

The masonry ordinance was well received by developers and has not hindered the city's growth.

Revitalization of a city's historical town center is essential for a city's development and growth. It improves the image of a city, makes use of existing buildings, and provides the community with a sense of pride and appreciation.

As a planner, it is important to develop architectural standards that will maintain the rich history of a city's past, as it moves towards its future. Brick has proven itself as a timeless product that is aesthetically appealing, resilient and sustainable. Having a masonry ordinance that requires brick as a building material has allowed the city's brick heritage to coincide with its vision of the future.

The Matheny-Burns Group Celebrates 10th Anniversary with Launch of Micro-Business Program



The Matheny-Burns Group is celebrating 10 years of planning and resource development consulting. As part of this milestone, MBG Principals Gloria Burns and Cheryl Matheny, FAICP, have funded the creation of a micro-business development initiative in the Philippines. The Matheny-Burns/GEMS Outreach Micro-Business Initiative will provide small business start-up training, support, and loans to impoverished families in the Cavite province near Manila. In partnership with the US-based non-profit Outreach Asia, the venture represents an expanded approach to mitigating the forces of poverty among the country's poorest residents. Outreach Asia strives to improve the lives of impoverished children and families in the developing nations of Southeast Asia through projects that promote safe drinking water, education, health care, and economic independence.

The target communities of the GEMS program are home to the poorest of the poor, serving families who live in makeshift settlements where disease and malnutrition are all too common, unsanitary and unsafe conditions prevail, medical care is limited, education is a distant dream, and families face daily struggles to survive. To date, GEMS Outreach has provided access to critical resources such as early childhood development, food and nutrition, health care and educational support. The Matheny-Burns/GEMS Outreach Micro-Business Initiative will add an economic development arm to GEMS programming

to help move families toward economic sustainability.

The initiative will be launched in the spring of 2009 with the selection of the first four pilot businesses.

Program results will be evaluated for consideration in program expansion and replication in other areas.

"As small business owners, we understand the significant challenges and rewards of planning and operating a business and wanted to share that opportunity with others," noted Gloria Burns, Principal.

"Based on our previous work with GEMS Director Cora Buena Flores and Outreach Asia President Mike Peck, we thought this initiative was a timely and appropriate match." Cheryl Matheny added, "We are very excited to have this opportunity to assist these enterprising families in leveraging the resources to improve their standard of living in the midst of such daunting conditions. There is no better way to both celebrate our 10-year anniversary and honor our colleagues and friends for their support than to help these families achieve their dreams of a better life."

Cheryl and Gloria are both graduates of the MCRP program at Clemson University. For additional information about the GEMS initiative and other Outreach Asia programs, please contact Gloria Burns at gloriaburns@comcast.net.



Membership Minute On-Line Community for SC Planners Now Active!

Ever get the proverbial question, "What are they doing in _____ [insert City or County name here]?" Now you can find out . . . and more! Join the SC Planners Email List and post your questions to an ever-growing community of over 110 planners from across South Carolina. Visit

www.groups.google.com and search on "SC Planners". Be sure to use the quotation marks. Also, joining the list gives you access to 40 previous questions and responses from the past year. Lastly, and equally important, use features of the List to shorten the miles between us!

Edit your profile to include your community name, your title and a picture of your self. That way when we see each other at the next conference, we'll be that much more familiar! For questions or comments about the List, contact Marc Mylott, AICP at (803) 545-3333 or msmylott@columbiasc.net.

Check Off for State Parks



We need your help to make South Carolina Parks better for everyone. By making a donation on the Contributions for Check-Off on your tax form, you can help us do some of the following:

We can build more picnic shelters for family outings

We can build more hiking trails in many of our parks

We can put improve our education programs. Did you know thousands of children take history and science classes at state parks each year?

We can put up more educational signage

We can offer more recreational opportunities, like kayaking and canoeing

There are also some big projects we'd like to tackle. They include:

We want to build a new visitor/education center at Colonial Dorchester State Historic Site. Did you know Colonial Dorchester is the 2nd oldest town in South Carolina?

We want to build new viewing platforms at Huntington Beach State Park. Did you know Huntington Beach is one of the most popular birding destinations on the Atlantic Coast?

We want to renovate the historic Camp Buckhorn lodge and cabins at Paris Mountain for more school and church groups to use

That's just a sample of the things we want to do. South Carolina State Parks belong to all of us. Help make them a better place for all your friends and families. Please "Check-Off for State Parks."

Clemson University Update

Now that we are in the middle of February, thoughts of our 21 first year students turn to summer internships and those of the dozen graduating students to "real" jobs. I appreciate any opportunities you may have in your agencies for our well-prepared and professionally oriented students. Please contact me directly if you are seeking interns or entry level professionals.

We have initiated a new course, Current Issues in Planning, in which we invite practicing planners to share their experiences in their work. This has been organized by concentration area (land use/GIS, transportation, urban design, etc), and I am most appreciative of the colleagues that have generously taken the time to come up to Clemson to speak to our students. In addition, SCAPA members are on notice that I will be asking others to share their wisdom with us next spring.

The second year Planning Studio course is generally taught in the fall. Last semester, two projects were undertaken. Grant Cunningham directed a funded project for the City of Hartsville that looked at redevelopment and reuse opportunities for the former Butler High School, which is a significant historic and cultural landmark in the city.

The class identified three scenarios for future development in conjunction with a Landscape Architecture studio class.

I directed a second studio that worked with planners in Greenville City and County on various aspects associated with the 10 year comprehensive plan updates. Furthermore, three planning students were in an interdisciplinary studio that included students in Arch, LA, and Planning for the City of Bamberg.

In addition to reaching out to the professional network of planners in the state, the student chapter has been reaching out to its surrounding area through Habitat for Humanity. A group of student volunteers have been working on a home in Easley, SC and are happy to announce that the house will be available to move into this month! The student chapter looks forward to additional volunteer opportunities throughout the year.

The Clemson University Student chapter would also like to thank everyone that participated in the annual student auction at the Fall Conference. We had an array of auction items this year, and would like to thank all of the businesses and individuals that have helped support the student chapter.

The students raised about \$1,800 which will go toward their expenses at the APA national conference in Minneapolis.

Speaking of thanks, I would also like to recognize the leadership of the Clemson student chapter of SCAPA. Leigh Wood did an outstanding job of organizing and communicating for the chapter. John Barnwell, Katie Young, Louis Lacio and Sarah Simmons also served on the executive committee.

Barry Nocks, PhD, AICP

Professor & Director

Graduate Program in City & Regional Planning

Department of Planning & Landscape Architecture

e-mail: nocks2@clemson.edu

South Carolina Forests: Providing Quality of Life and an Economic Engine



South Carolina's "Beautiful Places" begin with its 12.9 million acres of forestland -- 67% of the state's total land area. Even our state flag is dominated by a tree -- the Palmetto. Our connection to our live oaks, towering pines, and indeed all of the trees in our forests are what make us South Carolinians -- even adopted Sandlappers love trees.

But our trees are not just pretty; they are the basis of one of the state's largest industries. A recent study by Miley, Gallo and Associates confirmed that the economic impact of the forest industry is over \$17.9 billion annually to South Carolina. It impacts every county in the state. Timber is the state's #1 agricultural commodity, providing about \$870 million to the landowners in the state. Over 145,000 families own 10 plus acres of forestland in South Carolina with the average family forest being 65 acres.

The forests of South Carolina have increased over the last 75 years. When forest inventories were done in 1936, we had less than 11 million acres of forest land and today we have 12.9 million acres of forestland. These forests are about equally distributed among hardwoods and pines.

The quality of forest management in SC has improved dramatically over the years as private landowners have done an excellent job of managing their forests without regulation or permitting. Landowners have become educated about appropriate forest management practices and voluntary guidelines to protect the environment. Programs such as Forest Stewardship (<http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/fsp.shtml>) and Master Tree Farmer (<http://www.mastertreefarmer.org/>) and county forest landowner associations promote and educate forest landowners about managing forests sustainably. Foresters and loggers in SC also take continuing education classes on a variety of subjects to improve forest management and harvesting operations.

In today's marketplace, many buyers are asking land owners to certify their forestland as well managed so that wood and paper products produced from the trees harvested from these lands are acceptable in a "green" marketplace. In South Carolina, three major certification systems provide standards for well managed forests. The three systems are the American Tree Farm System (www.treefarmssystem.org) with

1,178,424 acres, the Sustainable Forests Initiative program (www.sfiprogram.org) with 1,079,279 acres and the Forest Stewardship Council (www.fscus.org) with 6,425 acres. In addition, state and federal agencies like the SC Forestry Commission, SC Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Forest Service own about 1.6 million acres of forestland which they manage using sustainable forest management principles and practices. Therefore, about 30% of the state's forestland is managed sustainably using these principles and practices or certification systems.

But what are sustainable forests? A definition I often use is:

Managing forests to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by practicing a land stewardship ethic which integrates the reforestation, managing, growing, nurturing, and harvesting of trees for useful products with the conservation of soil, air, and water quality, wildlife, and fish habitat, and aesthetics.

In South Carolina this means that our water is cleaned, our air is purified, our soils are protected and our wildlife are thriving. We have excelled at reestablishing endangered species such as the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker, while increasing populations of game species such as turkey and deer. Even these game species were not common in many parts of the state 40 years ago.

Quality forest management also brings other benefits. Forests capture water and allow it to enter our aquifers. In the last 30 years, changes to our forest management systems along streams, rivers and lakes have helped to clean the water and prevent erosion and sediments in water that flows overland to bodies of water. The State has award winning guidelines for forestry to protect these waters; we refer to these as Best Management Practices. Ninety-eight percent of the forestlands in the state are in compliance with these guidelines to protect water quality. No other state land use activity has this kind of best management guidelines and compliance levels this high. These indicators highlight the tremendous strides forest industry and individual landowners have made in forest management.

But trees live not only in forests; they live in cities, parks and along roadsides. The trees in our "urban forests" provide many of the same benefits of our "rural forests". Additionally they intercept and store rainwater and reduce the urban heat island effect and therefore help prevent ozone formation while reducing the demand for cooling energy. They even increase property values and local tax bases.

Management of urban forests too has improved in the last few decades. Under the leadership of the community forestry program of the South Carolina Forestry Commission and the U.S. Forest Service, many of our cities and towns have changed the way they look and feel as trees have been placed along streets and in parks. Thirty-nine cities and towns in South Carolina were part of the Tree City USA program in 2007. (<http://www.state.sc.us/forest/urbantc.htm>)

As cities and towns continue to expand, more people will choose to live, work and play in community with trees and forests, making them critical for healthy and sustainable living. However, these communities are being created, in some cases, by converting forestlands to residential and commercial developments. Forests in these rural/urban interfaces are often misunderstood by developers, planners and neighbors. The proper management of *forestland* as opposed to the proper development of *forested land* often creates controversy in these jurisdictional settings. It is important for forest landowners, planners, and county planning commissions to understand the nuances of these two different settings. Regulations and permitting associated with development or land conversion are not appropriate for sustainable forest management.

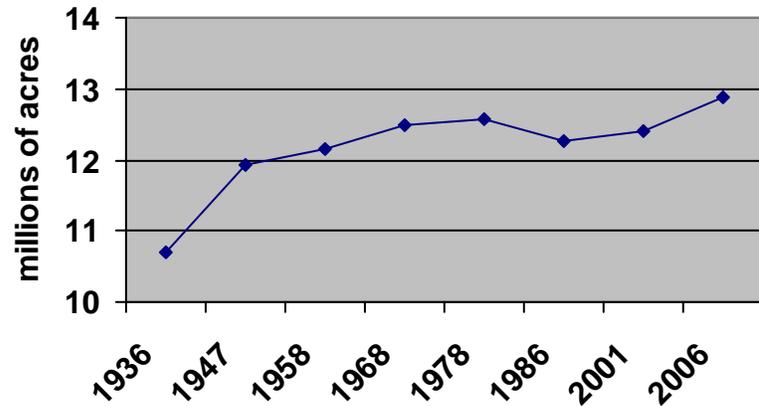
In recognition of the Palmetto State's proud heritage that protects private property rights, the SC Forestry Association has developed *Ordinance Guidelines for Forest Management Activities and Exemptions* that can be used in jurisdictional zoning ordinances to help distinguish between sustainable forest management and the conversion of lands to non-agricultural use.

**South Carolina Forestry
Association**

**Post Office Box 21303, Columbia,
SC 29221-1303**

803.798.4170

Forestland in SC



Be sure to check out the SCAPA Web Page for all the latest information and news go to : www.SCAPA.com

ORDINANCE GUIDELINES FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND EXEMPTIONS

The intent of this document is to provide guidance to municipal and county jurisdictions in the development of or revisions to zoning ordinances that impact the tree canopy and conservation. This forestry exemption template facilitates and encourages bona fide active and sustainable forest management while at the same time attempting to address jurisdictional concerns regarding tree removal in the path of land use conversion. The SC Forestry Association's Ad-Hoc Committee for Tree Ordinances does not wish to inhibit the actions of, nor promote the legislation of or place undo burden on the individual private landowner.

1.1 APPLICABILITY

The provisions of this ordinance shall apply to all trees, as described herein.

1.2 ADMINISTRATION

The City / County Administrator or his/her designee shall be responsible for the administration of all provisions of this ordinance.

1.3 DEFINITIONS

As used within this ordinance, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth in this section. The word "shall" as used in this ordinance is mandatory and not merely directory.

DEVELOPMENT – Any activity, including tree harvesting that is associated with the conversion of forestland to non-agricultural use.

DIAMETER AT BREAST HEIGHT (DBH) – The diameter of the tree trunk, measured at breast height (4.5 feet) above the ground. If a tree trunk splits at ground level and does not share a common base, each trunk shall be measured as a separate tree. If a multi-trunk tree splits below the 4.5 foot mark, all trunks shall be measured separately and counted as one tree. This measurement is associated with existing trees.

FORESTLAND – Land that is devoted to growing trees for the production of timber, wood, secondary forest products and/or other amenities and activities associated with forests.

FORESTRY – The professional practice embracing the science, business, and art of creating, conserving, and managing forests and forestland for the sustained use and enjoyment of their resources, materials or other forest products.

FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN – A document that defines a landowner's forest management objectives and describes specific measures to be taken to achieve those objectives. A forest management plan shall include silvicultural practices that both ensure optimal forest productivity and environmental protection of land by either commercially growing timber through the establishment of forest stands or by ensuring the proper regeneration of forest stands to com-

mercial levels of production after the harvest of timber.

FORESTRY ACTIVITY – Any activity associated with the growing, managing, harvesting (cutting), and related transportation, reforestation, or protection of trees and timber, provided that such activities comply with existing SC State rules, regulations and Best Management Practices (BMPs) pertaining to forestry.

TREE - A woody perennial plant, generally with a single trunk but sometimes with multiple trunks, with the potential to attain a mature size of at least three (3) inches in trunk diameter at four and one-half (4-1/2) feet above the ground and a height of at least fifteen (15) feet.

1.4 FORESTRY ACTIVITY EXEMPTION

The regulations set forth herein shall apply to all real property within the corporate limits of the City / County and subject to the following exemption.

1.4.1 Any forestry activity, including tree harvesting (cutting), which is being conducted in accordance with SC Best Management Practices for Forestry and as part of an ongoing forest management program and is either:

Conducted on forestland that is eligible for, and actually used for forestry or tree harvesting operation, and written application has been approved by the County Assessor for the special assessment for agricultural use for the property in question pursuant to SC Code Section 12-43-220, SC Department of Revenue Regulation 117-1780.1, and other applicable statutes, rules, and regulations.

Conducted in accordance with a forest management plan that is prepared or approved by a forester registered in accordance with Title 48 Chapter 27 of the SC Code of Laws.

1.4.2 Prior to the commencement of a tree harvesting operation, a harvesting notification** shall be provided to the Code Enforcement Officer prior to beginning each harvest operation.

1.4.3 Forest activities, including tree harvesting, that are incidental to land development, shall NOT be exempt. Examples would include felling trees on project site to develop roads and buildings.

1.4.4 The city / county shall deny a land clearing / disturbance permit, a building permit or refuse to approve a site or subdivision plan for a period of three (3) years after the completion of a tree harvest if it can prove that there was willful

intent by the applicant to exercise the forestry exemption for the purposes of circumventing an existing tree protection ordinance.

****Committee advice regarding forestry activity notification:** Allow notification to be received via fax, email or US mail. Possible information to include on a notification form are landowner name, contact information, tax map number, estimated number of acres, contact name and phone number of person on harvesting site, and anticipated start date. The notification receipt should be verified by the local jurisdiction with a notification number valid for up to a year from date of notification. The notification process should not be used as an attempt to delay or stop forestry activities as defined above.

SC Forestry Association Ad-Hoc Committee Members (in alphabetical order):

Earl Dutton, President – Forestland Services, Inc., Dillon, SC, **Joel Felder, Deputy State Forester** – SC Forestry Commission, Columbia, SC, **Liz Gilland, Urban Forestry Coordinator** – SC Forestry Commission, Columbia, SC, **Don Ham, Principal** – The Laurus Group, Seneca, SC, **Dr. Pat Layton, Chair – Forestry and Natural Resources**, Clemson University, **William McLeod Rhodes, President** – W. McLeod Rhodes Company Inc., Charleston, SC, **Joe Ryan, Sr. Planner** – Central Midlands Council of Governments, Columbia, SC, **Bart Sabine, President** – Sabine & Waters Inc., Summerville, SC, **Cliff Scott, Sr. Staff Attorney** – SC Association of Counties, Columbia, SC, **Bob Scott, President** – SC Forestry Association, Columbia, SC, **Steven D. Smith, Vice-President** – Carolina Wood, Inc., Clinton, SC, **Dwight L. Stewart, President** - Dwight L. Stewart & Associates, Manning, SC

Please contact the SC Forestry Association at (803-798-4170) or the SC Forestry Commission at (803-896-8864) with questions or requests for technical assistance.



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For more information contact:

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TECHNOLOGY DIVISION WEBINARS

FIRST SESSION: MASHUPS FOR PLANNING
FEBRUARY 19TH, 12:00-1:30 EASTERN

Mashups are combinations of existing technology to create new tools. These mashups can be excellent tools for planning and public input. This first session of the Division's webinar series will be hosted by Jennifer Evans-Cowley of The Ohio State University and Harsh Prakash, IT and GIS Consultant.

Mashups for Planning will cover:

- What is a Mashup?
- Using Existing Mashups
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The Palmetto Planner is the official newsletter of the "South Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association. Newsletter contributions are encouraged from SCAPA members and others. Material selected for publication may be edited to conform to space or other requirements. Please email contributions to the Newsletter to jpcol44@bellsouth.net. Please include your name, organization and contact information.

Advertise in the Palmetto Planner and on the SCAPA webpage for one low fee.

The Palmetto Planner is a quarterly publication of the South Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association with over 475 members. The newsletter provides information on current planning topics, chapter conferences and activities and job opportunities.

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