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PRESS RELEASE

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SPACE Protects 880 Acres in 2007

Spartanburg, SC -- The Spartanburg Area Conservancy (SPACE) had its most successful year ever by protecting 880 acres of land in 2007.

By far, most of the acreage was protected through conservation easements. The largest easement is 392 acres in the Lyman area and includes hardwood forests, wetlands, farmland, and river bottomlands. An easement in Union County protects 344 acres along the Broad River. Farmland in the Inman area and land on the North Pacolet River near Fingerville were also protected by easements.

A conservation easement is a legally binding document which restricts land from future development. Property owners continue to own and use their land as they always have but by placing the land under the easement gain the peace of mind that the land will never be developed. The conservancy accepts the easement and monitors the land annually to ensure the agreement is being upheld.

The smallest protection project was the addition of 3 ½ acres to the Edwin M. Griffin Nature Preserve, increasing the total acreage there to 118. Three property owners donated that land to SPACE.

The Spartanburg Area Conservancy is a nonprofit corporation formed in 1989, whose purpose is to preserve and conserve natural areas for aesthetic, scientific, charitable and education purposes.

Three of the 2007 land protection projects are in the Pacolet River watershed. The Pacolet Rivers are the primary water supply for Spartanburg and the surrounding communities. Protecting this natural resource is paramount in order to ensure an abundant supply of good water to our rapidly urbanizing area. The Spartanburg Area Conservancy and the Spartanburg Water System have joined forces in order to help mitigate the threat to the area's water quality and supply that supports our citizens by acquiring and protecting critical forested buffer lands along the Pacolet Rivers and their tributaries.

SPACE Executive Director, Mary Walter, says, "We are pleased to be working with landowners who recognize the value of their land in a way that will truly leave a legacy. SPACE is proud to have played a part in the permanent protection of these lands. These conservation easements ensure that our children, grandchildren, and generations that follow will have woods to play in and wetlands to explore. Our generation needs to take steps in order to ensure that we have adequate habitats for wildlife and research. In our rapidly growing Spartanburg county area, it is vital that we set aside land for conservation purposes. Conservation easements are becoming more and more familiar to property owners as they learn about how flexible they can be."

The Spartanburg Area Conservancy owns and manages the Edwin M. Griffin Nature Preserve, home of the Cottonwood Trail, the Glendale Shoals Preserve, and the Upper Chiquapin Greenway. SPACE also worked with the state of SC in protecting two Heritage Trust preserves in the county, the Pacolet River Preserve and Peter's Creek Preserve. SPACE works with private property owners in protecting their private lands.

The Spartanburg Area Conservancy is extremely grateful to the property owners who protected their lands. It is the hope of SPACE that more landowners will do likewise and preserve special places in Spartanburg County!