

# SCAPPA MONTHLY MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

## CURTIS REECE– One of the Longest SCAPPA Members!



**What is your favorite food?** I like all home cooked food. My favorites are southern cooking, Cajun food, Mexican food, and Thai food. Home-made fried apple pies are the best things ever invented.

**What is your favorite place to visit?** My favorite place is Lake Jocassee and the Jocassee Gorges between SC and NC. These mountains are undeveloped and filled with mountain laurel, granite cliffs, waterfalls, and black bears.

**What is something interesting about yourself?** I spend a lot of time looking for Indian artifacts in the Upstate. I've collected over 350 arrowheads, pottery shards, axes and soapstone tools. Places like Oolenoy and Eastatoe in Pickens County were inhabited by the Cherokee and still hold their treasures. My daughter Maggie recently found her first arrowhead...I think she's hooked too.

### What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I live on a small farm in rural Six Mile, SC. I have lived in Pickens County all my life and love being close to the mountains and near lake Keowee and lake Jocassee. I love to farm, hunt, fish, kayak, and spend time with my family outdoors. I also like antiques and anything old...old coke bottles, farm tools, interesting old books. I have a few WWII era tractors I'm restoring now. One of these is an Allis Chalmers WD45. I discovered this tractor in a collapsed barn across town...and it turns out that it is the exact one that my dad sold 30 years ago. I hope to bring it back to life and use it again.

### How long have you worked in this field?

I've been in the SC Prevention field for 18 years. I guess you could say that I grew up in the field. I first attended a SC Teen Institute (TI) Camp in 1990 and later became a Youth Advisory Board (YAB) member. As a teen staff member I worked with staff at SCADAC (now DAODAS) to assist with TI for several years. I began officially working in the Prevention field in 1996 as an AmeriCorps Member in Laurens County. In 1998 I accepted a position as Prevention Specialist at the Pickens County Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse and soon after became Manager of Prevention. I have served as the Manager of Prevention at The Phoenix Center in Greenville for 12 years and love working with an incredible staff of prevention professionals and community partners.

### What do you enjoy most about your job?

I think the SC Prevention field is place where you can truly make a difference in your world. I know this because it has made a difference in mine. On any given day you can directly impact a child or parent through educational classes, you can impact a neighborhood by helping connect neighbors to needed services; you can impact your community through environmental strategies that reduce access to dangerous substances. As Prevention professionals, we are in possession of so many unique resources, services, skills, and contacts. The greatest commandment was once given, and it included that we love our neighbor as we love ourselves. As a Prevention Specialist we have a chance to do this every day.