

## **Upstate Master Naturalist Association Meeting**

### **January 28, 2021**

### **10:00am, ZOOM Meeting**

Meeting called to order by Andy Chesson at 10:00AM. To minimize confusing ZOOM interactions, Andy Chesson presented the following Board reports to the attending membership.

Minutes from the September 24, 2020, Master Naturalist Meeting were presented to the membership on ZOOM and were approved.

### **Treasurer's Report: Kathy Harrington**

Balance is \$11,932.09

Members are reminded that the dues paid in 2020 are good for the year 2021 as well (board action in November and announced at the annual meeting). Next renewal deadline for dues will be late in 2021.

Some renewal checks have been received and with the consent of those members the checks were treated as donations. The board is considering using donated monies to fund future special projects so donations are greatly appreciated.

### **Programs: Imtiaz Haque**

Many of the 2021 programs are in place and are as follows:

#### **1-28-2021: Pam Shucker**

Title: Round about Greenville and the Carolina Blue Ridge

#### **3-25-2021: Steven Jeffers**

Title: Phytophthora Root Rot: The Other Disease that Killed the American Chestnut

#### **5-27-2021 : Stephen Schutt**

Title: Biodiversity in the Home and the Problems It Faces

**7-22-2021: David Spain**

Title: Geology in the Upstate

**9-23-2021: Dan Whitten**

Title: The Mighty Oaks of the Upstate

**11-18-21 To be determined**

### **Membership: Dave Redden**

The new Google Groups email communication is now in effect. Any member can send a notice to the group, but it will be moderated by the VP2 Membership officer or some other board member. Guidelines reminders will be distributed in the newsletter and will be similar to current guidelines for what is appropriate for communication to the group. This new process will facilitate communication of news to the members and will make it easier to maintain the process from year to year as board members change.

#### **UMNA Communications**

- For messages to all members, send email to
  - [umna-membership@googlegroups.com](mailto:umna-membership@googlegroups.com)
  - All posts will be moderated except for group managers.
- For messages to the UMNA VP2
  - [umna.membership@gmail.com](mailto:umna.membership@gmail.com), or
  - [dredden00@gmail.com](mailto:dredden00@gmail.com)
- To see old messages online
  - [Go to groups.google.com/mygroups.](https://groups.google.com/mygroups)
  - Select UMNA Membership

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Volunteer Committee: Ray Long**

Despite COVID limitations, according to data that members have entered, 20 members have completed their Advanced Training and Volunteer hours. Despite the current limitations, some members have accumulated an amazing number of hours.

### **Social Media: Manella Calhoun**

Manella Calhoun has continued to update the Facebook page as info is submitted. The sharing of questions, adventures, or the wonderful photography by our members is appreciated.

### **Newsletter: Carole Walters**

The February newsletter will be coming out shortly after this meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Grants:** The grant to Dodie Clark for the Anderson County Library's Sensory Garden has been completed. A link on the Anderson County library website shows the completed Sensory Garden. As announced previously, the remaining 2020 grants are granted an extension to year end 2021 due to the COVID limitations in activities. There may be other grant opportunities dependent on future donations.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dan Whitten announced that 10 volunteers are needed to assist in the annual Bellfest program at Devils Fork State Park. Duties will be to man stations along the trail and read an appropriate description of that portion of the trail. Due to the COVID restrictions, the program will be filmed for virtual communication. Please contact Dan if you are interested.

### **January 28, 2021 – Program**

Today's program is a presentation by Pam Shucker (UMNA 2015) of a new book entitled ROUND ABOUT GREENVILLE AND THE CAROLINA BLUE RIDGE. The book is a compilation of photographs by local photographer Bill Robertson and essays by Ms. Shucker of the beautiful upcountry South Carolina and the Blue Ridge Escarpment. Ms. Shucker in addition to being an UMNA member is a preservationist and author of three books and Mr. Robertson is a professional photographer known to many for his lovely nature photos displayed in our local hospitals and businesses. Janie Marlowe and Steve Marlowe (UMNA 2008) provided design and maps for the book.

The book is available in many of the area outdoor stores and state parks.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Meeting minutes submitted by Asa Hill.