

**UMNA General Meeting Minutes**  
**March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**10:00 am, Zoom Meeting**

After some Zoom instructions reminders, the meeting was called to order with Andy Chesson presiding.

To minimize Zoom disruptions from alternating screen sharing, the President presented the following officer's reports:

**Andy presented the minutes for Asa Hill Secretary who was unable to attend:** The January 28<sup>th</sup> minutes had been distributed previously by email on 2/5 (3:10 PM) and they were also posted on Facebook. There were no concerns, corrections, or discussion about those minutes, and they were approved as distributed.

**Treasurer report from Kathy Harrington:**

- Balance as of March 22<sup>nd</sup> was \$12,162.61
- Tax reports have been delayed due to the COVID tax extensions
- Reminder that the 2020 member dues cover the 2021-year dues based on our COVID related changes. Some of us have paid their dues anyway and designated them a donation. The Board is exploring special designation options for any such funds.

**Program report from Imtiaz Haque 1<sup>st</sup> VP and program chair:**

After today the next three currently scheduled talks are:

**5-27-2021: Stephen Schutt** - Title: Biodiversity in the Home Landscape and the Problems It Faces

**7-22-2021: David Spain** - Title: Geology in the Upstate, specific title TBD

**9-23-2021: Dan Whitten** – Title: The Mighty Oaks of the Upstate

All are approved for Advanced training hours by the board.

**Membership report: Dave Redden 2<sup>nd</sup> VP and Membership chair**

No changes in membership to report

**Committee Reports:**

none were submitted by the committee chairs for distribution or announcements.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Grants:** As announced previously, the remaining 2020 grants are granted an extension to year end 2021 due to the COVID limitations in activities. The board will be contacting the grantees soon them for any updates.

Manella Calhoun noted that Critters and More is starting to solicit interest in volunteers and hopes to get some of their programs started back by summer so they could return to their grant activities

### **Other NEW BUSINESS:**

From the floor the suggestion was made that we might be able to consider Field Trips in the near future, held outdoors and under COVID protective conditions. Andy noted the board had been having similar thoughts. Dan Whitten suggested we might take a poll concerning whether members might be interested in participation, if such options were created, to gauge members interest. Andy reported the Board is meeting next week and will discuss this idea further as a potential way of getting back into limited activities if it is felt that we could safely do so. Related considerations discussed are that Clemson is currently planning for students to return to in class activities in August and the uncertainty about when Clemson extension services and the parks might relax their rules.

### **Other Business?**

None

### **Other announcements by members from the floor:**

Sherrie Whitten suggested a future speaker might be Donald Hagan, Assistant professor in the Dept of Forestry & Environmental Conservation at Clemson and co-author of a book entitled Winter Tree Identification for the Southern Appalachians and Piedmont

**Imtiaz Haque introduced our speaker:** Steven Jeffers who presented a great talk on Phytophthora Root Rot: The Other Disease that Killed the American Chestnut

33 attendees were on the Zoom call.

Minutes submitted by Andy Chesson