

UMNA General Meeting Minutes
Sept 23rd, 2021 10:00 am, Zoom Meeting

Zoom instructions were provided and the meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM

To minimize Zoom sharing disruptions the President presented the following officer's reports:

Minutes Asa Hill Secretary: The July 22nd minutes had been distributed previously by email on 7/28 at 12:44 PM and they were also posted on Facebook. . There is one minor change: James Blake noted... that the UMN Class is a program not under the UMNA but Clemson. So, in that discussion under New Business, the wording was changed to UMN Class. With that correction the minutes were then approved

Treasurer report from Kathy Harrington:

Balance as of Monday's Exec Board meeting was \$12,216.61

Program report from Imtiaz Haque 1st VP and program chair:

After today, the next Advanced training talk at the November 18th meeting will be 11-18-2021 Title: The fantastic diversity of plant coloration by Matthew Koski, Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences

Coloration is one of the clearest examples of phenotypic diversity among flowering plants. While much of this diversification is attributed to natural selection by pollinators, the abiotic environment also plays a pivotal role in shaping color diversity. In the same vein, leaf color patterns (variegation) are a common example of phenotypic diversity, however the factors that generate and maintain diversity in leaf variegation remain unclear. I will discuss projects from the lab that examine both biotic and abiotic drivers of flower color diversity, and then discuss recent work that seeks to understand the ecological correlates with diversity in leaf variegation patterns in local *Hexastylis* taxa.

Dan's talk today and the November talk are both approved by the Board for Advanced training hours

Membership report: Dave Redden 2nd VP and Membership chair

With no new classes and no one being dropped (due to the covid extension of dues), membership is holding steady except for two transfers in from the midlands. We welcome Karen and Phillip Palmer. We have 211 members

Dave reported to the board that the new Electronic distribution system (Google Groups) seems to be doing well. If anyone is having trouble getting their UMNA notices, please let him know so it can be reviewed and corrected.

Committee Reports: Four reports were submitted

Volunteer: Cindy Robinson

As of Sept 12, 2021: Total 2021 Service Hours for the membership are 1275
Total 2021 Training Hours for the membership are 417
This is approx. a 50% increase in the numbers since the last report in July.
Ten members have completed their yearly requirements of 22/8 hr Service & Adv.
Training, up from the four reported in July. Discussed about working to combine hours
for 2020 + 2021 for those wishing, according to prior COVID rules, and will have further
announcements on that process.

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Newsletter: Carole Walters

Please write up your interesting articles so others can see what you have seen and
done over the last several weeks/months. It just takes a little time to write up a few
paragraphs. Your input makes our newsletter the best! Please send in articles and
photos by Friday, Sept. 24 to clmwalters1@gmail.com .

Carole has been doing a great job with the newsletter for many years, but she would
like a little help from someone to assist her. We are looking for a volunteer or
volunteers to work with her on updating and modernizing the newsletter format. If you
have an interest and want to learn about it, or talents in that area and are willing to
contribute, or both, please contact her or me to learn about the process. It is a good way
to keep up on activities and does not require you to write a bunch of articles and gets
volunteer hours for assisting the association.

Oyster Recycling: Carole Lyles

Oyster Shell recycling efforts continue in the upstate with a small crew of dedicated
volunteers servicing two main restaurants and a group of downtown restaurants in
Greenville that participate intermittently in the effort. The Clemson Rotary Oyster Roast
is scheduled for Friday Oct 1 at Tiger Park in Clemson and will be organized and run by
myself, Lyn Hamilton, and Cyndie and Jeff Hekking. The upstate shell program is in
need of future volunteers and funds to provide for further public drop off site builds.
Many thanks to Ric Barnett who continues to volunteer with the program. Score T-shirts
are being distributed to all volunteers and brochures and science pamphlets are given
to area restaurant staff to educate participants. Thanks for continued support from the
UMNA

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Website. Manella Calhoun reports that the Facebook site continues to be active with
member submissions and interactions. She is also working with on some options to
assist with the Board desires to plan for changes on the website as a mechanism for
dues payments and greater member interactions.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bald Rock project.....The project to restore Bald Rock to its pristine condition is progressing. Trash pickup will be Wednesday, Oct. 13 starting at 1PM and pressure washing will be Thursday and Friday, Oct. 14 and 15 starting at 8:30 AM. Any help we can offer will be appreciated. Notices have gone out in the email distribution system with contact info. Further information can be obtained from Dave Redden or Susan Jordan who is the coordinator if Asa Hill is not available.

CLASS LUNCHEON: The 2021 Fall UMN Class is ongoing following all the required COVID guidelines from Clemson, which has been a challenge. There will be no graduation luncheon for COVID guideline reasons and due to class cancellations/delays the hopeful graduation date is now Nov 4th.

NEW BUSINESS: This is to announce the 2022 UMNA Nominating Committee appointments. They will find and recommend the 2022 UMNA Officers to you. Their recommendations will be distributed in October to the membership, for voting at the Annual Meeting in November as per the bylaws. The officers required to rotate off at the end of 2021 and their positions, which will be open, are President - Andy Chesson, Secretary - Asa Hill and Treasurer - Kathy Harrington

The following are the 2022 Nominating Committee members: Dennis DeFrancesco Class 2019, Gene Rochester Class 2014, and Sue Williams Class 2011. If you have an interest and willingness to serve, or recommendations for good candidates, please let one of the committee members know so they can create a good list of candidates to use for their recommendations.

Announcements:

Dan Whitten reported that the Pigpen project is planning a workday on October 16 for plant rescue, although this is pending DNR clearing that the area is sufficiently drained to progress. Native Plant Society and Trout Unlimited are also helping, as is UMNA. Further information will be posted closer to the event.

December 11 Dan Whitten will be providing a Tree ID program at Conestee Park in Greenville.

There were no further announcements from the floor

Reminder:

UMNA Meetings: Odd months, 4th Thursday, except November when it is on the 3rd Thursday. Start at 10:00 AM next meeting is 11/18

Imtiaz Haque introduced our speaker: Dan Whitten who presented The Mighty Oaks of the Upstate. With his permission, the talk was recorded and will be posted for others to review when it is ready. 37 attendees were on the Zoom call.

Meeting minutes submitted by Andy Chesson for Asa Hill.