

**UMNA General Meeting Minutes  
MARCH 24, 2022  
10:00 am, Zoom Meeting**

Meeting called to order by Pam Shucker

**Minutes: Sharon Appell Secretary**

The January 27, 2022, minutes were distributed previously by the UMNA email, and they were also posted on Facebook.

Motion to approve was made by Andy Chesson and seconded by Imtiaz Haque. Minutes were approved with no corrections.

**Treasurer's Report: Cindy Hekking**

Balance as of Monday's Exec Board meeting was \$15,179.41

Manella Calhoun conducted a financial review of the last two years of records.

Our filing as a registered charity with the South Carolina Secretary of State has been renewed.

An exemption form has been filed with the IRS.

All Financial paperwork prior to 2019 has been placed on the Google Drive.

Year to date Financials through the end of February:

Beginning Balance: \$13,008.34

**Income**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>
Dues	\$2200.00	\$2500.00
Donations	\$125.00	\$100.00
Newsletter	\$75.00	
Total Income	\$2400.00	

**Expenses**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>
Website Improvement Fee	\$137.70	\$200.00
PayPal Fees	\$91.23	\$500.00
Total Expenses	\$228.93	

Income-Expenses = \$2,171.07

Ending Balance = \$15,179.41

FYI Total Dues this renewal cycle (Since November) \$3140.00 - \$114.37 fees = \$3,025.63

### **Membership Report: Dave Redden**

We now have 177 paid members and 6 Honorary Members.

There are 40 persons who have not paid their dues for this year.

### **Program Chair: Imtiaz Haque**

The May program will be an onsite tour of Lake Conestee Nature Preserve on Thursday May 26, 2022. Directions to the meeting location will be sent with the meeting reminder. This timing should also present ideal conditions for birders.

Plan for the September meeting is a presentation by Upstate Forever while the November annual meeting will feature a presentation by Brad Wyche, founder of Upstate Forever.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Clemson Meadow/Experimental Forest: Cindy Hekking**

Met with John Garton and Ben Sill to discuss proposed Homesite project. See project description on page 6 of these minutes.

E-mailed Russell Hardy and will be meeting on April 1 to discuss maintaining the meadow and to discuss the Homesite project.

Met with James Wilkins and a student from Clemson who is going to do a prairie restoration project in the meadow. Plans are to plant 4 plots on the right side of the meadow behind the purple martin house. One plot will be burned, one tilled, one mowed and one control. This will give us real data on the best way to improve the plant mix in the meadow. Russell Hardy may be willing to do a large scale project to improve the meadow.

Meadow Condition:

- Most of the oaks in the meadow are dead, having been ringed by an axe by Experimental Forest personnel about two years ago. They are trying to open it up more to create more meadow and less savannah.
- There was a burn last fall.
- Feral Hog activity is very bad.
- Pond looks great.
- Picnic table at the stream needs repair.

Cindy would like to have a Meadow Workday Wednesday April 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM (Rain Date Tuesday April 19<sup>th</sup>) to cut up/ move fallen limbs to piles, put the plant ID signs out, move the table in the meadow, repair the table by the stream and do water testing. An e-mail will be forthcoming.

#### **Bald Rock Clean-Up: Tony McDade**

The clean-up continues. There will be a clean-up session beginning at 10:00AM on Thursday March 31. Litter pickup will take about 2 hours and pressure washing will take about 4 hours. Pressure washing volunteers should bring about 100 to 200 feet of hose with them.

To pre-register e-mail Susan Jordan at [friendsofbaldrock@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofbaldrock@gmail.com).

An ultimate goal of Friends of Bald Rock is to remove all abandoned autos from the base of the cliff.

Dan Whitten is preparing a monthly inventory of plant species to ultimately have a site species list.

### **Grants Committee: Polly Powell**

New Grants Committee created to decide and award UMNA Grants to worthy natural environment-based projects.

Polly Powell is Chair with members:

Gail Brownlee  
Pat Hensley  
Don Hensley  
Lyn McCurdy  
El Nault  
Karen Palmer  
Carole Walters

We have begun work on revamping the application for the grants. There will be guidelines developed as well as a timeline for when the grants will be due, chosen and awarded. We are meeting on Monday, April 4, for an in-person work session.

### **Newsletter: Laura Godfrey**

Laura still wants some articles so others can see what you have seen and done over the past months, especially more details on the Bald Rock clean-up and the BellFest weekend.

### **Oyster Shell Recycling: Carole Lyles**

Our numbers for the upstate recycling program were good in 2021 despite some cancellations of events due to covid numbers.

- Our community volunteers put in an average of 40 volunteer hours each month to recycle enough shell for approximately 5,000 square feet of oyster reef building and repair
- Although we've lost some community volunteers due to health issues new volunteers have recently stepped forward and are working towards recycling in Spartanburg

Expanding our program in 2022 and beyond will require new volunteers, heads up on local roasts, and interested participants to keep recycling this resource for the SC estuaries and marsh restoration efforts.

Carole expressed thanks for all this organization does. New volunteers may contact Carole Lyles at 864 363-2525 call or text.

**Social Media:** Manella Calhoun

We are grateful for the Social Media contributions made by our members! The more of us who share UMNA related pictures, observations, opportunities, and questions/answers, the more we all can benefit.

Dave Redden, Sharon Appell, and Cindy Hekking have contributed directly with the improvement of our website. Providing updated member information is important and using PayPal for dues, donations, and newsletter fees has been steady. Sharon has gotten the calendar back up and going.

Currently, we have 164 members in our Facebook Group, which is set up for UMNA members, both honorary and active. Many of you have contributed to our Facebook Page and we do appreciate everyone following the guidelines. Administrators set up FB Events for UMNA related meetings, etc., while service opportunities are added as informational posts.

We seek to keep improving! Please let me know if you encounter any difficulties.

**Volunteers:** Cindy Robinson

Twenty-eight members have met their commitment of volunteer hours. Additional volunteer opportunities exist at the Bald Rock project and by assisting in the caterpillar count

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

Imtiaz Haque presented our program speaker Mr. Edmund Taylor who presented a program on a tour of Southeastern Trillium including identification, ecology, propagation, and horticultural merit. Mr. Taylor is a naturalist with specialties in horticulture, ornithology, and entomology. He is owner of Swallowtail Gardens Inc. and Estate Gardens in Cashiers, NC.

**REMINDER: MEETINGS**

Odd months, 4th Thursday, except November. Meetings start at 10:00 AM.

May 26, 2022, is the next meeting date.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45AM.

Meeting minutes submitted by Asa Hill for approval at the May 26 meeting.

**POSSIBLE MASTER NATURALIST PROJECT ON THE CLEMSON FOREST**

When the Federal Government purchased about 30,000 acres around Clemson University in the 1930's as a part of the New Deal, this land was primarily farmed with cotton. It was once said that if someone climbed to the top of the tower in Tillman Hall on campus and looked toward Six Mile, they wouldn't have seen a single tree. Once Clemson was given oversight in the 1930's, an amazing restoration proceeded. One of the remnants of the history of this land is found in old homesites. A wonderful

project for the Master Naturalist organization is to restore one of these sites so that forest visitors would appreciate this history.

One way to determine locations of these sites is to notice clues that are still visible today. These include:

- 1) A pile of stones that are the remains of the chimney of the homestead.
- 2) Presence of black walnut trees that were planted for several reasons – nuts to eat, and as a source of dye, and the fact that their roots poison the ground so that the open area around the home remains clear.
- 3) Daffodils (old varieties) that still bloom every spring.
- 4) Source of clean water for drinking, cooking, and washing
- 5) Level land that is suitable for a garden and crops.

For the site in front of you, sweet gum saplings and kudzu have slowly encroached on the area furthest from the walnut trees. These need to be removed and the stumps poisoned to restore the open area.

Maybe put a low fence around the daffodil area to protect it.

A kiosk can be installed that summarizes the points above along with a site map and historic photos where needed. (See the R.C. Edwards Meadow project.)

In addition, for this site, signs should be added at the large loblolly pine trees that remain from the first ones that Clemson planted in the 1930's as part of its restoration efforts.

Signs placed appropriately for the five things above and a sign on the dirt road that directs visitors to the site.

Minimum future maintenance.

This effort should be coordinated with Clemson University.