



## UMNA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

**Thursday November 17, 2022, 10:00pm – 11:30am**

**In-Person Meeting: ReWa**

**UMNA Executive Board Members:** Pam Shucker, Imtiaz Haque, Sharon Appell, Andy Chesson, Dave Redden

**Committee Chairs:** Cindy Robinson, Carole Lyles, Danny Howard, Tony McDade, Polly Powell

41 people present in person, 6 online

Welcome from Pam Shucker, President of UMNA

### Officer Reports:

#### 1) Secretary's Report: Sharon Appell

- a) Presentation of September meeting minutes, which were emailed to membership on September 29, 2022.
- i) Motion to Approve: Cindy Robinson  
Second: Dan Whitten

#### 2) Membership Report: Dave Redden

- a) Current membership stands at 191 paid members and 6 honorary members. About 73 of these have renewed for 2023.
- b) Added 19 members with the new class graduates.

#### 3) Programs and First VP Report: Imtiaz Haque

- a) The January meeting has been confirmed:  
Date: January 26, 2023, at 10:00am  
Location: Clemson OLLI Center  
Speaker: Matt Thomas, Audubon Society; Tracking Bird Migration Using Towers

#### 4) Treasurer's Report: Cindy Hekking

- a) Beginning Balance: \$15,466.92
- b) Ending Balance: \$ 14,438.37
- c) Cindy presented the final 2023 budget to the membership.

### Committee Reports:

#### 1) Oyster Shell Recycling: Carole Lyles

- a) Carole thanked Cindy Hekking and Lyn Hamilton who , with the loan of Gene Rochester's truck , accomplished the annual collection of a large trailer full of shell from the Clemson Rotary Oyster Roast . A small restaurant project was also added in Greenville with participation from community volunteers.

- b) Currently , the upstate oyster recycling project is being paused while the DNR Shellfish Management team considers changes to the recycling site at ReWa on Mauldin Rd.
- c) Carole has been proud to lead this project for five years now; many volunteers have contributed valuable time, their own resources and a lot of energy to ensure that our shell is returned to the coast . We have also done some good publicity and education work as well .
- d) While Carole has enjoyed leading the effort and working with businesses and volunteers for the past 5 years, she is planning to withdraw as committee chair. She is happy to provide any help needed to hand over the committee to a new Chair if the UMNA decides to keep this on as a project.

**2) Newsletter: Laura Godfrey (Pam presented in Laura's absence)**

- a) No updates, the newsletter will go out in December.

**4) Website/Facebook: Pam (Manella not in attendance)**

- i) No changes and no updates; Facebook group currently has 172 members.

**5) Volunteer Committee: Cindy Robinson**

- a) The Training and Service hours posted on the Clemson website have steadily climbed with more than a dozen new names added to the report this month. Hoping for a year-end push so that we won't have to carry 2022 work into 2023.
- b) Cindy has fielded a lot of questions about service hours which is encouraging – folks are interested in meeting their commitment. And more opportunities are coming up for both Service and Training and folks are taking advantage of that.
- c) To date 28 members have earned their amethysts in 2022.
  - i) Total training Hours - - 960 hr.
  - ii) Total Service Hours - - 2943 hr.
  - iii) Last year at this time we had 18 members who had earned jewels.
  - iv) Service Hours have increased by nearly 50% since September while training hours have increased by approximately 25%.

**6) Bald Rock Heritage Preserve Cleanup Committee: Dave Redden**

- a) The fall colors have brought a lot of visitors to Bald Rock. October 29, we held a community outreach event to educate visitors and recruit new volunteers and donors.
- b) Workdays at the site were held September 19 and October 21.
- c) An outreach day to inform the public of our work and recruit volunteers and donors was held at Lake Robinson near Greer November 5. The weather was bad and the crowd was light, but we are getting increasing attention from interested folks.
- d) More workdays are planned for November 21 and December 6. See details at these links.
  - 11/21: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/november-litter-pickup-registration-411511009507>
  - 12/06: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/december-litter-pickup-registration-414149270617>
 All workdays start at 8:30 AM and end around noon. Sign up for being a volunteer at <https://friendsofbaldrock.com/> .

**New Business:**

**1) New Slate of Officers Presented**

- a) Pam introduced and thanked the Nominating Committee: Cam McDade, Jimmy Vissage, and Donna Landeau.
- b) Jimmy presented the new slate of UMNA officers for 2023:
  - i) President: Pam Shucker
  - ii) Vice President: Betsy Lewis
  - iii) 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Seth Harrison

- iv) Secretary: Emmy Holt
- v) Treasurer: Cindy Hekking
- vi) Past President/Advisor: Andy Chesson
- c) No nominations were received from the floor, and all members voted in favor so the new officer slate was elected.

## **2) Service Award (Pam Shucker)**

- a) Pam presented an award to Andy Chesson, honoring his service to the organization.

## **3) Graduation Luncheon (Pam Shucker)**

- a) 60 people attended and enjoyed a delicious potluck luncheon.
- b) Thanks to Cindy Robinson for taking up new dues and signing up additional members for UMNA.
- c) Thanks to El Nault, who chaired the luncheon; she and her committee had it all organized beautifully. Donna Landau provided flowers from her garden for each table. Terri and Mike Mendonca brought two turkeys and Bobbi Whilite sent a ham.
- d) The Holly Springs Center was a very good spot for this, so we may use it in the future.

## **4) New Volunteer Opportunity: Maintaining/Expanding the Pickens Chamber of Commerce/Visitor Center/Clemson Extension Carolina Fence Garden**

- a) A few years ago, some of the Pickens County Cooperative Extension Service Office staff installed a small Carolina Fence Garden in front of the building housing Clemson Extension and the Pickens Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center on Main Street in Pickens. The garden could use the attention of a volunteer to renovate it, maintain it, and to make recommendations for its expansion.
- b) A Carolina Fence Garden incorporates both natural and cultural elements, which have been designated as symbols of our state.
- c) If you are interested in this service project, please contact Dr. Blake.

## **5) New: Alternating Month Activities (Pam Shucker and Sherrie Whitten)**

- a) February - Dan Whitten - hike to Possum Creek Falls & trail lunch
- b) April - Jeannette Winn - hike at their Mountain Bridge home with picnic lunch
- c) June - Bobbie Wilhite - hike to Yellow Branch & picnic at her Crystal Lake Cabin
- d) August - Dan or Other - Paddle on Lake Oolenoy/Table Rock & hike with lunch at Aunt Sue's (alternate plan might be kayak trip with Jocassee Lake Tours with Sherrie & Dan leading trip). Or both!
- e) October - Jane Pilzer - Trail Magic social with afternoon hike
- f) December - unplanned at the moment. Taking suggestions for an outing.

## **Program:**

Pam introduced our speaker, Brad Wyche, from Upstate Forever. Brad provided a great history of conservation efforts and development in the Upstate, and how Upstate Forever is working to balance that growth with protection of our natural resources.

Pam made closing remarks and thanked everyone for their attendance.

**Meeting adjourned:** 11:58 am

Members enjoyed the potluck lunch and fellowship after the meeting.