



UMNA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday September 22, 2022, 10:00pm – 11:30am

Hybrid Meeting: via WebEx

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

Committee Chairs: Cindy Robinson, Manella Calhoun, Carole Lyles, Danny Howard, Laura Godfrey, Tony McDade

37 people present in person, 11 online

Welcome: Joel Jones, CEO of ReWa

Welcome from Pam Shucker, President of UMNA

Officer Reports:

1) Secretary's Report: Sharon Appell

- a) Presentation of July minutes, which were emailed to membership on July 26, 2022.
 - i) Motion to Approve: Sherrie Whitten
- Second: Imtiaz H.

2) Membership Report: Dave Redden

- a) Current membership stands at 189 paid members and 6 honorary members.
- b) Dues renewal letter will go out 10/1

3) Programs and First VP Report: Imtiaz Haque

- a) Upcoming Geology classes taught by David Spain:
 - i) Oct. 15th
 - ii) Nov. 5th
 - iii) Contact Imtiaz Haque for registration information.
- b) All programs/meetings are in place for the rest of the year:
 - i) **September 22, 2022:** ReWa; Lisa Halo, Upstate Forever: "The Upstate: A Region at a Crossroads"
 - ii) **November 17, 2022:** Annual Meeting/Potluck ~ ReWa: Brad Wyche: "A Historic Perspective on Land Conservation Efforts in the Upstate"
 - (1) Potluck: bring a dish to share for 6-8 people, your own plate and utensils and drink. We are trying to cut down on waste.
 - (2) Hike at Lake Conestee NP afterwards. Meet at pavilion near where the restrooms are.

4) Treasurer's Report: Cindy Hekking

- a) Beginning Balance: \$15,743.71
- b) Ending Balance: \$ 15466.92

Committee Reports:

1) Grant Committee: Polly Powell

- a) Polly provided an update on grant committee and introduced each awardee. Each grant recipient gave a summary of what the grant monies would be used for.
- b) 2022 Grants were awarded to:
 - i) Jocassee Wild Child Outdoor Education
 - ii) Pendleton Library
 - iii) South Carolina Botanical Garden
- c) Carole Walters asked that the grant committee consider increasing the dollar amounts next year if the budget allows.

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

- a) Oct. 1 deadline for next newsletter, which will go out on Oct. 15th
- b) It will be necessary to raise the price of mailed newsletters next year, probably in the \$25-\$30 per person range.
 - i) Newsletters are on the website and are sent via email

3) Website/Facebook: Pam (Manella not in attendance)

- a) Facebook update
 - i) 169 members in the Facebook group
 - ii) Manella requests that members not invite someone to join our UMNA Facebook Group unless you know for sure the person is a South Carolina Master Naturalist Program graduate.

4) Volunteer Committee: Cindy Robinson

- a) 15 members have documented enough hours to earn an amethyst.
 - i) Total to date: 770 hours of Advanced Training and 2035 hours listed for Service Hours.
 - ii) This is nearly double the hours posted last year at this time.
 - iii) Cindy is present to award jewels for those members attending and will continue to handle the process through the mail for those members not attending.

5) Bald Rock Heritage Preserve Cleanup Committee: Tony McDade

- a) New master plan with Clemson University landscape architecture
- b) The Bald Rock team in coordination with SCDNR is looking at how they change Bald Rock from being a destination for graffiti to being a destination for being outdoors with family and friends.
- c) Paul Russell, associate professor of landscape architecture at Clemson, is working with a team of landscape architects—including faculty members Matthew Nicoletti and Lara Browning as well as graduate student Annie Steele—to consult with SCDNR on the master plan.
- d) This agreement represents the first step toward creative and sustainable solutions for the many issues that challenge SCDNR's mission," said Susan Jordan, president of Friends of Bald Rock Heritage preserve. "We are confident that the study will offer designed solutions to deter vandalism, minimize maintenance, enable restoration of plant and animal habitats, enhance the safe public use of the property and protect and preserve the natural resources."
- e) Upcoming Fall Cleanup Dates: Register online to attend
 - 8:30-11:30am on Monday, September 19 (today)
 - 8:30-11:30am Tuesday, October 25
 - 8:30-11:30am Monday, November 21
 - 8:30-11:30am Tuesday, December 6

- 1) For 9-6-22, 6 volunteers worked 6 hours collecting 200 lbs. of litter. In five litter cleanups throughout the summer, 48 volunteers worked 48-man hours and collected 780 lbs. of litter, which was taken to a recycling center." (<https://friendsofbaldrock.com/events-news/>)

New Business:

1) Officer Nominating Committee Report

- a) Committee is made up of Cam McDade, Jimmy Vissage, Donna Landeau and they are currently working to identify potential officers for next year.
- b) If you have any suggestions for the officer slate next year, please reach out to one of the committee members.

2) Graduation Luncheon (Pam to Lead Discussion)

- a) Date/Time: November 3, 2022
- b) Location: TBD

3) New Volunteer Opportunity

1. If you know of volunteer opportunities, please email me or send them out through the google email listserv.

4) Andy Chesson: special announcement – award for Carole Walters service in making the newsletter

Imtiaz introduced our speaker, Lisa Halo, from Upstate Forever. Lisa provided a fantastic program on development and growth 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. She also reminded everyone that our annual meeting and potluck is on November 17th when we will be voting in the new officers.

Meeting adjourned:

11:40am