

## **UMNA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, January 26, 2023 10:10 – 11:50**

**Hybrid Meeting: Charles Cheezum Education Center, Clemson, SC**

**UMNA Executive Board Members:** Pam Shucker, Andy Chesson, Betsy Lewis, Seth Harrison, Cindy Hekking, Emmy Holt

**Committee Chairs:** Dave Redden, Laura Godfrey, Cindy Robinson, Manella Calhoun (virtual)

Welcome from Pam Shucker, UMNA President

### **Officer Reports:**

#### **1) Secretary's Report: Emmy Holt**

- a) Approval of November 17, 2022 General Membership Meeting minutes  
Motion made: Imtiaz Haque; seconded: Nancy Williams

#### **2) Programs Report: Betsy Lewis**

- a) March meeting will be held at Easley Public Library, Main Branch
- b) Rick Huffman of Earth Designs will speak on native plants
- c) Effort is being made to move meetings around to areas convenient to members.
- d) Question: does anyone know of a meeting place in Anderson area?

#### **3) Membership Report: Seth Harrison**

- a) Reminder: dues go up from \$20 to \$25 after January 31.
- b) If dues are not paid by March 31, a person is no longer a UMNA member.

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

- a) Welcome to new members; anyone who paid dues at November Graduation meeting had paid dues through 2023.
- b) Pay Pal can be used to pay dues.
- c) 2022 Budget can be viewed on Google Drive.
- d) Beginning balance: \$13,008.34
- e) Ending balance: \$15,190.68
- f) Pam noted that more money has been spent for meeting places since earlier COVID precautions.

## **Committee Reports:**

### **1) Bald Rock Heritage Preserve: Dave Redding**

- a) Next workday at Bald Rock is February 16. Cleaning will include pressure washing. January workday was canceled due to inclement weather.
- b) Dave will email clean-up dates to members.
- c) If you want to become a member, go to website: Friends of Bald Rock and access information there.

### **2) Grants: Pam for Polly Powell**

- a) \$2000 has been given to grantees
- b) Anderson University was given grant
- c) Jocassee Wild Child of Jocassee Lake Tours, to enable children to attend

### **3) Newsletter: Laura Godfrey**

- a) UMNA Newsletter comes out every other month when there is no meeting.
- b) Everyone is welcome to send Laura photos, information on training, etc. Deadline is at the end of each month before Newsletter comes out the following month.
- c) Conestee Nature Preserve encourages volunteers, especially Naturalists, to volunteer in a variety of programs, either regularly or periodically.
- d) Examples of programs are: coaching in birding activities, setting up displays on the table tops, engaging children in educational activities.
- e) Check Conestee Nature Preserve website for programs; fill out form with your skills.

### **4) Volunteer Committee: Cindy Robinson**

- a) Volunteer and advanced credit hours increased in 2022. 81 members reported hours; 40 received Amethyst pin and will be mentioned in the February Newsletter.
- b) Increased activity: 33% in training hours; 50% in volunteer hours
- c) The Clemson reporting website describes what qualifies for volunteer hours. Several opportunities include Bellfest, Bald Rock, Foothills, state parks (look at websites).

- d) Pam added that members can report hours on UMNA webpage instead of going through Clemson.

**5) Website/ Facebook Page: Manella Calhoun**

- a) UMNA website will be updated with new officers and calendar items.
- b) Facebook page currently has 178 in group.

**6) Special Events: Sherrie Whitten**

- a) Bellfest is Saturday, March 18 at Devils State Park, 10:00-3:00.
- b) Dan Whitten is in charge of the Oconee Bell Trail that day. He needs 20 more volunteers to help: 1 hour, stand on trail and tell (with script) visitors about the flower and trail. Contact Dan if interested.
- c) There will also be a UMNA Booth at Bellfest. Cindy Robinson is contact person. Other activities at Bellfest will include Bluegrass music, silent auction, and an Andre' Micheaux impersonator.
- d) Sherrie has set up great activities occurring during alternate months:
  - Feb. 23: Hike to Possum Falls with Dan Whitten
  - April 22: Jeannette Winn- Hike Mt. Bridge; picnic lunch
  - June 15: Hike Yellow Branch Falls; picnic lunch; Bobbie Wilhite home on Crystal Lake
  - Aug. 22: Paddle on Lake Oolenoy; lunch at Aunt Sue's
  - Oct. 21: Trail Magic hike; dinner at Jane Pilzer's; Cliff Ridge
  - Dec.: TBA

**New Business: Gene Rochester**

Jennifer Baussman's husband passed away recently. She would appreciate any notes from members.

**Program:**

Betsy Lewis introduced Matt Johnson, who works for the National Audubon Society as Director of the Audubon Center and Sanctuary at Francis Beidler Forest.

Matt spoke about the comprehensive and innovative work that is being done tracking bird migration, using banding data, genetic markers, and other data collection to specify what locations birds fly to and from. The SC Motus Tower

Network uses radio telemetry to track flight patterns. He also talked about upcoming projects and partnerships in South Carolina and what we can do to contribute information about bird migration: report what we see; participate in community science projects; and learn about conservation challenges.

[Andy Chesson has sent out an email to members that has a link and passcode for the talk. This link will be accessible until the next UMNA meeting in March.]

**Meeting adjourned: 11:50**