

# **UMNA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, March 23, 2023 10:15 – 12:20**

**Hybrid Meeting: Easley Public Library**

**UMNA Board Members Present:** Pam Shucker, Andy Chesson, Betsy Lewis, Seth Harrison, Cindy Hekking, Emmy Holt (Zoom)

**Committee Chairs Present:** Dave Redden, Laura Godfrey, Cindy Robinson

Welcome to members from Pam Shucker, UMNA President

## **Officer Reports:**

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

- a) Approval of January 26, 2023 minutes

### **2. Membership Report: Seth Harrison**

- a) Membership renewal: 139 paid; 75 not renewed as of this meeting date; after March 31, name will be dropped from membership.
- b) Seth will send out an email reminding those who have not paid yet to pay.

### **3. Program: Betsy Lewis**

- a) **Thursday, May 25th, 10 am:** Meeting at Charles Cheezum Center (OLLI) at **Clemson**. Dr. Mike Ferro, Collections Manager for the Entomology Department at Clemson University, will present a program entitled "Hidden Worlds."
- b) Max Stone is confirmed as a speaker for the meeting in July.

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

- a) Beginning balance: \$15,190.68
- b) Ending balance: \$16,428.60
- c) An anonymous gift of \$500 was given to UMNA

- d) New: a waiver for everyone to sign will be required from now on before any volunteer work is started. Signing needs to be done only once; it is valid for entire time that one is a member.
- e) Cindy passed around sheets for renewal of dues.

## **Committee Reports:**

### **1. Volunteer Chair: Cindy Robinson**

- a) This is the time of year to identify the Fig Buttercup and report location to the Clemson Extension Agency. After flowers bloom, it's difficult to identify roots. Put flag in location.
- b) YouTube video is available by googling Fig Buttercup.
- c) Bellfest took place last Saturday, March 11 at Devil's Fork State Park at Lake Jocassee. It was a cool, sunny, beautiful day with a huge attendance; 3 volunteer shifts instead of 2. Thanks to every volunteer and to those who attended.
- d) Pam announced that Cindy Hekking needs someone to bring a table and sit at the UMNA table at the next event to explain what the organization does. Cindy brought her own table to this past Bellfest.
- e) Cindy Robinson stated that if a member considers a project qualified, post it on the Clemson website as a new program.
- f) As of this date, 350 members have received advanced training, a 50% increase over last year.
- g) If any member recorded hours from 2022, please contact Cindy Robinson

### **2. Bald Rock: Dave Redden**

- a) There were 15-16 volunteers at the most recent clean-up on March 14, mostly non-UMNA members. Dave would like to see more members at the clean-ups. The next date is March 31. Sign-up is on website Friends of Bald Rock.
- b) Another pressure washer was bought from a grant. There is a need for a person to operate it for 30 minutes at a time to remove trash and paint.

### **3. Grants: Pam for Polly Powell**

- a) All grants have used most of their funding.
- b) SC Botanical Garden (\$500) bought program Rusty Birds to identify birds; classes will be provided for teenagers and will compare sizes of birds seen in gardens.
- c) Pendleton Library acquired Feeder Watch program and bought binoculars and feeder boxes.
- d) Lake Jocassee Wild Child will hold a one-day camp for 87 children to do nature studies from boats.

### **Newsletter: Laura Godfrey**

- a) Thanks was given to all who sent in articles. The deadline is at the end of March. She has received photos of Bellfest and would like any other photos from volunteer projects.

### **New Business:**

- a) An announcement was made that there is an event on Hillbilly Day grounds on May 13 to inform the public of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. There will be a pop-up tent and live music.
- b) Tony McDade announced that there was a hike on February 23 to Possum Falls, planned by Sherri Whitten. Dan shared his plant expertise.
- c) On April 22, Jeannette and Marshall Winn will host a hike. Pam will send out an email to members with details about the upcoming hike. Bring picnic lunch.
- d) At the Conestee Nature Preserve, work is nearly done rebuilding the boardwalk. Needed: a member who can run a drill to put in screws.

### **Program:**

Betsy Lewis introduced Rick Huffman of Earth Designs. He has been honored many times for his dedication and environmental advocacy, and for

awareness and appreciation of land and plant protection. His topic was about  
Awakening: Biodiversity of the Southern Blue Ridge Region.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:20.