

UMNA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 25, 2023 10:05- 11:33 pm

Hybrid Meeting: OLLI CENTER, Charles Cheezum Educational Center, Clemson

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

Committee Chairs Present: Manella Calhoun, Dave Redden, Cindy Robinson

Welcome to members from Pam Shucker, UMNA President

Officer Reports:

1. Secretary's Report: Emmy Holt

- a. Membership meeting minutes of March 23, 2023 were approved.

2. Membership: Seth Harrison

- a. 134 paid members; 6 Honorary members; 75 unpaid members.
- b. Seth will cross-check list with Cindy Hekking.
- c. Members who pay will be re-installed

3. Program: Betsy Lewis

- a. The program for the July 27 General Membership meeting will be presented by Max Stone, Ex. Dir. of Naturaland Trust. He is a National Geographic photographer and will show slides of Naturaland Trust work in the SC Upstate.
- b. Pam reminded everyone that this meeting will be at the Garden Room of The Furman University Chapel. From parking lot, enter at lower level on either side of the Chapel. It may be counted as 1-hour Advanced Training.

4. Treasurer's Report: Cindy Hekking

- a. Beginning balance: \$16, 428.60
- b. Plus \$100.00 dues
- c. \$149.00 paid out
- d. Ending balance: \$16,527.11
- e. Cindy offered any member a waiver to sign.

- f. A member can ask Cindy to check whether dues have been paid.

Committee Reports:

1. Bald Rock Project: Dave Redden

- a. Progress is being made on clean-up, but a new direction is being taken.
- b. Pressure-washing is eroding the rock surface; volunteers will start planting lichen on rock to begin growth and coverage of the rock.
- c. DNR is considering proposed changes to the BRHP. Access to Bald Rock may change; available parking may change from Highway 276, one-mile from start of the Bald Rock hike. Graffiti can be managed better this way. DNR owns the land and needs our support to change access and to clean out cars from below the cliff. The projects are costly and will take at least a year to complete.
- d. Next time to volunteer will be June 13; members need to sign up on the Bald Rock website.

2. Grants: Polly Powell (absent) Pam reported.

- a. New grant applications begin on June 1.
- b. By the July membership meeting, UMNA will need to know how much money is available for funding grants.

2. Historian: Danny Howard (absent)

- a. no report

3. Newsletter: Laura Godfrey (absent) Pam reported.

- a. June 1 is deadline for next newsletter submissions
- b. Laura is always looking for members to submit articles to newsletters.

4. Social Media: Manella Calhoun

- a. Manella appreciates everyone's input. Let her know of any calendar item.

5. Volunteer: Cindy Robinson

- a. There have been 58 reports from members on hours; nine have earned the Amethyst level. Numbers of reported hours have grown from last year.

- b. Deadline for reporting hours for end-of-year report is June 30.
- c. Report of participation through recorded hours is sent to Dr. James Blake to rationalize UMNA funding.

Old Business:

1. Pam reported that the Board is considering whether to continue using Zoom for general membership meetings. She invited feedback.
2. Pam thanked Andy Chesson and Dave Redden for their help with a very complicated process of arranging Zoom meetings for UMNA members over the past three years.
3. Pam stated that the hike and picnic lunch at Jeannette and Marshall Winn's house at Cedar Rock Mountain went well; there were many beautiful wildflowers in bloom.

New Business:

1. Coming up: June 15: Bobbi Wilhite: hike to Yellow Branch and picnic at her Crystal Lake Cabin; potluck lunch; come before 9:45 am; go to Yellow Branch Falls. It's a 3-mile hike, on mostly level land to beautiful falls. Information will be in Newsletter.

Program:

Betsy Lewis introduced Mike Ferro, Ph.D., Collection Manager at Clemson University Arthropod Museum, Plant and Environmental Department.

Mike introduced himself as someone who has always been interested in entomology; for his Ph.D. he studied beetles in rotting wood.

Topic: "Hidden Worlds: The Universe in a Puddle"

While there are more insect species than any other species (mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, land snails, spiders, fresh water fish, plants), we generally know less about the insect species than any other. Mike covered information about where, when, and how we can discover insects and their role in nature.

Questions and answers followed.

The meeting counts as 1-hour Advanced Training.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:33 pm.

