

UMNA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 28, 2024
MAULDIN LIBRARY
10:00AM-11:50AM

OPENING: President Carson Johnson opened the meeting with a warm welcome and a call to order.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Carson informed the members present that if anyone needs a jewel attached to their name tag, Cindy Robinson, our Volunteer Coordinator, will be available for that service.

- Carson encouraged all to make an effort to record hours. Carson also informed all in attendance, including Zoom attendees, that today's presentation by Susan Jordan would be counted as Advance Training.
- Carson announced the prospect of car pooling within the Greenville area if any are interested.

MINUTES: Minutes of January were opened for discussion. With no changes needed, Pam Shucker moved to accept the January minutes. Cindy Hekking seconded. The membership unanimously approved verbally.

REPORT OF OFFICERS:

- **PROGRAMS: Cindy Hekking 1st VP**

March Meeting Report

March Susan Jordan will speak about the Bald Rock Project at the Mauldin Public library followed by a walk at Lake Conestee Nature Park. Dave Redden and Pam have graciously offered to help me with the zoom tech, as Seth is unable to attend.

May speaker will be Melissa Fuentes at the Easley public library at 304 Biltmore Rd, Easley

July Speaker is Jamie Van Clief of the American Chestnut Foundation perhaps at the Anderson County Library. Anyone from Anderson?? Spartanburg?? Back to Upstate??

September Speaker is Jordan Gray from the Turtle Survival Alliance

Cindy suggested two activities following our May meeting.

1. Biking
2. A Birding walk

- **MEMBERSHIP: Seth Harrison 2nd VP**

- Carson Johnson gave the membership report in Seth's absence. Dues must be paid by the end of March to remain active.
- We have 107 paid active members for 2024 and 6 honorary members. Unpaid members are 128, for a total of 242 members. That includes 20 new members who completed the class of 2023 in November.

- 85 members have renewed or joined for 2024. The Gmail group has been updated with several corrections from renewals and names have been added when missing for new members.
- The paid member list is: UMNA Active Membership - 2024 spreadsheet in the UMNA General Membership folder. It's also in the March Executive Board Meeting folder
- **TREASURER: Dave Redden**
- Dave reported that the required annual government reports have been filed. See report below for the specific items.
- Dave is currently working with Seth to keep track of paid members, those who have not paid, and inactive members. It is a large task. Dave and Carson asked for volunteers who are proficient in spreadsheets and computer skills to assist in this task.
- **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Beginning Balance 2/1/24 | \$16, 045.45 |
| Expenses | |
| Admin – Retirement gift for Blake | \$200.00 |
| Admin – PayPal and Square fees | \$3.86 |
| | |
| Income | |
| Dues | \$160.00 |
| Donations | \$0.00 |
| | |
| Ending Balance 2/28/24 | \$16, 001.59 |

- IRS report 990 – N has been filed.
- SC Sec of State Application of Exemption as a charitable organization has been filed and accepted.
- SC Sec of State report Annual Financial Report has been prepared and was signed by our President at the Board meeting on Monday 3/25/24. It was mailed today.

| UMNA INCOME AND EXPENSE SUMMARY - MAR 2024 | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Expenses | Budget | Current Month | Actual YTD | Over (Under) Budget | Budget Category |
| Volunteer Projects | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | A |
| Programs (site rentals and speaker fees) | \$1,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | (\$1,000.00) | B |
| Graduation and Off Month Activities | \$700.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | (\$700.00) | C |
| Grants Given | \$2,500.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | (\$2,500.00) | D |
| Administration - Direct Fees and Expenses (IRS, SC SoS, postage, website, printing, Zoom, etc. | \$200.00 | \$0.00 | \$272.90 | \$72.90 | E |
| Indirect Fees (Bank, PayPal, Square) | | \$0.00 | \$10.10 | | F |
| Miscellaneous | \$500.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | (\$500.00) | G |
| | | | | | |
| Total | \$4,900.00 | \$0.00 | \$283.00 | (\$4,617.00) | |
| | | | | | |
| Income | F'cst | Current Month | Actual YTD | Over (Under) F'cst | Budget Category |
| Dues (before expenses for payment methods) | \$3,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$425.00 | (\$2,575.00) | H |
| Donations | \$100.00 | \$0.00 | \$500.00 | \$400.00 | J |
| | | | | | |

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BALD ROCK RESTORATION PROJECT : Bill Hollingsworth

Emailed to Members and volunteers 2-14-24

Also, posted on Facebook and Instagram

Friends of Bald Rock Heritage Preserve

Winter 2024

Bald Rock Heritage Preserve Project Updates.2-7-24

By Austen Attaway, Heritage Preserve Manager, Region 1

SC Department of Natural Resources

Happy New Year! We are excited to start this new year off with some progress on our long-term vision for Bald Rock Heritage Preserve. In November, we had a contractor complete improvements to our emergency access road. The work included stabilization, widening, vertical clearing, and a 500 foot reroute of the existing road. The re-route avoids the section of road that holds the population of the rare sword leaf violets that was recently discovered. It also changes the road grade to a more manageable level that can accommodate a variety of vehicles. Kevin spread grass seed on the road promptly after it was completed to help with settling and stabilization. Eventually, we will spread gravel to avoid erosion issues. The contractor was very cognizant of (and interested in) our restoration efforts on the preserve. So, as a bonus to the project, he used the wood and brush that he cleared from the road to construct small piles along the side of the road that serves as a small mammal habitat. He also "fluffed up" the dirt pile that we have been using for the rock face restoration work to make it easier for us to shovel the dirt into wheelbarrows and gators. Finally, he moved a pile of dirt to the edge of the rock face for us to use for the slurry application. What a big help! In addition to the road improvement project, we have also been working with our engineering department to draw up the plans for the new parking lot on Persimmon Ridge Road. They had the area surveyed last week and I am expecting to receive the plans sometime this week. Once those plans are complete, we will put the project out for bid and select a contractor to complete the work. In the meantime, Susan and I will be preparing our plan to close off the current parking area so that we are ready to transition when the time comes. I realize that the pace of these projects is very slow. Unfortunately, that is one of the downsides of working for a state agency. Please know that we are working diligently to make our long-term vision come to life for Bald Rock HP! We need your continued support and volunteer efforts to ensure that Bald Rock Heritage Preserve becomes the place we all envision it to be. Thank you for all your hard work and I look forward to seeing you on the rock!

Tuesday, March 19, 2024 Next Workday: Volunteers needed! Link to register [Kicking Restoration into High Gear!](#) Thank you to the Kappa Chi Chapter of Sigma Nu at Furman University for testing slurry application methods, filling divots with dirt, and picking up 80 lbs. of litter in November 2023. Twelve volunteers covered a large area of the rock with dirt/slurry in just 4 hours. They had so much fun, they're coming back with more brothers in February! We are very grateful for their restoration efforts at the Preserve.

Recap 2023

In 2023, 50 restoration volunteers worked 520 hours at 14 events to mitigate graffiti and collect 2580 lbs. of litter. Nine outreach volunteers worked 116 hours at 7 events informing the public about restoration at Bald Rock Heritage Preserve. Congratulations to all of you on jobs well done! Members, thank you for your continued support of the restoration of the Preserve. Volunteers, thank you for all your work and support! You are amazing! Reminder: You don't have to be a member to volunteer, but it's cooler if you are! Third Annual Meeting of Friends of Bald Rock Heritage Preserve ...and they said it couldn't be done. Hey, we're doing it! Save the Date!!! Saturday, April 20, 2024 at 2pm Herring Center, Furman University 1274 Duncan Chapel Road, Greenville, 29617

GRANTS: Polly Powell

- Lyn McCurdy reporting for the Grants Committee
- Lyn read a letter from Grant recipient Kerry McKenzie of Jocassee Wild Child. It was a letter of appreciation listing how the Grant funds helped many underprivileged children during their Summer program.
- Jimmy Vissage asked Lyn if UMNA has funds allocated for Jocassee Wild Child as this is a most worthy program to support financially. Lyn informed the membership that it is not a budgeted item and a Grant application would be needed to continue to support the program.
- At this time of year, the Grants Committee is in waiting status until Grant applications are submitted.
- Carson reiterated the importance of the Jocassee Wild Child Program.

NEWSLETTER: Laura Godfrey

- Laura thanked everyone who has submitted articles for the newsletter
- As a reminder; All submissions must be in by April 1
- The Newsletter will be published on April 15

SOCIAL MEDIA: Manella Calhoun

- Manella is updating the UMNA website calendar to be a useful tool
- UMNA Facebook group has 186 members

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR: Cindy Robinson

- Members are beginning to process their hours for this year. At this time there are 43 members

included in the report with two members posting enough hours to earn an amethyst.

Advanced Training – 342 hours, Service – 446 hours

One member has written to begin the process of reporting, years after graduating. I am working to get a sign-in/password that will allow him into the system.

Cindy encouraged everyone to log hours

ALTERNATE MONTH ACTIVITIES: Tony and Cam McDade

- April 4 @ 930, Geology hike with Bill Ranson
- April 20 @ 10 Winns Little Falls Creek Falls trail, B4 FOBR meeting at Furman
- June 27 Yellow Branch Falls, Bobbi Wilhite
- August 15 Lake Jocassee adventure
- October 26 Trail Magic hike and dinner hosted by Pilzers
- Tony thanked all who participated in the Rainbow Falls hike led by Dan Whitten and to the 30 volunteers who assisted in BelFest 2024.
- Carson reiterated that the alternate month activities are a wonderful way to learn and get to know each other.

- The UMNA Bylaws state that a financial review should be taken when a new Treasurer is elected. Manella conducted this review

Upstate Master Naturalist Association (UMNA)

2023 Financial Review

UMNA Officers and Fellow Members,

On February 16, 2024, Dave, Cindy and I met and conducted a financial review of the 2022-2023 records, process, and the related financial documents of the Upstate Master Naturalist Association. My portion of the review focused on testing the bank statements and transactions, reported balances, income and expenses. I compared the bank balances from January through December 2022 and same for 2023 (see included documents to support the review). Even though my review would not necessarily disclose all errors, I found no evidence of significant errors or omissions. In my opinion, the association's financial reports are fairly stated.

During her tenure Cindy used Numbers spreadsheet process because of her specific hardware. The addition of PayPal use to the Cash, Credit Card with Square D processes for dues and donations broadens the need for coordination between the Second Vice President for Membership and the Treasurer. The total dues reported each year is a combination of the previous year and the current year and plays a role in the reconciliation of membership counts. The timeframe for on time dues collections is January 31.

As part of the review, Income and Expense Statements for 2022, 2023, and 2024 related budgets are included for comparative information. The recommendations from the last review were followed and observations are included in documentation with this letter.

A Procedural Checklist and Questionnaire is also included for use as an aid and in future reviews. If additional procedures are needed/developed, they can be added to the form. It is important to note that Dave Redden, the new Treasurer, plans to do most of his work electronically and may not have printed documentation readily available for the next review. Additional procedures may be needed for comparison purposes.

On behalf of the UMNA, I offer appreciation particularly to the Past and Current Treasurer and Second Vice President for their diligent work during the year(s), the coming year, and the gifts of their time and talent in the financial and membership activities of the association.

Manella Calhoun

Manella Calhoun, Financial Review Committee

Date: March 22, 2024

PROGRAM: Susan Jordan: Friends of Bald Rock

- Bill Hollingsworth introduced our program speaker. Susan Jordan of "Friends of Bald

Rock”

- Susan led us through the restoration effort to clean up and restore The Bald Rock Heritage Preserve
 - Much progress has been made ,however, so much more to do.
 - Many interesting questions as to the future protection of Bald Rock
 - Educating visitors to Bald Rock may be the greatest solution to protecting the preserve
 - Danny Howard suggested a QR code be accessible as visitors enter the Preserve that will open a video with educational content about the area.
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- President Carson Johnson adjourned the meeting at 11:50 AM

