

UMNA General Meeting Minutes
May 23, 2024
10:00 am-12:15 pm
Captain Kimberly Hampton Memorial Library
Easley, S.C.
Minutes Prepared By Kenny Brower

In Attendance; 28

Zoom; 6

Meeting Called to Order by President Carson Johnson

1. Approval of Minutes from March Meeting

With no corrections to the minutes, Betsy Lewis moved to accept; Kate Odom with the second. The membership voted unanimously to accept the March General Meeting Minutes as written.

Announcement; Carson suggested members needing an amethyst attached to their name tag would need to see Cindy Robinson during the meeting.

2. Carole Walters; Hike at Nalley Brown Nature Park in Easley

Membership was invited on this hike following the meeting.

3. John Garton 1943-2024

Carson informed the membership of the passing of John Garton. John was an Honorary member of UMNA and 2010 graduate of the SC Master Naturalist Program. In honoring Mr. Garton, Cindy Hekking, on behalf of UMNA, ordered 50 memorial trees that will be planted in a National Forest. The cost was \$ 165.00 + \$ 16 s/h, total \$ 181

4. Reporting of Hours before June 30, 2024 for Clemson

Carson reminded the membership of the importance of reporting volunteer hours. Clemson uses these hours to gauge how much money is being saved on projects that would otherwise be contracted.

Reports

1. Cindy Hekking 1st VP Programs

Our July meeting will be at the Seneca Public Library with presenter Jamie Van Clief of the American Chestnut Foundation. A hike will be planned to see trees after the meeting. Cindy announced that SC Master Naturalist patches are being ordered. If interested, contact Cindy. Cost is \$6.00.

2. Seth Harrison 2nd VP Membership

154 Active members

With the passing of John Garton there are 6 Honorary members
82 unpaid

3. Dave Redden, Treasurer

We are in good shape financially

Treasurer; Dave Redden

Beginning Balance 3/1/24	\$16,001.59
Expenses	
Admin – PayPal Fees - March	\$11.59
Admin – PayPal Fees - April	\$9.41
Program – speaker fee	\$50.00
Income	
Dues - March	\$710.00
Dues - April	\$725.00
Ending Balance 4/30/24	\$17,340.59

Budget Status as of April 30, 2024

Expenditures are only \$354 vs budget of \$4900 (7%).

Income is \$2420 vs budget of \$3100 (78%).

4. Bill Hollingsworth, Bald Rock Restoration

There will be an email forthcoming detailing work and times for volunteers. Bill shared information concerning the “**Blue Ridge Bartram Trail Conservancy**”. While there may not be volunteer opportunities at present, members may enjoy new hiking opportunities. For more information, contact info@blueridgebartram.org

5. Cam /Tony McDade, G.O. outings

The name of our Alternate Month Outings has been changed to “**GO**”, an acronym for “**Get Outside**”.

Next GO outing is June 27 to Yellow Branch Falls, led by Bobbie Wilhite. Followed by a covered dish dinner. Meet at Bobbie’s cabin. Carpool to the trailhead at 9:15. If interested in Kayaking on Crystal Lake after the covered dish, let Bobbie know in advance.

6. Cindy Robinson, Volunteer Coordinator

Carson covered the importance of reporting hours

7. Manella Calhoun, Social Media

Manella encouraged the members to continue to use the FaceBook page and the UMNA website. We have 183 members on FaceBook

8. Polly Powell, Grants update

Carole Walters suggested we increase the amount awarded to Grant recipients. UMNA has a surplus of money at present and this would be a good investment.

9. Laura Godfrey, Newsletter

Send articles and content. The newsletter will go out on June 15

Other Business

Dan Whitten announced a Native Plant Symposium will be held on October 18-19. More information to come.

Jimmy Visage announced a project at Conestee Nature Park dismantling the old boardwalk. More info to come.

Presentation

Carson introduced Melissa Fuentes of the Bob and Betsy Campbell Museum in Clemson

After a wonderful presentation, Carson adjourned the meeting at 12:15pm