

UMNA General Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2024

Zoom Meeting

Call to order and Approval of the Minutes.

Carson Johnson called the meeting to order. Sherrie Whitten motioned that the minutes of the July General meeting be approved. Pam Shucker second the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved by the attendees by show of hand.

1. Presentation of Grants awards- Carol Walters

- a. Conestee Nature Preserve.** Their new project, **Mastering Migration**, will include a field trip focused on basic bird identification and migration patterns. Also, conservation issues related to bird migration. Grant funds will be used to buy compasses and other supplies for this project \$ 1,000 will be awarded.
- b. Greenville Council of Garden Clubs Urban Arboretum Committee.** Grant funds will be used to develop and improve educational programs and communication skills with the visiting public at the Kilgore Lewis Arboretum. A database will include a list of all the trees at the Arboretum and QR codes will be placed at the base of trees for easy identification. \$ 1,200 will be awarded for the project
- c. Paris Mountain State Park.** The building and installation of Wood Duck boxes. \$1,250 will be awarded for this project..
- d. Jocassee Wild Child Outdoor Education.** Bringing awareness and outdoor education to underprivileged school students. \$ 2,000 will be awarded.

A total of \$ 5,450 awarded in Grants.

2. Four Quick Things.

a. Graduation Luncheon is 10/31. Keri McKenzie and David White

The group also discussed the upcoming graduation for the new class, with Kerry asking for volunteers to bring food and celebrate the graduating class.

b. Mallory Maher- New Director of the Statewide Master Naturalist

Program. Carson Johnson read Mallory Maher's impressive bio and encouraged the membership to welcome her as the opportunity arises.

c. Dues are coming up

Membership dues to be renewed beginning November 1, 2024. Members will have until the January 2025 general meeting to pay dues of \$20. Pay online or at the meeting.

D. Hawkwatch Article in SC Wildlife Magazine by Betsy Lewis and Imtiaz

Haque Carson Johnson encouraged the membership to read the well done article by two of our UMNA members.

3. 1st VP Report of Upcoming Meetings- Cindy Hekking

Because of the weather, Jordan Gray, of the Turtle Alliance, will be rescheduled for 2025. The UMNA annual meeting on November 21, 2024. **Addendum; Because of storm damage to South Cove Park, the annual meeting venue has changed to North Anderson Presbyterian Church located at 4200 Liberty Highway, Anderson.** Bring a covered dish. Meeting begins at 10 am. Patricia Whitner will be our guest speaker. Patricia will be speaking on the importance of volunteering and getting young people involved.

4. 2nd VP Report on Membership- Seth Harrison

We have 162 paid active members and 75 inactive unpaid members. Seth encourages the membership to reach out to former members or brainstorm ideas to make our organization more attractive.

5. Treasurer Report- Dave Redden The Treasurer will need to present a budget template for the upcoming year at the September Executive Committee Meeting. After review and approval by the Executive Committee, the Treasurer must establish a budget to present to the membership by the annual meeting in November.

Dave presented the budget for 2024 and 2025, highlighting the significant increase in spending for grants and the reduction in program fees. He noted that the budget is heavily influenced by grants, which account for 80% of the total budget. Dave also mentioned that they are trying to spend down their current \$16,000 in the bank.

6. GO Report- Cam and Tony McDade

Tony reported on the successful lake adventure and upcoming events, including a hike and dinner at Jean Pilzer's mountain home on Caesar's Head on October 26. He also mentioned the possibility of a tour of the Bad Creek power station in 2025.

7. Newsletter Report- Laura Godrey

8. Social Media Report- Manella Calhoun

9. Manella provided updates on the Facebook group and the website, noting the number of members and views. Carson expressed appreciation for the work done and encouraged others to contribute to the website.

10. Volunteer Update- Cindy Robinson

Cindy emphasized the importance of updating hours on the Clemson website and suggested ways to increase participation from the class of 2023.

11. Bald Rock Report- Bill Hollingsworth

William provided updates on the Friends of Bald Rock, including the number of volunteers and hours of service, and upcoming litter pickup dates. He also advised members to register on the Friends of Bald Rock website to receive notifications about any changes in the schedule.

Old Business

1. Formal Formation of a Technology/Zoom Committee

Carson Johnson expressed concerns about the time-consuming nature of organizing Zoom meetings for the organization, suggesting the formation of a committee to handle this task. Carole proposed hiring someone to manage the responsibility, acknowledging the complexity of the task.

New Business

1. Update of changes to the UMNA Website and Recognition of that work.

Carson Johnson highlighted the improvements to the website, including a functional calendar and accessible reference materials. He encouraged members to utilize these features and to send updates to the entire group through the membership chair, Seth. Manella clarified that the email address for adding events to the calendar is Upstatemasternaturlistassoc@gmail.com

2. Nominating Committee-Notifying the Membership Committee Update

Carson Johnson also updated the membership on the work of the Nominations Committee, which has completed its task and presented a list of nominees for various positions.

Committee members: Betsy Lewis, Donna Landau, Cathy Robison

Nominees- Carson Johnson President, Cindy Hekking 1st VP Programs, Jenifer Randal 2nd VP Membership, Dave Redden Treasurer, Steve Lewis Secretary

Meeting adjourned