

## Upstate Master Naturalist Association General Meeting

March 27, 2025

10:00–11:40 p.m.

Easley Library

304 Biltmore Road, Easley SC

1. Call to order: Carson Johnson called the meeting to order.
2. Approval of minutes from January meeting. The minutes have been posted to the UMNA website, although through an oversight, they were not posted until the day before this meeting. The January minutes were approved by a voice vote.

### Reports from Officers and Committees

1. Report from Cindy Hekking, 1st VP for Programs. The next general meeting on May 22 will feature Julia Kerrigan from SCUMS. She will speak on mycology, and the location will be the Mauldin library. July 24 speaker will be Wendy Watson of the Wildlife Rehab Group of SC, planned to be somewhere in Greenville. Mallory Maher will speak on September 25 about her vision for the SC Master Naturalist program (location TBD). November 20 Tammy Waldrop with SCDNR will speak on elk and bear. Possibility for the January meeting is falconry.
2. Report from the 2nd VP for membership. Jennifer Randle was not present, but Carson shared the following report. At this time, we have 173 members who have renewed for this year. There are currently 120 unpaid members. Members have until March 31 to pay dues or be considered inactive, and will not receive invitations to UMNA events. Carson said that he would send out one more email blast to remind everyone who has not renewed, and he commended Jennifer's work on membership.
3. Report from Treasurer, Dave Redden. At this point in the year, we have collected more than we've spent. YTD expenses have been \$171, mostly on administrative costs. We have received \$1775 in dues in 2025 so far, which is 57% of forecast income. Another large infusion of cash is expected in November and December, when members pay 2026 dues. Current balance is \$14,381.29.
4. Report from grants committee, Polly Powell, speaking via Zoom. Grant cycle opened on March 1. Updated information on applications has been posted on Facebook, on the website, and Carson sent out an email to all members. Grant applications are due on June 1, 2025. Polly encouraged members to share information about the grant application. Kerry McKenzie presented an update on the Jocassee Wild Child program, a UMNA grant recipient.
5. Report from GO committee, Betsy Lewis. Upcoming outings include: April 23, geology walk with Bill Ranson. The location may have to be changed because of the recent wildfires, so stay tuned for updates. May 6, tour of Bad Creek facility is full, but email Tony McDade if you are interested in signing up for another date. May 20, Museum of York County. For those who sign up for that outing, be aware that the spider lilies may be in bloom at Landsford Canal, and 40 Acre Rock is nearby, so you may want to stay overnight and make a weekend of it.
6. Report from newsletter editor, Laura Godfrey. It's springtime, and there are lots of flowers in bloom! Send in pictures, or reports of other projects that UMNA is involved in if you have them.
7. Report from volunteer committee, Cindy Robinson. Cindy has completed the second volunteer report for the year, and at this time we have 40 people who have entered their hours. This is down over two-thirds compared to last year at this time. Remember that reporting volunteer hours demonstrates the worth of our program. Carson observed that

reporting by the June 30 deadline helps out Mallory, the statewide coordinator. December 31 is the deadline for our Upstate Master Naturalist Association.

8. Report from Bald Rock. Bill Robinson was not present, but sent this report: Susan Jordan and other residents were asked to evacuate. Completion of the parking lot on Persimmon Ridge and other planned changes will likely be affected by the wildfires. The April 26 annual meeting of the Friends of Bald Rock will be at the Traveler's Rest Fire Department at 10 am.

#### New Business

1. Stephen Hercka (class of '24), site coordinator for outdoor activities in Spartanburg County, invites all to the Discover Your Watershed event on May 24. This is a volunteer opportunity, they are looking for volunteers to man booths and tables, so check your email for more information.

#### Old Business

1. Zoom committee update: Dave Redden, Pam Shucker, Seth Harrison, Phyllis Stanton, and Mike Landau have been working to improve the Zoom service.
2. Mallory Maher attended the last executive board meeting to report on efforts to coordinate opportunities for training and other events with other Master Naturalist associations throughout the state.

Carson introduced today's speaker, Dr. Bill Ranson, who presented information about the geology of South Carolina, and the upstate in particular.

After the presentation, Carson Johnson adjourned the meeting.