

## Upstate Master Naturalist Association General Meeting

May 22, 2025

10:00–11:40 a.m.

Mauldin Library

800 W. Butler Rd., Greenville, SC

1. Call to order: President Carson Johnson called the meeting to order. He began with a tribute to Sherri Whitten, who passed away earlier this month. The board approved donating a \$500 memorial in honor of Sherri to the Friends of Jocassee organization, of which she was a founding member.
2. Approval of minutes from March general meeting. Secretary Steve Lewis stated that the minutes have been posted to the UMNA website. The March minutes were approved by a voice vote.

### Reports from Officers and Committees

1. Report from Cindy Hekking, 1st VP for Programs. Wendy Watson of the Wildlife Rehab Group of SC will speak on July 24, probably at the Anderson Road branch of the Greenville library system. Mallory Maher, statewide coordinator of the SC Master Naturalist program, will speak on September 25. Tammy Waldrop with SCDNR will speak about elk and bear on November 20. Still hoping to schedule a talk on falconry for the January meeting.
2. Report from the 2nd VP for membership. Jennifer Randle was not present, but Carson shared the following report. We have 182 members that have renewed membership for 2025, slightly ahead of last year at this point. Carson announced that Jennifer had applied for and earned a grant from the Adobe Employee Giving Fund for \$10,000.
3. Report from treasurer, Dave Redden. Expenses since last meeting: PayPal admin fees March \$7.82, April \$0.99. Speaker's fee \$50. Income was \$250 in dues and \$70 in donations. Current balance is \$14,642.58. YTD expenditures are only \$225.95 vs budget of \$6950 (3%). YTD income is \$2095 vs budget of \$3100 (68%). We are in good shape.
4. GO committee report, Betsy Lewis. Since our last general meeting, we have had three outings: Geology hike, tour of Bad Creek, and a visit to the Museum of York County. Tony McDade is looking into the possibility of scheduling another visit to Bad Creek for those who missed out last time. Coming up, we have a potluck at the home of Bobbie Wilhite and hike to Yellow Branch Falls scheduled for June 13, beginning at 9 am. August plans for kayak adventure at Devils Fork State Park are still being finalized. On October 18, we have plans for a potluck dinner at the Caesar's Head home of Jane and Don Pilzer.
5. Report from Grants Committee. Polly Powell was absent, but Carson shared the following report. Only one group has applied for a grant so far this year, and the June 30 deadline is fast approaching. Carson encouraged members to share this opportunity with any worthy causes.
6. Report from newsletter editor, Laura Godfrey. Laura thanked members for their contributions to the newsletter and reminded everyone that the deadline for the next newsletter is coming up.

7. Report from social media coordinator. Manella Calhoun was not present, but Carson encouraged everyone to check out the website and Facebook page for the content that Manella has posted.
8. Report from volunteer committee, Cindy Robinson. Cindy has reported that there has been an increase in members reporting both service hours and advanced training. Reminder of the June 30 deadline for reporting to Clemson.
9. Report from Bald Rock, Bill Robinson. Bill reports that this week, workers from SCDOT installed the roadside railing in front of the former parking area. Access to Bald Rock is now available at the newly completed parking area on Persimmon Ridge. SCDNR has posted information about the new parking area for the Bald Rock Heritage Preserve on their website. As the mission at Bald Rock has been accomplished, the position of Bald Rock liaison will transition to a general service outreach liaison. Bill mentioned that some coordination with Conestee Nature Preserve may be in the works.
10. Carson reported that state coordinator Mallory Maher has initiated an effort to coordinate activities and outreach between all of the Master Naturalist groups throughout the state. Members may expect to receive information

Cindy Hekking introduced today's speaker, Dr. Julia Kerrigan, who gave a talk about mycology, the study of fungi.

After the presentation, Carson Johnson adjourned the meeting