

Upstate Master Naturalist Association General Meeting

July 24, 2025

10:00–11:50 a.m.

Anderson Road Library

2625 Anderson Road, Greenville, SC

1. Call to order. President Carson Johnson called the meeting to order. He began the meeting by reading a note from Dan Whitten. Dan thanked the association for their kindness
2. Approval of minutes from May general meeting. The minutes have been posted on the UMNA web site. Steve noted a correction that had been made. The minutes were approved by a voice vote.

Reports from Officers and Committees

1. Report from Polly Powell, Grants Committee chair. The report began with follow up from last year's grants. The Garden Club of South Carolina Urban had earned a grant last year for a project at the Kilgore-Lewis House, but because of a number of setbacks, they were unable to use the grant, and they have returned the \$1,200. Friends of Paris Mountain received a grant for duck boxes, but they have no report at this time. This year's grants included The City of Easley Parks and Recreation. They received a \$1,000 grant for plant identification in the Nalley Brown Nature Park. Christman Short accepted the check. Manella Calhoun earned a \$1,000 grant to provide educational materials for homeschool students who participate in a program at the Anderson Public Library. Jocassee Wild Child received a \$4,000 grant to fund scholarships for public school students in Title 1 schools. Kerry McKenzie accepted the check on behalf of JWC. The Conestee Nature Preserve earned a \$9,000 grant to purchase boots and storage for students to use in monitoring stream quality. Samantha Hart accepted the check and reported on the grant Conestee received last year. Conestee purchased compasses and binoculars last year for students to use, and she reported that about 740 students had participated in the program last year.
2. Report from Cindy Hekking, first VP for programs. 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.
3. Report from the 2nd VP for membership. Jennifer Randle was present on Zoom, but Carson shared the following report. We have 174 renewing members, and six honorary members, for a total of 182.
4. Report from the treasurer, Dave Redden. Dave summarized the following report:

July 2025 UMNA Expenses and Income Since Last Meeting	
Beginning Balance 5/22/25	\$14,642.58
Expenses	
Admin – Reimburse Accidental Deposit Fees - May	\$51.22
Admin – Zoom - June	\$169.49
Program – speaker fee - May	\$50.00
Program – speaker fee - June	\$0.00
Miscellaneous - Whitten Memorial - May	\$500.00
Income	
Dues - May	\$0.00
Dues - June	\$24.01
Donations - May	\$51.22
Donations - June	\$10,000.00
Ending Balance 7/20/25	\$23,947.10

Budget Status as of July 20, 2025

YTD Expenditures are only \$1000.66 vs budget of \$6950 (6%).

YTD Income is \$12,107.23 vs budget of \$3100 (includes \$10,000 grant).

Special Note:

Our exemption status with SC Sec of State has been updated.

We now can raise \$20,000 per year and maintain our exempt status.

5. GO Committee report. Steve Lewis reporting on behalf of Betsy. Join fellow Upstate Master Naturalists on August 14th at 10 a.m. to tour the site and see the petroglyphs at Hagood Mill. Afterward we will socialize at nearby Moo's Creamery where ice cream and sandwiches are available. Our final activity of the year will be October 18 at Trail Magic, Jane Pilzer's Caesar's Head home, for a potluck and hopefully a hike. Note that going forward, liability waivers will be distributed at each GO outing, signed, collected, and kept for a limited time (most likely one month following the outing).
6. Newsletter report. Laura Godfrey was not present, but Carson commended the job she has been doing and reminded members that if they had contributions for the next newsletter, the deadline is August 1st.

7. Social media report. Manella Calhoun was not present, but Carson reminded members of the valuable resources that Manella provides with the website and the Facebook page.
8. Report from Bill Hollingsworth, service outreach coordinator. Bill plans to meet with Erin Knight to see how our organization could help out with the mission at Conestee. He also mentioned reaching out to Paris Mountain State Park.
9. Carson Johnson announced that the Nominating Committee will be composed of Pam Shucker, Cam McDade, and Ernie Glenn will be serving this year. If you have any recommendations for officer candidates, please get in touch with the committee.

Carson Johnson introduced today's speaker, Wendy Watson of the Wildlife Rehab Group of SC, who gave a talk about the work they do. Animal ambassadors were part of the program.

After the presentation, Carson Johnson adjourned the meeting