

Upstate Master Naturalist Association General Meeting

September 25, 2025

10:00–11:45 a.m.

Berea Library

111 N. Highway 25 bypass, Greenville

1. Call to order. President Carson Johnson called the meeting to order. He began the meeting by explaining that our speaker, Mallory Maher would present the program first, due to time constraints imposed by other obligations. Following the presentation, there was a brief break.
2. Approval of minutes from the July general meeting. The minutes have been posted on the UMNA web site. Steve Lewis called for a motion to accept the minutes. Mike Landau made a motion, and Laura Godfrey seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

Reports from Officers and Committees

1. Report from Cindy Hekking, 1st VP for programs. Our annual meeting and potluck will be held at South Cove Park in Seneca on November 20, 2025. Tammy Waldrop, SCDNR, will speak about elk and bear. At the January 22, 2026 meeting, Brantley Broach, president of the SC Falconry Association, will speak at the World of Energy.
2. Report from the 2nd VP for membership. Jennifer Randle was not present, but Carson reminded members that dues for next year will be due by January 31, 2026. After that, the price goes up from \$20 to \$25 until March 31. After March 31, members who have not paid dues will be considered inactive. Membership can be renewed online at our website, or contact treasurer Dave Redden with cash or check.
3. Report from the treasurer, Dave Redden. Dave summarized the following report

September 2025 UMNA Expenses and Income Since Last Meeting

Beginning Balance 7/20/25	\$23,947.10
Expenses	
Grants given–July	\$14,000.00
Grants given–August	\$1,000.00
Income	
Dues–July, August, September	\$0.00
Donations–August	\$12,000.00
Ending Balance 9/20/25	\$10,147.10

Budget Status as of September 20, 2025

YTD Expenditures are \$19,001.65 vs budget of \$16,950 (94%).

YTD Income is \$13,391.22 vs budget of \$13,100 (102%, which includes \$10,000 grant received and \$1,000 grant return from previous year).

PROPOSED UMNA INCOME FORECAST AND EXPENSE BUDGET - 2026					
Expenses	Budget 2025	Actual YTD - 2025	Proposed 2026	Notes	Budget Category
Volunteer Projects	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00	No change.	A
Programs (site rentals and speaker fees)	\$500	\$150.00	\$500.00	No change.	B
Graduation and Off Month Activities	\$700	\$0.00	\$700.00	No change. Graduation dinner is about \$200. GO guess is \$500.	C
Grants Given	\$15,000	\$15,000.00	\$5,000.00	Will increase this if we get the Adobe Employees grant	D
Administration - Direct Fees and Expenses (IRS, SC SoS, postage, website, printing, Zoom, donations, etc.	\$500	\$239.71	\$600.00	\$170 for Zoom \$150 for Website \$50 for IRS and SCSoS \$230 for unknown donations/gifts	E
Indirect Fees (Bank, PayPal, Square)	\$50	\$111.94	\$120.00	Increased use of PayPal	F
Miscellaneous	\$200	\$500.00	\$200.00	Unlikely to use this since now are covering this under Admin.	G
Total	\$16,950	\$16,002	\$7,120		
Income	F'cst	Actual YTD	F'cst for 2026		
Dues (before expenses for payment methods)	\$3,000	\$2,020.00	\$3,500.00	175 paying members at \$20	H
Donations	\$100	\$1,371.22	\$100.00		J
Grants Received	\$10,000	\$10,000.00		Will revise if get the Adobe grant.	K
Total	\$13,100	\$13,391.22	\$3,600.00		
		Deficit	(\$3,520)		
		Current Bank Balance	\$10,147.10		

Dave explained that the deficit spending was planned, because the members had previously voted to spend down budget surplus by increasing grant payments. If the Adobe Employees Grant is available next year, the budget for grants may be revisited. Dave Redden called for a motion to approve the proposed budget. Pam Shucker made a motion, and Mike Landau seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

4. Report from volunteer committee. Cindy Robinson was not present, but Carson observed that Mallory Maher's presentation today included a summary of hours reported to the statewide Master Naturalist coordinator.
5. Report from GO committee. Cam McDade announced the annual social at the home of Jane and Don Pilzer near Caesar's Head. Those who would like to hike to Dargans Cascade can meet at 2:00 at the Silver Steps parking area. Social time begins at 5:00 at the Pilzer's home. Potluck dinner at 6:00, followed by a fire pit at 8:00. RSVP to jane@donpilzer.com. Jane will respond with directions and gate code.
6. Grants committee has no report at this time.
7. Newsletter, Laura Godfrey. All newsletter contributions are welcome, and Laura thanks those who have contributed so far. The next newsletter will be coming out in the middle of October, so send what you have to share!
8. Social media committee. Manella Calhoun was not present for the meeting, but Carson thanked Manella for her efforts, and reminded members to check out the website and the Facebook page.
9. Report from Bill Hollingsworth, service outreach coordinator. Bill introduced Sarah Whitmire and Ben Stancell from Conestee Nature Preserve. Sarah described some volunteer opportunities at Conestee. There are two training events each year for potential volunteers (see the Conestee website for more information). Ben Stancell described some other volunteer opportunities, including habitat stewards (removing non-native invasives, for example), trail stewards (working on trail maintenance, for example), and visitor engagement (working in gift shop, for example).
10. President Carson Johnson reminded members about the GO outing on October 18th, the Master Naturalist class of 2025 graduation luncheon on October 30, and the annual meeting in November. Carson Johnson adjourned the meeting at 11:45 am.