

Upstate Master Naturalist Association General Meeting

November 20, 2025

10:00–11:45 a.m.

South Cove County Park

1099 South Cove Road, Seneca

1. Call to order. President Carson Johnson called the meeting to order.
2. Approval of minutes from September 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 Cindy Hekking seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

Reports from Officers and Committees

1. Report from Cindy Hekking, 1st VP for programs. The January meeting will take place at the World of Energy, and the featured speaker will be Mitch Brantley of the SC Falconry Association.
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. So far, 15 members of the Upstate Master Naturalist class of 2025 have joined.
3. Report from treasurer, Dave Redden.

November 2025 UMNA Expenses and Income Since Last Meeting	
Beginning Balance 9/20/25	\$10,147.10
Expenses	
Admin - WordPress dues - Oct	\$192.60
GO and Graduation - Nov	\$197.15
Admin - PayPal Fees - Nov	\$24.75
Income	
2026 Dues - Oct	\$0.00
2026 Dues - Nov	\$1,660.00
Donations - Nov	\$30.00
Ending Balance 11/16/25	\$11,422.60

Budget Status as of November 16, 2025

YTD Expenditures are \$16,416.15 vs budget of \$16,950 (97%).

YTD Income is \$15,001.22 vs budget of \$13,100 (115%), which includes \$10,000 grant received and \$1200 grant return from previous year.

4. Report from GO committee, Betsy Lewis. Betsy thanked all the members who participated in our GO outings. Next year Cindy Hekking will chair the committee, and the committee will welcome new members Dan Whitten and Mike Landau.

5. Newsletter report, Laura Godfrey. Pictures and submissions are welcome for the next newsletter. Laura will be working on the newsletter between December 1-15.
6. Social media report. Manella Calhoun was not present, but Carson gave a plug for all the content posted on both the Facebook page and the UMNA website. Members may pay their dues on the website as well. The password for the protected pages on the website is UMNAis#1.
7. Volunteer update, Cindy Robinson. Reminder to keep your volunteer hours and advanced training hours up to date. Year end report will be completed during the first two weeks of January, so if you have additions to make after that time, please contact Cindy. At this time, 83 members have uploaded hours to the system, and 33 members have recorded enough hours to earn an amethyst for the year.
8. Service outreach, Bill Hollingsworth. The Friends of Bald Rock is still maintaining its 501(c)3 status, and there is a December litter pick up scheduled. You may sign up for that on the website, but after the first of the year, the website will go dark. Further updates on activities at Bald Rock will be distributed in some other way. Adopt-a-Stream and Friends of the Reedy River are both interested in working with UMNA. Bill reminded members that there are plenty of volunteer opportunities available at these and other organizations.

New Business

1. Pam Shucker, chair of the nominating committee, took a moment to thank all who served in some leadership role this year. Pam introduced the slate of nominees: President, Steve Lewis; 1st VP for Programs, Melissa McDow; 2nd VP for Membership, Jennifer Randle; Secretary, Deborah Hill; Treasurer, Phyllis Stanton; Adviser, Carson Johnson. Committee chairs will be Cindy Hekking, GO committee; Polly Powell, grants; Laura Godfrey, newsletter; Bill Hollingsworth, service outreach; Manella Calhoun, social media; Cindy Robinson, volunteer; Danny Howard, historian. The slate of officers was elected by the members present.
2. Danny Howard addressed the meeting to share information about a matching grant program to support Jocassee Wild Child. Between now and December 15, all gifts will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$75,000. This is a program that we have supported in the past, and Danny encouraged members to support during the fund drive.
3. Carson thanked Craig Williams for conducting our annual financial review again this year. Finally, he encouraged all members to renew their membership, which can be done on the website.

Cindy Hekking introduced the speaker, Tammy Waldrop of SCDNR, who made a presentation about black bears in South Carolina.

Following the presentation, members were invited to join the potluck lunch.