

UMNA General Meeting

January 22, 2026

10:00-11:30 AM

Duke Power World of Energy, Seneca, SC

**President, Steve Lewis** called meeting to order at 10:00 AM

**Secretary, Deborah Hill** called for approval of the UMNA General meeting Minutes from November 20, 2025. Carson made a motion to approve and Cindy Hekking 2<sup>nd</sup>. All approved.

**1<sup>st</sup> VP, Melissa McDow** announced the following speakers/locations for 2026 meetings:

**3/26 Hope Mizell, SC State Climatologist**

Topic – “South Carolina’s Weather and Climate”, Location TBD

**5/28 Dr. Robert E. Carter, Botanist**

Topic – “Catawba Nation Ethnobotany”, Location TBD

**7/23 John Fritz**

Topic – “Wilding with Purpose” (Planting native plants), Location Pickens Co Museum

**9/24 Chris Bridges**

Topic- Bees and Pollinators, Location TBD

**Treasurer, Phyllis Stanton** reports 12/31/25 year end budget results.

Actual Expenses \$16,429.41 VS Budget \$16,950. (97%)

Actual Income \$15,651.22 VS Budget \$13,100 (119%)

(Note income includes a \$10,000 grant & \$1,200 returned grant)

UMNA books were reviewed by Craig Williams and found to be well documented and accurate.

**GO Committee Chair, Cindy Hekking** reports the following planned outings:

2/19 (2/24 rain date) Bald Rock Hike

4/1 Bad Creek (repeat for those who could not get into trip last year)

4/2 Chestnut Ridge Hike

6/18 Yellow Branch Hike

GO Committee Report (Continued from page 1)

August TBA Geology Museum, Clemson and picnic in Botanical Garden

October TBA Trail Magic @ Pilzner's (Jane & Don)

**Tony McDade** announced Bellfest will be 3/21/26 and he is looking for volunteers to work the trail and /or the UMNA booth.

**New Letter Editor, Laura Godfrey** announced, "It's newsletter time!!" Please send her your wonderful photos and articles as soon as possible.

**Website and FB Chair, Manella Calhoun** reports we are adding a new rule to the FB rules. Please remember this site is for posting information about nature, not your personal info.

**Volunteer Hours Chair, Cindy Robinson** reports hours for 2025 have been tallied. If you still need to add 2025 hours please notify her and she can easily add them to her report. Numbers are up this year for Advanced Training and Service hours are up 20%. 44 Amethysts were earned in 2025.

**Volunteer Outreach, Bill Hollingsworth** says March will be a busy month for volunteering opportunities with Bellfest on 3/21 and Forestfest on 3/28. Bald Rock litter pick up may start again in March. New opportunities with Jocassee Wild Child will be coming for volunteers to help enhance their program. More TBA.

**Jocassee Wild Child Co-Ordinator, Kerry McKenzie** reported a volunteer must be CPR certified to lead a group. But, they need help on the boat trips and help with public presence at public events. Jocassee Wild Child Program is growing! They always need grants, fundraising assistance and ideas.

Speaker Brantley Broach, President of SC Falconry Association, travelled from Florence, SC with a Peregrin Falcon and two RedTail Hawks to give a very informative presentation.

Steve Lewis made motion to adjourn meeting at 11:29AM. Mike Landeau 2<sup>nd</sup>.