

## UMNA General Meeting Minutes

March 26, 2026

W. Jack Greer Branch Library (Mauldin), 800 W. Butler Rd., Greenville, SC

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

He announced Cindy Robinson was available to install amethysts.

He asked for approval of General Meeting minutes from January. Mike L. approved/Carson 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Melissa McDow, 1<sup>st</sup> VP/Programs** reported UMNA Programs for 2026 as follows:

March 28, Dr. Hope Mizzell, - "SC Climatology"

W. Jack Greer Branch Library, 800 W. Butler Rd, Mauldin, SC

May 28, Dr. Robert Carter, - "Catawba Native Ethnobotany"

Wilkins Conference Center, Roper Mountain Science Center, 402 RM Rd., Greenville, SC

September 24, Chris Bridges - "All About Bees"

Location TBD

November 19, Austin Williams & Carson Barefoot, - "Table Rock Fire"

South Cove Park, 1099 South Cove Rd., Seneca, SC 29672

January 28, 2027, Tricia Kyzer, - "Patterns in Nature"

Possibly Hayden Center @ Botanical Garden

**Jennifer Randle, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP** (Steve read report) 60% of members have renewed. She reached out to former members and got 12 renewals. There was discussion about asking Mallory to initiate changes of addresses of our membership. Jennifer is going to discuss with Mallory and report back.

**Phyllis Stanton, Treasurer** reports there is \$24,282.52 in the new Wells Fargo account.

The old account has been closed. \$10,000 grant money has been received and is included in that amount.

**Polly Powell, Grants Committee** (Steve read report) It was noted 16 people have accessed the website since January 2026 and the grant process will be finished in June.

**Manella Calhoun, Social Media** reports FB & Website are in good shape.

Grant cycles are posted on FB. There are now 203 members of our Facebook group.

**Cindy Hekking, GO Committee Chair** reports the following planned outings for 2026:

April 1<sup>st</sup> – Bad Creek repeat. Tony McDade is coordinating. A few seats are still available.

April 2 – Chestnut Ridge hike. Mike Landau is leading.

June 18 – Yellow Branch Falls hike & Wilhite potluck. Details s/b emailed about 30 days prior.

August 13 – Geology Museum Tour @ 10 and SC Botanical Garden picnic following

October TBD - Trail Magic @ Jane & Don Pilzner's.

Other possible hikes to be added at later dates.

**Laura Godfrey, Newsletter** (Steve read report) April newsletter will have: an article by Ric Barnett about Screech Owls; Grant information; Bellfest report with pics; GO Outings list; Future speaker meetings and lots of pictures of spring flowers. Sympathies to Laura for the loss of her mother.

**Cindy Robinson, Volunteer Coordinator** reports there are rarely jewels earned this early in the year but to date in 2026 47 members have reported hours for 2026. She will be at the March general meeting to meet new members and install amethysts.

**Bill Hollingsworth Volunteer Coordinator** (Steve read report)

Bellfest was very successful and lots of UNMA volunteers attended. Forestfest will occur 3/28 with volunteer opportunities in the Experimental Forest. Will Mundhenke with DNR has ordered 5 new sign posts for Bald Rock HP which s/b installed in April. Christopher Barry with the Mountains to Sea Trail expressed an interest in finding volunteers from UNMA to help on the trail. Jocassee Wild Child has gained several new volunteers from UMNA who have taken training/CPR and are awaiting field trips to begin.

**Melissa McDow introduced her friend, Dr. Hope Mizzell** a South Carolina State Meteorologist who expertly presented an extremely informative program about SC weather patterns.

**Steve** adjourned meeting at 11:38 AM