



South Central PA Chapter

Wild Ones of South-Central PA Monthly Meeting via Zoom

August 29, 2022, Minutes (Submitted by Lorrie Preston, Secretary)

Attendance – (15 Total)

Members: Angela den Hoed (Cumberland), Jane Shull Perry), Jane Allis (Perry), Jane Earle (Cumberland), Jane Webster (Dauphin), Joyce Wilder (Cumberland), Karen Rudy (Cumberland), Kerri Thauby (Cumberland), Kristen Acri (Cumberland), Lorrie Preston (York), Rick Bloomingdale (Dauphin), Shawna Raymond (York), Tami Harnish (Cumberland), Wendy Smith (Cumberland), Zach Richard (Dauphin)

Non-Members: None

Welcome and Introductions: Those attending introduce themselves and noted the county where they reside

Minutes of May Meeting – Approved unanimously

Reports

Membership – Kerri Thauby – We remain at 60 chapter members this month. Welcome to new member, Nancy Williams. One membership expired – Lisa Roth of Huntingdon. Kerri will be sending renewal reminder. *(Could this be a possible transfer of her Wild Ones membership to the new “Ridge and Valley” chapter in the Huntingdon area?)*

Treasurer – Margaret Naguski - Margaret was unable to attend the meeting due to internet problems, but she provided a report to Jane Allis by email immediately following the meeting. “There was a dues reimbursement shortage/mistake the last time we were reimbursed for dues, so we received another \$43.00 from National W.O. which brought our balance to 973.72, but we then spent \$50 for the donation to Hungry Hook Farm. Our current balance is \$923.72.”

Activities/Events:

1. **Hungry Hook Farm Tour and Saving Seed Report** – Took place on Sat., 8/20. Twelve members of our chapter were signed up, but only 11 were able to attend, due to traffic problems. It was an excellent workshop with lots of information shared. Sherrie Moyer distributed a handout she had made *(Attached separately)* and went through each point, showing us how she collects and propagates by seed. We toured her nursery, saw her germinating flats, then went back to the barn for the hands-on portion of the program. We were surprised that each one of us was given an entire 128 count cell pack and we were provided free seeds of about 10 varieties of native plants, plant labels, and her favorite soil mix in which to plant our seeds. *(Continued on next page)*



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(Hungry Hook Farm, Continued)

Sherrie's handout had some great resources listed for more information on propagating by seed, so be sure you check it out. Here are a few points I made a special note of during her presentation:

Sherrie uses a special blend soil mix which contains no peat and is made by the Fetrell Fertilizer Co., and labeled by "Fry Brothers". She combines 2/3's soil mix with 1/3 soil conditioner, which consists of pine bark fines. Compact the soil down with fingertips or you will not have enough soil after watering several times. Use light watering – misting works well.

She uses a nail file to pop small seedlings out of their cell pack and then transplants them into 4" pots.

Consider what nature would do when treating your seeds prior to planting. Fertilize cell packs once a month because frequent watering causes nutrient deficiencies.

Our chapter gave Sherrie a \$50 check and a thank you note on the day of her presentation. However, she was so generous with her time and her materials that it felt inadequate. She also allowed us to go into her home to use the bathroom. During our Zoom meeting, it was decided that if anyone who attended is so inclined, you may send a check in whatever amount you wish made out to "Wild Ones of SCPA" to our treasurer, Margaret Naguski, at 203 Hilltop Rd, Boiling Springs, PA 17007 by the deadline of Sept. 9th. Margaret will convert those checks into one check from our chapter and send to Sherrie as a "tip" from the attendees. You can send the money to Margaret using Venmo, if you prefer. mnaguski@comcast.net

2. **Wild Ones of South-Central PA Potluck - Sept. 11 from 3-6 p.m.** at The Bower, 1190 Bower Rd, Shermans Dale, PA 17090. Bring one dish to share, camp chair, your own plate and silverware, your preferred drink. It's a great chance to get to know each other in person and walk around The Bower native gardens and see the sculptures. For more info go to thegardenbower.com. Look for 1190 on the mailbox (GPS sometimes says you are there before you get to the correct driveway). Please carpool, if possible, because parking is limited. Watch for email in the event of bad weather. Hope to see you there!

3. **September Field Trip: Horn Farm Center for Agricultural Education in York County, Sunday, Sept. 18th at 2:00 p.m.** Learn about regenerative gardening practices, restoring the soil, and more. Calyx Native Nursery sells their plants at Hungry Hook Farm, as well. Address 4945 Horn Rd, York, PA 17406. **Cost is \$8 per person – bring cash the day of the event. Meet there at 2pm. Please RSVP to jane_allis@yahoo.com if you plan to attend.**



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4. **October Field Trip – Letort Spring Garden Preserve**, 1110 S. Spring Garden St., Carlisle. **DATE CHANGE – Now October 23rd at 1 p.m.** Continue to Kings Gap Environmental Education Center, Kings Gap Rd, Carlisle afterward, if desired.

5. **November Seed Swap – Saturday, November 12, 10:30 a.m. at The Bower.** Save any extra seeds you collect to share and swap! Come even if you don't have any seeds to swap and take some home. Visit the local hawk watch at Waggoner's Gap after, if interested.

6. **Other upcoming events or plant sales of interest (Please verify before you go)**

August 31st deadline to order from statewide Master Gardener Plant Sale with pick-up at various places across the state. Contact Kerri for more info. kerritb@gmail.com

Sept. 1st – Hungry Hook Farm opens for sales for the season through Oct. 23rd.

Thurs. and Fridays 8 am to 6 p.m., Sat. and Sundays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and by appt.

Sept. 3 – Diakon Wilderness Greenhouse in Boiling Springs opens for the season on Saturdays from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. through the end of October.

Sat., Sept. 24th – 9a.m. to 2 p.m. - Native Plant Sale at Rudy Park, York

Sept. 25th – South-central PA Native Plant Society Plant Swap. Sign up on their Facebook page

7. **For the greater good:**

These items were mentioned in discussion while at the Hungry Hook Farm and are worth checking out:

Archewild: Native Nursery and more in Quakertown, PA. Not open to the public, but perhaps a great destination for a Wild Ones field trip someday? Interesting website: Archewild.com. Ecoregion-specific seed growers - very highly regarded by Sherrie Moyer at Hungry Hook.

Entomological Society of PA – Member Jane Earle invites interested folks to become members at only \$8 per year. Their mission is to promote entomological research, activities, and understanding in PA. They host online learning opportunities with great info about insects – entsocpa.org

PA Botany will host a symposium in November and they host occasional wonderful workshops, such as fern identification. pabotany.org

Jane Allis asks that if anyone else knows of someone with lots of experience in starting natives from seeds who may be willing to talk with our group, possibly at our seed swap in Nov., please let her know. Jane Shull is going to give us some pointers on starting swamp milkweeds from seed in milk jugs and butterfly weed in tomato and berry containers. She has had success with both.



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Discussion: Dealing with Invasives; which affect you the most; strategies, successes, failures

Many of us have Japanese Stiltgrass on our minds, as this is the most important time of year to control it, before it goes to seed. Mow, weed-whack or hand-pull it now, before it goes to seed. Do not mow or cut too early or it will set seed very quickly from lower portions of the stem.

Once the area is opened up, you can plant natives such as Blue mistflower (*Coclinium coelestinum*), goldenrod, northern sea oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*) and any other native plants that will fill in and outcompete the stiltgrass.

Jane Shull has a nice list of plants that can replace invasive plants that she will try to share with us.

Purple loosestrife was another invasive plant that was mentioned. Purple vervain can be planted in areas where purple loosestrife is removed, as they like the same habitat.

Even native plants can be troublesome at times, such as the Enchanter's Nightshade that Jane Webster has too much of. (*Circaea lutetiana*) It has Velcro-like seeds that stick to everything and is taking over in an area of the garden where she would like more diversity. Zach said it is a host plant for several kinds of moths, which may make it a little easier to bear. It likes lousy, dry soils and can be pulled before it sets seed.