



## *South Central PA Chapter*

### **Wild Ones of South-Central PA Monthly Meeting via Zoom**

**June 27, 2022 - Minutes** (Submitted by Lorrie Preston, Secretary)

#### **Attendance – (18 Total)**

**Members:** Angela den Hoed (Cumberland), Cindy Hogeman (Dauphin), Debra Shepler (Dauphin), Gay Bowman (Cumberland), Jane Allis (Perry), Katherine Gehris (Lebanon), Kerri Thauby (Cumberland), Kristen Acri (Cumberland), Lorrie Preston (York), Melanie Green (York), Melanie Wertz (Perry), Rob Winslow (York), Shawna Raymond (York), Tami Harnish (Cumberland), Wendy Smith (Cumberland), Zach Richard (Dauphin)

**Non-Members:** Jane Schull (Perry), Lisa Boyer (Cumberland)

**Welcome and Introductions:** Those attending introduced themselves and noted the county where they reside.

**Minutes of May Meeting approved unanimously.**

#### **Reports**

**Membership** – Kerri Thauby – 3 new members this month – 1 referred from “word-of-mouth,” one from Angela den Hoed, one unknown. We are now at 56 members.

**Treasurer** – Jane Allis reporting for Margaret Naguski - We had an expenditure of \$42.77 for the Wild Ones stamp and seed packets for the Ft. Halifax event. Current balance - \$174.22.

#### **Activities/Events:**

1. Craighead House and Garden Tour report – A group of 12-13 Wild Ones enjoyed a lovely warm afternoon at the Craighead House and gardens on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to member Heather Andrews for sharing the pollinator garden and leading a tour of the interior of the historic home. Kim Patton of the Diakon Wilderness Greenhouse opened the native plant nursery for our group after the tour and about 8 of our members enjoyed the chance to shop for plants. Thank you to Heather and Kim for the great day.
2. July event: Field trip July 17, 2 pm to Penn State Arboretum – *Please check their website for parking instructions; there is a fee to park, but the arboretum is free.* Meet at The Pollinator and Bird Garden.
3. Ft. Halifax Park event: “Butterflies, Bees, Bats, and Blooms” - Jane Allis staffed a table at the event on June 18 for our chapter. Thank you to Cynthia Hogeman, Karen Rudy, Lorrie Preston, and Katherine Gehris for milkweed seeds and plants to give away. We gave away 80 packets of milkweed seeds and 4 flats of native seedlings. It was a well-planned event with 5 speakers, DCNR, the Dauphin County Master Gardeners, well-



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known native plant experts, native plants for sale, etc. and we will likely participate again next year.

4. Listserv update – Kerri Thauby set up the new Listserv for our group and ran a test for board members only, just prior to the June meeting. It seems to be working, so she will be sending out an online invitation to all members very soon to become part of the listserv. It is set up through Google Groups, which is accessible to all online members, even if you don't participate in Facebook. This will allow our group members to easily communicate with each other online, as a group or privately, when there is news to share, a question to ask, carpool arrangements to make, etc. Your Listserv invitation email will come from "Wild Ones South Central PA" so watch for it coming soon.
5. Invasive species/Noxious Weed Committee will meet in July to discuss the status of noxious and invasive plants. Our last email campaign to recommend plants to be removed from retail sale due to their invasive nature resulted in 166 beneficial emails. Two of the plants we recommended to stop being sold – Burning Bush and Privet - are both on the agenda to be discussed in July. We will once again be asking for your input via an email campaign to the group ahead of the July meeting. You will receive an email with sample info to include in your email communication around July 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup>. The Committee is run by the Dept. of Agriculture and protection of our forest from invasives is not as high on their priority list as we might hope. The nursery trade, garden center customers, and farmers all have a vested interest in the decisions of this committee. Some sterile varieties of known invasive plant species will likely still be approved for sale. In many cases, it is known that this can still result in cross-pollination and reproduction with non-sterile plants. This was discussed at our meeting, and it was decided we wanted to have a better understanding of how this happens and why it is important.

Jane Allis followed up with a link to the following article and 2 separate attachments which will be included in my email with the minutes for additional information.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/08/110816112644.htm>

6. Our next Zoom meeting on July 25 at 7 pm will include a presentation/discussion on "Keystone Plants" with Connie Schmotzer. Thank you to Shawna Raymond for setting this up. Connie has worked promoting native plants with the York County Master Gardeners in many capacities and is an excellent speaker with vast knowledge and she is a true inspiration. Mark your calendar and be sure to join us for this meeting.



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7. Topics for future meetings for discussion: What ideas do you have? – Sterile varieties of invasive plants and how can they still contribute to reproduction (see #5 above)

**Discussion:** Jane Allis shared a Wild Ones PowerPoint presentation which gave an overview of Wild Ones, including the history of how it got started, shared their mission statement, listed some of the many projects and programs that chapters across the country participate in, and shared the many benefits that Wild Ones members receive – including building a community of like-minded native plant enthusiasts.

Other news of interest to share: Lorrie reported that one of our Wild Ones SCPA members, Ian Gardner and his wife, Jes, have a business called “Green Gardner Designs.” Ian wants us to know that they do consultations, designs, installations and follow-up maintenance in the creation of meadows, as well as other sustainable and environmentally focused work with native plants, healthy foods and more – all permaculture-inspired. Learn more and contact Ian at their website: [www.greengardnerdesigns.com](http://www.greengardnerdesigns.com). Lorrie knows Ian from Audubon and knows he is excellent birder and very knowledgeable about native plants. Another of our WO members, Katherine Gehris, has had Ian and his wife do work for her and recommended them highly.

Jane Allis asked the group if there is interest in holding an informal potluck at the Bower in September and the response was an enthusiastic “Yes!” so this is something we will likely hear more about in the future.

The meeting was adjourned about 8:20 pm.

Link previously shared by Jane Allis: “How to Turn Your Garden into A Carbon Sink”

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20220610-how-to-turn-your-garden-into-a-carbon-sink>