



## *South Central PA Chapter*

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

**April 25, 2022 – Minutes** (Submitted by Lorrie Preston)

#### **Attendance – (17 Total)**

Members: Jane Allis (Perry), Angela den Hoed (Cumberland), Debra Latsha (York), Debra Shepler (Dauphin), Jane Webster (Dauphin), Kerri Thauby (Cumberland), Kristen Acri (Cumberland), Kyle Kephart (Lebanon), Lorrie Preston (York), Margaret Naguski (Cumberland), Rob Winslow (York), Shawna Raymond by iPhone (York), Susan Zalesky (Cumberland), Tami Harnish (Cumberland), Wendy Smith (Cumberland), Zach Richard (Dauphin)

Non-Member – Karen Rudy (Cumberland)

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

**Jane Allis moved to have the minutes from the March 28, 2022 meeting approved. Approved unanimously.**

#### **Reports**

##### **Membership – Kerri Thauby**

We currently have 48 members – 4 more than reported last month. 1 more was added in March after our last meeting and 3 in April. 1 new member came from the newspaper article, 2 other learned about us from other native plant organizations, and 1 came from the Penn Cumberland Garden Club, who we tabled next to at the Earth Day Festival in Mechanicsburg.

##### **Treasurer – Margaret Naguski**

We now have a checking account. Received \$295 from national Wild Ones in dues reimbursements. We had one expense of approx. \$50 for copying handouts of the Native Plant resource list which we are distributing to the public at various events. Chapter funds will come quarterly from the national Wild Ones office for new and renewing members. Margaret is all set up with Excel, etc. to handle the funds and will receive statements on her computer. We will want to figure out ways to raise funds for the chapter in the future – possibly a plant sale, other ideas are welcome.

- 1. Report on Mechanicsburg Earth Day Celebration – April 16<sup>th</sup> from 9-3.** Thank you to Jane Allis and Margaret Naguski for setting up, tearing down, and staffing the table, and thank you to Penn Cumberland Garden Club members who helped cover the table for part of the time. We passed out 80 of the Native Plant Resource sheets, as well as most of the brochures on Wild Ones, native plants, rain gardens, and Monarchs, invasive plants, etc. Someone gave our group some small seedling trees to give away and they were so popular that we should consider having something to give away at future events – possibly free native wildflower seeds that our members could collect in the fall, etc. We will try to get some other literature to give away from DCNR, etc. for future events.



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2. **Report on Diakon/Appalachian Audubon Native Plant Sale** – Lorrie Preston took the same Wild Ones literature and handouts to the plant sale at Diakon on Saturday, April 23. We gave away most of the brochures we had and quite a few of the resource papers and had some good conversations about the new Wild Ones chapter with folks who came to the sale. We left several brochures, business cards, and some of the Native Plant Resource sheets with Kim Patton, head of Diakon Wilderness Greenhouse, and she is enthusiastic about having them to give out and will promote our new group. We should provide them with more Wild Ones brochures when they become available from the national office, although we don't know when that will be, due to the rebranding of the entire organization. Diakon customers are a great target audience to recruit members to our chapter. The Wilderness Greenhouse is open to the public every Saturday until June. Check website for hours, plants, etc. <https://the-wilderness-greenhouse.square.site/>
3. **April 24<sup>th</sup> Mt. Cuba Center field trip** – We had a group of 9 altogether, 7 from our group, and Zach's parents from out of town who met us there, on a beautiful day to see some outstanding native plant gardens. The spring ephemerals were just about at peak and the woodland floor was a colorful tapestry of Virginia bluebells, Wood poppies, trilliums, and many more lovely wildflowers. Mt. Cuba is about 2 weeks ahead of us with blooms. It was just beautiful and a very enjoyable day.
4. Kathy Carter, member of another Wild Ones chapter, told Jane their chapter **set up a listserv** to enable their members to communicate online easily within the group and it has been very successful and appreciated. Jane asked if anyone has experience setting up a listserv and we need a volunteer to make it happen. Please contact Jane if this is something you can help with.
5. **Report on Controlled Plant and Noxious Weed Committee meeting, April 21, 2022** – Jane Allis

This committee has the power to ban plants that are harmful to health or property. Three plants were on the agenda to be banned at the meeting, but they had not been properly advertised so they postponed the vote until the July meeting. They are Lesser Celandine (Class B – not able to be eradicated. Too entrenched to get rid of, but sales can be banned, and removal encouraged), Chocolate Vine and Wild Chervil (both Class A – can be eradicated, they are just starting to spread in PA.)

The summary of public comments indicated they received 169 comments, 166 of which were from our email campaign efforts with the Native Plant Society and Wild Ones. They noted the five we recommended be on the list to ban for July 21, next meeting. (Heavenly Bamboo, Euonymus Group, Privet Group, Butterfly Bush, Norway Maple) Jane sensed that they are much more used to hearing input from agricultural interests rather than native plant and habitat-focused sources. Many of our emails had similar wording, so it was evident that it was a campaign and Jane suggested next time we each choose our own wording to make the comments more diverse and perhaps be taken more seriously. The committee usually will focus on about 3 problem plants at each meeting. Jane feels that the Butterfly Bush will be the most difficult to have banned, as the nursery trade has a wider interest in continuing its sales and the consumers are more interested in continuing to have it available for purchase. It was pointed out that invasive plants are different than noxious plants. We may be able to work more successfully through DCNR, who is on the committee and does the presentation to the committee on the damage to the ecosystem that the various plants in question pose.



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### (Controlled Plant and Noxious Weed Committee update, continued)

Japanese Barberry and Callery Pears have already been banned, but they will continue to be sold in the nursery trade until 2023 and 2024, respectively, to allow the reduction of nursery stock, find non-harmful alternatives, and develop sterile, seedless varieties. Trilby Libhart, Dept. of Agriculture Botany and Weed Specialist and moderator of the Controlled Plant and Noxious Weed Committee, announced that she will allow 4 exemptions from the ban on Japanese Barberry, but it was not announced which ones will continue to be sold or why.

### 6. Plant Sales Coming Up

- April 30 – New Cumberland Library Plant Sale (Requesting plant donations by 4/29 – See separately attached flyer)
- April 30 – Lancaster Native Plant and Wildlife Festival
- May 7 - Native Plant Festival, Boalsburg
  - Manada Conservancy Native Plant Sale, 328 N. Crawford Rd, Grantville
- May 21 – Penn State Master Gardeners of Cumberland County Plant Sale, 310 Allen Rd., Carlisle

### 7. Calendar Updates

**May 14** – 9:30 a.m. – 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Gardening with Natives Seminar and Field Trip, Penn State Extension York County, Register by May 9, \$40, (will focus on shade gardening)

<https://extension.psu.edu/gardening-with-natives-seminar-and-field-trip>

**\*\*\* May 23 – 7 p.m. - OUR NEXT MONTHLY ZOOM MEETING WILL BE ONE WEEK EARLY BECAUSE OF MEMORIAL DAY**

**June 5**, 1 p.m. – Craighead House Native Plant Garden and Tour with Heather Andrews  
No RSVP necessary. Just meet there. 318 E Old York Rd., Carlisle, PA 17015

**July 17**, 2 p.m. – Penn State Arboretum Pollinator Garden. *Check parking info on their website. Parking fee but arboretum is free.* We will meet there, with details to be given later.

**August 20**, 10:30 a.m. – Hungry Hook Farm workshop on collecting and processing seeds.  
There is a limit of 10 vehicles, so we will have to register ahead of time later.

**September** (date to be determined) – Horn Farm, York. It was decided we will avoid the Paw Paw Festival, which attracts several thousand visitors. We may possibly go one week earlier.

### 8. Discussion – Keystone Plants for every Garden

(See separate attached flyer that Jane had previously sent to us, if you missed it)

These are the plants that would have the most positive impact to the ecosystem – for those just getting started or those who have limited space, or just to be sure we are focusing on the most beneficial plants.

Plants mentioned by our attendees: Oaks (used by 500+ moths and butterflies), Serviceberries and Washington Hawthorne for the Cedar waxwings & birds, Mountain mint for the pollinators, Goldenrod for butterflies & pollinators, Bee Balm for hummingbird moth & hummingbirds



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### **9. Other Discussion**

Kristen Acri reports that Camp Hill is working on a local community project entitled “No-Mow May”. She will look into it further and bring us more info in the future.

Jane reported that Heather had a recent comment on her blog about the possibility of Camp Hill banning pollinator gardens. Kristen will see what she can find out about that, as well.

Lorrie saw the first male Ruby-throated Hummingbird of the year on Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. Reported it to Journey North.

A first tiger swallowtail sighting of the year was reported.

Queen bumblebees have been seen flying low, looking for a nesting location in the ground for the coming season.

Meeting adjourned about 8:05 p.m.