



**Wild Ones of South-Central PA Monthly Meeting via Zoom
September 26, 2022, Minutes (Submitted by Lorrie Preston, Secretary)**

Here is the link to a recording of the Zoom meeting, in case you want to watch it.

https://wildones-org.zoom.us/rec/share/KcYGB2ryMbjfuA10_bD-nc_5NjAUH2NTyfqbF9h5RS_A0ALrvcpV_lfg11HO9Wke.xKV1ONPdokcjcE6Q

Attendance – (20)

Members: Cindy Hogeman (Dauphin), Deb Latsha (York), Diane Eshelman (Dauphin), Gay Bowman (Cumberland), Gigi and Jonathan Gere (Cumberland), Jane Allis (Perry), Jane Shull (Perry), Jane Earle (Cumberland), Karen Rudy (Cumberland), Kerri Thauby (Cumberland), Kristen Acri (Cumberland), Lorrie Preston (York), Margaret Naguski (Cumberland), Maryann Skubecz (Cumberland), Melanie Wertz (Perry), Shawna Raymond (York), Susan Wilder (Cumberland), Susan Wagner (Dauphin), Wendy Smith (Cumberland)

Non-Members: None

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

Minutes of August Meeting – Correction – Page 3, #6. Diakon Wilderness Greenhouse is only open from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays through the end of October. Also, minutes approved last month were from the July meeting, not May. The minutes were approved with correction.

Reports

Membership – Kerri Thauby – We now have 61 chapter memberships, adding 1 new member since our last meeting. Welcome to Lisa Emig, who learned about the group at The Bower. Gigi Gere was added to the family membership of Jonathan Gere, new members since July. Welcome to Gigi and Jonathan.

Treasurer – Margaret Naguski - Our third quarter dues disbursement of \$147 was received from national Wild Ones. We had some expenses – personalized checks: 50 for \$18.25, name tags and holders \$31.48. Attendees of the Horn Farm field trip had paid a total of \$98 cash which was supposed to go to the tour guide that day. He refused payment, so it was decided to use \$2 of the chapter’s funds to add to the cash collected and send Horn Farm a donation of \$100 from the group. The current balance of our account is \$1,018.99. Margaret also sent a check for \$60 to the Hungry Hook Farm, consisting of money collected directly from the attendees of that field trip “after-the-fact” as an additional “tip” for Sherri going above and beyond.

The **name tags and holders** will allow us to get to know each other better and match names with faces when we meet in person. Each member can take their name tag home with them and plan to wear it when we get together. They can be picked up this Sunday at our potluck at The Bower.



Activities/Events:

1. **Horn Farm Tour** – Sept. 18th. The eight attendees who went were impressed and astounded by what they learned there. (After the business part of the Zoom meeting, Jane Allis presented a slide show to share some photos and techniques that they learned about. See notes under “Discussion” near the end of the minutes.)
2. **Wild Ones of South-Central PA Potluck**, re-scheduled for **this Sunday, Oct. 2 from 3-6 p.m.** at The Bower, 1190 Bower Rd, Shermans Dale, PA 17090. Although it may be raining that day, we are unlikely to reschedule, since we did that once already. We can eat inside a barn on the property. Bring umbrella if you wish to walk the property. Bring one dish to share, camp chair, your own plate and silverware, and your preferred drink. 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).
3. **October 23rd Field Trip:** Letort Spring Garden Preserve -1110 S. Spring Garden St., Carlisle, PA. **Meet at the big white barn at 1:00 p.m.** (Meeting time was originally set for 1 p.m., temporarily moved back to 3 p.m., but now it has been changed back to the original meeting time of 1 p.m.) Parking is along S. Spring Garden St. **Map attached separately to the cover email.** This is a former watercress farm/natural wetlands area that has become a nature preserve, historic site, and public park under the wing of the Central PA Conservancy. See native plants in their natural habitat. Take a trip to Kings Gap Environmental Center before or after our event, if you wish to enjoy the fall foliage.
4. **Jane Allis** has received a request to speak about Wild Ones to the Messiah Lifeways group, so she created a slide show presentation about Wild Ones, native plants, keystone plants, etc. She is now **available as a public speaker, representing Wild Ones.** Please let her know if you hear of an organization interested in this.
5. **Upcoming events and/or items of interest**
 - a. **Letort Spring Garden Preserve Bird Walks** – Every Wednesday a.m. from 8-9:30 a.m. Led by their new director, Jason.
 - b. **Tool Library**, Carlisle, PA. carlisletoolibrary.org – Borrow a wide selection of tools for building and some for gardening, check out their seed library, etc. They previously even held a free give-away of native plants!
 - c. **Pumpkin Festival**, The Arboretum at Penn State, Saturday, Oct. 8, 3-9pm
6. **Next Wild Ones of SCPA Zoom Meeting is rescheduled to Monday, Oct. 24th at 7:00 pm** due to the 31st being Halloween, which may conflict with trick-or-treaters.



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7. **Wild Ones of SCPA Seed Swap – Saturday, Nov. 12th 10:30 a.m. at The Bower, 1190 Bower Rd. Shermans Dale.** Save any extra seeds you collect to share and swap! You may take seeds, even if you don't have any to bring and swap. Small envelopes for seeds will be available at the potluck this Sunday. Our treasurer, Margaret, will order them, and if you want to donate toward the cost of any you take, you can. 250 small paper envelopes can be purchased for about \$18 plus tax through Amazon. Label the seeds with botanical name and common name. Growing details can be written up on a piece of paper that folks can photograph with their phone or labeled individually. The Hawk Watch at Waggoner's Gap is nearby, if interested in visiting afterward.

Discussion: Jane Allis presented a slideshow about our trip to Horn Farm

The local community saved this farm from being developed. The township now owns the farm and it is being used for educational programming, regenerative farming, etc.

Biomimicry (permaculture) – Method of planting in the way that nature does it, in your own environment. Native plants grow very close together in nature, supporting each other with their root systems and the mix of mycorrhizal fungi benefit all plants in the community. Various plots showed dramatic results using this method. Plant communities grew much more vigorously in short time frames than what we would normally expect when we plant giving plants lots of room in between each other.

The Miyawaki Method, named after a Japanese botanist, is being used and tested at the Horn Farm. It involves planting various trees and shrubs close together for rapid reforestation and it seems to get amazing results.

Steps involved:

- 1) Dig soil to 24" to loosen from compaction. Compaction is the enemy of root growth.
- 2) Incorporate leaves into soil for additional forest materials.
- 3) Add mycorrhizal fungi by collecting and incorporating 6" top layer of forest duff or buy purchased product. The Bower uses Bioplex Liquid to promote root growth.
- 4) Plant in very early spring.
- 5) Cut sticks from plants in 12" pieces to create live stakes for planting (coppicing).
- 6) Stick the live stakes in the ground 6" deep. Plant 18" or less apart. Grow plants that will get at least 4' tall.



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7) Never step in beds once the planting is done, to avoid compaction. Plants are watered and weeded only at planting time, then never again and the test plots showed no signs of drought-stress, despite our 10 weeks of dry weather this summer. They use the **SUN principle** of care – **Sheer and Utter Neglect.**

The Horn Farm has had success planting with this method along riparian buffers, but also in 4' x 4' plots, which could be replicated in the home landscape.

Examples of plant communities that might be planted together were included in Jane's presentation.

8. Cindy asked about growing trees and shrubs in plastic plant protectors to protect from deer. The group consensus is that the trees are not able to move around in the wind to grow strong and sturdy and it isn't the best method. Suggested using chicken wire or metal mesh fencing around the trunk instead, so the tree can breathe and move around with the wind.
9. Wild Ones of SCPA Listserv is up and running and is a useful tool in communicating within our group. If you have not signed onto it yet and have missed your invitation to join, please contact our Membership Chair – Kerri, at kerritb@gmail.com and she will gladly sign you up. If you wish to carpool to various events and don't know who lives near you, either contact Jane Allis or reach out to members via the listserv.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.