



## *South Central PA Chapter*

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

**July 25, 2022 Minutes** (Submitted by Lorrie Preston, Secretary)

#### **Attendance – (25 Total)**

**Members:** Angela den Hoed (Cumberland), Debra Latsha (York), Gay Bowman (Cumberland), Heather Andrews (Cumberland), Ian Gardner (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), Margaret Naguski (Cumberland), Melanie Green (York), Melanie Wertz (Perry), Shawn McMurtry (Cumberland), Shawna Raymond (York), Susan Wilder (Cumberland), Wendy Smith (Cumberland), Zach Richard (Dauphin)

**Non-Members:** Connie Schmotzer (York), Indra Kalasauskas (Montgomery), Ruth Seitz (Cumberland)

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

**Minutes of June Meeting** – Approved unanimously with two corrections. Attendee Jane Shull was incorrectly spelled “Jane Schull.” It was member Kristen Acri who highly recommended Green Gardner Designs, not Katherine Gehris.

#### **Reports**

**Membership** – Kerri Thauby – 4 new members in July for a total of 60 chapter members now. Two came from “word of mouth” and 1 was referred by our Wild Ones chapter. Welcome to Jane Shull, Jane Earle, Jonathan Gere, and Mary Richardson.

**Treasurer** – Margaret Naguski - We received our second quarter dues reimbursement from National Wild Ones at the beginning of July in the amount of \$756.50, which brings our balance to \$930.72. This will likely be our largest reimbursement, resulting from the large number of new members joining the chapter as we became active and began promoting our new chapter.

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

1. **Penn State Pollinator Garden Tour report** – Nine Wild Ones SCPA participants met at the Penn State arboretum to tour the 3-acre Pollinator and Bird Garden that opened to the public in late June 2021. It was a delightful place with lots to see. The children’s garden at the arboretum is lots of fun with some surprises, too, and the rest of the arboretum is beautiful. We highly recommend a visit.



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- 2. August event: Hungry Hook Farm Native Plant Nursery**, 20 Locust Grove Rd, Bainbridge, PA 17502. August 20, 10:30 am. Workshop on saving seeds and planting native plants from seed. Because Jane and Bill Allis will be on vacation in August, please reserve a spot by emailing Lorrie at [lpreston5156@gmail.com](mailto:lpreston5156@gmail.com). Please let me know if you are driving or riding with someone else when you register. There is a limit of 10 vehicles, so carpooling is highly recommended. So far, Lorrie, Deb Latsha, Karen Rudy, and Heather have reserved a spot. You can use the new Listserv communication tool to find someone to carpool with or contact Lorrie if you need to know who is coming from your general area. Jane Allis suggested giving a donation to Sherrie, owner of Hungry Hook Farm, as a thank you for hosting us. Melanie Green reported that another group she participates in gives \$50 and we voted to do the same. Margaret will prepare a \$50 check that we will take to Sherrie when we visit.

*See more details about this trip in the email that accompanies these minutes.*

- 3. Listserv update** – Kerri Thauby – Our new listserv is up and running! This is an easy way we can communicate within our group between meetings and all members can participate, as long as they have email, even if they don't participate in other social media. Kerri sent an invitation to join the listserv to all current members. However, if you missed the invitation or had trouble getting it to work, please contact Kerri at [kerritb@gmail.com](mailto:kerritb@gmail.com) and she can add you manually. Going forward, new chapter members will get an email about the listserv at the same time they receive the new member email, but for those of us who were members before the listserv was created, we must accept the emailed invitation in order to join. The listserv address to post and read past entries is: [wild-ones-south-central-pa@googlegroups.com](mailto:wild-ones-south-central-pa@googlegroups.com). As we communicate and become more active on our listserv, we will each have individual options such as receiving all communications in "digest" form - just one email a day, etc. rather than receiving separate emails each time. Thank you for setting this up, Kerri.
- 4. Invasive species/Noxious Weed Committee meeting report** – Meeting was held on July 21<sup>st</sup>. Jane was unable to sign on to the meeting, but she received an update. The committee voted to ban Wild Chervil, Chocolate Vine and Lesser Celandine immediately. They received 107 comments this time as a result of the letter writing campaign which is being encouraged by 4 Wild Ones groups, the PA Native Plant Society and a couple of other people who have been involved with this effort for a while. That small group of 7 is being chaired by Sarah Chamberlain, President of the PA Native Plant Soc. Andrew from DCNR presented info to the committee about Winged Euonymus and Privet and suggested a 1 year phase-in period for the ban to take place, but the Nursery Assoc. asked to make it 2 years. (This allows them to sell the plant material they have on hand.) That has not been voted on yet, but will likely be discussed at the next meeting.



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At the October meeting, they will be discussing a ban on non-native honeysuckle and Starry stonewort, an aquatic invasive. Trilby Libhart, who runs the committee, has suggested a 5 year phase-in period for the ban on Callery Pear trees. This is something we may wish to continue to comment on and urge a quicker ban. The PA Native Plant Society has suggested that DCNR could perhaps propose some sort of “Buy Back Program” to hasten the period of time until some of these problematic plants could be banned. Ian Gardner suggested it might be good to attend the committee meetings in person, as the in-person comments help. He also said that Ruth Welliver of the PA Dept. of Ag is a very good native plant advocate on the committee and she could be helpful.

5. **Potluck at The Bower – Sunday, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> from 3-6 pm.** The Allis’s proposed that we have a potluck to get our group together in person at The Bower on Sunday, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, from 3 – 6 p.m. Enjoy meeting and eating together, walking around the beautiful grounds, networking, etc. It was agreed, so all members are invited to attend. Parking is limited to 18 -20 cars, so carpool, if possible. Directions and more info about The Bower can be found at [TheGardenBower.com](http://TheGardenBower.com).
6. **Manada Conservancy Summer Native Plant Sales** – Aug. 16<sup>th</sup> 5-8 pm and Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> 10 – 2 pm. at 328 Crawford Rd., Grantville. Flyer and list of plants are attached separately.
7. **Member Garden Tours possible next year.** An idea is for our members to host personal garden tours at their homes once a month or so, allowing others to learn and see real gardens in action. We will revisit this idea in the future and possibly begin this next year if there is interest.
8. **Save the Date - September 18<sup>th</sup> trip to tour the Horn Farm** - 4945 Horn Rd., York, PA - \$8 per person. More info to come in August.

### **Discussion: Presentation on Keystone Plants with Connie Schmotzer, with Penn State York County Master Gardeners and expert on native plants that host pollinators**

Connie gave an excellent presentation on keystone plants. Keystone plants can be different from one person to the next, depending on what you are trying to achieve. A few of her main points –

Not all native plants are created equal. Some native plants perform outstanding services to birds or pollinators, while others don’t offer much. The larger your property, the more diversity of plants you can afford to have. But if you have a small property, concentrate on those plants that provide the highest level of benefit to the natural world.



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Some references she mentioned:

Susan Smith & Scott McWilliams – RIT School of Life Sciences - Migratory Bird Planting Chart  
<https://scholarworks.rit.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1816&context=other>

Lopez- Uribe Lab - <https://lopezuribelab.com/>

Sam Droege – Bee specialist at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge – Google “Very Handy Bee Manual” and more. Droege recommends we plant for specialist bees, who need specific plants. Those plants will accommodate a much larger range of bees.

National Wildlife Federation – Garden for Wildlife Keystone Native Plants  
<https://www.nwf.org/-/media/Documents/PDFs/Garden-for-Wildlife/Keystone-Plants/NWF-GFW-keystone-plant-list-ecoregion-8-eastern-temperate-forests.ashx?la=en&hash=1E180E2E5F2B06EB9ADF28882353B3BC7B3B247D>  
<https://www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder/Plants> (by Zip code)

Pollinator test gardens for Penn State Extension – “Bees, Bugs, Blooms” in Manheim. Perhaps our Wild Ones chapter can go here for a future field trip. [Ento.psu.edu/pollinators/resources-and-outreach/bees-bugs-blooms-2013-a-pollinator-trial](http://ento.psu.edu/pollinators/resources-and-outreach/bees-bugs-blooms-2013-a-pollinator-trial)

[www.pollinator.org/guides](http://www.pollinator.org/guides)

Become part of the Homegrown National Park – started by Doug Tallamy  
<https://homegrownnationalpark.org/> Register your property and get on the map.

In general, stay with straight species.

Plant in drifts – 5 or more of each plant in clusters so the pollinators can see them.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm.