



South Central PA Chapter

Wild Ones of South-Central PA Monthly Meeting via Zoom February 27, 2023, Minutes (Submitted by Lorrie Preston, Secretary)

Attendance (18)

Members: Arlene Taylor, Debra Latsha, Jady Conroy, Jane Allis, Jane Earle, Jill Zdunczyk, Joyce Wilder, Karen Rudy, Katherine Gehris, Kristen Acri, Lisa Emig, Lorrie Preston, Margaret Naguski, Maryann Skubecz, Rob Winslow, Shawna Raymond, Susan Wilder, Wendy Smith

Non-Members: None

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

Minutes of January Meeting – Approved except current balance as of the Jan. 30th meeting in our checking account should have been reported as \$1,122.28. Checkbook had a balance of \$1,147.28 in early January and one expense of \$25 for brochures, which left \$1,122.28.

Reports

Membership – Kerri Thauby – Jane Allis presented for Kerri tonight. Kerri wishes to thank the group for feedback on her email to Rachel McDevitt, State Impact PA reporter for WITF. Kerri sent the email and will keep us updated. We added 2 new members in February. Welcome to Emily Belt of Adams County and Templin Chenail of Dauphin County. Seven members renewed this month and 1 membership expired. Two memberships expired in January. We currently have 70 active members.

Treasurer – Margaret Naguski – There were no expenditures in Feb., so our balance remains \$1,122.28.

Activities/Events:

1. **February webinar - Heather Holms on “Creating and Managing Habitat for Bees”** follow-up discussion. All who attended enjoyed it. Feel free to give ideas for future webinars that you have enjoyed to Jane Allis, as these could be future monthly winter activities for our group. On “the Zoom chat,” Deb Latsha suggested a “Lawns into Meadows” webinar that she enjoyed recently through Penn State presented by Owen Wormer.

Jane A. invited all of us to register and attend a webinar that she and Bill will present entitled “The Bower: Native Plant Landscape and Sculpture Park” with Ethan Dropkin, of *Larry Weaner Landscape Assoc.* on **Thursday, March 23rd** from 2-3:30 p.m. The presentation is one in a weekly series hosted by Larry Weaner’s *New Directions in the American Landscape* in March and April. Pricing and details can be found on NDAL's website. Register at <https://www.ndal.org/virtual-series-winter-2023>.



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2. **We have a new official website!** southcentralpa.wildones.org Jane and Bill worked with David, the tech guy from national Wild Ones. We can not change the template that they use, but we can personalize it with photos and info. There are various sections – “Calendar of Events are listed - inc. the plant sale, the “About” section describes our chapter, the minutes of our meetings are there to read, a place to “Join”, etc. Check it out! Jane plans to profile our members, with Jane Allis to be the first, then VP Heather, other officers and members who wish to. Photos of our group are included, so if you do not wish your photo to appear, please let Jane know. Our group decided we would like to have native plant nurseries and companies who install native plant gardens listed on the site, with a disclaimer that we do not endorse any specific companies. Also decided to add a list of resources – our brochure, eco-region plant list, stem-nesting and garden clean-up info, etc. We will add our website address to our chapter brochure and the township pamphlet. A photo gallery was suggested as a possible add to the site, as well. Lorrie suggested that no personal email addresses or phone numbers be listed on the site to prevent scams that other non-profit groups are experiencing. Contact should be through the chapter email address.
3. Feb. 8 table at **Cornwall Manor Tree Event** – Katherine Gehris staffed a table for our group. Many people picked up our brochure and there is a lot of interest in native plants in their community. An effort is underway to have native plants installed after the completion of a construction project in their community. Good job, Katherine!
4. The 24-page **pamphlet for “HOA’s, Developers, Landscapers, and Municipal and Township Properties”** is now complete, although we can make edits in the future, if desired. Jane compared printing cost w/ 3 different printers and David Smith Printing was the best. Print cost is about \$5 per color pamphlet. 50 copies will be printed next week. Thank you to member Susan Wilder, who told us about a grant available through the Penn Cumberland Garden Club, which may cover future printing costs. Graphic designer Karen Stiffler did a wonderful job on it with layout and making it professional. Please contact Jane Allis if you wish to get a printed copy of the pamphlet to use in communicating with our target audience. **A PDF final version of this document is attached separately for you to download and you can send it via email attachment to interested parties.**
5. **Mechanicsburg Earth Day Festival, Saturday, April 15 - 9-3;** <http://mechanicsburgearthdayfest.com/> Our Wild Ones chapter will have a table at the event. **Jane Allis plans to staff it in the morning, but we need afternoon volunteer(s). Please contact Jane if interested in helping in a.m. or afternoon.** A great day of fun and info. Shawna told us about extensive recycling opportunities at the event for hard to recycle items, such as pharmaceuticals, crayons, and much more. A complete list can be found online at: <http://mechanicsburgearthdayfest.com/earth-day-events/recycling-event/> There will be a free shredding event from 10-noon at Myers-Buhrig Funeral Home. Will need to have our tabling materials available for next day’s event in New Cumberland.



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6. **New Cumberland Earth and Arts Festival, Sunday, April 16, 10 a.m. -3 p.m.** We will have our table there. **We need more volunteers to staff it.**
<https://www.newcumberland.co/events/new-cumberland-earth-arts-festival> Jane Allis will be there in the morning and Karen Rudy has volunteered to be there in the afternoon, but additional volunteers would be helpful. Please contact Jane, if interested. Margaret suggested we begin using “Sign-Up Genius” or something similar to make it easier for our members to sign up to volunteer for various community events. She will explore setting this up if we decide to proceed with it in the future. Discussed having giveaways or hands-on activity at community events. Jane Allis knows of a nice wildflower seed mix as a possible giveaway. Shawna offered to help fill packets with seeds, if needed.
7. **WO Member Wendy Smith** spoke about her efforts with the **Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay** – a non-profit group which provides and plants tree seedlings in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, among other things. Wendy is instrumental in two of their major efforts – growing trees from seed and “Seedling Savers”. Last year the Alliance got 19,000 seedlings into the ground – 71 acres of new forest- on a shoestring budget, then they follow up on the trees for 3 years. **Wendy is always looking for more people willing to dig and pot-up native woody seedlings** that you find on your property and donate them to the effort. She will supply you with a flat of “rocket” pots, which are narrow and deep for root formation, or you can use pots you have at home. You can tend them over the summer and give them to her by fall, just before they go out for planting, or you can give them to Wendy to tend. Please contact Wendy at wendyk320@yahoo.com for further info, to get a flat of rockets, or to get a list of specific native tree species they are looking for. Wendy suggests tamping the soil down firmly around the roots to keep soil from falling out of the drainage holes on the bottom of the rockets. The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay also does some lawn to meadow conversion projects and DCNR also has a program on lawn conversions.
8. **Communications with the media:** Kerri Thauby is working to get information out to WITF via Rachel McDevitt. Lorrie’s name was on the agenda, too, but she was (and continues to be) perplexed as to what this was about. If it’s important, it will come back someday!
9. **Outreach to schools:** Jill attended Course Selection Night at CV High School with her teen son and spoke with the head of the Environmental club there – the largest club at the school - about various projects they are working on. She asked them about native plants and found they have no knowledge about them or their importance and would like to see if we can reach out to Enviro clubs at local schools to get natives on their radar. Jill is working on creating an interactive, engaging presentation that could be used for this purpose to reach Middle School and High School students and hopes members from our group will want to get involved. It was suggested that Boiling Springs High School has a “green club” that could use the presentation. Maryann Skubecz worked with a bunch of CV students in her volunteer capacity with the Conodoguinet Watershed Assoc. Jane Allis has a power point presentation about our group and native plants on a thumb drive that is available for others to use. Margaret would be interested in getting that info into the



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school community where she works (Londonderry School, Harrisburg) Suggestion was made about getting the info presented even to the younger children at their level.

Discussion on how best to share presentations or long documents ensued – Google Drive was suggested and all of our documents could be archived there. [WeTransfer.com](https://www.wetransfer.com) is another good way to send large files. Please contact Jill if you are interested in getting involved reaching out to schools. jillzdunczyk@gmail.com

10. March work days at Diakon Wilderness Greenhouse and our first Native Plant Sale;

25-30 volunteer hours at the greenhouse from our group are required. If you haven't yet signed up, pick any date(s) you want. Quite a few Wild Ones members will be present on the following dates – 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31, and other dates have a smaller number of WO volunteers signed up. Although we have committed to the required hours, volunteers are ALWAYS welcome and needed at Diakon. **We do need more volunteers to sign up to greet, aid shoppers in selecting plants, and help out at our sale on May 6th.** Volunteering at Diakon is fun and a great social event, so please join us! Link to sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054aa5ab2da7fe3-2023#/> You will be able to see who else has signed up on the various dates when you go to the link, which may help you for your planning. The greenhouse is open on Saturday mornings for sales to the public and volunteers are always welcome to stop up and help out on sale days.

11. Plant Sale Flyer and ideas for advertising – Everyone is needed to put flyers up around

our communities to get the word out about our plant sale. Please print and post at: grocery stores, libraries, farmer's markets, and anywhere else it is appropriate in the Dauphin, Cumberland, Adams, and York county areas especially. Post on neighborhood apps, like Nextdoor, as well as Facebook, Instagram, etc. Jane will try to get the word out in The Burg, Natural Awakenings, the Carlisle Sentinel, WITF other TV stations. **If promoting our events is something you are interested in helping with, please contact Jane Allis.**

12. Fundraiser idea of logo garden gloves – We will revisit this after the new logo is released by national Wild Ones, which may be in late summer. Overall, the consensus seemed to be to keep price low at \$5 or \$6 to sell more pairs. Discussion on sales tax ensued, but Wendy Smith dug around after the meeting and discovered there is no sales tax required on garden gloves.

Other, for the good of the club:

Wildwood's Wetland Festival is an event we may wish to look at to set up our WO table. April 29th, 10-4 pm <https://explorewildwoodpark.org/event/wetlands-festival/>

The **PA Home and Garden Show** in Harrisburg is back this year – March 2 thru 5th at the Farm Show Complex and we may wish to check into this later this year (maybe October?) to see if we can have a presence there next spring if they will host it again.