



South Central PA Chapter

Wild Ones of South-Central PA Monthly Meeting via Zoom

August 28, 2023 Minutes (Submitted by Lorrie Preston, Secretary)

Meeting Recording Link: <https://wildones-org.zoom.us/rec/share/jQA38PB12wW5khxoGxvTWTjNKElboDnIGOFM8L5UZL9liqxOsxcDyGrX11pbqDZi.1axLu7KTfqPmwNnB>

Attendance (25)

Members: Arlene Taylor (Dauphin), Bob Bargh (Adams), Cindy Hogeman (Dauphin), Diana Bermingham (Cumberland), Jady Conroy (York), Jane Shull (Perry), Jane Allis (Perry), Janet Bargh (Dauphin), Josh Donaldson (Franklin), Joyce Wilder (Cumberland), Karen Rudy (Cumberland), Katherine Gehris (Lebanon), Kristen Acri (Cumberland), Lisa Emig (Cumberland), Lorrie Preston (York), Margaret Naguski (Cumberland), Melanie Wertz (Perry), Ruth Seitz (Cumberland), Shawna Raymond (York), Susan Wilder (Cumberland), Susan Wagner (Dauphin), Tami Harnish (Mechanicsburg), Vijay Varma (Cumberland), Wendy Smith (Cumberland)

Other attendees: Cindy Hooks (Cumberland)

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

Minutes of July Meeting – Unanimously approved.

Reports

Membership – Kerri Thauby – Read by Lorrie Preston. We have added 5 new members since our last meeting. We welcome Vijay Varma, Jon Black, Deb Everly, Stephanie Jellison, and Diana Bermingham. We also had 1 membership renewal and 1 expired membership. We currently have 78 active members, which includes 2 group members.

Treasurer – Margaret Naguski – We received the \$2,456.00 check from our spring native plant sale at Diakon Wilderness Greenhouse this past weekend and it has been deposited. That brings our checking account balance to \$4,383.33. We had no expenses this month. Jane will order more chapter brochures soon, as we are getting low.

Activities/Events:

1. **Membership Survey results and issues** – Jane Allis reported on the results she was able to see from our first membership survey. Unfortunately, Survey Monkey turned out not to be a good survey tool to use. They allowed Jane to see the first 10 submissions for free, but wanted to charge over \$300 a year for further results, so the rest were not accessed. Just over 20 members did respond to the survey. Jane knows of another survey app. now that could be used for free in the future and Margaret suggested that Google has a survey feature that is easy to use, as well. The possibility of a follow-up survey in January was suggested once the new board begins their term. Most responding members felt that the Monday evening time slot works for them, although we know some members (including Heather, our VP) are not typically available on Monday evenings. We could occasionally offer a Thursday evening meeting time, (the respondents' second choice) to include additional members.



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Activities enjoyed most: Local public garden visits & member garden visits. A smaller number were favorable on the distant field trips. We have been offering 2 of those a year, but perhaps should scale back to 1 a year. About a 50-50 rating for plant rescues, plant swaps, and presentations. Sunday afternoons received positive feedback for event timing, with Saturday mornings as a second choice.

2. **Discussion of proposed by-laws.** Various points covered by the By-Laws were discussed. National W.O. requires 1 annual meeting of board members. The business of our board is carried out at our monthly meetings, however a planning meeting each year could be beneficial. We can add Directors beyond the immediate Board members, if we wish to. Committees report on their activities at our monthly meetings and are communicated via the Minutes to our members on a monthly basis. Our members wish to welcome non-members to our monthly meetings so guests can see who we are and what we stand for as they decide about getting involved with our group. Board Elections will be held annually at the combined Nov./Dec. meeting, taking place in late Nov. or early Dec. We will vote on the proposed Addendum to our chapter By-laws at our September 25th Zoom meeting. After that, it will be submitted to National Wild Ones and does not take effect until they approve it.
3. **Proposed collaborations with Western PA Wild Ones** (See separate attachment for more details) We rec'd a request, along with 4 other PA Wild Ones chapters, to collaborate with the W.O. Western PA chapter to join them in sponsoring speaker Benjamin Vogt, author of new book "Prairie Up", for a Zoom meeting which would be free to Wild Ones members. His speaker fee is \$750. PA Ridge and Valley chapter has already agreed to collaborate. Our members voted to participate, as well, with a monetary donation of \$200 maximum toward the presentation. This event would likely be recorded, to be viewed at the convenience of our members. They also requested that other chapters share in staffing a Wild Ones table at the PA Sustainable Agriculture Conference, taking place in Lancaster Feb. 8-10, 2024. This is an inclusive conference for organic farmers and many others interested in sustainable landscaping/farming. Arlene Taylor, Lisa Emig and Margaret Naguski stepped up to represent our chapter there. Margaret would be available Saturday, the 10th, only.
4. **Eco Beneficial Lawn presentation by Rachel Benbow**, Dauphin County Master Gardener, will be after the business of the Sept 25 meeting. (Mark your calendar)
5. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Field Trips:** Jane Allis, Jane Earle
 - i. **Sunday, Sept. 17 - Edge of the Woods Field Trip** – V.P. Heather Andrews set this up and is our contact for this trip. heatherandrews1@gmail.com Meet at 1:00, 2415 Route 100, Orefield, PA (near Allentown – about 1 ½ hour trip) Edge of the Woods is a very large native plant nursery we will tour, and plants will be for sale that day, as well.
 - ii. **Sunday, Oct. 1, 3-8 pm. Potluck and plant swap** at The Bower, 1190 Bower Rd., Shermans Dale, PA. Please bring a dish to share and any plants you wish to share. We will take a tour of Jane and Bill Allis's property first and eat after that. Carpool, if possible, as parking is limited. This was a very enjoyable in-person social event for our members last year. We hope to see you there.



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- b. **Programs:** Lorrie Preston, Melanie Wertz, Janet Bargh
- i. **Native Plant Seed Share and Sustainable Landscaping Presentation** (note new event name to include community members, whether they have seeds to swap or not)
Sunday, Nov. 12th, 1-4 p.m. at the Camp Hill Giant Grocery Store community room, 3301 E. Trindle Rd., Camp Hill. Presentation by Tony Campisi, Campisi Property Service
- 1. Advertising** – Jane Allis has submitted event info to various media outlets and created a flyer. Heather will post event info on Facebook and Instagram. All members are welcome to spread the word through Facebook, Nextdoor, etc. **The following members agreed to post the flyer** in libraries, perhaps Post Office, grocery stores, and other community bulletin boards in their community.
Kristen Acri – Camp Hill
Lisa Emig – Carlisle
Jady Conroy – New Cumberland
Jane Shull – Perry
Jane Allis – Shermans Dale
Susan Wilder – Mechanicsburg
Janet Bargh – Lower Paxton, Linglestown
Margaret Naguski – Boiling Springs
Cindy Hogeman – Hummelstown
Josh Donaldson and Bob Bargh may post in their more distant areas
 - 2. Cultivar vs straight species discussion** – We are reminded that straight species create genetic diversity in the environment, while cultivars (nativars) are clones of the same plant. It is best to provide seeds from straight species. Seeds from cultivars may not stay true to the traits and may begin to convert back closer to native species, change color, etc. Also, propagation is sometimes prohibited for cultivars. Kristen’s research indicated that plant patents often expire after 20-25 years and plants originating prior to 1951 are considered “heirloom” and patents would not apply. A policy from National Wild Ones on Nativars is attached separately to the cover email to these minutes.
 - 3. Information on collection of seeds** – When collecting seed from the wild or from limited plants, collect no more than 10% of the seeds. Jane Allis will have empty seed packets available for members to pick up at the Potluck on Oct. 1st. Perhaps put about 15-20 seeds in each packet. All seeds should be accompanied by helpful growing info, for the success of the planting. Arcadia Natives <https://arcadianatives.com/native-plant-profiles> is an excellent resource with great plant growing info that can be used (click on profile for the plant) and Prairie Moon Nursery <https://www.prairiemoon.com/> is another good resource.

- c. **Community Outreach (Townships, Landscapers, Garden Centers, Developers):** Heather Andrews, Lisa Emig, Wendy Smith. Wendy reported that this coming Thursday evening, August 31st, Maryann Skubecz, Jill Zdunczyk, Jill's partner, and Wendy will be presenting to the Hampden Township board at their monthly board meeting about the need to use native plants. At some future point, Wendy wants a larger committee meeting to see where the Community Outreach Committee will focus going forward. Anyone interested in being involved with their committee is welcome.
- d. **Schools Outreach:** Jill Zdunczyk, Kerri Thauby, Karen Rudy – No report this month.
- e. **Media:** *Members are needed for this committee!* This may be shared by several members. Duties would require the distributing of event details to various media outlets – news sources, magazines, online calendars, etc. and only happens on occasion – not every month.
- f. **Nominating Committee:** Tami Harnish agreed to be the Chair of this committee. Shawna Raymond (and tentatively Wendy Smith) also agreed to help with this committee. The committee shall contact current officers and board members to see if they will serve another term and if not, find willing candidates.

Current officers and board members are: Jane Allis, President
Heather Andrews, Vice-President
Margaret Naguski, Treasurer
Lorrie Preston, Secretary
Kerri Thauby – Membership Chair

If you are interested in serving on our board or on a committee, please contact Jane Allis at wildonesscpa@gmail.com and she will put you in touch with the committee chairs.

- 6. **Slide show about August field trip to Penn State Pollinator Research Plots, Manheim** – Jane Allis presented a short Power Point of the August 20th field trip. 13 members attended and were met by Eudora Roseman, who led the tour. The research is run mostly by Master Gardeners from Lebanon, York and Lancaster counties. The trial plants are observed 2 times a week for 10 minutes at a time to watch visiting pollinators/butterflies, etc. There is also a gorgeous demonstration garden.

Some of the standout plants from the visit, highly recommended:

1. Stiff goldenrod – *Solidago rigida* - #1 for diversity of pollinators and #2 for pollinator visits over 3 years.
2. Clustered Mountain Mint – *Pycnanthemum muticum*- #1 for pollinator visits over 3 years, # 2 for pollinator diversity
3. Rattlesnake Master – *Eryngium yuccifolium* - #3 for pollinator visits over 3 years
4. Gray goldenrod – *Solidago nemoralis* - #4 for pollinator visits over 3 years
5. Coastal Plain Joe Pye Weed – *Eutrochium dubium* - #7 for pollinator visit over 3 years



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In about 50% of the studies, the natives attracted as many, or more, pollinators than the straight species.

Flyers with trial garden results were distributed as attachments with Jane Allis's email of August 23rd, with the subject line "Wild Ones SCPA Monthly Meeting Monday." If you do not have them already, please send me an email and I will resend.

I contacted Connie Schmotzer, Coordinator for Pollinator Habitat Certification for Penn State, who gave me this info about welcoming visitors to see the gardens on our own, in case you missed the field trip.

"The gardens at SEAREC are open 7 days a week from dawn to dusk through the end of August. The website doesn't have very detailed info, but does have directions: <https://agsci.psu.edu/research/centers-facilities/extension/landisville/general-information>

We will be working at Bees, Bugs, Blooms most Tuesday and Thursday mornings through the middle of October when the last plants are in bloom." She said they would love to have us visit.

7. Other Business -

Jane Allis wants to let everyone know that her email reminder and Zoom link for the Sept. meeting will come very close to the actual meeting date of Sept. 25th, as she and Bill will be traveling in England in Sept., visiting many gardens and sculpture parks. She promises to put together a slide show to share with us, in some future month, with some of the wonderful sights they enjoy.