



South Central PA Chapter

Wild Ones of South-Central PA Monthly Meeting via Zoom

September 25, 2023 Minutes (Submitted by Lorrie Preston, Secretary)

Meeting Recording Link: [Video Conferencing, Web Conferencing, Webinars, Screen Sharing](#)

Attendance (28)

Members: Arlene Taylor (D), Barbara Pinto (D), Cindy Hogeman (D), Cynthia Hooks (C), Diana Bermingham (C), Gay Bowman (C), Ian Gardner (C), Jady Conroy (Y), Jane Shull (P), Jane Allis, President (P), Jane Earle (C), Josh Donaldson (F), Karen Rudy (C), Kerri Thauby, Membership (C), Kristen Acri (C), Lorrie Preston, Secretary (Y), Margaret Naguski, Treasurer (C), Mary Lundeen (C), Maryann Skubecz (C), Melanie Wertz (P), Mimi Clark (C), Rob Winslow (Y), Ruth Seitz (C), Shawna Raymond (Y), Tami Harnish (C), Vijay Varma (C), Wendy Smith (C)
(C = Cumberland, D = Dauphin, F = Franklin, P = Perry, Y = York)

Other Attendees: Rachel Benbow – Presenter, Dauphin County Master Gardener

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

Minutes of August Meeting – Approved unanimously.

Reports

Membership – Kerri Thauby – We added 6 new memberships since our last meeting! Welcome to Alice Hertzler, Fran Stefan, Mary & Paul Lundeen, Barbara Pinto (chapter change), Rachel Sink, and Cynthia Hooks! We also had 3 membership renewals and 1 expired membership. We currently have a total of 83 active members (which includes 2 group members.)

Treasurer – Margaret Naguski – We had one expenditure this month - \$25.40 for seed envelopes to use for packing your seeds for the Nov. Seed Share. Members can pick up the packets at our potluck this coming Sunday. We deposited our 3rd quarter dues disbursement from National W.O. in the amount of \$344.50, which brings our current checkbook balance to \$4,702.43. Jane will order 150 chapter brochures to have available at the Seed Share, etc. We currently have about 25 of our booklets for HOA's, etc., so no need to order those.

Activities/Events:

1. **Edge of the Woods Field Trip report** – The 9/17 trip was cancelled due to rain and will be rescheduled for 2024 - possibly in the spring. Shawna traveled there on her own last week and was very impressed with the facility, their plants, quantities of each plant, and the ease to get there. Cindy H. has also shopped there and was very positive about it.

2. **Oct. 1 Potluck and informal plant swap at The Bower** – All members are invited and encouraged to attend our annual potluck where we can relax and socialize in person and get to know each other better, as well as enjoy the beautiful native plantings and peaceful surroundings. Potluck starts at 3 p.m. and ends at 8 p.m. or whenever everyone is ready to leave. 1190 Bower Rd., Shermans Dale. (GPS sometimes says you have arrived just BEFORE you actually get there, so keep on going until you arrive at the mailbox that says “1190.” **Please bring a dish to share** – something that can wait to be served until after our walk and tour around the property. Jane has just one electrical plug in the barn where we will eat, and will have a warming tray set up, if needed, but it may be difficult to have too many hot dishes to keep warm. There is a trail to the top of their mountain that can be accessed, for anyone who wants to be adventurous. Please carpool, if at all possible, as parking is limited. Please **bring YOUR NAME TAG** (if you have one already), **a lawn chair, your beverage, and your own place setting**, to reduce the use of disposable tableware. **ALSO, bring any native plants that you wish to share** with others. We will have an informal plant swap that day. We hope you can join us!
3. **Vote on proposed By-laws** – Discussion took place on points in the By-Laws. Pg. 3, We came to understand that voting takes place by chapter members present during our meetings, UNLESS we decide ahead to do it differently. (ex. online, hybrid, etc.) A vote to accept the By-Laws set and required by National Wild Ones, with the 4 revisions previously set by our chapter and communicated to our members was held and the By-Laws were unanimously accepted. (Our revisions - 7 b. Will meet at least 4 times a year; 9 a. A Vice President will be a Principal Officer; 9 d. The VP will assist the President if the Pres. is absent for meetings or events; 20. Our chapter Board and Member meetings will be open to both members and non-members, in the interest of attracting new members.
4. **Collaborations with Western PA Wild Ones** – No other info to report at this time. Jane Allis does know that Wild Ones of SE PA is also helping to fund the speaker.
 - a. Speaker
 - b. Table at PASA
5. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Field Trips:** Jane Allis, Jane Earle – **Suggestions for field trips for 2024 are welcome and needed.** jane_allis@yahoo.com So far, we know that the trip to Edge of the Woods nursery will be rescheduled and a member garden visit will be scheduled to see Lorrie and Shawna’s gardens.
 - b. **Programs:** Lorrie Preston, Melanie Wertz, Janet Bargh – Lorrie has asked Jane Shull to set up her display on winter seed sowing at the Seed Share. **Jane Shull is presenting her talk on Winter Seed Sowing at Fredricksen Library on 9/26 and at the New Bloomfield Library on 9/28. Please contact Jane for more info – ibentravlin@comcast.net**
 - i. **Seed Share** – Sunday, November 12th. Advertised times are 1-4 p.m., but our members can come at 12:45 to get their seeds, displays, and our refreshments set up. Location: Camp Hill Giant Grocery store, upstairs in the community room, 3301 E Trindle Rd., Camp Hill. Jane Allis and Jane Shull will come up with educational display boards for the event.

Seed Share (Continued)

1. **Advertising** – Those members who were appointed last month, please be sure to get the Seed Share flyers up, as we discussed. If other members go someplace that could use a flyer, please feel free to post it.
 2. **More cultivar vs. straight species discussion** – Discussion about where cultivars come from, with Ian leading. This varies. Some are found growing in nature, but in a unique form and are then reproduced in quantities, such as ‘Purple Dome’ New England Aster (*Aster novae-angliae*). Some have DNA manipulated or are even exposed to radiation to create different properties. Some plants that would appear to be “straight species” may all be grown by 1 grower, so may offer no genetic diversity. Do the best you can to find out where the seeds come from, use your local genotypes as much as possible. Sometimes cultivars are necessary in urban and suburban settings for size restrictions, etc. Wild Ones supports genetic diversity and using straight native species. Hungry Hook Farm is known for using seeds collected in the wild and local genotypes and Diakon tries to carry them, too.
 3. **Information on collection of seeds** – We are to bring only seeds for straight species to our Seed Share event – no cultivars.
 4. **Other** – Josh spoke about “The Native Niche, a native plant grower in Greencastle, PA, who specializes in straight species. The grower, Becky Shubert, may send some plants to our Potluck and plant swap as give-aways this Sunday, and will send along her business card so we can become familiar with her nursery.
- c. **Community Outreach Report** (Townships, Landscapers, Garden Centers, Developers): Wendy Smith, Maryann Skubecz, Heather Andrews, Lisa Emig – Wendy Smith reported that an extraordinarily successful meeting took place with the Hampden Township Commissioners on Aug. 31st with Wendy, Maryann, Jill Zdunczyk and Jeff Orban representing our chapter. Jill and Jeff were the presenters. The commissioners were attentive and excited, asked about using natives on mixed-use properties, wanted to know if our presenters could be a part of a Citizen Advisory Committee, asked them to present to the Planning Commission and more. Very positive! The township forwarded a request from a resident of the Indian Creek neighborhood who needs guidance is choosing native plants to replace a large swath of land that is currently covered in Crown Vetch. Discussion followed.
- d. **Schools Outreach:** Jill Zdunczyk, Kerri Thauby, Karen Rudy – No report.
- e. **Media:** *Members are needed for this committee! Who will raise their hand to get this started? If 3 or 4 members come together to create a committee, you can divide up the list of media outlets where we promote special events. Each committee member could be responsible for submitting the event details to 4 or 5 media outlets, almost exclusively done by email from the comfort of your home. It is not a monthly obligation – just a few times a year. The list of outlets has already been compiled. We need some people to do the contacting.*

- f. **Nominating Committee report** – Tami Harnish, Shawna Raymond, Wendy Smith
Tami updated us on their activities and where we stand in finding officers/board members for the new year. **The Nominating Committee will be sending out a list of nominees for all to consider ahead of our vote at the combined Nov./Dec. Annual Membership Meeting, taking place on Dec. 4th at 7 p.m.** The committee is working out the voting details and will let us know ASAP. They would like to offer voting to all members, whether or not they can attend the Zoom meeting in December. At this time, all positions have a nominee, except **THE SECRETARY POSITION IS OPEN FOR 2024 AND WE ARE LOOKING FOR NOMINEES.** **If you are interested in being a nominee for the Secretary position, or if you know of someone who has agreed to become the Secretary and you wish to nominate them, please contact Tami Harnish, Chair of the Nominating Committee at Tlharnish@verizon.net.**

If you *may have* interest in the Secretary position, but have questions about it, please feel free to contact current Secretary, Lorrie Preston, at lpreston5156@gmail.com. Lorrie reports: “It has been a very rewarding position for me for the past 2 years since our chapter started. The Secretary has the responsibility of communicating the details of our meetings and activities to our members. It is a great way to serve an organization I believe in and helped me feel connected to our members, becoming familiar with their names and the counties where they live. I sometimes receive questions and communications when information is needed, or good feedback. I have sincerely enjoyed working directly with Jane Allis, and knowing what is going on behind the scenes with our group. It is good exercise for the brain – staying organized and getting everything together to include as attachments, etc. It does take some computer skills in Microsoft Word and a little bit in Excel, but it can be easily learned for the limited things we have to do with it. I will be happy to sit down with the new Secretary and go over everything. I am creating a thorough list of duties and steps for success. ***It is important that we take turns filling our officer positions. No one can do it forever, but we all can take turns volunteering in various capacities for our joint success as a group. You can do it, even if you doubt it. Please consider stepping into this important role in our chapter.***”

6. **Eco Beneficial Lawn presentation** by Rachel Benbow, Dauphin County Master Gardener – Rachel gave a very thorough presentation on healthy lawn care, encouraging cultural shifts in the way we think of lawns in America. Where lawns are necessary, we want healthy, safe lawns that still look good, but are not monocrops of only turfgrass. She has a very important message to share. Ian suggested that Nimblewill be considered as a possible turfgrass replacement.