



South Central PA Chapter

Wild Ones of South-Central PA Monthly Meeting via Zoom

July 31, 2023 Minutes (Submitted by Lorrie Preston, Secretary)

Meeting Recording Link: https://wildones-org.zoom.us/rec/share/Da47xsiR2BC_Olf264niVkk3yLn79oZ0EqPgrSzPm4edX02GMOF54qJ10OE9FVt_.J5OiE1bdyXutVr7w

Attendance (22)

Members: Ann Dailey (Cumberland), Arlene Taylor (Dauphin), Bob Bargh (Adams), Jady Conroy (Cumberland), Jane Allis (Perry), Jane Shull (Perry), Jane Earle (Cumberland), Janet Bargh (Dauphin), Josh Donaldson (Franklin), Kerri Thauby (Cumberland), Kristen Acri (Cumberland), Lisa Emig (Cumberland), Lorrie Preston (York), Margaret Naguski (Cumberland), Maryann Skubecz (Cumberland), Melanie Wertz (Perry), Mimi Clark (Cumberland), Nancy Baldwin (New York State), Shawna Raymond (York), Wendy Smith (Cumberland)

Other Attendees:

Rachel Benbow (Dauphin), Vijay Varma (Cumberland)

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

Minutes of June Meeting – Approved unanimously

Reports

Membership – Kerri Thauby – Read by Lorrie Preston. 5 new members have joined since our last meeting. Welcome to Ruth Seitz, Leanne Neveil, Bob Bargh, Nancy Baldwin, and Ann Dailey! Referrals came from discussion overheard at the Craighead House, the WO website, word of mouth and the Penn Cumberland Garden Club. We also had 3 membership renewals and 1 expired membership. We currently have 73 active members (which includes 2 group members)

Last month potential new member Sherri Cocklin had trouble paying for her membership online and was frustrated dealing with National WO about it. She gave up and asked to be removed from our membership roster. Jane Allis presented that we are allowed to grant 3 free memberships a year - 1 to an individual, 1 to an affiliate, and 1 to an organization. At tonight's meeting, we unanimously voted to give Sherri a free membership for her first year to make up for the hassles she encountered. Note: There is a procedure for taking checks and physical membership applications instead of doing it online, but it is easiest for us if done online.

Treasurer – Margaret Naguski - In July we had 2 expenses: \$264.08 for printing of 50 "Going Native" booklets (price went up by \$14) and \$32.50 to have 50 more chapter brochures printed. This leaves a balance of \$1,907.33. We have not received our payment from the native plant sale from Diakon Wilderness Greenhouse yet. Margaret submitted the required I-9 form to Kim Patton of Diakon and has now followed up with her for any additional info/reminder.



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(Treasurer Report, Con't)

Thank you to member Josh Donaldson for a \$20 donation to the chapter as thanks for Jane Shull's generosity in giving free plants at her garden tour event.

Activities/Events:

1. **July 23rd Field trip to Jane Shull's Garden:** A HUGE thank you to Jane Shull for an amazing turnout (about 66!), lots of great information, and a wonderful garden tour. There were people there from various organizations for networking and introducing them to Wild Ones and each other. The gardens were lovely, lots of educational info about pollinators was on display, Jane's lovely quilts and her husband Larry's awesome sculptures were on display. Free plants were given away to attendees by Jane and others. **Jane Shull wishes to thank everyone who donated plants to be given away. She is also looking to identify 4 plants with square stems that were left there that day but were not labeled. (Photo attached to the cover email) If you brought these plants or know what they are, please contact Jane at ibentravlin@comcast.net** Jane shared some photos that were taken that day during the meeting. Jane has been sending "Birdy Dozen" and "Dirty Dozen" flyers to people electronically to help spread the word.
2. **Chambersburg/Fayetteville Conococheague Audubon garden tour** – Josh Donaldson
Twenty people came out for this very first native garden tour. There was a lot of excitement about butterflies, so it's a good way to gain interest. Next year's garden tour will be called "Beyond Beauty" to teach that it goes way beyond the plants.
3. **StormFest Camp Hill** – Lorrie Preston and Kristen Acri – It was an excellent event, very well planned and the whole evening was spent engaging with many people about our mission and Wild Ones. Definitely a worthwhile venue to be part of again next year.
 - a. Jane Allis was able to distribute our "Going Native" booklets to Swatara, Susquehanna, East Pennsboro, and Lower Allen Twps, as well as Camp Hill, Lemoyne, and Mechanicsburg Boroughs.
4. **Member Survey** - We would like to conduct a survey to learn more about what our members are looking for from our group. For example: Would you rather have field trips on Saturdays or Sundays? Do we have the right number of activities – too many or too few? **Please submit ideas or questions that you think should be included in the survey to Jane Allis at wildonescpa@gmail.com.** We may use SurveyMonkey, or Margaret suggested Google also has survey tools. One suggestion that came out of the discussion is to have presenters present at the beginning of our meetings, with the business meeting conducted afterward.
5. **Review and discussion of by-laws at August meeting.** Jane Allis has noted some discrepancies between national WO By-laws and the way we are doing things, so she will be looking for feedback from the officers in the next month or so. National WO requires that our By-laws must be adopted by the end of the year. We may conduct a vote on our chapter By-laws at our September Zoom meeting.



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6. **Eco Beneficial Lawn presentation by Rachel Benbow**, Dauphin County Master Gardener, will be part of our Sept 25 Zoom meeting.
7. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Field Trips:** Jane Allis, Jane Earle
 - i. **Aug. 20 (Sunday) 1:00 pm. Penn State Pollinator Research Plots**, Manheim – about 1 ½ hr to 2 hr tour; bring water and sun protection to stay cool; SEAREX Southeast Agricultural Research and Extension Center 1446 Auction Rd, Manheim, PA 17545 (About 45 minutes to 1 hr drive)
 - ii. **Sept. 17 (Sunday)** will be the Edge of the Woods Field Trip – Heather Andrews is setting this up. Meet at 1:00, 2415 Route 100, Orefield, PA (near Allentown) Jane Allis will not be able to attend this one. We will confirm next month who will be your contact person for this trip.
 - b. **Programs:** Lorrie Preston, Melanie Wertz, Janet Bargh – We have created a list of potential speakers for future events. **If you would like to recommend a speaker for consideration, please email Lorrie** at lpreston5156@gmail.com . For our Nov. 12th Seed Swap, we have contacted Tony Campisi, who does a “Sustainable Landscaping” presentation. We are awaiting his answer. It is soon time to promote our Seed Swap event to the community.
 - c. **Community Outreach** (Townships, Landscapers, Garden Centers, Developers): Heather Andrews, Lisa Emig, Wendy Smith, Maryann Skubecz - Maryann spoke to the Monarch Development Co. who is building a townhome development behind Rite Aid on the Carlisle Pike in Hampden Township. It is exciting that they are using our member Ian Gardner of Green Gardner Designs and will be using native plants in their landscape plan. A new Sheetz is being built and there is a possibility of reaching out to them about their landscaping plan. Wendy, Maryann, and Jill plan to speak to the Hampden Township commissioners and give them the “Going Native” booklet. Rachel Benbow asked about partnering with someone to approach her development manager in Dauphin County. She will be presenting to us at our Sept. meeting, if you wish to follow-up with her.
 - d. **Schools Outreach:** Jill Zdunczyk, Kerri Thauby, Karen Rudy – No report with school being out for the summer.
 - e. **Media:** **Members needed for this committee!** We have a thorough list of contacts to get our information out there. This is an important, behind-the-scenes committee and the work can be done on your own schedule. Please consider volunteering by yourself or as a team with others to take on this important role. Help us spread our mission to the community!
 - f. **Nominating Committee:** To be determined in fall.



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8. Other business:

We are happy to have Vijay Varma join us, who we met at StormFest. He resides in the **Walden development in Silver Spring Township** – a community with over 700 residences. He is working hard to bring native plants into his community. It started as a need to replace many dying trees – The trees were not the correct types of trees, not planted correctly, etc. They would like to introduce a layered landscape using natives. Vijay got on the HOA board and brought others along on the board, too, hoping to influence budget and landscape decision-making, find volunteers and get support from their community members. For 2 years, they have been replacing dying trees with native trees. Their community has large green spaces with too much grass. They would like to create an arboretum.

They are finding some residents resistant – fear of bees is frequently used as the reason. He is:

- 1) Looking for examples of native plant gardens to visit for ideas and inspiration.
- 2) Looking for sources of free or inexpensive trees, shrubs, and smaller forbs, like ferns, milkweed, etc.

He would also like to have some of us visit Walden to see what they have done so far and communicate about the changes they hope to make. (Since our meeting, Vijay has become a member of our Wild Ones chapter!) Please contact Lorrie if you have interest in this, and I will put you in touch with Vijay.

Our Potluck at The Bower will be held on Sunday, October 1st, at 3 p.m. – Jane Allis invites anyone to bring free plants they wish to swap with others.

Off-season Project – After seeing Jane Shull's wonderful educational displays, Jane Allis proposes we create some of our own during the off-season to be used for educational purposes in the future. These could be on tri-fold foam board.

Cumberland County Master Gardener Pollinator Festival – Sat. August 19th from 10 – 2 at the Adams-Ricci Park, 100 E Penn Dr, Enola. All are invited to come out to the festival. There will be tours of their beautiful butterfly-shaped butterfly garden, their shrub border display, children's activities, and more. Maryann Skubecz will be there and can take a supply of our brochures along to give out.