



## South Central PA Chapter

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

Minutes recording link: [https://wildones-org.zoom.us/rec/share/8zYWAmPzZf\\_of\\_kiLrIZ3Dc9mgieVpX0CV9vvD6cxI6FMUn30MoqjVc-KXerzaFQ.0yMNM6PqIgQ3zmFz](https://wildones-org.zoom.us/rec/share/8zYWAmPzZf_of_kiLrIZ3Dc9mgieVpX0CV9vvD6cxI6FMUn30MoqjVc-KXerzaFQ.0yMNM6PqIgQ3zmFz)

#### Attendance (24)

Members: Arlene Taylor, Cindy Hogeman, Debra Latsha, Gay Bowman, Heather Andrews, Jady Conroy, Jane Shull, Jane Allis, Jane Earle, Janet Bargh, Kara Lubold, Karen Rudy, Katherine Gehris, Kerri Thauby, Kyle Kephart, Lisa Emig, Lorrie Preston, Margaret Naguski, Maryann Skubecz, Melanie Wertz, Rob Winslow, Susan Wilder, Tami Harnish, Wendy Smith

Non-Members: None

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

**Minutes of February Meeting – Unanimously Approved**

#### Reports

**Membership – Kerri Thauby** – A busy month for membership. Welcome to three new members – Janet Bargh from Dauphin County, Elizabeth Terry from Cumberland County, and MaryAnn Benedetti from Dauphin County. When our chapter got started one year ago, we had many new members joining, so those memberships are now expiring. Ten members renewed this month. We currently have 14 lapsed members. National WO sends renewal reminders and Kerri just sent out notices to all who have lapsed. We currently have 63 active members, which includes 2 family memberships.

**Treasurer – Margaret Naguski** – Expenses - \$250.77 for 50 of the 22-page color pamphlets for HOA's, Townships, Landscapers. This is about \$5 each. Eventually, we hope to print 50 more using grant money from the Penn Cumberland Garden Club, if we are awarded the funds. We spent \$68 for native wildflower seeds to give away at our tabling and community events this year. We received our first quarter dues disbursement from National WO in the amount of \$487.50, which brings our current checking account balance to \$1,290.91. We need to get our chapter brochures printed again soon.

#### Activities/Events:

1. **New Website** – [southcentralpa.wildones.org](https://southcentralpa.wildones.org) Our new HOA pamphlet has been added as a resource in the “Learn” section.



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2. **Discussion on getting new pamphlet out to key groups and individuals** - Who, how, when, where? Members are encouraged to write letters to their township commissioners/supervisors, and perhaps get scheduled on their upcoming agenda to make a short pitch about benefits of using native plants and give them the pamphlet at that time. Townships often have lists of permissible trees to plant in their township, but many on the list are not native. Jane Allis is happy to accompany any of us, but it's best for info and request to come from township residents. Kara Lubold will have an opportunity in Lebanon County on 4/28 from 3-5 p.m. to have materials on hand for municipalities, if anyone wants to join her. [kslubold@hotmail.com](mailto:kslubold@hotmail.com) Heather suggests HOA Environmental Action Committees are a target audience. She has presented to the New Cumberland Board of Realtors. Perhaps we can make a big impact with the various "conservation districts" and tree give-away programs, which are giving many non-native woody species for free to the community – possibly due to low inventory of native species? Reach out to developers & landscapers. S. Middleton Township was mentioned as a possible contact. The key is educating those who have decision-making authority. All members are encouraged to think of some way to use this resource and encourage the use of natives in the greater community.
3. **April 15 Mechanicsburg Earth Day Festival and April 16 New Cumberland Earth and Arts Festival** table, 9-3, Thank you to Deb Latsha and Karen Rudy for help staffing the tables for these events. Jane Allis will also be staffing these tables for part of the time.
4. **Thursday, May 18 - PA Native Species Day**  
[https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants\\_Land\\_Water/PlantIndustry/GISC/Pages/PA-Native-Species-Day.aspx](https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/PlantIndustry/GISC/Pages/PA-Native-Species-Day.aspx) Our group would like to have a community event that day to draw attention to native plants – possibly a joint bird walk with Appalachian Audubon at Vincent DeFilippo Nature Preserve in Silver Spring Township. Warblers should still be migrating through. Lorrie will check into partnering. WO and AAS Member Jane Earle has led walks there in the past. Penn Cumberland Garden Club has a walk scheduled there the day before. Wendy suggested getting in touch with host of "The Spark" - a segment on WITF radio, to see if they would be willing to feature us that day. (She followed up after the meeting and it looks like this may work out!) Lorrie will contact Alexandra Debicki from Fox43 TV to see if they could do a segment with us for that day. Written article for the Patriot News and Carlisle Sentinel is also a possibility. Dept. of Ag. is listing all associated events and activities on their website, so we should submit info to them once our plans are set.
5. **Communications with the media** - Lorrie reported that she did meet Ally Debicki from Fox43 TV for an Audubon segment and this would be a good source of promotion for our chapter. We need to find volunteers in our chapter who are willing to make the connections with the media and send promo materials and info out in a timely manner to draw attention to our activities. Appalachian Audubon has created a master list of publications and outlets for promo of events and our WO chapter needs to create a



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- similar list. Lorrie will check with AAS president to see if we can adopt their list so we don't have to start from scratch. (Media Committee discussion was continued later – see “Establishing Committees” topic # 10)
6. **Outreach to schools** - Jill was not present for the meeting, but it was suggested that the native wildflower seeds we bought to give away could be given out to school students. Cindy suggested that instructions be made up to give away with the seeds, as well, so people know what to do with them.
  7. **April volunteer days at Diakon Wilderness Greenhouse and our 1st ever Native Plant Sale** - The 25-30 volunteer hours required from our group have been met, but opportunities for volunteering continue on 4/7, 4/8, 4/22, 4/27, and 4/28. Sign up at: [The Wilderness Greenhouse Volunteer Sign Up](#)  
May 6<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. -3 p.m. is our plant sale date. We need just 1 more person to sign up to help with the sale in the “noon to 3 p.m.” time slot that day. A BIG thank you to ALL who have helped us prepare for the sale by volunteering. Please mark your calendar and come out to buy plants on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Our chapter gets a portion of the proceeds from every plant sold that day.
  8. **Native Plant Sale Flier** – getting the word out. Way to go, Kerri Thauby, who has worked extra hard to promote the event! Please print out the colored flier and post it at grocery stores, libraries – anyplace there is an appropriate community bulletin board. Send it out online to your friends. Promote on social media.
  9. **Jane Allis did a presentation to Dauphin County Master Gardeners** on "Keystone Plants" that was very well received.
  10. **Establishing Committees** - Now in our second year, it is time to establish committees so we can divide the work and get more members involved in the organization. Suggested committees might be Field Trips, Programs (this would include Plant Sale and Seed Swap), Community Outreach (Townships, Landscapers, Garden Centers, Developers), School Outreach, Media, and Nominating Committee. Committees could meet however they wish – via Zoom or in-person. Could consider a lunch meeting at a restaurant, etc. If you have additional committee ideas, please let Jane know. The following members offered to serve on specific committees: (some volunteered after the meeting) **If any of the committees interest you, please let us know – all welcome!**

**Field Trips** – Jane Allis, Jane Earle

**Programs** – Lorrie Preston, Melanie Wertz, Janet Bargh

**Community Outreach** – Wendy Smith, Lisa Emig, Heather Andrews

**School Outreach** – (Assuming Jill Zdunczyk since she proposed it in Feb.) Kerri Thauby, Karen Rudy

**(COMMITTEES CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)**



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**Media/Promotion of Events** – We are in need of a few members who could divide up this important responsibility into very manageable segments.

**Nominating Committee** – This is a brief need in the months of Nov. and Dec.

11. **By-Laws** – This was not discussed tonight, but will be carried over to next month.

12. **Other Discussion** – Various members brought up lots of different things for discussion.

Jane Earle asked if we might have our brochures available at the **Wildwood Wetlands Festival** on April 29<sup>th</sup> at the Olewine Nature Center in Harrisburg. You may wish to attend this fun event. <https://explorewildwoodpark.org/event/wetlands-festival/>

**Lemoyne Arbor Day Festival** – also on 4/29, from 10-2

<https://www.lemoynepa.com/home/events/33516>

Jane Earle announced that DCNR has an effort underway with the slogan “Less Mowing, More Growing” to encourage property owners to **convert lawn to meadow**. There is funding available for some projects. Kelsey Mummert [kmummert@pa.gov](mailto:kmummert@pa.gov) is a point person for this project and he instructs interested individuals to email [RA-NRWoodsandmeadows@pa.gov](mailto:RA-NRWoodsandmeadows@pa.gov) to get connected with a specialist who can help you reach your goals of lawn conversion. <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/Water/LawnConversion/Pages/default.aspx>

Several people commented on speakers from the 4 full-day online **Mid-Atlantic Earthcare Summit** that was organized by LadyBug EarthCare and ran last week.

- **Tony Campisi’s presentation** was excellent and we should get him as a speaker at some point.
- **Jimi Eisenstein** presented one of his “paradigm-shifting animated videos” during the summit which really hit home with a couple of our members. Check him out to understand serious issues in a whole new way. He does YouTube videos on topics like soil and climate change. <https://www.patreon.com/Jimi>
- Lorrie was confused by a presentation called “**Biodiversity and Working with “Invasive” Plants** – presented by Allen Clements, a Biodynamic Farmer, Designer, & filmmaker, with special guest Michael Judd, which presented the viewpoint that we are worrying too much about invasive plants. He said that invasive plants like Autumn Olive and Bradford Pear are filling a niche in our ecosystems and are obviously loved by birds and we should not be spending so much time and energy trying to remove them. This is against every message that we normally hear and made no sense.

Cindy then talked about **iMapInvasives**, <https://www.imapinvasives.org/> a website for mapping and strategic management of invasive species. She pointed out, however, that until we get more control over the deer population, we will not get control over invasive plant species.



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Question was presented: **When is the right time to remove a tree tube that is being used for deer damage protection** on young trees and shrubs? Take it off when you can no longer put your finger between the tube and trunk. You can tie wood stakes to young trees to continue to offer some protection, but trees actually need wind and motion to establish a strong, deep root system. A mesh wire fencing can be used to create protection without having to continue to use the tubes. The Allis's have had good success with 4 tall pieces of rebar being pounded into the ground surrounding a vulnerable plant so that the deer can not fit their antlers in to get to the bark.

A recent **tick conference** presented information on tick-borne illnesses beyond Lyme Disease, such as Powassan Disease. Some illnesses can be contracted in as little as 15 minutes of a tick being on you and some diseases are deadly, so be careful. Spray clothing with Permethrin to protect yourself. Tall rubber boots work well for Jane Allis. Discussion about using bait tubes for mice and small rodents with Permethrin-treated cotton balls ensued. While it is sometimes recommended, members have had various results and the permethrin could affect non-target insects or species.

**If you do find a tick on you, send it in to the PA Tick Research Lab** and you will get results in a few days reporting which diseases, if any, the tick was carrying which will help you in your treatment regimen. [TickLab.org](https://www.ticklab.org)

Dragging a white sheet through a particular habitat is one way of checking to see how high your population of ticks is.

The **Dauphin County Master Gardeners are presenting a series of "Walk and Talk" events** which may be of interest, including a tour of the historic Harrisburg Cemetery and Arboretum on April 14<sup>th</sup>. "Walk and Talk" events at the 5 Senses Garden will be on June 12<sup>th</sup> and August 14<sup>th</sup>. Pre-registration is required. More details here:

<https://extension.psu.edu/programs/master-gardener/counties/dauphin/news/2023/walk-talk-with-a-master-gardener>