



South Central PA Chapter

Wild Ones of South-Central PA Monthly Meeting via Zoom

October 30, 2023 Minutes (Submitted by Lorrie Preston, Secretary)

(There is no link to a recording of the meeting this month)

Attendance - 27

Members: Arlene Taylor (D), Bob Bargh (A), Cindy Hogeman (D), Cynthia Hooks (C), Debra Latsha (Y), Diana Bermingham (C), Heather Andrews – Vice-Pres. (C), Jady Conroy (Y), Jane Allis – President (P), Jane Earle (C), Janet Bargh (D), Karen Rudy (C), Kerri Thauby – Membership Chair – (C) Kristen Acri (C), Lisa Emig (C), Lorrie Preston – Secretary (Y), Margaret Naguski – Treasurer (C), Mary Lundeen (C), Maryann Skubecz (C), Melanie Green (Y), Melanie Wertz (P), Ruth Seitz (C), Shawna Raymond (Y), Tami Harnish (C), Vijay Varma (C), Wendy Smith (C), (A = Adams, C = Cumberland, D = Dauphin, P = Perry, Y = York)

Other attendees: Stephanie Cimino (A)

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

Minutes of September Meeting – Cindy Hogeman made a motion to accept the Sept. Minutes. Seconded by Jady Conroy. Unanimously approved.

Reports

Membership – Kerri Thauby – We had 1 new member this month. A warm welcome to Rachel Benbow, the Dauphin County Master Gardener who presented for us on Eco Beneficial Lawns at our Sept. meeting. We had 2 expired memberships, which Kerri will follow up on. We currently have 84 active members, including 2 group members.

Treasurer – Margaret Naguski - Our expenses this month totaled \$111.36 for brochures and presentation supplies for the Seed Share event, bringing our current checkbook balance to \$4,591.07.

Activities/Events:

1. **Second annual Potluck and informal plant swap** at The Bower on Oct. 1 review – We had excellent weather and a great turnout of about 40 attendees for a wonderful afternoon at The Bower. The flora, food, and fellowship was fantastic and fun. Thanks to Jane and Bill for hosting us once again and for giving us great tours.
2. **Vote on method of selecting Directors and Officers** – A vote was held regarding our chapter's position regarding section 9b. of the By-Laws, pg. 8. A motion was made by Jane Allis that it will be our members who will vote for all Officers and Directors. Cindy Hogeman seconded, with a unanimous "aye" vote by all attending. The motion carried.

(Our chapter's By-Laws can now be accessed on our website at

<https://southcentralpa.wildones.org>)

3. **Vote on expansion of Board by adding Directors at Large.** - Jane Allis made a motion that we add two Directors at Large to our Board, seconded by Tami Harnish. These Directors can be from any county within our area, but they must be active members. They would serve in an advisory role on the Board. Kristen Acri suggested that we maintain an odd number of Directors for voting purposes. Also, rather than change the By-Laws to reflect a set number of Directors, she suggested that we approve a range between the required minimum of 3 Directors up to 9 Directors”, so we have flexibility in the future if we wish to change the number. Officers automatically serve as Directors, We now have 5 Directors in place – President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Chair. By adding two more Directors at Large at this time, it will bring us to 7 Directors. Jane Allis made a motion to approve a range of up to 9 Directors and it was seconded by Tami Harnish, with all in attendance voting “aye.” Motion carried.
4. **3 Complimentary Memberships:** Can be Household, Affiliate or Business
 - a. Sherri Cocklin (who had trouble enrolling – see July minutes) has been contacted and will receive a complimentary membership.
 - b. Kim Patten from the Wilderness Greenhouse at Diakon will be offered a complimentary membership. We partner with her for our native plant sale.
 - c. Several other suggestions were made by members for the third complimentary membership. Wendy Smith suggested Danielle Lewis, the Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Harrisburg Dept. of Parks, Recreation, and Facilities, who would be able to help spread the message of using native plants to a large audience. Kerri Thauby will follow up. Dlewis@harrisburgpa.gov or 717-255-3021. Wendy had communicated with Ms. Lewis in the past as an Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay representative and had mentioned Wild Ones to her.
5. **Seed Share Update – Sunday, Nov. 12th, 1 – 4 p.m. at the Camp Hill Giant Community Room** (Upstairs) Lorrie Preston, Program Committee - Thank you to Jane Allis for creating 3 displays for the event - “Wild Ones and Native Plants in general”, “Keystone Plants”, and “How to buy and grow Native Plants”. Jane Shull will display her Winter Milk Jug Method of seed sowing. **Members should arrive from 12:30 p.m. on, for seed set up, refreshment set up, and display set up, to be ready to go by 1:00.** Open to the public, so invite your friends. Bring seeds from straight species of native plants only (no cultivars), and seed sowing and growing information for each species. Seeds can be brought in bulk & packaged there in empty seed packets we have, or package them up yourself to give away. **Prairie Moon Nursery** has great seed sowing directions for each species of native plant on their website and ArcadiaNatives.com has colorful plant cards or sheets you can print with growing information for each species. Attendees can take a photo of the instructions, so no need to make multiple directions for each packet. Tony Campisi will present on Sustainable Landscaping at 2:00 p.m. Hope to see you there!

(Our chapter’s By-Laws can now be accessed on our website at <https://southcentralpa.wildones.org>)

6. Committee Reports:

- a. **Field Trips:** Jane Allis, Jane Earle - Suggestions for field trips & webinars were discussed. Edge of the Woods Nursery – possibly rescheduled to May – Heather to coordinate. Cindy Hooks suggested Wittlinger Preserve, Boiling Springs. Member garden tours and potluck at the next door gardens of Shawna Raymond and Lorrie Preston in July. Webinars for January and February – “Native Plants vs. Cultivars” presented by Connie Schmotzer, and “Talking Native Seeds with Calvin Ernst” with Kim Eierman of Eco Beneficial are two possibilities. **(We have moved the Ernst Seed webinar up to Dec. 11, 2023 in a previously scheduled webinar time slot.)** Please contact Jane Allis jane_allis@yahoo.com or Jane Earle janeearle7@msn.com with all of your ideas for field trips, garden tours, or other webinars you have enjoyed. We will be putting our 2024 calendar together during our Dec. 4th Annual Meeting via Zoom.
- b. **Programs:** Lorrie Preston, Melanie Wertz, Janet Bargh
 - i. Please see Seed Share Update on the previous page
- c. **Community Outreach:** (Townships, Landscapers, Garden Centers, Developers): Wendy Smith, Heather Andrews, Lisa Emig, Maryann Skubecz– Wendy reported that the committee will be giving their next presentation, this time to the Hampden Township Planning Commissioners, on Nov. 9th. Member Vijay Varma reached out regarding a very large new “Charter Homes” development called “Grange” that is going in near the intersection of Trindle Rd and Army Heritage Dr. in Carlisle. It is the same developer who planted so many non-native trees using incorrect planting practices in his own neighborhood of Walden, in Silver Spring Township. Vijay and his team are working hard to replace the problems trees and plants with natives and he would like to have our group meet with the developer, Rob Bowman, ahead of time to promote native plants and sustainable landscaping in the first place. It was suggested that the Landscape Architect of the project also be included in any meetings. Heather Andrews and Jane Allis are willing to get involved with Vijay to follow up.
- d. **School Outreach:** Jill Zdunczyk, Kerri Thauby, Karen Rudy – Kerri suggested an idea for our chapter based on something she read in the fall Wild Ones Journal about “Hidden Prairies.” The idea is to identify quiet places with native plants where passerbys would be invited to sit and observe nature within the space and record their observations in a journal that might be kept in a mailbox of sorts. Hopefully they would return from time to time to witness the different seasons and be exposed to nature to gain an appreciation. (con’t next page)

(Our chapter’s By-Laws can now be accessed on our website at <https://southcentralpa.wildones.org>)

- e. **School Outreach (continued)** Visitors could email photos they take of happenings in the space to a designated email address and the info could be useful for citizen science in the future. Some possible locations were identified – Adams Ricci butterfly garden, Craighead House, playground near the Letort Nature Trail in Carlisle, Fairview Township rain garden. Vijay suggested members get involved with a Citizen Scientist Project called Project Budburst www.chicagobotanic.org/research/citizen-science/budburst or budburst.org, where stages of development of leaf buds and flower buds are observed and reported throughout the season to be used for scientific purposes. Jane Allis reported on a fun project they hosted for young children at The Bower this summer where the children sat and observed bees for 5 minutes, reporting how many little bees, middle-sized bees and large bees they observed. Kerri is going to work on getting this project off the ground, particularly in the new year when she is no longer chairing the Membership Committee. It is a community educational outreach project.
- f. **Media: Members needed for this committee!** Please help us promote our activities. Contact Jane Allis if you can help us in this way. jane_allis@yahoo.com
- g. **Nominating Committee Report** – Tami Harnish – Chair, Shawna Raymond, Wendy Smith – Jane Allis stated that this is the most important topic of the night. **We need a nominee for Secretary.** Without a Secretary, the chapter can not continue. Tami Harnish reported that we have nominees for all officer positions except for Secretary. Kristen Acri suggested that we consider people who we may know that like to perform secretarial duties, even outside the organization. They could become members and serve in this role for our chapter. Current Secretary, Lorrie Preston, will be happy to mentor the incoming Secretary and help the person to feel comfortable in this office. It is a rewarding position within our group, but it does take a few hours in the days soon after our meetings to prepare the minutes and gather the attachments to send out to the members. Please consider serving our chapter in this way. If you have any questions or an interest in this position, please feel free to reach out to Committee Chair Tami Harnish at Tharnish@verizon.net, current Secretary Lorrie Preston at lpreston5156@gmail.com or to President Jane Allis at jane_allis@yahoo.com.
In addition, after tonight's vote, we are now looking for 2 Directors at Large. If you are interested in being nominated, please contact Tami.

(Our chapter's By-Laws can now be accessed on our website at <https://southcentralpa.wildones.org>)



South Central PA Chapter

Nominating Committee Report (Con't) – The Election will be held during our Annual Meeting, held via Zoom, on Monday, Dec. 4th, 2023, beginning at 7 p.m. There will be a method for online voting to take place by active members who are unable to attend the Zoom meeting, just ahead of our meeting date. Details will follow when we send out the final list of nominees at the end of November.

- h. Member Arlene Taylor alerted us to a National Wildlife Federation organized “Plant Conservationists’ Virtual Rally in Supporting Recovering America’s Wildlife Act,” taking place on November 13, 2023 from 2-3 p.m. Learn more and register to participate here: [Plant Conservationists' Virtual Rally](#)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

For the good of the group:

Preceding the meeting, the attendees had a very interesting and engaged discussion about tick-borne illnesses – Lyme Disease and more. Several of our members have experienced Lyme disease and gone through testing and treatment. Jane Allis said that tick populations have surged in their area recently and reminded us that if you find a tick, you can package it up in a Ziploc bag and send it to the Tick Lab – ticklab.org. They will analyze it for pathogens and in about 5 days, you will receive a report letting you know if the tick was infected and which diseases it was carrying, which can help in your treatment decisions. It is a free service, although additional testing may involve a fee.

(Our chapter’s By-Laws can now be accessed on our website at <https://southcentralpa.wildones.org>)