



Connecting people and native plants for a healthy planet

Wild Ones of South-Central PA Monthly Meeting via Zoom December 4, 2023 (Combined Nov/Dec Meeting) Minutes

(Submitted by Lorrie Preston, Secretary)

Recording link:

<https://wildones-org.zoom.us/rec/share/ItFXrOJzK8VJ039Ys3zmlDutmkxl20xz-3Kbxu6TnFHZDbWg35kDEqt59JFCcxI0.bpqq2hJdGiIAHn6w>

Attendance - 24

Members: Arlene Taylor (D), Bob Bargh (A), Cindy Hogeman (D), Cynthia Hooks (C), Debra Latsha (Y), Heather Andrews (C), Jane Shull (P), Jane Allis (P), Josh Donaldson (A), Joyce Wilder (C), Karen Rudy (C), Katherine Gehris (L), Kerri Thauby (C), Lorrie Preston (Y), Margaret Naguski (C), Patricia Coolson (C), Ruth Seitz (C), Shawna Raymond (Y), Stephanie Cimino (A – soon), Susan Boling (C), Susan Wagner (D), Susan Zalesky (C), Tami Harnish (C), Wendy Smith (C)

A=Adams, C=Cumberland, D=Dauphin, L=Lebanon, P=Perry, Y=York

Other attendees: None

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

Minutes of October Meeting – Approved unanimously with one correction. Activities/Events #3 – Top of page 2 - It was Margaret Naguski, rather than Kristen Acri, who suggested that we maintain an odd number of Directors for voting purposes.

Reports

Membership – Kerri Thauby – We welcome 2 new members this past month – Patricia Coolson and Stephanie Cimino. We had 1 membership renewal, for a total of 86 active members. 45 of those members are part of our listserv. If you would like to be able to communicate to fellow members in between meetings, please contact the Membership Chair to get set up. Currently Kerri Thauby – kerritb@gmail.com. As of 1/1/24, Lorrie Preston – lpreston5156@gmail.com.

Treasurer – Margaret Naguski – We received \$57 in donations at the Seed Share and had a refreshment expense of \$66.12, so total cost to host the event was \$9.12. Our checking account has a current balance of \$4,601.45. \$187.50 will be paid soon for our chapter's share for the Benjamin Vogt webinar. We are sharing the cost with 3 other PA Wild Ones chapters. End of the year chapter reports will start after the new year.



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Activities/Events:

- 1) **Seed Share Review** – Thank you Lorrie Preston, Melanie Wertz, and Janet Bargh for putting this together and to Deb Latsha for bringing seed trays that encouraged \$57 in donations. Thank you to Jane Shull for sharing her milk-jug winter sowing method once again. 48 people attended. Tony Campisi of Campisi Property Service LLC, did a well-received presentation on “The What, When, and Why of Sustainable Landscaping.” Heather Andrews suggests that we may wish to organize seeds by preferred planting location next year – Sun, Shade, etc., and have a special table for people to share vegetable seeds, which are becoming more expensive. She is willing to present or find a presenter for next year’s Seed Share and will keep it related to native plants.
- 2) **Benjamin Vogt Webinar - Monday, Dec. 18 at 7pm.** Western PA Wild Ones is sponsoring this in conjunction with 3 other PA Wild Ones Chapters, including ours. It is available to PA Wild Ones members only. The presentation, called “*Introduction to Matrix Garden Design*”, will be available for 2 weeks after the event for those registered but unable to attend on the 18th. Mr. Vogt has a recent book - *Prairie Up*. He is from Nebraska, but is a well-respected speaker in many states. Register at: <https://westernpa.wildones.org/introduction-to-matrix-garden-design/>.
- 3) **Election of the Slate for the Board of Directors for 2024** - New in 2024 – We will now have 7 Directors, by adding 2 Directors-at-Large. Jane Allis presented the Slate:
 - a. Jane Allis
 - b. Heather Andrews
 - c. Margaret Naguski
 - d. Tami Harnish
 - e. Lorrie Preston
 - f. Director-at-Large – Wendy Smith
 - g. Director-at-Large - Cindy Hogeman

There were no further nominations from the membership. Jane Allis made a motion to approve the Slate as presented. Kerri Thauby seconded the motion. By a unanimous vote via show of hands, the nominees were elected to serve the chapter in 2024.

- 4) **Election of the Slate of Officers for 2024** – In accordance with our previously amended By-Laws, it is our members who vote for the officers of our organization. Jane Allis presented the Slate.
 - a. Jane Allis – President jane_allis@yahoo.com or wildonesscpa@gmail.com
 - b. Heather Andrews – Vice-President heatherandrews1@gmail.com
 - c. Margaret Naguski – Treasurer mnaguski@comcast.net
 - d. Tami Harnish – Secretary Tharnish@verizon.net
 - e. Lorrie Preston – Membership Chair lpreston5156@gmail.com

There were no further nominations from the membership. Jane Allis made a motion to approve the Slate of Officers as presented. Wendy Smith seconded the motion. By a unanimous vote via show of hands, the nominees were elected for 2024.



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Jane Allis thanked Kerri Thauby as our Membership Chair and Lorrie Preston as our Secretary over the past two years for their service. Thank you to all volunteers!

- 5) **Wild Ones Re-branding Update** – Jane Allis and Lorrie Preston both attended a webinar presented by National Wild Ones on 11/30 about the long-awaited rebranding of Wild Ones. An updated coneflower logo and a new font was unveiled and was used in the annual appeal letter to all members for the first time the same week. The new coneflower logo must be used in colors white or gray, depending on the background. All digital images of the logo used by the chapters for social media are required to be in a specific mulberry color. There is a “Updated Logo Generator” as a drop-down on National Wild Ones’ website with these tools. Links to the new required fonts are there, as well. They also updated our mission statement to “Connecting People and Native Plants for a Healthy Planet.” National W.O. is working behind the scenes to make all updates on websites, brochures, merchandise, etc. They will be helping chapters to get their websites updated. There is a soft deadline to have this completed by 2/1/24. Chapters who are anxious to get the changes made ASAP can reach out to support@wildones.org and request to be a BetaTester, knowing early changes may have some awkward issues. Chapter updates will begin as of 1/1/2024. Jane will work on getting our chapter brochures updated soon. Please feel free to let us know if you think of tools or policies that would be helpful to us.
- 6) **Annual Donation to National Wild Ones** – All chapters receive a donation request from National W.O. toward the end of the year to support National’s efforts. Our financial balance didn’t allow us to donate in 2022, but our Plant Sale helped us tremendously this year. Jane Allis made a motion that our chapter donates \$200 to National Wild Ones this year. Katherine Gehris seconded the motion. The motion carried. Discussion did follow, with the suggestion by Margaret Naguski of possibly giving a percentage of our checkbook balance in the future. Question came up – How much of our original membership dues come back to the chapter as part of our quarterly-dues disbursement? This amount reduces over time, as the chapter is expected to become more self-sufficient. We will explore further.
- 7) **End of Year Reports** – Jane Allis and Margaret Naguski will be preparing reports in the coming weeks, as required. Jane estimated that 32 of our members volunteered in some capacity this year. Discussion about best ways for us to keep track of our volunteer hours throughout the year. For now, we will create a template for volunteers to use to keep track and turn it in to the President at the end of the year. This will come to you soon.
- 8) **Tables at PA Home and Garden Show and Other Events** - Lorrie Preston checked the PA Home and Garden Show to see if it was a fit for us to have a table there. It will be 2/29/24-3/3/24 at the Farm Show Complex. It resumed last year after breaking for the pandemic. The Dauphin County MG’s were busy there last year, as was Ashcombe’s pop-up store, a few landscapers, hardscapers, etc. but mostly it was a lot of vendors selling rain gutters, hot tubs, etc. Admission is \$11 and parking is \$10, so would be expensive for volunteers.



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(Cindy Hogeman checked with the Dauphin County MG's after our meeting. They will not participate this year. Parking was not covered and the show leaned heavily toward home improvement sales.) We will not plan to participate.

Lorrie also suggested that we let Ashcombes know that we would like to have a table at spring kick-off events they may host. Heather said she will check with Highland Gardens, as well, and she also suggested we have a table at the Cumberland County Master Gardener Plant Sale on 5/18/24. Having our table at these local garden-focused events appealed to the meeting attendees.

- 9) **Talk for Hershey Horticulture Society and donation of \$50** – Jane Allis gave a talk about native and keystone plants to about 35 members of this group and donated her speaker's honorarium back to our chapter. Thank you, Jane! Jane also presented recently for the Cumberland County Master Gardeners on "The Bower."
- 10) **Upcoming Webinar – Monday, Dec. 11th at 7 p.m.** - Our chapter activity for December is a webinar presented by Kim Eierman, of EcoBeneficial. She is a well-known author, speaker, and blogger. This interview is called "Talking Native Seeds with Calvin Ernst of Ernst Seeds." Jane will send us a link soon. (See attachment – *Native Plant Propagation by Seed – Rules of Thumb*, shared by Habitat Gardening in Central NY Wild Ones Chapter)
- 11) **3 Complimentary Memberships** - Household, Affiliate or Business
- Sherri Cocklin – Issues with original attempt to become our member
 - Kim Patten – Diakon Wilderness Greenhouse/Our Native Plant Sale host
 - Danielle Lewis - Harrisburg City Sustainability Director
- Jane Allis will check with Kerri Thaub to be sure they have all been notified by 12/31/23.

12) Committee Reports

- Field Trips** - Jane Allis, Jane Earle - We reviewed the Draft Calendar for 2024 (See attachment) **Some monthly meetings will be on Thursday nights this year, since survey results indicated Monday nights aren't good for everyone.**
- Programs** - Lorrie Preston, Melanie Wertz, Janet Bargh – No report.
- Community Outreach Report** (Townships, Landscapers, Garden Centers, Developers) - Heather Andrews, Lisa Emig, Maryann Skubecz, Wendy Smith. Wendy reported that the presentation to the Hampden Township Planning Commission did not happen, but very encouraging news after their previous presentation is the Township is now setting up an Environmental Advisory Board, made up of local residents. All of our members are encouraged to get involved with outreach within their own communities and share our booklet, etc. In-person meetings are more productive. Team up with other members that live in your community.
- Charter Homes and Neighborhoods: The Grange** – New neighborhood in Carlisle. Jane Allis contacted them and sent our info. She learned that they are creating a native meadow in the new community. The Grange is supposed to be about "a sense of place", but Jane was told that Privet hedges are Charter Homes signature landscape look throughout their communities. Discussion - Municipal zoning could help to prevent large plantings of invasive plants from being used.



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Committee Reports Continued

- d) **School Outreach** – Jill Zdunczyk, Kerri Thauby, Karen Rudy – No report.
“Sit Spots with nature journals” – possible project previously suggested by Kerri.
- e) **Media** – *Members needed for this committee!*
- f) **Nominating Committee report** – review of process – No report.

For the good of the chapter:

Wendy Smith suggested Archewild Native Nurseries as a possible field trip destination or possible speaker. They are the largest exclusively native plant growers in the Northeast, carrying over 600 eco-region specific and seed grown species. Quakertown, PA.

Stoneleigh Gardens in the Philadelphia suburbs would make a good field trip destination. Villanova, PA.

Heather recommends looking into the Natural Lands organization. www.natlands.org They have a good website. They are a non-profit land conservation organization with headquarters in Media, PA, dedicated to the management, protection, and conservation of eastern PA and southern NJ’s native forests, streams, and wetlands.

Check out America’s Garden Capital Passport – www.americasgardencapital.org
Visit 30+ gardens in the greater Philadelphia area organized by geographical regions.

Jane Allis will be out of town from mid-January until the first week of March. If you will need brochures or anything during that time, please let her know before she leaves.