



*Connecting people and native plants for a healthy planet*

## ***Wild Ones of South Central PA Monthly Meeting via Zoom Monday, April 28, 2025 Minutes***

**Link to recording:** [SCPA WildOnes April Meeting Recording](#)

### **Attendance (B – Business Meeting, M-Membership Meeting):**

Members:

Jane A. (President) – B	Deb L. - B
Heather A. (Vice-President) – B	Jady C. - M
Margaret N. (Treasurer) – B	Janet L. - B
Tami H. (Secretary) – B	Karen R. - B
Lorrie P. (Membership Chair) – B	Kevin K. - B
Cindy H. (Director) – B	Kristen A. - B
Wendy S. (Director) – B	Mary L. - B
Arlene T. – B	Paul L. - B
Barbara D. – M	Nancy S. - B
Carol B. – B	Shawna R. - M
Cindy Hk. - M	

Other attendees: N/A

### **Business Meeting (6:30 pm):**

Minutes of March 2025 Meeting approved

Treasurer – Margaret N.

- Balance: \$4296.91
- Expenses (for tabling), \$1073.49 Bulk to printer to print 500 copies of “What’s the Buzz”, Copies of brochures, seed packets from Ernst Seeds. \$462 dues disbursement from National. Financial report was submitted.
- Jane noted that with all the tabling events, the chapter could use a folding table and rolling cart – estimated at \$100. Board agreed to purchase.

Membership – Lorrie P.

- We welcome 1 new member this month. We are glad to have Farren R. as a brand-new member. She was referred to the group by our president, Jane A. In addition, we had a member, Gary S., transfer his Wild Ones membership from the St. Louis, Missouri,



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chapter to our chapter. However, he lives in Lancaster, so his membership should actually be with the Southeast PA Chapter, since Lancaster is not one of our chapter's counties. Lorrie sent him an email on 4/16 explaining this, letting him know that he can choose to be with either chapter and we would be glad to have him join us, along with a request for him to let national Wild Ones or Lorrie know which chapter he truly wants to be involved with, but Lorrie has not heard anything back. There is no phone number listed for him. Lorrie will send the National W.O. support staff an email and ask them how to proceed.

- Eleven existing members renewed their membership. Thank you to all renewing members for continuing to support our chapter and the native plants movement.
- Six memberships expired this month. Lorrie's schedule has not allowed time to contact expired memberships, but she plans to do so when she has time. This month the National office sent renewal reminder postcards to 10 members whose memberships have expired and 1 text message to another expired membership.
- After all the changes this month, we have **102** memberships, with 7 of them being group memberships, for a total of **109** members.
- It is also on Lorrie's radar to soon contact possible recipients of the 3 Complimentary Memberships we can award this year. Had we agreed to approach the nursery manager at Ashcombe, the head of perennials or plant buyer at Highland Gardens and a logical person at Stauffers, to find out if there is interest before we simply award them? We want to give complimentary memberships to those influencers who actually will get involved with us. Also, Kristen A. knows an environmental leader who teaches and inspires residents in Camp Hill about native plants, pollinators, birds, and creating healthy environments and she would be an excellent candidate.
- Group discussion around complimentary memberships. Ashcombe's seems to be on board with getting more natives. Give one to Jennifer M. (assistant under Scott C.). Not much interest in natives at Stauffers or Kissel Hill. Highland Gardens – need to talk to them. Lorrie likes to talk to folks there who do programming. Perhaps set up a WildOnes talk/program at nurseries. Women in Camp Hill (referral from Kristen A.) who is helping the community to plant natives for pollinators and birds.

Report on Social Media and Google Docs progress – Kristen A.

No report. Kristen has been regularly posting.

Committee Reports:

*Programs:*

- Plant Sale Date: May 10<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers still needed, especially for sale day. Margaret N. and Tami H. noted they would sign up.



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- Late Spring get together in person and plant swap – Due to timing, will not do one this Spring.

*Field Trips:* Next field trips:

- Jane reported on the joint Appalachian Audubon and Wild Ones SPCA trip to Mt. Cuba Center – Jane put slide show together
- May 20, 4:30 to Michaux State Park to see lady slippers. Jane will send out directions closer to date. As of current date, fires don't seem to be impacting area where lady slippers are found.

*Community Outreach Report* (Townships, Landscapers, Garden Centers, Developers): Heather A., Wendy S.

- Wendy discussed on-going activities with Hampden Township. The township had several public works employees leave. Wendy is recommending that they hire someone with plant knowledge/skills. Putting in meadow, working on bioretention basins and bioswales for areas for natives. They are doing a presentation for Birdtown, to hopefully get certified as a Birdtown community.
- Jane A.: Creating large meadow in Perry County Spring Twp Park. A new member – Farren, plus co-worker Shelby (not a member yet) and Jane met with representative from conservation district. The District will pay for almost everything except seed. Plan is for more than 2 acres of meadow. The Conservation District works with private landowners, rare to work with municipalities. Park name is Lynn Sheaffer Dum Park.

*Schools Outreach:* Kerri T., Karen R. West Shore School District: no report

*New Initiatives:*

1. Legislature outreach for PA Native Species Day and HOA bill. Encourage native plants at State properties. Encourage HOA legislation like Maryland's HOA (Jane has created draft). The goal is to try to get as many members as we can to send letter/email to their own state representatives. Jane will tweak draft and send out for folks to use.
2. General discussion on providing "What's the Buzz" for other groups' uses (ordered 500 copies just recently). Jane has given out 200 to people to give out at other events. Suggestion to give some to Kim at Diakon Wilderness Nursery. Perhaps other nurseries? Perhaps do card with QR codes – one to website, one directly to "What's the Buzz". Tami to make QR code for "What's the Buzz". Jane/board members to make up card with QR codes on them, laminate it and provide to businesses and events. Kevin K. to take cards to Ashcombe's and other nurseries. Carol B. discussed the upcoming Bee City Garden tour in Camp Hill. Held June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1-4pm. (Also, Greenbelt event same day - June 1<sup>st</sup>).



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Carol suggested it would be a good idea to put WildOnes brochures at the Borough Hall where people get their tour maps.

*Upcoming tabling events:*

*Lots of tabling events recently – Carlisle, New Cumberland.*

- May 17<sup>th</sup>: Cumberland County Master Gardeners Plant Sale
- Jane A. – applied for children's book voucher from Wild Ones national
- Heather A. gave list of native plant sales. There is a large one in Lancaster this coming weekend. (Master Gardeners of Lancaster County). See calendar for more details.

**General Membership Meeting (7:15pm):**

- Jane A. gave a review of the Business Meeting.
- Reminded members of our Plant Sale on MAY 10<sup>th</sup> at Diakon Wilderness Greenhouse in Boiling Springs. Don't miss it!

**Introductions of Membership and Query of the Month:**

*What do you do to make your garden "presentable or legible" to others in your neighborhood?*

Some ideas from members:

- Keep neat edges between beds and lawn
- Use fencing
- Put up signage explaining native plantings
- Mulch on bare ground
- Avoid floppy plants
- Keep beds weeded
- Plant colorful hellstrip
- Plant lots of variety: different textures, heights, shapes, bloom times
- Talk to your neighbors about native plants
- Get a seat on your HOA board to educate about natives
- Work with townships and developers to educate

**Information:**

- Jane A. presented a slide show she made from the weekend events and Mt. Cuba Center trip. At tabling events in Carlisle and New Cumberland – we gave out 110 What's the Buzz brochures and 112 Seed Packets, 100's of informational packets



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- Some information about Mt. Cuba Center – it is an old Dupont estate (Dupont Copeland), specializing in naturalistic plantings. In formal gardens, they use natives but stay true to garden’s original design. The garden only opened to the public in 2013.
- Mt. Cuba has a very large trial garden. The Center has introduced several native cultivars into the market over the years.

*Attached: Minutes from April meeting, Calendar*