



Connecting people and native plants for a healthy planet

Wild Ones of South Central PA Monthly Meeting via Zoom Monday June 30, 2025 Minutes

Link to recording: [Wild Onesc SCPA Monthly Meeting - Zoom](#)

Note that recordings are only available for 14 days from posting.

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

Members:

Jane A. (President) – B	Nancy S. – M
Lorrie P. (Membership) – B	Ruth S. – M
Tami H. (Secretary) – B	Leo and Angela G. – M
Wendy S. (Director) – B	Ruth S. – M
Cindy H (Director) – B	Cindy Hk – M
Deb L. – B	Jady C. – M
Kristen A. – B	Josh D. - M

Business Meeting:

Minutes of May 2025 Meeting - Approved

Membership – Lorrie P.

- Welcome to new member, Shannon L. this month. She was referred to our chapter through the Wild Ones Journal. We also are pleased to welcome Brenda S., who has been, and currently is, a member of the W.O. Front Range Chapter in CO. but has a second home in Hummelstown. She became a secondary member of our group and will participate with us when she is in our area. We are also happy to have Jennifer M, our first Complimentary Membership of this calendar year, on board. Jennifer is a native plant enthusiast and employee at Ashcombe in their Perennial and Nursery Dept, responsible for encouraging Ashcombe to carry more native plants and more straight species.
- We had seven membership renewals. Thanks to all who renew for supporting our chapter and expanding the native plants movement.
- Three memberships expired this month.
- After all the changes this month, we have 107 memberships, with 7 of them being group memberships and one secondary membership, for a total of 115 members. Our current member retention rate is 79.71%.



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Complimentary Memberships

- Jennifer M., native-plant enthusiast and employee at Ashcombe's Nursery/Perennial Dept., has now accepted our first Complimentary Membership of the year. Welcome!
- I spoke with Highland Gardens owner, Robert, who recommended his Perennial Dept. employee, Corinna, to receive a complimentary membership. In speaking with her, I discovered she is already a WOSCPA chapter member! Robert and Corinna both highly recommended Damek D., who works in the Nursery Dept. at Highland Gardens, to be the recipient. He is enthusiastic, has worked there for 2 years and is already aware of the benefits of native plants. He has gained the reputation of soaking up everything he learns about plants, so he should be able to pass on native plant knowledge to their customers and the community. Robert also expressed excitement for straight species natives being made available in the trade and expressed an enthusiastic interest in working with our chapter going forward and offered any help he can give us.
- The third Complimentary Membership will be offered to a community leader in Camp Hill Borough who is coordinating activities in support of pollinators. She was a driving force behind the Bee City Garden Tour late this spring and instrumental in the establishment of the Bee City designation. Camp Hill is also a certified Bird Town and Tree City USA and they host Storm Fest each summer, which we table at, which highlights storm-water drainage and the health of Chesapeake Bay. Kristen is reaching out to her to confirm her interest.

Treasurer – Margaret N. (report given by Jane A.)

- Current Balance: \$4932.83
- \$663.50 from National (quarterly dues payment)

Discussion:

Local nurseries and natives:

- Cindy H. brought up the idea of working with local nurseries to maybe work out discounts for WildOnes members. Perhaps permit advertising on our literature or have their adverts at our tabling events. Will need to check National rules.
- Stauffers – sent out brochure celebrating native plants. Glad to see local nurseries responding to customer needs. Shows that there is a growing desire for natives.
- Recommend that folks check with nurseries regarding use of Neonicotinoids (class of insecticides). Know that some local nurseries do, or source plants from suppliers that do.



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Tabling events:

Wendy S. – at a recent event in Hampden township, they had temporary tattoos – bugs and flowers. It was a big hit with the kids. They are very inexpensive on Amazon! Might be something to think about for future events.

Committee Reports:

Programs: Seed Share is Nov. 9, 1-3pm at the Camp Hill Giant

Field Trips: Next field trips:

- June 17 field trip has been rescheduled to **July 14** for anyone who can attend to coincide with an Audubon group trip to Conococheague Audubon Native Plant Garden, Fayetteville. Time is now **6:00pm** to be followed by pizza for those interested. Field Trip to Norlo Park, Conococheague Audubon Garden (Fayetteville, PA) Tour this native plants garden originally developed by Conococheague Audubon members. This Penn State Extension certified Pollinator Friendly Garden is 1/3 acre and consists of trees, shrubs, perennials, a recently constructed 16' vine trellis, and a water feature. Located within a township park. We will discuss tips for managing a public garden like this cared for by volunteers with diverse experience levels. Directions: Driving east on Rt. 30, use the second park entrance (a wide driveway between a brick barn and brick farmhouse). Proceed down the hill and to the left. Meet on the covered porch of the community center.
- **Member Garden Tour is rescheduled to July 19 at 10am** (Raindate July 20). We will be visiting 2 member gardens and a public restaurant garden! See attached sheet for details from Lorrie P.
- **August 23:** Save the date for this special field trip to **Ledew Gardens (morning) and Heartwood Nursery (after lunch)**. A chance to see a remarkable public garden just over the border in MD which features a native butterfly house and native nature trail in the morning. Then off to Heartwood Nursery, south of York, which specializes in a unique collection of native hollies and other native shrubs and plants for a tour of the propagation house and varieties they grow. More info will follow.

Community Outreach Report : no report

Upcoming tabling events:

- Next event is Storm Fest, Camp Hill, July 23, 5:30-8pm

Still need volunteers for grant committee. Need ideas on how best to provide grants to promote planting of natives. Email Jane A. if interested.



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General Membership Meeting:

Review of Business Meeting

Lorrie P. reviewed field trip in July to members gardens - Mary and Paul Lundeen, McGraths Brick Oven Bakehouse, and Mimi Clark. Start at 10am (meet at Lundeen residence). Lunch at ~1pm. If planning on going to lunch – please let Lorrie P. know so she can give the restaurant a heads up. Thea’s is first choice, Isaac’s second choice.

Lorrie’s email: lpreston5156@gmail.com. There is limited parking, so please carpool if you can.

Grant Committee - Please let Jane A. know if interested in formulating ideas around giving out grants to promote native plants.

Based on list created for Walden development - suggested plants for small yards spreadsheet now on the website “Learn” page.

Garden Design:

- “Grow Where You Are” Initiative (National) – can get garden design from National WildOnes org. Go on website – closest designs are for Philadelphia and Washington DC. Lots of good information.
- You can get your garden certified by the National WildOnes organization. Fairly strict criteria, costs a fee.
 - Angela and Leo G. – talked about getting their yard certified by WildOnes. Lots of questions to complete!
- Another place for design help: Brandywine conservancy – www.nativegardenhub.org. Great plant info – pictures of plants at multiple stages of development.

Introductions and Query of the Month:

What drew you to become a member of our group and what additional or different things could we do to make membership more enriching?

Member responses:

- Wanted to educate people about native plants
- Wanted to collaborate with others with similar interests and learn from them
 - Do more events with getting together in person
- Master Gardener – but didn’t feel lots of interest in native plants from other Master Gardeners, so very pleased to find this group
- Like to learn from others – “what’s next?”
- Be part of group of people passionate for native plants
- Love the seed/plant swaps
- Improving habitat for birds
- Use listserve to ask questions and solicit advice from members



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For new members - Wendy S. grows native trees for Chesapeake Alliance from seeds. Will take seedlings from others. Please let her know if you have any.

If you are not on the listserve, please contact Lorrie P. or Jane A. If have google email – Lorrie will add automatically. If not, Lorrie will send an invite.

Listserve: <https://groups.google.com/g/wild-ones-south-central-pa>

Book recommendation from Lorrie P.:

"The Well-Tended Perennial Garden - Planting and Pruning Techniques" by Tracy DiSabato-Aust. It's not only about native plants, but found the book very helpful over the years. Published in 1998.

Mary L. – Wildwood Park needs volunteers to help maintain gardens.

Planned 11 minute video on Protecting a Rare Plant in PA. Deferred showing to next meeting to instead talk about floppy plants and "Chelsea Chop".

What to do with "Floppy" plants:

- Chelsea chop – do in May, early June. Cut down by ~1/3rd. Plants will be shorter and thicker.
- Wendy asked if chopping down could adversely affect the quality of pollen or nectar. Wrote to Penn State – response was that no real data, but anecdotally – no.
- Other methods: Metal plant holders, wooden cages, big metal staples (for shorter plants), bamboo stakes in criss-cross pattern.
- Will add list of plants to do the Chelsea chop on to the listserve
- Articles about the Chelsea Chop:

<https://www.izelplants.com/blog/taming-the-wild/>

<https://mtcubacenter.org/chelsea-chop/>

<https://growitbuildit.com/the-chelsea-chop/>

Attached: Minutes from June meeting, Calendar, July Field Trip Details, Social media and poster posts