



Connecting people and native plants for a healthy planet

Wild Ones of South Central PA Monthly Meeting via Zoom

Thursday, August 28, 2025 Minutes

Link to Recording: [Wild Ones 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	Mary L. - B
Heather A. (Vice President) – B	Leo G. - M
Tami H. (Secretary) – B	Angela G. - M
Lorrie P. (Membership) – B	Arlene T. - M
Wendy S. (Director) – B	Bill R. - M
Cindy H. (Director) – B	Carol B. - M
Debra L. – B	Jady C. - M
Deb L. – B	Nancy S. - M
Ember J. – B	Ruth S. - M
Jane H. – B	Shannon L. – M
Karen R. – B	Stephanie C. - M
Kristen A. – B	

Other attendees: N/A

Business Meeting (6:30 pm start):

Minutes of July 2025 Meeting - Approved

Membership – Lorrie P.

- Since our last meeting, we welcomed 4 new members. Welcome aboard to you all!
- Jane H. (referred by Arlene T.)
- Teresa K. (NABA Magazine)
- Bill R. (Wild Ones email)
- Deb L. (Complimentary Member in Camp Hill)
- We had 3 renewals. Thank you to Jane E., Jonathan and Gigi G. and Nancy B. for continuing to support and belong to our chapter.
- Two memberships expired, with one being a group membership.



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- That brings us to 112 memberships, with 7 of them being group memberships, for a total of 119 members.
- We currently have a member retention rate for 2025 at 79.22%. The National Wild Ones Average member retention rate is 65.72%. The goal set by National Wild Ones is 62%.

Complimentary Memberships

Two complimentary memberships for 2025 have now been awarded – Jennifer M. at Ashcombe, and Deb L. with Bee City and other initiatives in Camp Hill. Although Lorrie followed up with Damek D. on Aug. 6th, She has not heard back from him. Lorrie will pay an in-person visit to Highland Gardens and determine his interest level.

Treasurer – Margaret N.; not present, report given by Jane A.

- Printed 100 updated “Going Native” books
- We had two transactions:
 - \$1888.00 proceeds from the Diakon Plant sale were deposited
 - \$291.00 expense for printing of Going Native Pamphlets
- Our current balance is: \$6,529.83

Committee Reports:

Programs: Heather A.

- Seed Share is Nov. 9, 1-3pm at the Camp Hill Giant
- Speaker – Professor Maggie Douglas from Dickenson College, research on entomology and the importance of Insects. Title of talk: Gardening for the Little things, Insect Decline and What we can do about it. Feel free to bring tools, books, garden accessories, etc. that you no longer need to give away. Gloves will also be available for a donation.

Field Trips:

Ladew: Review of field trip to Ladew Gardens and Heartwood Nursery

September 21 Member Potluck at The Bower Bring a dish (and some plants) to share and enjoy the setting of this public native plant garden in Shermans Dale. 3pm-?

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

Wendy – Nate R. brought up proposed HOA legislation. Representatives Justin Fleming (House District 105) and Abigail Salisbury (House District 34) are proposing legislation to ensure that those who live in areas with HOA's can plant native plants in their yards (no bill number yet). They are looking for additional representatives to sponsor the legislation. You can contact your local state



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representative and ask them to contact Representative Justin Fleming about co-sponsoring the proposed legislation and supporting moving the legislation forward.

Link to find out your representative:

<https://www.palegis.us/find-my-legislator>

Hampden Twp – is moving forward with installing a new meadow. They will start preparing the area and will plant this fall. 1 ½ acres. It will be by the highway near the township building. Wendy also noted that they re-wrote an entire new plant list for township, mostly natives.

Spring Twp – they could not put a meadow where it was originally planned (area is wetland). They will still plant a meadow but they will be moving to a different area to plant.

Schools Outreach: Kerri T., Karen R. – no report

Tabling events:

Falconry Day at Craighead House, Oct. 4, 9:00-2:00pm.

Thanks to Kristen A. and Cindy H. for volunteering for this event. There will be Hawk demonstrations and things for kids to do. Looking for ideas for some kid-related activities.

Jane had created a draft of a grant program for our chapter.

- Michele R. is helping Jane. They hope to unveil it for January 2026. Perhaps put in a brochure format.
- Wendy noted that National has grant program. Kristen noted that several WildOnes chapters have grant programs.

Jane A. will be on Bob Carey's Garden Talk show Sunday, Aug 31 from 11:30-12:30

Stations: FM 97.9, FM 93.9, AM 1000, AM 1480

Discussion items:

Some discussion regarding how to determine definition of Native Plants. Usually - before European settlers – but when is that? Use historical records, letter, books.

Doug Tallamy – Don't get too hung up on definitions. Look to make your property productive – is the plant providing benefit to wildlife?

Talk about clones and genetic flexibility of plants. Seeds of clones will revert back to parent.



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General Membership Meeting:

Review of Business Meeting – see above

Introductions and Query of the Month:

What plants have you had success with in shade garden areas?

Some responses from our members:

Sedges (PA, Appalachian, etc.)
Eurybia divaricata (White Wood Aster)
Scutellaria incana (Hoary or Downy Skullcap)
Polygonatum biflorum (Solomon's Seal)
Viola spp. (Violets)
Mertensia virginica (Virginia Bluebells)
Sanguinaria canadensis (Bloodroot)
Asarum canadense (Wild Ginger)
Anemone canadensis (Canada anemone)
Impatiens capensis (Jewelweed)
Zizia aurea (Golden Alexanders)
Dicentra eximia (wild Bleeding Heart)
Eupatorium rotundifolium (Round Leaf Thoroughwort)
Lindera benzoin (Northern Spicebush)
Athyrium filix-femina (Lady Fern)
Eurybia macrophylla (Bigleaf Aster)
Tiarella spp. (Foamflower)
Heuchera spp. (Coral Bells)
Phlox divaricata (Wild Blue Phlox or Woodland Phlox)

Geranium maculatum (Wild Geranium)
Adiantum pedatum (Maidenhair fern)
Helianthus decapetalus (Ten-Petal Sunflower)
Erythronium americanum (Trout Lily)
Polystichum acrostichoides (Christmas Fern)
Thelypteris palustris (Marsh Wood Fern)
Polemonium reptans (Jacob's Ladder)
Aquilegia canadensis (Red Columbine)
Chrysogonum virginianum (Green-and-Gold)
Allium cernuum (Nodding Onion)
Uvularia spp. (Bellwort or Merrybells)
Arisaema tryphyllum (Jack-in-the-Pulpit)
Trillium spp. (Wake robin, Birthroots, etc.)
Dicentra cucullaria (Duthman's Breeches)
Helianthus angustifolius (Swamp Sunflower)
Physostegia virginiana (Obedient Plant)
Spigelia marilandica (Indian Pink)
Verbesina spp. (Crownbeards)

Things we learned on our trip to Ladew Gardens and Heartwood Nursery

At Ladew: Butterfly house – only native butterflies. All stages could be seen.

Not a lot of native plants in the formal garden rooms, but lots of natives around the cottage house, and meadow plantings.

Heartwood Nursery – Owner is President of the National Holly Association. She is a longtime (40 years) propagator of mostly trees and shrubs. She also sells some perennials. There is an orchard of service berry trees. They have an annual Serviceberry festival. There is also a Pawpaw orchard.

Viewed an 11-minute video on Protecting a Rare Plant in PA – discussion on genetic diversity and what is native! Blue False Indigo Baptisia australis (PA native only occurs around 4 waterways – needs these ice-scoured prairies to thrive)



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Thought for the day below, from Habitat Gardening in Central NY (NY Wild Ones Chapter) Newsletter, August 15, 2025

Reflection by Doug Tallamy

In response to Charles Mann, author of the book 1493, who noted that it's difficult to restore ecosystems to their natural prehuman state because humans have been manipulating ecosystems for thousands of years:

Charles Mann is absolutely correct. It is very difficult to decide what a natural state is.

But it is not difficult at all to know what a productive state is. A productive ecosystem maintains its inherent diversity and produces lots of ecosystem services.

Our goal is not to turn the clock back to a particular period and re-create ecosystems that once flourished in North America; we have already changed too many ecosystems components — from soils, to plant communities, to natural fire regimes, to top predators — for this to be possible.

Instead, our goal is to restore as much ecosystem productivity as possible by reassembling the specialized relationships that encourage productivity, even if they are not exactly the same relationships that existed at a particular place 1000 or 2000 years ago.

~ Doug Tallamy, [FAQ Homegrown National Park](#)

Potential Questions for next meeting:

What native plant have you put in your garden that you regret?

What is a weed? How and when to attack?

Attached: Minutes from August meeting, Updated Calendar