



Connecting people and native plants for a healthy planet

*Wild Ones of South Central PA Monthly Meeting via Zoom
January 22, 2026*

Minutes

Recording link for Minutes:

Attendance

Members + County of Residence ()

Jane A (P) President

Lorrie P (Y) Vice President

Margaret N (C) Treasurer

Jady C (Y) Secretary

Leo G (D) Membership

Kristen A (C), Director

Angela G (D), Director

Mary L (C), Director

Tami H (C)

Randi L (C)

Nancy W (D)

Deb L (Y)

Shelby A (P)

Jane H (D)

Cindy H (C)

Arlene T (D)

Susan W (C)

Other attendees:

John H. (D)



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Welcome and Introduction

Minutes of Dec/January Meeting – Unanimously approved

Reports

Membership – Leo G.

Leo reported that SCPA Wild Ones had 131 members at the end of 2025, which represented a 77% retention rate in membership. We have had 78 renewals and 23 lapses, representing a net gain of 18, of which 3 are new in January. We have 119 active memberships including some group memberships, which means 128 members at the time of this meeting.

Treasurer – Margaret N.

Margaret reported that our 4th quarter expenses were \$273.00 in dues and a \$200.00 donation back to National Wild Ones. She may need to make an adjustment, but our current balance is \$6846.53.

Our total revenue in 2025 was \$5,277.75 and our expenses were \$1,723.89, so our net revenue was \$3,553.86. Most of our expenses are covered by our dues and those expenses are primarily for the printing of educational materials for distribution. Margaret noted that this year we will have an extra scholarship expense of \$1,000.

Committee Reports:

Programs:

Native Plant Sale Date: May 9.

We need volunteers to help Kim to get things ready at Diakon in the weeks before the sale as well as on sale day. Kim usually creates and makes available a Sign-up Genius so that volunteers can see where they are most needed. Lorrie reminded us that as we volunteer for a specific shift, we need to declare the organization with whom we are volunteering so that the organization gets the credit for our efforts.

Grants: Jane Allis spoke about the grants and suggested that we provide a sign or a flag to awardees. Four proposals have been received so far with the possibility of at least 4 more on their way. It was discussed that perhaps one of the ways that the winners could be determined



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would be by selecting a diversity of Counties and projects. We also discussed the idea of awarding flags which mention Wild Ones and a statement indicating that this garden is beneficial for pollinators. Another idea mentioned was to have a QR code on the flag to link to more information about importance of native plantings. Deb volunteered to sponsor a 5th award if needed. The question was raised about gathering all the proposals in one place such as a Google Drive, where all those on the committee reviewing these could see the same information without searching through various emails. Margaret and Kristen might be able to work on this possibility. The hope is that this will be an annual project for our chapter.

New Business:

1. Mass emailer – issues? Jane said she likes the mass emailer and it makes her tasks easier to accomplish. The questions were how people receive the emails and how recognizable the sender's address is. Suggestions were made such as putting the words "ZOOM link " in the Subject field to make it obvious to people who were searching for the link in order to join a meeting. From now on, emails will come from "Wild Ones Communication".
2. Financial and SOCRS reports have been completed and sent to National Wild Ones.
3. February talk/webinar: "**The Science of Attracting Pollinators to Your Backyard**", a live talk by Heather Andrews. Heather will share the latest butterfly and pollinator research and discuss how it translates into more winged beauty in your backyard. **This talk has been rescheduled for Monday, February 9th.**
4. **Mid-Atlantic Regional Seed Bank (MARSB)** outreach -We learned about this project to collect seeds from various eco-regions and then plant them to grow for the purpose of making these specific varieties of plants available to the nursery trade, thereby increasing the diversity of plants which are available for propagation and cultivation. The emphasis will be on those species which are easiest to grow and have the most ecological benefits. Jane mentioned to Amy Kousch, the community representative, that we offer the Seed Share in November and also what our local friends at Hungry Hook Farms are already doing by concentrating on the planting and distribution of many, many seeds which are important in this area.

MARSB collaboration and information <https://www.marsb.org/marsb-species-lists>



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General Membership Meeting:

Review of Business Meeting including updates on Calendar Dates

Introductions

Everyone shared their name and county of residence.

Query of the Month:

"Have you read or seen any new inspiring books or webinars you want to share?"

Some of the books mentioned were "Bud Finds Her Gift" and "Braiding Sweetgrass", both by Robin Wall Kimmerer,

"In Search of the Mother Tree" by Suzanne Simard,

"The Shotgun Conservationist", by Brant MacDuff,

"The Tree Collectors" by Amy Stewart,

"The Forest Revealed" by Jada Fitch,

"The Brother Gardeners" by Andrea Wulf

Also mentioned were the recent webinar on the effects of deer by Gene Wingert; an internet influencer called "The Black Forager", which is Alexis Nicole Nelson, enthusiastically giving lots of information about wild edibles; a 6-part series from Penn State on insects; Margaret Roach's garden columns; and the Prairie Moon nursery catalogue, which is packed with information about how to grow various natives.

It was exciting to hear that the Keystone Trails Association will be presenting a program to their members about the importance of native plants. It was also great to learn that National WO is hosting Basil Camu (see link below)

Less Lawn, More Life challenge – anyone wish to share?

Angela and Leo shared their experiences with this program on their property.

Discussion on Gene Wingert's talk and video

Many people mentioned how much they appreciated Dr. Wingert's presentation and how much they learned from it. One attendee (John H) commented that he has been an archery hunter since he was 12 and he noticed that there was already a browse line due to deer back then! But even he was newly aware of the fact that deer are also browsing the forest floor extensively.



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He, too, fears the loss of our PA forests due to the lack of seedlings which stand a chance of maturing into large trees. John also talked about deer baiting, which could be a possible solution to keeping them from eating everything in the woods. In the SE part of our state, near Philadelphia, they have already been using deer baiting because deer are an extreme problem there. The deer are easy targets for archers or hunters with muzzleloaders. We talked about the issues of animal rights vs the need to control damage. Since so many people have been educated by seeing the video, we discussed ideas for how it could be shown to various groups so that more people really understand the scope of the problem. Jane suggested that the video could be required viewing before a young hunter was granted a license. Much more education is needed on the fact that invasive plants are spreading like wildfire once the deer have stripped everything else away. Perhaps the Game Commission could get involved?

“Nurturing Natives” was a video program recently presented by Robin Walls Kimmerer and a young lady named Esther Bonney. It was about an intergenerational approach to public awareness on native plants. Esther started in High School to educate her peers about natives and especially how being in touch with nature is beneficial to avoid mental health issues.

“Reach out to people and be a mentor” is Esther’s wonderful approach.

From Wasteland to Wonder, Easy Ways We Can Help Heal Earth in the Sub/urban Landscape by Basil Camu (Treecologist and ISA Board Certified Master Arborist), available as a free ebook at:

<https://www.leaflimb.com/wonder/>

Gene Wingert’s presentation and discussion.

Attached: Minutes from Nov/Dec 2025 Annual Meeting,

Draft 2026 Calendar