



Connecting people and native plants for a healthy planet

Wild Ones of South Central PA Monthly Meeting via Zoom February 26, 2026 Minutes

Recording of the meeting

https://wildones-org.zoom.us/rec/share/d9MO2bIBGyQN-NlySZ_6JlbytdfLSqJbLnpRt3EsilBKjDpNoOjeS4cZAGtjq2s.3UJUzK5AlxzBq2k1?from=hub

Attendance

Officers and Directors:

Jane A. President, Lorrie P., Vice President, Leo G., Membership, Jady C., Secretary,
Angela L. Director, Mary L., Director, Kristen A, Director

General Members:

Deb L., Ember J, Cynthia H., Cindy H, Kim C., Tammy H., Shelby A., Arlene T., Jane H., Lisa
Nancy S., Sara B., Shawna R., Stefan K., Ruth S., Ann D., Ruth E.

Business Meeting:

Minutes of the January 2026 Meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

February 2026 Membership Report – Leo Graham, Membership Chair

1/22/26 – 2/26/2026

We had one new membership in the month of February. Please welcome Carol L. We are looking forward to including you in the group. Referral noted was the Wild Ones web site.

10 memberships were renewed in Feb. One of which was a group membership. Thank you to all who renewed. You are appreciated!

Two memberships expired in February.

We currently have 120 active memberships with 10 of them being group memberships, for a total of 130 members.

Treasurer's Report- Margaret Naguski

The report for February is that there is nothing to report:) There were no transactions in January and our balance is still: \$6,846.53



Connecting people and native plants for a healthy planet

Programs: The Wild Ones Native Plant Sale at Diakon Wilderness Greenhouse is set for **May 9th**
Sign up for volunteering at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054AA5AB2DA7FE3-62218238-2026>

Field Trips: see the updates on the calendar included in these Minutes.

April 18th- Wildflowers along the AT with Lorrie Preston.

June 6th- We have a date for the oft-postponed field trip to Conococheague. The
Rain date June 7th.

Community Outreach Report

(Townships, Landscapers, Garden Centers, Developers):

Heather Andrews, Wendy Smith (no longer include Lisa Emig in this committee)

Wendy has been doing a lot of Community Outreach to promote the use of native plants.

Grant Winners:

Jane Allis announced the winners of the \$250 grants to be given to successful applicants in a program designed to showcase various ways to display native plants and educate the public about their use. There were 11 applications, all from groups (no private gardens). The Grants Committee did a wonderful job of investigating each proposal and choosing 4 winners. One of the criteria they used was how visible to others the project would be; how many will see it?

The winners chosen are:

1. Wildwood Park, Dauphin Co., where the grant money will be used to expand native plantings by the entrance to the Olewine Nature Center.
2. The 5 Senses Garden Dauphin Co, which is along the Greenbelt in Harrisburg. A section of non-native beautyberry removed and replaced with a native beautyberry variety as well as a planting of pussytoes.
3. Cedar Cliff High School, Cumberland Co., where a teacher plans student involvement to plant a native garden near a busy entrance.
4. Strawberry Hill Foundation in Adams Co., a non-profit environmental education center that promotes stewardship by hands-on nature programs and conservation efforts for all ages. Their project will involve the removal of non-native aggressive plants and the extension of a native garden.
5. A possible fifth winner (sponsored privately) might be the James Getty Elem.Sch. in Adams Co. Jane waiting for more information on their plans such as maintenance.



Connecting people and native plants for a healthy planet

Jane also proposed that we invite the winners of the grants to join in the Potluck at The Bower in September. The winners could bring photos to share their accomplishments and they could be given the habitat signs at that time. Grant Committee members will be visiting these gardens this spring to check them out.

Applicants who were not selected this year may apply again next year. Current winners may apply again in 2 years.

Review of February talk/webinar “The Science of Attracting Pollinators to Your Backyard”, a live talk by Heather Andrews. Heather shared the latest butterfly and pollinator research and discussed how it translates into more winged beauty in your backyard.

Everyone who watched the webinar was very impressed. We had some discussion about the possibility of setting up a You tube channel where we could host the recordings of the webinars we offer in the winter and they would always be available to watch instead of for only 2 weeks after the presentation. Kristen offered to help with those technicalities. She also raised a question about what we should post on Social Media. Up-coming events? Zoom meetings? The best suggestion seemed to be posting a monthly reminder for interested parties to check the website for directions on how to join activities. We also had a brief foray into the question of how we will use AI. Undetermined at this time.

General Membership Meeting:

Review of Business Meeting including bringing attention to the following:

1. March- April sign up for volunteers at Diakon Wilderness Greenhouse reminder; see link above
2. Sign up to volunteer at tabling events, such as the New Cumberland Earth and Arts Festival on 4/19 and the Wildwood Wetlands Festival on 4/25.
3. Lunch event at Dickinson College April 10 with presentation by student on bee research

Video by Filippine Hoogland on “Say no to pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers”

We watched this sobering video about the consequences of using the chemicals which are so often recommended in gardening.

Ms. Hoogland emphasized that healthy biodiversity will combat pests in a healthy way and will create healthy ecosystems.



Connecting people and native plants for a healthy planet

Introductions and Query of the Month: *What are your experiences with managing invasives without chemicals – successes and tips?*

Member Contributions:

A wide variety of experiences and techniques were suggested, including strategic attacks on specific species, timed with interrupting seed dispersal, such as pulling stilt grass before it goes to seed in late summer.

More than one member suggested using a piece of equipment like a weed wrench, which uses leverage to wrest deep-rooted plants (such as barberry and honeysuckle) out of the ground.

Several members mentioned that they try to stay on top of unwanted things in their gardens and pull them before they go to seed. Also, after pulling unwanted plants, they replace them with strong-growing natives to keep that spot unavailable for others.

Another strategy mentioned was to smother unwanted plants with newspaper and cardboard and then put mulch on top, sometimes for a whole season to make the area ready for native replacements.

When your gardens are heavily-planted, there is less opportunity for aggressive non-natives to take over.

A method to control very aggressive weeds such as Bishop's Weed (*Aegopodium podagraria*) is to treat it as Japanese Knotweed is controlled, by letting it grow in the spring and then cutting it several times in summer, reducing its energy. Perhaps ferns would take over that spot instead.

An unusual suggestion was to use a Shop-Vac to remove seeds from a brick walkway so that an abundance of weeds did not later need to be scratched out.

Many members expressed frustration with the sheer volume of non-natives with which they have already dealt and are still battling. We are not alone! Any success is helpful.

Next meeting: March 23rd. Business meeting, 6:30, general meeting, 7:15. Note this is a Monday!