Wild Ones, Tri-State Driftless Chapter
Board Meeting
May 20, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Barb Kelkhoff.

Board members present were: Mary Edwards, President; Lori Thompson, Treasurer; and Marie Chenery, Secretary.

Also present was Barbara Kelkhoff, Program Chair.

President's Report: Mary applied for and was approved for a $75 grant to purchase books sold on the Wild Ones website. She intends to buy educational material for children.

Treasurer's Report: Savings: Balance $1,468.53, Checking: Balance: $464.54, Total Balance: $1,933.07 (full report attached).

Membership Report: No report was submitted. Mary will reach out to Barb Mutch.

Programs Report: Six programs have been offered so far this year (2/27 Winter Seed Sowing and Seed Swap, 3/8 Native Plant Resources, 3/20 Save Our Night Skies, 4/5 Bats of the Tri-State Area, and 5/3 Spotlight on Native Bees) and upcoming events include 6/16 The Nature of Oaks and 7/22 The Art of Photography. We will pay the Carnegie Stout Library in Dubuque $25 for using the space for the Oak program, and offer a $100 honorarium each for the Oak and Photography speakers.

Ideas for future programs include a children's program in August, why people should not clean up their gardens in the fall, and winter seed gathering this fall with Kaytlan Moeller of Dubuque County Conservation if she agrees to do it. Hendrica Regez would like to hold a honeysuckle elimination workshop in Galena. Mary and Barb will talk to her to see if we can turn this into a teaching event.

Kaytlan Moeller wants to approach small towns about changing their ordinances regarding plants. Mary is thinking we can lead the way by showing a Doug Tallamy video at public libraries to begin softening up towns to native plant ideas.

Looking forward to 2026, Mary would like to design a program with Kaytlan to teach why No Mow May is detrimental; they would instead teach "mindful mowing" and introduce the concept of adding native plant gardens. She would also like to give targeted lessons in addition to showing Doug Tallamy talks, such as nativars vs. pure natives.

Special Committee: Barb printed a draft of a handout and presentation we are planning for new members. Instead of having another special meeting, we will all review the National

Wild Ones orientation presentation again and email our thoughts on which slides we would like to include in our presentation.

Unfinished Business: We agreed to keep elections in January and to begin the search for new board members now.

Kaytlan has not gotten back to Mary about our table at the River Museum on May 27, but she will reach out to her again. We plan to go and have plants on a table together with a donation jar.

Dubuque Farmers Market on June 14 is a go. We will not bring plants because Mary has does not know if it is allowed.

Mission: This item was the Special Committee new member orientation discussed under committee reports.

New Business: We discussed ideas for new venues to hold events. Carnegie Stout Public Library only allows booking two months ahead. Ideas include the Dubuque Arboretum, East Dubuque Public Library, Platteville Public Library. We couldn't come up with any venues in Galena.

Mary urged us all to help search for new board and committee members.

The Wild Ones 2025 Challenge of "Less Lawn, More Life" was discussed. While they encourage us to embrace this, we are not required to actively push it. Since we have so few volunteers, we will not be planning any events around this.

We agreed to have board meetings every other month or as necessary, instead of monthly, and not necessarily on the fourth Tuesday. We will decide at the end of each board meeting. Our next meeting will be July15 at 1:00 at Barb Kelkhoff's house.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Marie Chenery
Secretary
(Minutes approved via email July 14, 2025)