Wild Ones, Tri-State Driftless Chapter
Board Meeting
February 17, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 1:01p.m. via Zoom.

Board members present were: Mary Edwards, President; Lori Thompson, Treasurer; and Marie Chenery, Secretary. Also present was chapter member Karen Schloss.

Open Forum: Members were invited to offer their thoughts. Karen Schloss said she is still working on her plant resource website.

Approval of Minutes: The November 18, 2025 board minutes and January 22, 2026 annual meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: The bank balances are unchanged from the January report with a total of $2,636.02. Lori also reported that she now has to report monthly to national Wild Ones and has to go back and re-name all the 2025 documents she had already submitted in order to conform with the new national standards. She now also has to send all receipts and check copies with her monthly reports.

Membership Report: Mary reports that we lost a member but also gained one likely from the seed swap we took part in at the Dubuque library.

Programs Report: Mary reports that she and Barb are planning a March social and hands-on plant cage class. Mary wants to be sure none of our events are crafts only, but all have a segment of education. They are still looking for 2026 speakers. Barb is typing up a list of program ideas.

New Business: We decided not to table at the Dubuque Farmers' Market this summer due to lack of volunteers and public interest. We discussed possibly tabling at either the Galena Farmers' Market or the one at the Galena Territory. Galena may charge for a table. The market at the GTA has a good crowd. Mary will ask GTA's Julie if this is a possibility and if there is a fee.

Mary attended the Garden and Green Living Show in Madison, WI and met some people she hopes would be willing to speak for our chapter. She was impressed with several speakers and subjects, such as creating rain gardens, restoring woodlands to health, native plants, designing hedgerows, and bees in the garden. She will make contact with some of the speakers to see if they are willing to speak at one of our events.

She also found a new resource for native plants called Agrecol in Evansville, WI

Next Board Meeting: The next meeting was scheduled for 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 21, 2026.

Open Forum: Karen suggested that the library in Dyersville might be a good place to hold a program She knows of three Mowing to Monarchs homes in Dyersville, so there is interest in native plants. Mary will coordinate with Karen on this.

Karen has a pattern for making seed envelopes out of pretty scrap paper. She offered to donate hundreds to the Dubuque Arboretum and could do the same for our seed swap next year.

We discussed the fact that Mary has met folks at the arboretum and told them we are interested in tabling or offering events, but they have not invited us to present or participate. We did not know about their recent seed swap until Marie saw it published the day before the seed swap. Karen will tell her contact at the arboretum that we are interested in collaborating and see if we can get something moving.

The board meeting adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

Marie Chenery
Secretary