Wild Ones, Tri-State Driftless Chapter
Board Meeting
July 7, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Board members present were: Mary Edwards, President; Lori Thompson, Treasurer; and Marie Chenery, Secretary. Also present were Barbara Kelkhoff, Programs Committee, and members Hendrica Regez, and Valarie Baffa.

Approval of Minutes: The May 12, 2026 board minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: The July 1 bank balance was $3,424.62 including interest and latest donations and expenses. We had income of $520 from donations for plants, a $10 donation, and $138 income from memberships. We had expenses of $100 for Cory Ritterbush's talk at the Galena Marina. Year to date income is $888.60 and expenses $100.

Membership Report: Mary reports 41 active members with 19 retained this year. Five memberships lapsed but we have a 79% retention rate. We have five new members; one of which was a gift membership for Nathan Aaberg, head of Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation (listed in the roster under his wife, Miyumi Aaberg). Some of our new members are from cities we have not yet had members from, such as Bettendorf, IA, Hazel Green, WI, and East Dubuque, IL. As discussed via emails in June, Mary will also offer gift memberships to Ellie from the Dubuque Arboretum and Bill Meyer, who is on the board for the Friends of Mines of Spain organization. He will be speaking for us in July.

Programs Report: The three plant events at the Galena Library, Mississippi River Museum, and Dubuque Arboretum went well and the botanical drawing for the youth was well received.

Hendrica arranged two tours at the Lost Mound National Wildlife Refuge which immediately were filled. Attendees toured the sand prairie and were schooled on the planned barge terminals in the refuge area and what we can do to oppose it.

Cory Ritterbush spoke on June 30 about native garden planning and then gave a tour of the native gardens at the Galena Territory Marina.

On July 11 we will again present the Nature of Oaks video by Doug Tallamy, this time at the Galena Territory. Emily Lubcke will join us to talk about oaks after the film. Lori will find out if she needs to complete a new W-9 if she accepts payment.

Shannon McGraw has been confirmed to speak on Dead Hedges at the Galena Territory on August 16. Barb will ask her if she will allow us to tape the talk to post to our website.

On August 20 Mary will present a program on native shrubs at the Dubuque Arboretum. The Arboretum requires attendees to pay $7.50 to register. That money stays with the Arboretum. Since we are co-hosting, this counts as an event for us.

No other programs have been confirmed yet. We may see if Ellie of the Arboretum will work with us on a seed harvesting class, we may still have the monarch class in September and we plan to offer a winter seed sowing class on December 5. Barb will contact the East Dubuque Library to see if we can hold it there since it would be a messy class if we offer hands-on.

Mary suggested that in the future if someone asks us to do a program in their community that she would like to ask them to help with organizing a venue.

Unfinished Business: We discussed the timeline to dissolve this chapter if we are unable to find board members to replace Lori (Treasurer) and Marie (Secretary). Since their terms end in January, per the new Bylaws, we would need to notify Wild Ones National in September. Mary thinks we can wait until January. She is worried about people being busy with elections.

At this point in the discussion Valerie sent a note in the Zoom chat that she would gladly run for the Treasurer position. Hendrica wrote that she would run also. Valerie is 100% sure she wants to run. Hendrica is happy to step back if we find someone else to be Secretary. Mary would like Hendrica to be a board member even if we find someone else to be Secretary.

We spent some time discussing having Valerie and Hendrica talk to Lori and Marie to learn the tasks. Mary also said she would like more board members because this is a working board. If we have more informed, active members, we can table at more events.

New Business: We discussed the new Bylaws that National sent us. We agreed to all familiarize ourselves with them.

Member Open Forum: Hendrica asked where she can get the agenda and minutes. She suggested we send out the agenda 48 hours before the meeting to all members to perhaps entice more members to become involved. Marie can do that. She will also send the Bylaws and recent minutes to Hendrica, though Barb said you don't have to be a board member to see the Bylaws under Tools / Chapter Operations and Resources.

Hendrica also thanked us for promoting the Lost Mound sand prairie tour arranged by Friends of the Brickhouse Slough. Mary mentioned that Hendrica can always mention these events at our events since building barge terminals in the refuge will affect the plants and animals in the area.

Hendrica would like to do a program on native edibles.

At this point the meeting went off-topic for about ten minutes.

Next Board Meeting: We agreed to set the next board meeting via email at a later date.

The board meeting adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

Marie Chenery
Secretary