

KAWO Executive Committee Minutes

Wednesday, August 16, 2023 – 7:00 PM on Zoom

Voting Members Present:

Jessie Davis, President
Jason Ballew, Vice President
Margo Rebar, Treasurer
Gail Simmons, Secretary
Ilse Gebhard (Monarch Watch)
Kathy McGoff (Hospitality Chair)
Beth Bradburn (At-large)
Jessica Hagen (At-large)
Ann Fraser (Program Chair)
Mel Luna (Publications Chair, At-large)
Noel Ocen (Outreach and Education Chair, At-large)
Dave Wendling (Site Visit Chair)
Paul Olexia (Past President, Community Projects Chair)

Absent:

Mike Klug (Past President, Wild for Monarchs Chair)

Guests:

Kim Patrie (Plant Sale and Plant Exchange Committee)

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.
2. The minutes of the minutes of May 17, 2023 were approved -- moved by Kathy, seconded by Noel; unanimous.
3. The May (Moved Kathy, seconded Ann, unanimous) and June (Moved Kathy, seconded Noel, unanimous) monthly reports were approved. The August report was approved with the modification that the 'Zine budget be moved to a separate line. Moved by Gail, seconded by Kathy; unanimous.
4. The Plant Sale budget was presented by Jason. He will follow up with details on donated items.

5. Old Business

- a. New Language was approved for the COI statement concerning honoraria for Member Speakers. A copy of the revised COI statement is attached. The language was moved by Noel, seconded by Kathy and passed 12-1-0.

6. New Business

- a. An additional \$250 was approved for the '23 Outreach and Education budget. Moved by Kathy, seconded by Margo; unanimous.
- b. A Request for a new Monarch Waystation Project in Battle Creek was approved and \$500 was allocated as a donation for the purpose. Moved by Noel, seconded by Kathy; unanimous.
- c. See d below
- d. Requests from Mr. Bergstrom from the City of Kalamazoo were discussed; no action at this time.
- e. Ann presented a request from the Program Committee for ideas on celebrating KAWOs 25th year as a chapter next year.
- f. A request to consider purchasing photographs for use in KAWO promotional materials was tabled after it became apparent that we have plenty of photos available in our own archive, and the suggested photos for adoption were not able to be viewed.
- g. A request from Michigan Garden Clubs regarding HB4159 was considered – Jessica will follow up.

7. Committee Reports/Ad Hoc

- a. Membership (Jason) Current membership status: 250 members, 14 new members since our last meeting in June
- b. Program Committee (Ann) – An enthusiastic group of twelve people participated in the June 17 “Eating Wild for the Future” field trip at Asylum Lake. Ruth Caputo did a splendid job organizing the July 29 Native Plant Garden Tour to five native plant gardens in Kalamazoo. The event was very well attended, with an estimated 40-45 participants. Thank you to Ruth and all the site guides for their time and expertise that made this event such a success.

September is a busy month for KAWO programs, with the fall plant exchange (Sat, Sept. 9), a field trip to Sarett Nature Center (Sat, Sept. 16), and our monthly presentation with Mike Klug speaking about soils (Sept. 27).

The Program Committee has been meeting monthly throughout the summer to plan the 2024 schedule of events. 2024 will mark the 25th anniversary of the Kalamazoo Area chapter and we have discussed a few options for how to celebrate this important milestone. 1) a day-long event of speakers and events that involves community partners with overlapping missions – this involves a lot of planning and coordination and has not been pursued in depth; 2) a celebration throughout the year as we gather for events, with a special social gala event outside of regular

meeting times sometime in fall 2024, and various member garden tours through the seasons. The Program Committee is open to feedback on these ideas and welcomes ideas from others at the next board meeting. The Program Committee also announced an upcoming series of informal monthly gatherings, developed by Quyen, beginning Sept. 21 at 7 p.m. at Brewery Outre, called Pints and Native Plants.

- c. Outreach and Education (Noel) -- Jessica handled two recent tabling events. Her summary follows. A big "Thank You" to Jessica for her efforts. I would like to suggest that Jessica's work with Community Homeworks provides the basis for an article in Seedlings encouraging our members to supply plants for her Sept. workshop.
- i. "June 4th Plant Sale - I barely stayed at the table! I spoke with several people who were new members and many people who were interested in learning more about KAWO. I offered guidance with plant selection, and it was a fun time.
 - ii. Community Homeworks - Lawn Care Workshop, Tuesday, June 6th - I set up a KAWO table and presented at the workshop about lawn alternatives. The workshop was held both in-person and via Facebook/YouTube Live. It was also a fun event, and I sent participants home with a variety of native groundcovers. I've been asked to do an entire workshop on native gardening in September. I plan to propagate many native plants from the school but I'd love additional donations of seeds/plants if members have plants to spare. I'm happy to dig them up. Community Homeworks is a 501c3 Non-Profit organization serving low-income homeowners in Kalamazoo County. They seek to empower homeowners through a variety of workshops and services. Learn more about them here: <https://communityhomeworks.org/>

Jessie submitted information about additional outreach events: Jessica and I tabled at the very first Annual Monarch Festival at Love Creek Nature Center. The event had three (3) hosts: Love Creek Nature Center, Sarett Nature Center, Potawatomi Zoo. At our arrival we were told to expect about 67 attendees, however the number was in excess of 100. Many individuals that stopped by the table already had natives but showed an interest in the design booklets and Homegrown National Park program. A member of a local gardening club plans to reach KAWO to have a speaker discuss HNP with their club members. Thank you to Mike and Carol for including Outreach/Education for the event. "Using Native Plants..." – Two (2) books sold.

- d. Monarch Group (Mike) We had a busy month of May and June, with the Plant Exchange and Sale, and the sale at Sarrett. At this point we have given out nearly 1000 milkweed plants and to date 1000 seed packets for the year. The Gilmore gardens crew (Joyce, Margo, Cindy, Laurel, and Carol) was also busy with weeding, spreading mulch, and replacing a few plants. No Monarch were seen but several 3rd Instars were observed on Swamp Milkweed. The Gilmore

crew continued to care for the existing gardens at the museum and they all survived the drought. We ended up distributing 1500 milkweed plugs at 8 different sites or events and have over 1000 seed packets and a large amount of literature in circulation at 8 sites and will be adding another at the Karma House in BC. We tabled at the Plant Sale and Exchange, assisted Quyen with her Pollinator events during Pollinator Week, and participated at the Monarch Festival at Love Creek. We are requesting support for a new Monarch Way Station (see attached request)

- e. Hospitality (Kathleen) Hospitality spent \$582.19 on food, ice, plastic bags and containers. The 30th Plant Exchange Celebration was budgeted 1750.00. There is a balance of 1167.81. Kathy McGoff would like to research buying plant identification signs for the Smalls' property and other KAWO maintained sites.
 - f. Community Projects (Paul) Since the last report we have had workdays on May 17, May 26 (joint with Stewards of Glen Park), June 2, June 7, and June 16. Each workday typically last for two hours and we are averaging about five people per workday. We have been able to get almost all the plants that we purchased this year planted, with only a small number remaining. Collectively we have planted more than 200 native plants so far this spring.
 - g. Site Visit Committee (Dave) To date the Site Visit Committee has completed 19 site visits. The great majority of these were new members. I will have a more detailed report once the season is over.
 - h. Jessie proposed that KAWO needs to develop plans for a retreat to consider the future of the organization in light of many upcoming changes, including the upcoming resignation of Jason Ballew as Vice President and Plant Sale chair and the need to recruit new leadership in several positions. Gail has volunteered her home as the venue if the space is sufficient.
 - i. The EC offered many thanks to Jason for his service on the EC over the past few years and wished him well.
 - j. The Plant Exchange will take place at Jessie's home on September 9 from 1 to 5 p.m.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm, moved by Kathy, seconded by Paul
 9. The next meeting: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 – 7 PM on Zoom

WildOnes Natural Landscapers, Ltd Mission:

WildOnes: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes promotes environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration, and establishment of native plant communities.

KAWO Vision:

To restore and sustain biodiversity through education and the practice of landscaping with native plants.