

Minutes

Executive Committee of Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones.

May 15, 2024

Voting Members Present:

Noel Ocen, President
Margo Rebar, Treasurer
Gail Simmons, Secretary

Beth Bradburn (Newsletter/Website Editor, At-large)
Jessie Davis, Immediate Past President
Ilse Gebhard (Monarch Watch)
Jessica Hagen (Outreach and Education Chair, At-large)
Ann Klobucar (Mentorship Chair)
Mike Klug (Past President, Wild for Monarchs Chair)
Paul Laferriere (Community Projects Co-Chair)
Mel Luna (Program Chair, Publications Chair, At-large)
Kathy McGoff (Hospitality Chair)
Paul Olexia (Past President, Community Projects Co-Chair)
Ester Ruohonen (Membership Chair)
Dave Wendling (Site Visit Chair)

Voting Members Absent:

Quyen Edwards, Vice President
Mike Weis (At-large)

Guests Present:

None

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. The Minutes from April 17, 2024 were approved unanimously – moved by Mike K., seconded by Beth.
3. The Treasurer's Report for May 2024 was approved unanimously – moved by Gail, seconded by Ann K. It was noted that the cost of our Domain Name is paid for by National.

4. Old Business

- a. Update on the Plant Sale (Noel) – Noel distributed via email a preliminary report on the sale, in Excel format. We sold 500 more plants than the previous year, at \$0.50 per plant above retail. With no sponsors this year, we sold more plants and had equivalent profit (sans the sponsors). Next year we may consider charging slightly more per plant. Two species did not sell out – Great Blue Lobelia, and Swamp Rose Mallow.
- b. Update on 25th Anniversary Celebration (Mel) --The program committee has decided to cancel the proposed 25th Anniversary Picnic celebration. The celebrations will continue to be spread out over the entirety of the year. For example, the awards ceremony at the upcoming spring plant exchange and potential combined celebrations at the fall plant exchange.

5. New Business

- a. Fall Plant Exchange/25th Anniversary party. (Noel & Jessie) – Jessie is looking into a location where we might simultaneously hold the Fall Plant Exchange and also hold a celebratory potluck picnic. A variety of ideas for location and format were discussed. Sept. 15 (Sunday) was chosen as the date – if no agreement on a format for the celebration is reached, that date will still remain as the Plant Exchange. Jessie will continue to research and report back.
- b. Spring Plant Exchange at Tom and Ruth's (Mel) – It was agreed that there will be a limit of 3-5 plants per person at the Spring Plant Exchange. There will be volunteers querying participants on how their plants from previous exchanges are doing.
- c. Summer EC meetings (Gail) – It was agreed that there will be no EC meeting in July. The June EC meeting is on June 19; the next EC meeting will be on August 21.

6. Committee Reports

- a. Membership (Ester) – We have 254 members. In April we gained 12 new members plus 25 renewals and had 15 expirations. In May to date we had 2 new and 5 renewals, with 10 expirations.
- b. Program Committee (Mel)
 - i. April's in-person program with Mitch Lettow was a resounding success with almost 90 people in attendance. Mitch donated his honorarium to SWMLC.
 - ii. The wildflower field trip with Sue Hodapp was attended by roughly 30 people. Pat and Sue led four sessions over two days and generously donated their honorarium back to KAWO saying, "Pat and I are longtime Wild Ones members, so we really look at it as being a Wild Ones tour, led by Wild Ones members. And we feel that Wild Ones can use the money towards their local projects." Our next in-person program is with Beth Moody on May 29th.
 - iii. Garden tours are being scheduled and finalized. The first one will be in the Westwood East neighborhood on Tuesday June 4th from 6-8pm. Folks

are encouraged to visit the gardens at their leisure during that open window. There will be signs in front of the participating gardens and the owners will be available to answer questions.

- c. Outreach and Education (Jessica) – no report
 - d. Monarch Group (Mike) – Milkweed is ready for the Plant Sale and Plant Exchange. Joyce Leppard, Margo Rebar and Carol Klug worked on the large basin at Gilmore and spotted the first Monarch of the season on Weds(8th) of May. All gardens have had their spring sprucing up and ready for some chips. More milkweed seed planted for July and August events. They will participate in the Love Creek Monarch Fest and give away milkweed on July 27; Jessica is finding someone to table as well.
 - e. Hospitality (Kathleen) – Kathy will provide canopies for the Plant Sale distribution.
 - f. Community Projects (Paul O./Paul L.) – Shade Plants from Wild Type and Hidden Savanna are going in Wednesday May 22, 2-4 p.m. at the Glen Park site. We have new volunteers in addition to the local folks.
 - g. Mentorship/Site Visit Committee (Ann/Dave) – Mentors group met last night to get organized for this year’s site visits. We have 13 people signed up to be Mentors.
 - h. Publications (Mel) – New Stickers will be available soon.
7. ANNOUNCEMENTS – none.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Submitted by Gail Simmons, Secretary

Approved unanimously at the EC meeting of June 19, 2024