



News and Views From The Gardens

February 2020

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Hina Matsuri: Japanese Doll Festival

February 6 - February 27

Fargo Air Museum
1609 19th Avenue N, Fargo

Reception

Thursday, February 27
6:00—8:00 P.M.

Dr. Ann Braaten
Will speak on history and
importance of dolls

Includes refreshments and
child-friendly activities

NPBGS 22nd Annual Meeting

Thursday, March 12, 2020
6:30 p.m.

The Atrium
Sanford Neuroscience Clinic
700 1st Avenue S, Fargo
Use back parking lot
Enter by south (red) door

Keynote Speaker: Peter Moe
Arboretum Director,
University of Minnesota Landscape
Arboretum

Experience a Virtual Tour of the Gardens

Refreshments and Conversation
followed by
a brief business meeting

All are welcome

**Northern Plains
Botanic Garden Society
Newsletter**

Ruth Morton, Editor

Published by
Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society
P.O. Box 3031
Fargo, ND 58108-3031
E-mail: info@npbotanicgarden.com
Website: www.npbotanicgarden.com

Board of Directors
Vern Hunter, President
Jerry Raguse, Vice President
Barbara Villella, Secretary
Ruth Morton, Treasurer
Bill Fradet
Ann Riley
Matt Sorenson
Arielle Windham

**Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society's
mission is to establish and operate a
regional botanic garden, conservatory
and arboretum in Fargo.**

President's Message

It was a good year for the gardens after heavy rains throughout the summer. Flowers were brilliant about mid-summer and the increasing number of visitors were generous in their praise for the garden's beauty and maintenance.

It was that same moisture, unfortunately, that cut the fall season short, prematurely ending our work and the viewing season. We look forward to this summer and new initiatives.

We should remember however, that we are about more than just flowers, and our contributions to the surrounding area are many. Every year we contribute several thousand pounds of vegetables to the Food Pantry. We sponsor Informative workshops and programs. The Edible Forest will provide Information about local fruit, berry and nut plants as well as being a source of food products. We manage plants in the calming atmosphere of the Sanford Neuroscience Clinic Atrium. We sponsor Hina Matsuri annually which, in Japan, is a Girl's Day celebration. We assist West Acres in managing a summer market of locally-produced products and assist in landscaping the interior and exterior planters. Our popular Fairy Garden and Dry Garden are unique in a style of landscape without flowers. The flowers are beautiful too!

We do a lot, and it takes a lot to keep it all going. We require memberships, volunteers, funding and appreciation by the public for what we do. Public support is crucial.

Vern Hunter, President

Board Change

Ina Lyons has resigned from the NPBGS Board of Directors. We thank Ina for her valuable assistance while serving on the Board. She has shared some creative ideas to help us move forward with our botanic garden project.

Ina will continue to volunteer her talents with continued development of the Fairy Garden as well as in other supportive ways.

Thank you, Ina, for your service to our organization.



West Acres Continues to Support the NPBGS

NPBGS met with West Acres personnel to plan this year's activities in the Northern Plains Farmers Market and planter landscaping in and around the Mall.

John Zviroski, former Board member/President will continue to design plantings and direct volunteers in seasonal change of planter landscaping at the Mall.

The presence of NPBGS at the summer Northern Plains Farmers Market held in the West Acres, West parking lot will be reduced to one day, Saturday. On Saturday the hours will be 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The Market is scheduled from June 23rd to October 17th, weather permitting.

Members: Seriously consider applying for a Board position. This is a valuable way to help our society achieve its long-term goals. We want your talents!

Tea Time at the Atrium

On Saturday, February 8th the Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society held their 8th annual *Tea Time at the Atrium*, serving 96 guests in the tropical setting of the Sanford Neuroscience Clinic Atrium. This popular February fundraising event was once again a smashing success.

A delicious array of dainty sandwiches, scones and sweet treats catered by Nichole's Fine Pastry, together with British clotted cream and jam for the scones, and chocolate dipped strawberries were formally served by butlers in tuxedos who also poured endless pots of British tea. Each table was creatively decorated with beautiful china, and each guest received a "favor" at each place setting. Our guests thoroughly enjoyed the ambience and all the trimmings. Some lucky guests also received neat door prizes.

The Boutique, which is always a wonderful additional feature to the Tea, sold many unique items such as handmade crafts, jewelry, home-made baked goods, such as breads, tarts, and shortbread, also fudge, bunches of flowers, and herb plants.

The winner of the *Best Hat in Attendance*, who received the prize of \$100, was Mary Valenzuela, with Keylie Sture as runner-up.

The Tea event brought in \$3097 in proceeds to be used for construction of accessible paths in the Children's Garden. In-kind donations for some of the food and other necessary supplies helped to defray expenses.

Special thanks are extended to all the fabulous volunteers for contributing their time and talent to this special fundraising event.



Garden Successes and Future Plans

“Caring Catalog” Supports Accessible Pathway

The Fargo-Moorhead Area Foundation annually sponsors the “Caring Catalog” which invites public donations to local charitable projects. This year there were eighty-six projects in the Catalogue, each less than \$5,000.

Thanks to the help of the Fargo-Moorhead Area Foundation’s Caring Catalog this past fall, we were able to initiate fundraising for a Children’s Garden project. The existing original wood mulch pathway will be removed and replaced with an ADA-approved, accessible pathway identical to the material that was installed in the adjacent Edible Forest area.

Seven donors collectively contributed \$575, which was generously matched with \$350 from the Fargo-Moorhead Area Foundation, for a total of \$925 raised through this effort. In addition, we received \$250 from another donor, for a total of \$1,175 raised as of December 31st.

The NPBGS thanks those who contributed. Additional donations to this project are still welcome. The project is expected to be completed in the spring of 2020



Fairy Garden Will Have a New Location

Since its inception, the popular Fairy Garden was tucked into the Woodland Garden. As of next summer the Fairy Garden will have a new home. Ina Lyon, our miniaturist expert, will work with a new location adjacent to the Children’s Garden. The Fairy Garden seems more appropriate as a part of the Children’s Garden, and Ina is excited about the possibilities this move presents.

This move will also enable us to revitalize the original wildflower plantings of turk’s cap lilies, blue flag, baneberry and ferns in the Woodland Garden former location along the banks of the dry stream bed.

New Way to Experience the Gardens

A love of plants and gardens goes hand in hand with a sense of community. This is more than apparent in the dedication and enthusiasm of our volunteers and community partners who bring a diverse array of skills with them to make the gardens better in many ways.

Be More Colorful’s Matthew Chaussee has used his skills to show us all that there is more than one way to experience the beauty of the garden. By creating a virtual 360-degree tour of the Northern Plains Botanic Garden, those who may not be able to experience the garden in person can now get a glimpse of its summer beauty.

It is cold outside now, but follow the link below to revel in the summer glory of the gardens in what we hope is the first step in many new initiatives to come.

His website:

<https://www.bemorecolorful.com>

The garden:

<https://tours.bemorecolorful.com/v/73pzOpvJjM2>



Matthew Chaussee

New Signs, Plants for the Sensory Garden

This season the NPBGS will install descriptive signs in the Sensory Garden section of the Children’s Garden. The signs will identify the areas of the five senses—sight, sound, smell, taste and touch, and briefly explain each one.

New plants will be added to replace those included in the original planting that have not survived for various reasons. This will make each sensory area more complete once again.

The Edible Forest

Last year saw the start of a large community project, and the newest addition to our garden—the Edible Forest. Meant to become a living library and education center for fruits and nuts that do well in North Dakota’s temperamental climate, we were all excited when we were able to break ground and begin the construction last spring.

The 2019 construction involved getting the initial infrastructure in place. Throughout the summer we watched as irrigation was laid down, ground prepared, plant beds created, and the all-important deer fence installed. To celebrate such large feats of progress, the Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society hosted a Forest Faire event to invite the community to observe the results, and gear up for 2020. We are so thankful to all who attended, and showed their support.

The Outdoor Heritage Fund grant through the ND Industrial Commission, which made breaking ground on this project possible, was a match grant. Many NPBGS members have been exceedingly generous in personal donations to help make this dream a reality. In addition, the Edible Forest Task Force has been hard at work presenting to different groups to spread the word about this initiative, and seeking community partners in creating the Edible Forest. We have been fortunate as an organization that Bell Bank & Trust, West Acres Development LLP, Doosan Bobcat, Thrivent Action Team Seed Money, and Del Rae and Ron Williams have all contributed significantly toward joining us in making the initial build possible. In addition, the Fargo Park District awarded a \$15,000 grant to the NPBGS in 2019 to assist with fencing costs, and an additional grant in February 2020 to assist with seating. We are thankful for their continued faith in NPBGS and support of this project.

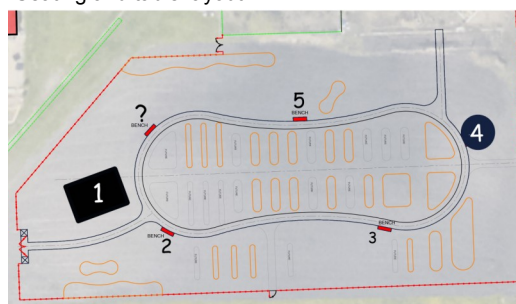
While it will take years for the Edible Forest to fully reach its potential, 2020 will see the completion of the initial construction phase. The NPBGS is already at work, having finalized the list of cultivars to be planted, ordered the plants so they are ready for spring, and ordered the species identification signs. While weather and plants keep their own schedule, we are hoping to host planting sessions in late May and early June—and everyone is invited. This summer will also see the planting of pollinator plots, and the installation of seating, including a covered trellis and handicap-accessible picnic table. Much is left to do before it all come together.

Volunteer opportunities will be posted as the weather permits. In the meantime, fundraising efforts continue to cover the initial costs. When a vine costs \$15, a sign \$30, and a tree \$50, no contribution is too small to make a difference.



Constructing planting beds

Seating and table layout



Key:
1. Covered table
4. Picnic table
2, 3, 5: benches

What Does it Take to Make West Acres Bloom?

It is an amazing partnership and it is difficult to believe we are going into our 9th year of taking care of the installation, design and upkeep of the plants at West Acres Shopping Center. It has been quite the undertaking to get it to where it is today. This is no small feat given the amount of containers that are within the mall and outside that are changed out 3-5 times a year.

To put things into perspective, there are more than 100 containers within the mall planted with over 800 green plants. These plants range in foliar color of deep green, lime green, various shades of white and green variegation and a number of types that add red, pink, yellow and orange hues to the mix. Among the green plants there are numerous blooming plants that add a pop of color throughout the season. During winter the scheme is icy pastels and in spring a flush of bulb plants enter the picture to herald the approach of spring. During the summer months, there are beautiful bold colors that dress up the area followed by the fall season where warm mums get added to the palette. Winter is a huge change-over with nearly 200 red and white poinsettias that put the holiday season into motion.

For the outdoors, we install all of the annual plants into the planters that surround the main entrance, the main sign, and some various outer planters. This installation requires over 1000 annual plants and the help of an enthusiastic team. In the fall season, the mums are added to the design, sometimes mixed with ornamental kale and asters. The Christmas season finds the containers filled with truckloads of evergreen toppers and decorative branches that welcome all of West Acres' users daily.

None of this is possible without the support of West Acres and their team along with the numerous volunteers that assist in implementing each of these phases throughout the year. In total, there are over 250 volunteer hours that go into all of our processes annually. Plant watering and maintenance are provided and paid for through the West Acres team themselves. None of the people through the Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society are paid for this project as they are all wonderful and willing volunteers that do such amazing work.

The next time you make a visit out to the mall, please take special notice of all the details that go into making the West Acres partnership so successful!

John Zvirovski
Designer of all plant installations at West Acres



Indoor planter in winter mode



Outdoor planter with winter greenery



The fountain area planted for winter

**We are very grateful for support we received this past year!
We Thank and Acknowledge our Financial Supporters in 2019!**

Linda Anderson
Margaret Armstrong-Law
Robert & Linda Backman
Patricia & Burton Belknap
Bell Bank & Trust
Susan Bennet-Coyne
Mary Beyer
Will Bleier
Doosan Bobcat
Lisa Brown
Reid & Susan Curtis
Clare Degerness
Marie Dill
Melissa Dixon
Scott Ellenberger
Fargo Moorhead Area Foundation
Fargo North High Philanthropy & Youth Group
Fargo Park District Foundation
Fine Arts Club – Garden Section
Brenda Fradet
Tyler Franklin
Peggy Gaynor
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Sam & Coralie Wai
Gail Wanek
Vern Wangen
West Acres Development, LLP
Deborah White
Del Rae & Ron Williams
Lou Worner
John Zvirovski
Ruby Zvirovski
In Memory of Dorothy Hustad
In Memory of Dale Larson

Membership Renewal Notification

How can I remember when to renew my NPBGS membership?

Your mailing label shows the month you joined.
Send NPBGS a check during that month.

Write "renewal" on the check memo line
Mail to:

NPBGS, PO Box 3031, Fargo, ND 58108-3031

Want to Become a Member?

Want to Volunteer?

Want to Donate?

Visit our website:

www.npbotanicgarden.com



Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society
P.O. Box 3031, Fargo, ND 58108-3031

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Return Service Requested

Save the Date
Spring Plant Sale
Saturday, May 16
NPBGS Greenhouse
1211 28th Ave. N

Annuals, Perennials, Herbs, Vegetables

Plant donations welcome
Watch our website and Facebook
for more details

August Adventure
Bus Trip to the
International Peace Garden
Saturday, August 8
Reservations Required

Watch Facebook and our website
for details
Reservations, Cost,
Meals, Where to meet

SIGN UP FOR A BONSAI WORKSHOP

A bonsai workshop is being scheduled for early spring at the Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society greenhouse. If you are interested in learning about this hundreds-year old part of Japanese culture please respond to Vern Hunter, 701 361 9930, or vernhunter907@gmail.com for more information. Participation in this workshop will include materials and a tree of your own that you will prune under the watchful eye of Emrah Hodny, bonsai artist. The workshop will include a display of beautiful bonsai and demonstration of proper pruning techniques. Attendees are also invited to bring their own tree for pruning suggestions .