Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

Even though this year has been stressful and challenging for many of us, it has also been successful at the gardens. Because of our members and friends who support us financially, by volunteering, serving on various committees, and the Board, many accomplishments have been realized. New paths were made in the Children's Garden, the Edible Forest was completed, the Fairy Garden was relocated, the Dry Garden progressed, and new signage was installed. Thank you, also, to those who spent their Saturdays working at the Farmers Market at West Acres. We also grew and sold cut flowers for the market, which were very popular. A huge thank you to all our members!

Fostering a good relationship with the Fargo Park District is important for us. Inviting their leadership and Commissioners to a breakfast at the gardens in August gave them a chance to see what we have done and what we would like to do in the future. It was with support through the Fargo Park District Foundation that we were able to complete the paths in the Children's Garden, purchase an accessible picnic table and construct a Pergola in the Edible Forest. The Fargo Park District also helped us out this year by mowing and removing some trees that were declining.

Moving forward, hopefully we can get back to normal this coming summer. Meanwhile, this winter and spring will still present challenges for meeting in person. The Board is still working on a virtual plan for the March Annual Meeting. I am really starting to hate the word 'virtual'!

On a positive note, we are working with the NDSU Landscape Architecture Department to help us formalize a comprehensive master plan. We should have the first draft early this spring. We will use this plan to expand the gardens, linking them together with ADA approved pathways. Another goal is to get the grading plan on the east side of the gardens approved by the City of Fargo, the National Park Service, and the Fargo Park District. If financially feasible, we will be able to have a ground breaking for a Japanese Garden with work starting this spring.

A Botanic Garden offers a respite for peace and tranquility, and a safe haven, in this time of a virulent pandemic. NPBGS is privileged to be a public space maker through the Northern Plains Botanic Garden. Our volunteers are the foundation to our success in creating, building, growing, and supporting this botanic garden. We need, seek, and encourage, more volunteers to serve on our committees which is where most of our work is accomplished. We hope this coming year that you will join us and get involved in our work of promoting community through gardening!

As we move forward, we can only accomplish making the gardens a destination for our area with your support as members, volunteers, and through donor support and financial gifts. Again, thank you for your support!

Jerry Raguse, President Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society

December, 2020

BOARD INITIATIVES

The Board of Directors of the Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society continued to meet in 2020, via Zoom or outdoors at the botanic garden. The Board continued to oversee the function and operation of NPBGS' standing committees, which report to the Board. In addition, there were some key decisions and initiatives that were made by the Board on behalf of the Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society, as follows:

- An internal audit was requested, which accountant Linda Heinrichs completed.
- The Board researched organization insurance options and decided to procure insurance coverage through Country Financial. The new policy went into effect on May 15th.
- NPBGS Board members continued to work with the Fargo Park District on providing information to the National Park Service about Yunker Farm Park and how it could become a destination spot for our entire area.
- Work progressed on a Master Plan for the Northern Plains Botanic Garden. NPBGS
 requested assistance and design help from NDSU Landscape Architecture Department,
 through Department Chairperson Matthew Kirkwood. Student input was requested for
 design ideas. Twelve student creative plans are anticipated in the spring of 2021. Future
 collaboration with Matt Kirkwood on the Master Plan is being considered.
- The Ad Hoc Edible Forest Task Force (Finance Committee) was terminated, having completed much of its mission of outreach and fundraising prior to the pandemic.
- A third contract gardener's services were procured for the 2020 gardening season.
- Covid-19 Safety Protocols were defined for NPBGS volunteers and workers.
- Treasurer's Reports to the Board will be quarterly as monthly reports are not needed.
- Website: It was decided to make progress towards NPBGS' control over the website, without a commercial website developer. Matt Sorenson agreed to lead the effort of the Public Relations Committee to move away from Ecliptic Technologies' web platform.
- A new Ad Hoc Japanese Garden Committee (under Gardens and Operations Committee) was proposed by Vern Hunter and Marilyn West, which the Board approved.
- Google Drive: It was agreed to limit administrative access to NPBGS' Google Drive to 2 Executive Committee Members.
- The Board approved NPBGS having its Spring Plant Sale fundraiser in May, 2021.

Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society Income & Expense – January Through December 2020

Income

Direct Public S	Support
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Foundations/Grants	12,117.00
Business Contributions	5,799.20
Annual Membership Dues	3,395.92
Memorials	1,580.00
Donations	9,392.25

Total Direct Public Support	32,284.37
Interest – Savings, Short-term CD	174.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	10.00

Program Income

West Acres Contract	23,000.00
Events – Ticket Sales	2520.00
Events – Revenue	11,220.22
Events – Donations	1,807.69

Total Program Income	38,547.91
Total Income/Gross Profit	71,016.28

Expense

Dues & Subscriptions	470.00
Outside Contract Services	21,103.36

Facilities & Equipment

Garden Equipment & Rental 1208.79

Building Repairs & Maintenance (Inc. accessible picnic table)10,433.06

Utilities 1,408.22

Total Facilities & Equipment		13,050.07
Information Technology		
Stripe Fees	89.45	
Square Fees	171.44	
Website	985.00	
Hardware/Software	520.72	
Total Information Technology		1766.61
Program Expenses		
Events – Supplies	1,232.14	
Events – Food	1,374.72	
Events – Other Expenses	1,784.17	
Public Relations & Advertising	483.90	
West Acres Project Expenses	1,465.01	
Gardening Expenses	12,884.36	
Total Program Expenses		19,224.30
Operations		
Postage, Mailing Service	473.32	
Printing & Copying	1,011.55	
Supplies	236.31	
Total Operations		1,711.18
Other Types of Expenses		
Insurance	2,828.00	
Signage	2,065.58	
Total Other Types of Expenses		4,893.53
Total Expense		62,219.10

Net Income 8,797.18

Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2020

Assets

Checking 25,243.08

Petty Cash -114.00 (in cash box)

Money Market Savings

Restricted Savings

Japanese Garden Fund 8,814.60

Garden Intern Fund 1,640.00

Memorial for Alma T. Tucker 225.00

Iris Garden-Irene Rust memorial 1,164.00

Total Restricted Savings 11,843.60

Unrestricted Savings 70,899.84

Total Money Market Savings 82,743.44

Martha Lee Mem. Fund, Alerus CD 4,266.99

Total Checking & Savings 112,139.51

Liabilities & Equity

Opening Balance Equity -570.00 (2019 net)

Unrestricted Net Asset 103,912.33

Net Income 8,797.18

Total Liabilities & Equity 112,139.51

FINANCE

NPBGS actively raised funds for the Edible Forest and Accessible Pathways projects in 2020. Our fundraising efforts included the *Tea Time at the Atrium* held on February 8th, the *Spring Plant Sale* on May 16th, and the End of Year Fundraising Appeal. The West Acres Plantscapes Project and vendors fees from the Northern Plains Farmers Market at West Acres provide NPBGS with additional support income throughout the year. We actively solicited public donations and foundation grants. We are grateful to all who contributed their time, talent, and treasure to NPBGS. This list summarizes our 2020 income sources.

Fundraising Events: Tea Time at the Atrium: Spring Plant Sale	Dollars 3,227.38 4,199.37
Individual Donations: Fall Fundraising Letter: 38 donations Individual Donations, Other: Total Individual Donations:	4,900.00 6,023.50 10,923.50
Memorial Donations: 30 donations	1,630.00
Memberships: 73 New or Renewing Membership payments	3,369.17
Northern Plains Farmers Market at West Acres: Tip Jar, \$55.25; Flowers/Herbs, \$1,127.54; Jelly, \$343.00; Vendor Booth Fees, \$4,125:\$	5,650.79
West Acres Plantscapes Project:	21,160.00
Corporate Support: Bell Bank, Edible Forest Project Microsoft, Employee Match Program Other Business Donations Total Business Donations	2,000.00 600.00 2,336.70 4,936.70
Edible Forest Project Campaign (2018 – 2020): Total Income: Grants, Individual and Corporate Support Pledged Project Support Income: Bell Bank (2021-2023) Total Expense:	89,461.92 6,000.00 94,666.55
Accessible Pathways Project Campaign (2019 – 2020) Total Income: Total Expense: Net Income for Garden Operating Support:	15,707.38 13,353.11 2,354.27
Grants Funded: ND Outdoor Heritage Fund, Edible Forest Project, last payment, 2-year grant William and Anna Jane Schlossman Fund, FM Area Foundation, Operating Support Fargo Park District Foundation, Fostering Garden Usability and Accessibility FM Area Foundation, Caring Catalog Incentive Match, Accessible Pathways Project	3,787.00 1,000.00 6,405.00 925.00

Grants Not Funded: Awesome Foundation of Cass-Clay, *Accessible Pathways Project*, \$500; Fargo-Moorhead Area Foundation, *Fostering Garden Usability and Accessibility*, \$6,405; Network for Good, *Fostering Garden Usability and Accessibility*, \$1,000.

GARDENS and OPERATIONS

Many projects were completed in the gardens this year and others were started in preparation for 2021.

In the Children's Garden accessible paths were completed, Sensory Garden signs were installed and plot dividers were straightened and refined. A new raised planter bed in the shape of an eye was constructed for growing herbs. Some perennials lost to winter or animal damage were replaced.

In the Edible Forest the remaining trees and fruits were planted, including experimental Blueberry plots, one a raised bed and one at ground level. Interpretive signage was installed on the fence and inside at the North end of the forest. Park benches and a table and chair set were refurbished and strategically placed along the paths. A pergola was constructed to provide shade for the accessible picnic table. Hardy kiwi vines were planted to create the shade. Pollinator gardens were seeded and produced blooming plants during the summer. Strawberries and brambles have already begun to produce fruit.

The Dry Garden in front of the Japanese Gate had more shrubs, plants and rocks added. It is a very showy sight for people walking or driving by the garden site. The pond is now ready for the installation of aggregate in the spring.

The Fairy Garden was moved from the Woodland Garden to a spot beside the Children's Garden and at the back of the mini-golf course. This area will provide more space for fairy village expansion.

A bog-type garden is developing on one side of the bridge near the Woodland Garden entrance. The Chrysanthemum Garden, Hummingbird Garden and Alerus Financial Butterfly Garden thrived with continued maintenance.

The Rain Garden had become overrun by invasive plants and too vigorous plants and needed to be rejuvenated. This work was begun by removing some plants and thinning others. In the spring new plants will be put in to adhere to the plants listed on the interpretive sign.

The Woodland Garden has partially been left to nature for a year or two, with both positive and negative results. Some volunteer shrubs were removed as well as some invasive plants. *Hepatica*, wild ginger, Solomon's seal, violets, wood asters and a few other wildflowers are thriving in the cool shade of this garden. The *Hosta* area is thriving and filling in nicely. Planting was started in the patio area to help create a welcoming spot for lunching or visiting. The Woodland Garden will be one of the focus areas for the coming year.

Additionally, we grew many flowers for cutting. These were made into bouquets to sell at the Northern Plains Farmers Market at West Acres and they were a big hit with customers.

Having three contract gardeners, in addition to volunteers, made a big difference in what we were able to accomplish. Garden visitation was up this year with as many as twenty people a day wandering through. Perhaps this was partially due to Covid-19 and partially due to increased awareness of our existence.

PROGRAMS and EVENTS

Conversations and Cocoa, our 4th annual social held at Sanford Neuroscience Clinic's atrium, was held on January 25th. Approximately 30 people attended, including 6 children, who enjoyed the tropical atrium plants and refreshments. Program activities included: experiencing our online virtual garden tour (created by Matthew Chaussee, *Be More Colorful*, https://tours.bemorecolorful.com/v/73pzOpvJjM2) via our new virtual reality headset; creating Zinnia seed tapes; sharing/swapping seeds to commemorate National Seed Exchange Day; providing printed public Extension Service Bulletins on horticultural topics via NDSU, U of Minnesota, and U of New Hampshire, as well as sharing downloadable web links to the publications via QR codes. All were invited to take Atrium "Selfies" using our promotional "Growing Together" group photo frame, and children were encouraged to visit the wee fairy garden and play in the Zen sand bed. Volunteers included Lisa Brown, Ann Riley, Bill Fradet, Lou Worner, Ruth Morton, Don DuBord, Matthew Chaussee, Barbara Villella, and Marissa Gapp.

Hina Matsuri: Japanese Doll Festival was a display of NPBGS' Hina Matsuri Japanese Doll Collection at the Fargo Air Museum (1609 19th Ave N, Fargo) from February 6th – 27th. NPBGS hosted a reception with light refreshments and activities for children on February 27th, and Dr. Ann Braaten spoke about the history and importance of dolls in Japanese culture. Volunteers included Vern Hunter, Maurie Degrugillier, Arielle Windham, Bill Fradet, Cynthia Herfindahl, Elly Heinz, and Denise Quick.

Tea Time at the Atrium, our 8th annual tea fundraiser, was held on February 8th at Sanford Neuroscience Clinic Atrium. We hosted 96 guests for afternoon tea with butler service in the tropical ambiance of the atrium. Guests received silk floral party jewelry favors of fascinators, necklaces, or wristlets that were created by Sue Poitras. The tea's *Botanic Garden Boutique* was popular and generated sales from home baked goods, candies, flowers, herbs, hand-crafted jewelry, and textiles. Mary Valenzuela received the *Best Hat in Attendance* prize, with Keylie Sture as runner-up. The net \$3,097 raised was used to partially fund our Accessible Pathways Project in The Children's Garden. Many volunteers helped to make this event a great success!

NPBGS' 22nd Annual Meeting was held on March 12th. See: Minutes, Annual Meeting at the end of this report for details.

After the March 13th Presidential Emergency Declaration on the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, NPBGS regrouped to reconfigure some programs, activities, and meetings so as to comply with CDC health and safety guidelines. Committee Meetings were physically distanced outdoors or held via Zoom. Garden and Gardening activities followed physical distancing guidelines, and face masks were encouraged. The planned Bonsai Workshop in May and the August Adventure Bus Trip to the International Peace Garden had to be cancelled due to safety concerns.

The *Spring Plant Sale*, our annual spring fundraiser, was held on May 16th at the NPBGS Greenhouse. Volunteers worked to create a physically distanced and safe outdoor sales event, complete with clear directional signage, customer spacing markings, wide-spread display tables, face masks and hand sanitizer. Plants sold included annuals, perennials, vegetable plants, herbs,

and small shrubs. Grape Jelly, made by Lou Worner from our garden grapes, was sold as well as cloth face masks made and donated by Theresa Gross. In spite of Covid-19 concerns, we had a very successful fundraiser! Volunteers included Ruth Morton, Don DuBord, Maurie Degrugillier, Barbara Villella, Lou Worner, DiAnn Hunter, Vern Hunter, Mary Beyer, Joshua Cook, and Teresa Jesten.

The Market at West Acres, which is held weekly from June – October, is a programming, marketing, and fundraising partnership with West Acres, LLC via a farmers market. Unlike past years, due to Covid-19 concerns, we were unable to host ancillary educational programs to engage market customers. We were able to expand NPBGS sales at our vendor booth with more floral bouquets, jelly, herb plants and donated cloth face masks. Also, more vendors participated this year than last, thereby increasing the net vendor booth fees which are given to NPBGS by West Acres. NPBGS is grateful to West Acres, LLC, for this partnership and support. We thank these volunteers for making this market a success: Barbara Villella, Ruth Morton, Judy Maxson, Vern Hunter, and Lou Worner.

West Acres Plantscapes Project, is our plant design and installation agreement with West Acres Shopping Center. NPBGS designs, plans, and installs indoor and outdoor seasonal and year'round plantings for West Acres. In exchange, NPBGS had public sign acknowledgement and literature displays at the shopping center, and receives design fees. We thank landscape architect and designer John Zvirovski for his leadership and volunteer design work on this project! We also thank volunteers Lou Worner, Bill Fradet, Perry Evans, Brian Lausch, Vern Hunter, Ruth Morton, Mary Beyer, Marissa Gapp, Mary Waagen, Ann Riley, Tom Riley, and Michelle Kliem.

Atrium Plant Care Project is our ongoing agreement with Sanford Neuroscience Clinic in Fargo. NPBGS does atrium plant care and maintenance in exchange for use of their facilities and a storage room. We have limited our volunteers to two during the pandemic: Lisa Brown and Lou Worner. We hope to engage more volunteers once it is safe to do so in this healthcare facility. This project agreement has been in effect since 1999, and is our first public gardening program.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

PUBLIC RELATIONS ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Purchased website public domain names "npbgs.org" and "npbotanicgarden.org" in preparation for a new and improved website in 2021.
- Initiated a Community Partners list of gardening and horticulture organizations and clubs.
- Updated Membership Form.
- Compiled a Public Relations Guideline for NPBGS' requests for PR Committee's help.
- Be More Colorful Tour (filmed in 2019) is pinned to the top of our Facebook Page.
- 15 Second and 30 second Drone Footage was selected for PR & marketing purposes.
- Most PR work was related to our social media posts about programs and events that were held in the first quarter; outreach for new audiences was limited due to the pandemic.
- One public speaking engagement was held when Vern Hunter spoke on February 18th to the NDSU Women's Club Valley Gardeners group about NPBGS and the botanic garden.

PUBLIC RELATIONS ONGOING AND FUTURE WORK:

- Website: Design work began for a new website utilizing Wix platform tools. This new website will be controlled by NPBGS without reliance on a commercial website developer. This will save money on website costs, and will give NPBGS a responsive, timely, and relevant website.
- Public Maps: both Fargo Park District and FM Convention and Visitors Bureau do not locate Northern Plains Botanic Garden on their maps, so we started inquiries about this.
- Outreach in tandem with Membership/Volunteers Committee is needed in order to recruit/attract new members and volunteers. So, we recommend a coherent volunteer infrastructure for NPBGS that utilizes free public outreach resources via the media.
- Future: Develop a downloadable Audio Tour of the botanic garden, via QR code signs.
- Public Community Calendars: we need to make more use of these, such as Nextdoor Neighbors, FargoMom.com, etc.
- Mail Chimp syncing with website webmail is ongoing.
- Design Work: for future Volunteer Badges, Membership Cards, etc., is needed.
- Speakers' Talking Points and FAQs lists need to be compiled, and supportive video and power point presentations created, as resources for NPBGS' public speakers.
- Social Media: Facebook and Group Facebook are active. An Instagram account will be created. We will explore snapchat filters and Hootsuite to ensure flow of information.
- Internal Contact Lists: members, non-members, volunteers, donors, "stay in touch but don't want to join", etc.: We must determine how to manage these via Mail Chimp email, newsletter, and postal mail lists and coordinate with other committees.
- External Contact Lists, such as Master Gardeners: We need to ask County Master Gardener Program coordinators directly to request that they share our e-mails, announcements, etc., when our requests are relevant to Master Gardeners.

MEMBERSHIP

The Membership Committee had a challenging year in 2020 as they could not meet in person due to the ongoing pandemic, but they managed to communicate via email or telephone. The Committee made sure that all new and renewing members received acknowledgement of their membership contributions. Several new and renewing members took advantage of the *Membersharp* portal on the Society's web site. The Committee continues to reach out by phone calls or emails to lapsed members who have not renewed their memberships. Fortunately, renewals increased as a result of this method of reconnecting with our former members. The Committee is looking for alternative options for contacting lapsed members. In the future, we hope to have an automatic annual renewal option feature on our Web Site. We still have the "gift" membership option for anyone wishing to make a gift of an NPBGS membership. This includes a "Gift Membership" envelope, an appropriate "gift membership announcement" (on NPBGS stationery), and our current brochure. Gift Memberships are a thoughtful and convenient option for birthdays or other special occasions. **Members:** 90 Total paid; 29 were New in 2020.

VOLUNTEERS

Efforts continue to encourage more volunteers for various events (as well as for Committees) for the Society. All volunteer inquiries are forwarded to the appropriate committee. During 2020 the society was successful in recruiting several volunteers for the gardens, including the Edible Forest. In particular, a good representation of volunteers, including Board members, helped at the annual *Spring Plant Sale* where CDC Covid-19 safety guidelines were followed. The Society had just a few volunteers for the Farmer's Market at West Acres this past summer, but it proved to be a successful effort. Many of our planned programs and events, except for the *Spring Plant Sale*, had to be cancelled due to the ongoing pandemic after March 13th. Looking ahead to brighter days, we hope we will be able to pursue our programs and events, and we encourage volunteers to contact us to join in our efforts.

Here is a snapshot of some of our volunteer efforts in 2020, as reported by our volunteers:

Edible Forest Project: 13 Volunteers, 305 Hours

Northern Plains Botanic Garden: Many Volunteers, 1321 Hours

Atrium Plant Care Project at Sanford Neuroscience Clinic: 2 Volunteers, 63 Hours

Northern Plains Farmers Market at West Acres: 5 Volunteers, 229 Hours

West Acres Plantscape Design Project: 13 Volunteers, 165 Hours

Board of Directors Meetings: 17 Volunteers, 182 Hours

General Administrative Support, Finance, Membership, Public Relations: 8 Volunteers, 331 Hours

Programs and Events: 45 Volunteers, 476 Hours

Our total documented volunteer hours were 3,304.

For anyone interested in helping in the future, but particularly during the summer of 2021, please contact us at info@npbotanicgarden.com

NPBGS COMMITTEES FOR 2020

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Jerry Raguse, President; Joshua Cook, VP; Ruth Morton, Treasurer; Teresa Jesten, Secretary

ARBORETUM COMMITTEE

Vern Hunter, Chair; Jim Anderson, Maurice Degrugillier, Sam Demarais, Mindy Grant de Herrera, Jim Hanson, Dale Herman, Dan Johnson, Brandi Malarkey, Jim Walla, Todd West

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Lisa Brown, Chair; Brandi Malarkey, Barbara Villella

EDIBLE FOREST TASK FORCE (Ad hoc, Finance Committee)

Brandi Malarkey, Chair; Lisa Brown, Marissa Gapp, Mindy Grant, Shannon Renfrow, Barbara Villella

TEA TIME AT THE ATRIUM (Ad hoc, Finance Committee)

Ann Riley, Chair; Lisa Brown, Ruth Morton, Joyce Pettinger, Sue Poitras, Lou Worner

SPRING PLANT SALE (Ad Hoc, Garden and Finance Committees)

Don DuBord, Chair; Lisa Brown, Maurice Degrugillier, Ruth Morton, Lou Worner

MEMBERSHIP/VOLUNTEER/NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ann Riley, Chair; Marie Dill, Jackie Jones, Shirley Manning, Darlene Rogers

GARDENS and OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Ruth Morton and Jerry Raguse, Co-Chairs; Joshua Cook, Maurice Degrugillier, Bill Fradet, Vern Hunter, Lou Worner

JAPANESE GARDEN (Ad hoc, Operations and Garden Committee)

Vern Hunter, chair; Mary Beyer, Minami Klinkhammer, Marilyn West

PROGRAM AND EVENTS COMMITTEE

Bill Fradet & Arielle Windham, Co-Chairs; Elly Heinz, Cynthia Herfindahl, Denise Quick

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Matt Sorenson, Chair; Lisa Brown, Audrey Cook, Marissa Gapp, Brandi Malarkey, Barbara Villella, Megan O'Shea

NPBGS thrives through the support of its volunteers. New members for our committees are very much welcome! For Volunteer Inquiries, Contact: info@npbotanicgarden.com.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN 2020

Jerry Raguse, President (March, 2018 – 2021; elected President, 2020)

Joshua Cook, Vice President (March, 2020 – 2023; elected Vice President, 2020)

Teresa Jesten, Secretary (March, 2020 – 2022; elected Secretary, 2020)

Ruth Morton, Treasurer (2009 – 2014; March, 2018 – 2021; elected Treasurer, 2018)

Mary Beyer (March, 2020 - 2023)

Marissa Gapp (March, 2020 - 2021)

Barbara Villella (March, 2019 – 2022)

Matt Sorenson (March, 2019 – 2022)

Ann Riley (2001 – 2007; March, 2018 – 2020; March, 2020 - 2023)

Departing Board Members in 2020

Bill Fradet, (March 2015 - 2017; March 2017 – 2020)

Vern Hunter, President (2003-2008; March, 2018 –2020)

Arielle Windham (March, 2019 – 2021; Resigned March, 2020)

NORTHERN PLAINS BOTANIC GARDEN SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 3031 FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA 58108-3031

<u>info@npbotanicgarden.com</u> * <u>www.npbotanicgarden.com</u>

P. O. BOX 3031 FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA 58108 - 3031

Civitati Faventes Horti

The Mission of the Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society is to establish a botanic garden, conservatory, and arboretum in the Fargo-Moorhead area.
...Promoting Community through Gardening Since 1998...

MINUTES

ANNUAL MEETING NORTHERN PLAINS BOTANIC GARDEN SOCIETY March 12, 2020

At the Sanford Neuroscience Clinic, Atrium 700 1st Ave S. Fargo, ND

President Vern Hunter convened the 22nd Annual Meeting of the Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society at 6:30 p.m. by welcoming members and visitors. Immediately following President Hunter's welcoming remarks to all in attendance the Business Meeting convened at 6:45 p.m.

NPBGS Members & Visitors* Present: President Vern Hunter (presiding), Jerry Raguse, Ruth Morton, Linda Worner, Barbara Villella, Gail Wanek, Mary Beyer, Judy Maxson, Josh Cook, Audrey Cook, Teresa Jesten, Maurice Degrugillier, Theresa Gross, Linda Anderson, Reid Curtis, Joyce & Tom Pettinger, Cynthia Herfindahl, Marie Dill, Aimee Thapa*, Jim Walla, William Fradet, Don DuBord, Elly Heinz, Vicky Jo Bogart*, Les Skoropat*, Darlene Rogers, Barry Johnson*, Marilyn West, DiAnn Hunter, Eric Baker*, Marilyn Hanson, Mark Chekola. Attendance was low as the Covid-19 pandemic was approaching our region, large indoor gatherings were discouraged, and a National Health Emergency was declared the following day (March 13th).

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS AND GUESTS: Barbara Villella introduced Matthew Chaussee who demonstrated his *Be More Colorful 360 Virtual Tour* of the Northern Plains Botanic Garden. (Filmed summer, 2019; Be More Colorful: https://www.bemorecolorful.com; Northern Plains Botanic Garden Tour: https://tours.bemorecolorful.com/v/73pzOpvJjM2)

MINUTES: President Vern Hunter called for approval of the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes. Linda Anderson made a motion to approve the Annual Meeting Minutes for 2019 as written. Don DuBord seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's Report was called for approval. Tom Pettinger made a motion to approve the 2019 Income and Expense Report as documented. Maurice Degrugillier seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

ANNUAL REPORT AND *STATE OF THE SOCIETY* **ADDRESS:** President Vern Hunter summarized the annual report by saying we have had a very good year. He pointed out his job was very busy and recommended that an Executive Director be hired. President Hunter also recommended that an additional contract gardener be hired.

RECOGNITION OF DEPARTING BOARD MEMBERS: Barbara Villella recognized and thanked the departing Board members whose Board Terms expire this month: President Vern Hunter, Bill Fradet, and Ann Riley (who has agreed to continue on the Board if re-elected). Also, thanks were extended to past Board Members Arielle Windham and Ina Lyon, who served partial terms due to resignations.

BOARD NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS: Barbara Villella presented the slate of candidates for the Board: Mary Beyer, Joshua Cook, Marissa Gapp, Teresa Jesten and Ann Riley. Vern Hunter called for nominations from the floor. There being none, Tom Pettinger moved that a unanimous ballot be cast for the five candidates, which was seconded. Motion passed. Ann Riley was re-elected and will serve another three year term. New Board members' terms of service will be staggered with specific terms assigned by the Board, in addition to election of Board Officers, at the first Board meeting following the Annual Meeting.

MEMBER AND VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS: Brandi Malarkey was presented with the Member of the Year Award, along with a monetary cash donation from Founding Member, Chiwon Lee. Judy Maxson was presented with the Volunteer of the Year Award plus a gift of appreciation.

RECOGNITION OF DEPARTING PRESIDENT: Ruth Morton presented outgoing President Vern Hunter a gift in thanks for his service, which was a framed painting, created by artist Hana Russell, of a Japanese Haiku: *Clear colored stones/are vibrating in/the brook-bed.../or the water is SOSEKI*. It is a watercolor image of rocks and a leaf in rippling water. Joyce Pettinger expressed further gratitude for all of Vern Hunter's work for NPBGS, for the Northern Plains Botanic Garden, and particularly for his Dry Garden design, installation, and plantings, all which have greatly enhanced the botanic garden landscape.

OPEN DISCUSSION and ANNOUNCEMENTS: Vern Hunter called for announcements. Cynthia Herfindahl announced the planned tour of the International Peace Garden in August with a cost of approximately \$75 per person. More information will be forthcoming. The annual Spring Plant Sale fundraiser will be held on May 16th at the NPBGS Greenhouse. A Bonsai Workshop is scheduled for May 30th at the Greenhouse.

Business Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. The business meeting was closed by vote acclamation, and attendees were invited to enjoy refreshments in the atrium and to see the *Be More Colorful 360 Virtual Tour* while the guest speaker prepared for his presentation.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Following the Business Meeting, President Hunter re-introduced Peter Moe, Director of the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chaska, Minnesota. Director Moe spoke on *The University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum: Plant Breeding, Conservation, Restorations, Collections and New Farm at the Arboretum.* Vern Hunter thanked Peter Moe for his excellent presentation. The meeting concluded at approximately 8:45 p.m. Guests were invited to mingle and enjoy the remaining refreshments in the atrium.

Minutes recorded by Joyce Pettinger