

# News and Views From The Gardens

Fall 2022

Civitati Faventes Horti

Volume 25, Issue 2

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## Japanese Officials Visit Japanese Garden Site

On Friday September 23, representatives from the Chicago Japanese Consulate visited Fargo to participate in Governor Burgum's "Celebration of the Friendship of North Dakota and Japan".

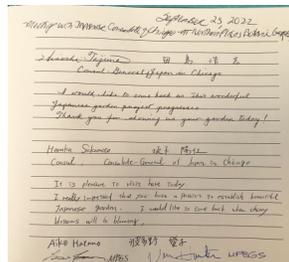
During the 3-day visit to promote Japan-North Dakota relations, the Consul General Hiroshi Tajima and Economic Consul Haruka Sakamoto took the opportunity to visit the NPBGS Japanese Garden site. They were accompanied by Aiko Hatano (Japan Outreach Coordinator based in Mayville State University), NPBGS Board member Marissa Gapp, and Volunteers Lisa Brown and Vern Hunter.

The friendship initiative featured remarks by Governor Burgum, Casselton soybean farmer and Japanese Trader Bob Sinner, Consul General Tajima, Outreach Coordinator Hatano, and a Japanese drumming performance by Tsukasa Taiko from Chicago.

During his remarks Consul General Tajima predicted that the NPBGS Japanese Garden of Mind and Soul will be the center of future Japanese activities in our area.

We were pleased to welcome these dignitaries to our site. Their interest and the increasing importance of North Dakota's energy and agriculture resources in the world emphasizes the potential significance of our Japanese Garden.

We appreciate the Consulate representatives taking time from their busy schedule to visit with us.



**Northern Plains  
Botanic Garden Society  
Newsletter**

Ruth Morton, Editor  
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\*\*\*\*\*

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Marissa Gapp  
Ann Riley  
Matt Sorenson  
Barbara Villella

\*\*\*\*\*

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

**NPBGS Receives Grant from  
Alex Stern Family Foundation**

NPBGS has received a grant from the Alex Stern Family Foundation for general operating support. We are very grateful for this grant which will support our botanic garden work next year.

We have great plans for expanding pathways, adding plants in the Woodland Garden and improving displays. Thank you, Alex Stern Family Foundation!



**President's Message**

As we bid another growing season good-bye and put our gardens to bed for the winter, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the volunteers as well as the contract gardeners that made the gardens look so great this year. Along with the gardens, the Farmers Market at West Acres continues to grow and provide a much needed source of income for us. Thanks for all the hard work making the market flourish. The plant sale this spring, tours in the Edible Forest, as well as Scarecrows in the Gardens were all areas where volunteers shine.

Looking forward, the upcoming year will provide us with new opportunities and challenges. Fargo Park District is moving forward with a master plan for the Yunker Farm land, providing opportunities for collaboration with other organizations. Bringing the Japanese Garden into reality will present some challenges.

And yes, there are plenty of opportunities for all of you. As mentioned in this newsletter please consider volunteering as a board member. If you are interested, nominate yourself. If the board doesn't interest you, consider a committee. Committees are where the work happens and they all can use the help. These are some ways that you can be involved during the off season for gardening. So challenge yourselves with the opportunities that Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society has to offer.

Jerry Raguse, President

**NPBGS Seeks Board Candidates For 2023**

The Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society is seeking candidates for the Board of Directors starting March 2023.

Three Board positions are open for candidate nominations. Candidates will be selected by voting Members at the Annual Meeting in March 2023. Board terms are for three years, and Board members can serve up to two consecutive terms.

Nominations should include a brief resume of the nominee and should be submitted via email by February 8, 2023 to:

**[info@npbotanicgarden.com](mailto:info@npbotanicgarden.com).**

Please write "Board Nomination" in the subject line and include nominee's contact information.

Detailed information about the monthly meetings and the expectations of a Board Member will be provided to the nominees. Briefly, the Board of Directors is the governing body of the Society and oversees the development and implementation of policies. There is an Executive Committee and several other committees. The Board meets the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom during the winter months but at the botanic garden in north Fargo during the summer months. Most meetings last about one hour.

We encourage those interested to submit a nomination. Candidates can request to meet with current Board members to learn more about the organization and Board service. For more information about the Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society, please visit our website:

**<https://www.npbgs.org>**

# Garden News and Events



A picture is worth a thousand words  
Enjoy all that these garden pictures have to say!



## Yunker Farm Park Master Plan

The Fargo Park District is working on the Master Plan for Yunker Park. Part of that process is engaging the community for input:

1. what they like about the park, and
2. what they would like to see at the park in the future.

If you have comments, suggestions, or ideas you can contact their lead Principal Planner, Bill Mahar, Norris Design, at [bmahar@norris-design.com](mailto:bmahar@norris-design.com).



It was a beautiful morning at Northern Plains Botanic Garden! Thank you so much for letting us cut flowers from the gardens before the frost! We are so grateful for the last of this season's blooms and some major garden inspiration " - Katie, Hope Blooms

Katie Gehring  
Operations & Development Manager "



Hope Blooms is a local nonprofit inspiring hope, happiness & emotional healing through repurposed flowers.  
<https://hopeblooms.org/>



Carolyn Boutain, Fargo Park District, and Bill Mahar, Lead Principal Planner at the public gathering at Yunker Park, September 17



Visitors getting involved and sharing their ideas

# Garden News and Events

## Gardenpalooza

NPBGS hosted a booth at **Gardenpalooza** on April 23rd at Shanley High School. Thanks to NDSU Extension Master Gardeners for organizing this first annual Gardenpalooza gardening Saturday event! Volunteer Matt Sorenson manned our booth.



## Scarecrows in the Garden

NPBGS hosted the second annual Scarecrows in the Garden and Fall Market fundraising event on September 17th at the botanic garden. This free community event drew approximately 600 attendees.

Donated scarecrows, delightfully created, were scattered throughout the gardens. Kids Chalk Art and Mini Cake Walk were added attractions. The Fall Market featured hand-crafted fall-themed items, baked goods, jams and jellies. Heart-n- Soul Community Café was on site to sell delicious lunch options.

We thank our corporate Event Sponsor, Dakota Fence, our Scarecrow and Market donors, and our customers who helped us raise \$3,959.92 which will be used for NPBGS general operating support.

Thank you to all who attended!

## Spring Plant Sale

NPBGS held the annual Spring Plant Sale on May 14th at the NPBGS Greenhouse and raised \$5138.80. Proceeds raised will be used for the Japanese Garden Phase 2 construction. We thank our volunteers, customers, and plant donors, including Legacy Gardens!



Discussing the merits of tomato varieties



Having fun at the Scarecrow Event!



## Garden News and Events

### The Edible Forest Continues to Thrive

With terrific ongoing care by staff and volunteers, the Edible Forest continued great development in 2022. I was sidelined for a good portion of the summer, so some of the planned care and planting were delayed until next spring. This demonstration orchard had increased visitation, with at least a few people almost every day through the growing season, especially in the evenings. It was an active guided tour season from June to September. It's amazing to compare the bare field of 2019 or the new plants of 2020 with the nicely-developing orchard that is there now.

In the third growing season for most of the plants, there is getting to be substantial production of many kinds of fruit. In 2022, that included the aronia berries, Nelson blackberry, the black and white currants, the gooseberries, the honeyberries, the red, yellow, and purple raspberries, Somerset seedless grape, and the strawberries. In addition, there was some fruit on two of the other seedless grape cultivars, one of the wine grape selections, the two other blackberry cultivars, the black raspberries, blueberries, red currants, hazelnuts, and tart cherries. Some fruit was set on the apples and plums, but the public picked those while still green. All of the fruit was very popular, and most was picked by the public as soon as (or before) it was ripe. Word-of-mouth preference that people only sample the fruit results in large harvests by a few people, so until a policy is communicated, NPBGS members might just as well be harvesting all you want, too.

Many of the trees and shrubs are showing signs of being fully established and are developing very well. A few plants started growing better, most notably the blueberries and the remaining two Arctic Beauty kiwis. As is expected in any large planting, a few plants had issues or were lost – those will be replaced, substituted for, or further evaluated in 2023. Trollhaugen seedless grape was finally obtained and planted, and a Norkent apple tree was planted for demonstration of espalier pruning. New plants obtained at various times in 2022 were held back for spring 2023 planting, included Mars and Petite Jewel seedless grapes, Freedom thornless blackberry, and three Cornelian cherry selections. Other possible replacements or additions in 2023 include Arctic Beauty kiwis, Brookcot apricot, Burton hican and chestnuts. Top-work grafting was started in 2022 in the process of developing multi-variety apple and pear trees. That top-working will continue in spring, 2023 during a demonstration workshop.

Plants in an orchard can be viewed as individuals, or the orchard can be considered as a whole to be experienced. Either way, the Edible Forest as one of several display gardens of the Northern Plains Botanic Garden is starting to shine. Come see what develops in 2023.

Jim Walla



### Greenhouse Roof Gets Rejuvenated

Hafner's Greenhouse Retail Center of Park Rapids, MN, was hired to re-skin the poly roof of our greenhouse. They did a great job on the roof installation, which included re-routing the plumbing vent through the west wall so that the roof doesn't leak. Thank you, Hafner's!



**Thank you, FM Area Foundation, for supporting NPBGS!**

The Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society is very grateful for our recent grant from the FM Area Foundation for general operating support. This grant helped us continue to grow and maintain the Northern Plains Botanic Garden this summer. Community Grant Dollars were used to pay our contract gardeners for their work in August, which allowed us to expand and improve our compost area and the raspberry section of the Edible Forest.

*The FM Area Foundation is the community foundation created by and for the people of Cass County, North Dakota, and Clay County, Minnesota. The FM Area Foundation helps people give back to the community and ensures the needs of the community are addressed now and in perpetuity. Working in partnership with individuals, families, businesses and professional advisors, the FM Area Foundation manages charitable funds and provides grants to qualified nonprofit organizations and scholarships to students. The FM Area Foundation has been serving the community through philanthropy since 1960.*



Don building the compost area



Don and Lou working in the raspberry patch



We thank West Acres, Cheryl Ehrichs and NPBGS' Market Coordinator, Barbara Villella, for another successful season for The Market at West Acres.

We had 21 participating vendors, many of them were new this year. \$8,000 of the gross proceeds will be used for the Japanese Garden construction next year. Thank you, West Acres!



"Thank you, KAJ Hospitality and Baker Garden & Gift for volunteering at the Northern Plains Botanic Garden this year.

We appreciate your hard work!"



## Memberships

(11/1/21-10/31/22)

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Bee Wisenden  
Linda Worner  
Marlis Ziegler  
John Zvirovski

## Memorials

(11/1/21-10/31/22)

Lisa Brown  
*In memory of Irene Hogan*  
*In memory of Joan Horn*  
Tom & Ann Riley  
*In memory of Karen Blazek*  
*In memory of Wava Clark*  
*In memory of Bob Dambach*  
*In memory of Joan Horn*  
*In memory of David Komrosky*  
*In memory of LaVonne Langord*  
*In memory of Gerry Riley*  
*In memory of Steve Rooke*  
*In memory of Betsy Vinz*

## BUSINESSES

Bell Bank  
BNSF Railway Foundation  
Microsoft Corporation  
West Acres Development , LLP

## GRANTS

FM Area Foundation  
FM Convention & Visitors  
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William & Anna Jane  
Schlossman Fund as  
recommended by  
Brad & Carol Schlossman of  
the FM Area Foundation

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

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**GIVING TUESDAY**  
**November 29, 2022**

The Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society asks for your support on ***Giving Tuesday***.

We hope to increase Programs in 2023 – beyond garden tours. In-person meetings, public events, workshops, and classes involve costs of venue rentals, speaker fees, travel costs, and supplies.

In celebration of our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, NPBGS is planning for the Annual Meeting which will be in March. *We hope you will support our Annual Meeting and other programming efforts in 2023 with a Gift on Giving Tuesday.* All donations will be matched up to \$10,000 by an anonymous donor.

**To donate by check:** NPBGS, PO Box 3031, Fargo, ND 58108-3031. ***Please write “Giving Tuesday” on memo line.***

**To donate online by credit card:** Please Specify **“GIVING TUESDAY”** in the “Donate in Name of” box, complete donor information, and make payment at this link: <https://www.npbgs.org/donate-1> or via the QR Code.



Donations given through December 31st will be Matched up to \$10,000.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**