



News and Views from the Garden

May 2025

Civitati Faventes Horti

Volume 28, Issue 1

NPBGS' 27th Annual Meeting

Our 27th Annual Meeting of the Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society was held on March 29th at the Sons of Norway Kringen Lodge, Fargo, and featured Jim Walla, Keynote Speaker, who spoke about "What's New in the Edible Forest" with a slide presentation of the types of trees, fruits and nuts that are in the Edible Forest. Jim was instrumental in the design, development, planning, and planting of the Edible Forest, which was constructed in 2019 and followed by the majority of the first plantings in 2020.

President Matt Sorenson facilitated the Business Meeting which included approval of the past Annual Meeting Minutes and the 2024 Financial Report from Treasurer Bee Mittleider, who noted that the Society ended the financial year on a positive note.



Our outgoing Board members, President Matt Sorenson, Secretary Teresa Jesten, and Director Barbara Villella, were recognized and thanked for their two terms of service on the Board. Certificates of Appreciation were given to Ardith DuBord, Don DuBord, Vern Hunter, Gail Wanek, Lou Worner and John Zvirovski. Lisa Brown was named Member of the Year for her enormous support, for handling volumes of paperwork, serving on committees, and providing much-needed organizational continuity. She received a monetary gift from our Founder, Chiwon Lee, a gift card, and the award plaque which reads: "In recognition of and with gratitude for the gift of your time and dedication to the Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society."

President Sorenson expressed thanks to all Board members, volunteers, and the committees who work hard throughout the year. Special thanks were extended to Lou Worner and Gail Wanek, two of the contract gardeners who retired from their gardening positions at the end of last season. Acknowledgement was made for their hard work and many years devoted to the botanic garden. Thanks were also extended to Matt Sorenson for stepping up to become Board President in 2024, when it became necessary for Jerry Raguse to step down. Jen Walla and Kent Worthington were unanimously elected to the Board by voice acclamation. There remains one open seat on the Board.

NPBGS gives many thanks to our Annual Meeting organizers Marissa Gapp, Bee Mittleider, and Maddysen Boecker. We give particular thanks to Bee for providing and donating the delicious luncheon fare!

Check out our [Draft Annual Meeting Minutes](#) for a detailed report.

**Northern Plains
Botanic Garden Society
Newsletter**

Mallorie Taylor-Teeples, Editor
Contributors: Lisa Brown, Vern Hunter,
Ruth Morton, Ann Riley

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Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society
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Fargo, ND 58108-3031
E-mail: info@npbotanicgarden.com
Website: npbgs.org

Board of Directors

Marissa Gapp, President
Maddysen Boecker, Vice President
Jen Walla, Secretary
Busola (Bee) Mittleider, Treasurer
Conrad Klinkhammer
Julia Schott
Mallorie Taylor-Teeples
Kent Worthington

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

President's Message

Hello Friends!

I would like to start off with a note of gratitude to our donors, members, employees and our volunteers that keep the gardens free and open to the public. Without you, we would not have been able to celebrate our 25th year anniversary as a nonprofit in 2024 or be able to continue the hard and worthwhile work we continue to do year after year.

Spring is in full swing here in the northern plains. Just the other day, my heart filled with joy to walk out the door and see green grass everywhere and the trees start to put out their leaves. I encourage everyone to go visit the gardens as soon as you are able to and bear witness to the different growing stages of all the plants. A plant just popping out of the ground is vastly different from its mature counterpart and is something I continue to be amazed by every spring.

I always say we are Fargo's best kept secret because I frequently come across people who live in the area that have never heard of the Northern Plains Botanic Garden! But thanks to a combined effort from those involved, the number of people who have not heard about us is decreasing. My goal continues to be to tell as many people as possible about the gardens.

I will close this message with one of my favorite garden quotes from the great Audrey Hepburn, "To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow."

Thank you for believing in our mission and everyone's tomorrow.
-Marissa Gapp

Membership

Membership is an Investment in NPBGS and the Northern Plains

Botanic Garden. Our membership levels have not changed for over 20 years, but it is now time to increase the two lower levels. Effective May 1st, the Stem and Vine levels will increase to \$25 and \$50, respectively. We hope you will Join, Re-Join, or Renew your membership with NPBGS. Your membership helps to support the beautiful Northern Plains Botanic Garden! To join or renew, please visit our website: <https://www.npbgs.org/become-a-member>.

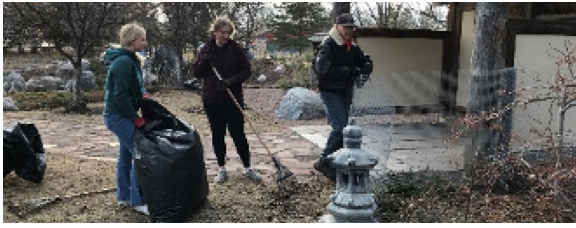
You can also make your membership contribution via check, payable to: **NPBGS, P. O. Box 3031, Fargo, ND 58108-3031**. Please record "Membership" on your check memo line and include a note if your contact information has changed. Thank you!

Meet our new board members!



Kent Worthington (left) is a software engineer with a background in web and desktop applications. He is excited to join the NPBGS board and looks forward to supporting the work and mission of the organization. **Jen Walla** (right), a home childcare provider, was drawn to the gardens by the edible forest, and has been an active participant for a few years.

NDSU Horticulture & Forestry Club Does Heavy Lifting



We were so pleased to have the NDSU Horticulture & Forestry Club visit at the botanic garden for an evening volunteer session during their weekly club meeting on April 8th. Twelve volunteers, including their club advisor, Dr. Todd West, helped with leaf raking and cleanup in the Japanese Entry Dry Garden, as well as removing the poultry fencing in the Edible Forest, and moving heavy rocks to relocate them from the old mini putt golf course to the northside of the Japanese Gate. The rocks will be incorporated into gabion wall style cages – as support bases for new benches. We thank NDSU Horticulture & Forestry Club for helping us with the heavy lifting of these tasks!

Tree Crew Volunteers Needed

NPBGS will be doing a major Tree Planting Project in the Japanese Garden this spring and we need volunteers for our Tree Crew! We expect to plant starting on Wednesday, May 21st, with dates contingent upon delivery of the nursery stock, site and soil conditions, weather, and assistance from Fargo Parks employees with bore-drilling the tree holes. We will need help with staging the plants, planting, mulching, staking, and watering. If you can assist with any of these tasks, we hope you can help us. We will need to clearly document all volunteer hours in order to receive credit towards our “in kind match” for the grant funds, so your volunteer help and time is needed and valued! If you can help, please sign up to be on our Tree Crew: info@npbotanicgarden.com or <https://www.npbgs.org/volunteer>.

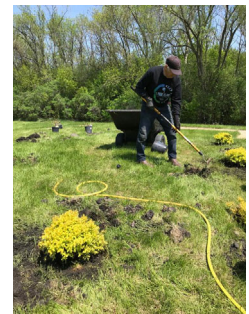


For more information about our Tree Planting Project, please visit our [calendar event page](#).

This project is made possible through a grant from the USDA Forest Service and the North Dakota Forest Service.



We love our volunteers!
Thank you for all your efforts this past year!



VOLUNTEERS are VALUED and NEEDED!

Join us in growing the botanic garden and NPBGS by sharing your creative energy and talents!

We need help with:

- gardening and growing plants
- developing workshops/programs
- sharing horticultural knowledge
- raising funds through fun events
- promoting NPBGS
- organizational development

Become a part of the...

- Tree crew!
- Spring Plant Sale crew!
- Fairy Festivalist friends!
- Market @ West Acres crew
- West Acres Plantscapes crew
- Botanic Garden crew

Join our committees:

- Finance
- Public Relations
- Programs and Events
- Membership
- Garden and Operations
- Arboretum

Tea Time with Flowers Highlights



Another enjoyable afternoon tea fundraising event was held on Saturday, February 8th at El Zagal Shrine in Fargo. Our guests sat at elegant table settings with beautiful flower arrangements and shopped the Boutique for baked goods and some intriguing items. The delicious food was catered by NDSU Catering, Michele's Table, and Nichole's Fine Pastry. Many pots of tea were made by Anne Johnson and Lisa Meidlinger, with Bee Mittleider prepping the food in the kitchen. Thanks were extended to our event sponsors: Lisa Brown, Catalyst Medical Center, Bee & John Mittleider, Ruth Morton, and Tom & Ann Riley. Vern and DiAnn Hunter were thanked for donating the cash prize for the Tea Hat Competition. The best hat

winner was Sharon Hilgers. Fern Elofson was our runner up who received a tea pot, and an Honorable Mention went to Eileen Dustin who received a packet of English tea. Once again, the dashing butlers completed the event. Many thanks are extended to over 30 volunteers for their participation in making this a successful event. The net proceeds were \$7,785.46 and were earmarked to support and further improve the beautiful Botanic Garden. This is the most income raised by this event to date! Mark your calendars for the next Tea Time with Flowers which will be held on Saturday, February 7, 2026.

WE THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS, as you are appreciated and we couldn't have done it without you!

– Ann Riley

Tea Committee: Don DuBord, Bee Mittleider, Ruth Morton, Joyce Pettinger, Sue Poitras, Linda Swanson, Ann Riley (Chair)



We need your bearded irises!

When you thin your bearded irises or other long-stemmed irises this spring or summer, keep us in mind- we need MANY long-stemmed irises to fill out around our new zig-zag Bridge.



We will help you dig, pick them up, or you can drop them off at our greenhouse.

Call 701 361 9930. Thank you!

Did you know that NPBGS accepts Memorial Donations?



Memorial gifts help NPBGS to grow and develop the Northern Plains Botanic Garden into a more welcoming, peaceful, and beautiful place.

We hope you will consider a memorial gift to NPBGS to honor your deceased loved one.

For more information, please see NPBGS' Memorial Gift Policy on our website, or contact us: info@npbotanicgarden.com.



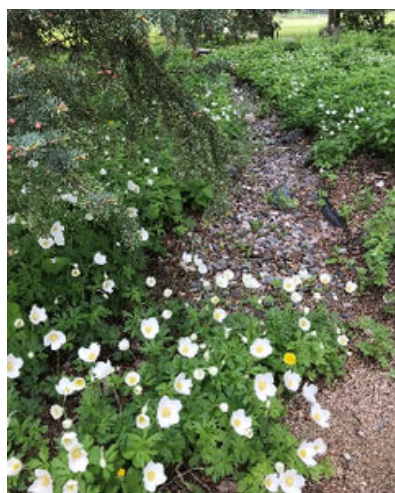
In the Gardens

Spring is returning to the gardens once again. Perennials are beginning to show new, green growth and the gardeners are starting to clear the debris from the flower beds. The gates are unlocked so all gardens are accessible. It is time to visit the Garden!

The Woodland Garden is where you will find our earliest blooming spring ephemerals. One of the earliest flowers to bloom is *Anemone pulsatilla*, which grows along the sunny border at the edge of the Woodland Garden. While walking there, look for purple, light blue, or white blossoms popping up from fuzzy green foliage not yet unfolded. In May Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginiana*) will appear on the woody side of the path, yes, as blue pendant bells! Then *Hepatica acutiloba* and *Hepatica americana* will show tiny blue or white blossoms near the bridge entrance path in the Woodland Garden. After flowering, new leaves will begin to grow and remain evergreen throughout the next winter. In late May you can see many white flowers of Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) along the dry creek bed.



Anemone pulsatilla



Wood Anemone,
Anemone nemorosa



Hepatica americana

In mid- to late-May the gardeners and volunteers will begin planting annuals in various flower beds. If you enjoy digging in the dirt, now is your chance to volunteer at the garden to help with the planting. Annuals are the faithful plants that give constant color spring to fall, while perennials come and go, each in their designated time slot.

Japanese-inspired Garden Advisory Committee is being led by Vern Hunter. Members are Terry Adams, Jim Anderson, Joyce Pettinger, Robert Sinner, Jim Walla, and Todd West. This group will concentrate on development, plantings, maintenance, and safety issues as we continue to grow the Japanese Garden.

Volunteers are Needed! We will need volunteers throughout the growing season to keep our flowerbeds looking their best. This is a wonderful opportunity to get outside, meet new people, and to be a part of a vital group creating a safe, welcoming, and peaceful space for all to enjoy. Some tasks for volunteers are planting, weeding, watering, and removing dead blooms. Times are flexible. If you wish to volunteer, please contact us or signup via our website at: info@npbotanicgarden.com <https://www.npbgs.org/volunteer>

- Ruth Morton

Our New Gardener

Hilary Peterson has joined our team of gardeners at the Northern Plains Botanic Garden. Hilary is a horticulturist (B.S., NDSU) with experience in integrated pest management, plant identification, and plant care. Welcome, Hilary!



Upcoming Events

- **May 8th:** Espalier pruning demonstration, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
- **May 10th:** Spring Plant Sale, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- **May 21st:** Tree Planting in the Japanese Garden, 8 a.m., Volunteers Welcome!
- **May 24th & 25th:** Fairy Fest, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
- **June 7th & 28th :** Yoga in the Garden, hosted by Fargo Park District in the Edible Forest, 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. Free and Open to the Public.
- **July 16th & 17th :** Red River Valley Garden Tour. Tickets & Details: <https://rrvgardentour.com>
- **August 14th:** Music in the Park, hosted by Fargo Park District, West of Yunker Farmhouse, 6 p.m.
- **September 6th:** Bonsai in the Garden, 10 a.m. – noon.
- **September 13th:** Scarecrows in the Garden & Fall Market, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.



Join us for the 2025 season of

THE MARKET @ WEST ACRES

A Regional Showcase event in partnership with Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society.

TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS & SATURDAYS 9AM-3PM

mid-June through October



Join us at the 2nd Annual Fairy Fest at Yunker Farm Park and the Northern Plains Botanic Garden!

Saturday, May 24 & Sunday, May 25, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Ignite kids' imaginations and give them an unforgettable day of fun. Kids can dress in fairy costumes, participate in craft activities & more!

- Explore the Children's Garden and see the Fairies
- Fly a Kite
- Take Enchanting Photos with the Fun Photo Boards
- Create a Fairy Garden
- Join the Fairy Parade
- Play with Tabletop Zen Gardens
- Create Sidewalk Chalk Art
- Go on the Wee Fairy Scavenger Hunt (1:00–2:00 p.m.)
- Discover Your Fairy Name!



BONSAI IN THE GARDEN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH
10 A.M. – 12 P.M.

NORTHERN PLAINS BOTANIC GARDEN
FARGO, ND



www.npbgs.org/bonsai-in-the-garden

Members and Supporters

Contributions received 10/28/2024 through 4/24/2025

MEMBERSHIP

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Terry Adams & Naomi Nakamoto | Roberta & Sheldon Green | Conrad Klinkhammer | Judy Rippentrop |
| Jim Anderson | Connie Grondahl | Breanna Kompelien | River Keepers |
| Linda Anderson | Diane Gronfur | Emily Kulland | Darlene Rogers |
| Margaret Armstrong-Law | Theresa Gross | Leo & Laurel Lantz | Dora Rooke |
| Dollie & Bob Becklund | Claudia Hansen | Sheila McNea | John & Linda Schultz |
| Maddysen Boecker | Stephanie Hanson | Rhonda Miller | Thor Selland |
| Steve & Lynnelle Bossert | Melissa Hart | Bee & John Mittleider | Laurie Somerville |
| Ann Braaten | Cullen Hogle | Ruth Morton | Pauline Spencer |
| Caroline & Lauren Brorby | James Hogness | Colleen Nelson | Diana Stavros |
| Lisa Brown | Rachel Jackson | Deborah Nelson | Mallorie Taylor-Teeple |
| Donna Chalimonczyk | Dan & Nancy Johnson | Kathleen Neugebauer | Julia Trujillo |
| Felicia & Mark Cooper | Cheryl Hall-Kippen | Steve Nygaard | Sandra Vigen |
| Clare & Marv Degerness | Kathi Halvorson | Deb Ott | Sherry Vining |
| Don & Ardith DuBord | Cynthia Herfindahl | Margaret Palmes | Cynthia Wagner |
| Mim Flecca | Wendell & Sue Herman | Wanda & John Peterson | Sam & Coralie Wai |
| Thomas Fortin | Christine Holland | Tom & Joyce Pettinger | Jim Walla |
| Terri Frappier | Sybil & David Hopkins | Kim & Connor Radebaugh | Gail & David Wanek |
| Marissa Gapp | Sharon James | Jerry & Bernadette Raguse | Barbara Weatherston |
| Toni Gredesky | Ruth Jelinek | Tom Reiffenberger | Trudy K. Wimer |
| | Delayne Karls | Susan & Mark Richardson | Linda Worner |
| | | | Kent Worthington |

DONATIONS

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Lisa Brown | Vern Hunter | William & Christine Martin | Suzanne & Paul Opperman |
| Mary Beyer | Kim Jones | Georgie Mechtel | Deb Ott |
| Fargo-Moorhead AM Rotary | Conrad Klinkhammer | Bee & John Mittleider | Lou Richardson |
| Fine Arts Club of Fargo | Chiwon Lee | Ruth Morton | Ann & Tom Riley |
| – Garden Section | Mary Leff | Robert Mulder | Davis A. Scott |

MEMORIALS

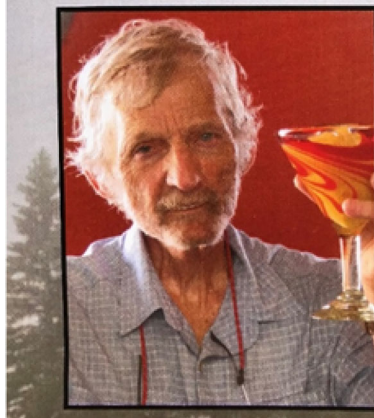
Mary Leff, *In Memory of Linda (Michael) Smith*
Tom & Ann Riley, *In Memory of Norma S. Mjelde*
Tom & Ann Riley, *In Memory of Janice Scibelli*
Tom & Ann Riley, *In Memory of Susan Bricker*
Tom & Ann Riley, *In Memory of Jean Erickson*
Tom & Ann Riley, *In Memory of Margart
Armstrong-Law*
Tom & Ann Riley, *In Memory of Susan Gonzo*
Tom & Ann Riley, *In Memory of Kim Booth*
Tom & Ann Riley, *In Memory of Marcel Poitras*
Tom & Ann Riley, *In Memory of Joe Ruliffson*
John Zvirovski, *In Memory of Dan Shroyer*
Lynnelle & Steve Bossert, *In Memory of Marvin
and Clarice Hofer*
Lisa Brown, *In Memory of Marcel Poitras*
Tom & Ann Riley, *In Memory of Marian Bjerke*

BUSINESS CONTRIBUTIONS

Catalyst Medical Center
Microsoft
Shirts From Fargo

In Memory of Lynn Fundingsland

In Loving
Memory



- Tom & Ann Riley
- Alfhild Ingberg
- Maureen McDonald-Hins
- Lisa Brown
- Pat & Dick DuBord
- Keith & Mary Lee Leikas
- Karis Thompson
- Sandra Holbrook
- Prudence Olson

We will miss our friend, Lynn Fundingsland, who served on NPBGS' Board of Directors from 2010 – 2013. He was a stalwart volunteer, member, and supporter. Smooth Sailing Always, Lynn!



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

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE

Return Service Requested

Red River Valley Garden Tour

July 16th and 17th, 2025

Featuring seven homeowner gardens &

The Garden of Healing

South Fargo - West Fargo

NPBGS is a proud co-sponsor of the 3rd
Annual Red River Valley Garden Tour!

**Tickets are now available for
purchase at the Tour's website:
<https://rrvgardentour.com!>**



Tour proceeds this year will benefit The
Garden of Healing. Sheyenne Gardens is our
co-sponsor

**We thank our Event Sponsor,
Baker Garden & Gift!**

Spring Plant Sale



NPBGS Greenhouse
1211 28th Ave N, Fargo

**Saturday May 10th
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**



PERENNIALS, ANNUALS, WILDFLOWERS,
VEGETABLES, HERBS, SHRUBS
Locally Grown

Price ranges from \$2-\$7 for most plants.
Checks, Cash, Credit Cards Accepted.

Proceeds benefits the Northern Plains Botanic
Garden Society.

www.npbgs.org

...promoting community through gardening since 1998...