



News and Views From The Gardens

Spring 2024

Civitati Faventes Horti

Volume 27, Issue 1

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**The Gardening Season is Fast Approaching!
Get Ready With Plants From our Plant Sale!**

NORTHERN PLAINS BOTANIC GARDEN SOCIETY

Spring

PLANT SALE

Saturday May 11, 2024
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Northern Plains Botanic Garden
1211 28th Ave. N, Fargo, ND



Proceeds benefit the Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society

The NPBGS Plant Sale will offer annuals, perennials, wildflowers, raspberries, strawberries, pollinator plants, groundcovers, shade plants, vegetables and perhaps a few more surprise varieties.

Most plants are grown by volunteers in their home greenhouses or under grow lights.

Do your perennials need dividing?

NPBGS welcomes carefully potted divisions of your Perennials for the plant sale. Please contact Don at the_grey_haired_guy@hotmail.com for times to drop off your donated plants.



**Northern Plains
Botanic Garden Society
Newsletter**

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Dennis Krull, Photographer
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Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society
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Board of Directors
Matt Sorenson, President
Teresa Jesten, Secretary
Ruth Morton, Treasurer
Maddysen Boecker
Marissa Gapp
Conrad Klinkhammer
Busola (Bee) Mittleider
Julia Schott
Mallorie Taylor-Teeples
Barbara Villella

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

**The Northern Plains
Farmers Market at West Acres**

NPBGS will once again be working with West Acres to coordinate a farmers market in the West Acres parking lot. This year a few craft vendors will be joining.

The Market season will begin June 18th and continue throughout the summer and fall as long as weather permits and plants continue to produce. Market days are Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. NPBGS receives all daily booth fees. NPBGS also has an information booth for the botanic garden and sells jams, jellies and herbs harvested from the garden, as well as NPBGS swag.

Thank you West Acres for continuing to support NPBGS through this cooperative effort!

President's Message

Grow NPBGS, Grow!

Gardeners!

Huzzah! Gardening season has arrived on the plains to start the eighteenth season at the Northern Plains Botanic Garden. Our staff gardeners, including a new addition to the team this year, have been activated! These bosses of botany work smart and hard, and the results are evident with every visit. Join me in thanking Lou, Gail, Don, and Quin (*Welcome Quin!*).

Volunteers!

Our Gardeners work alongside our other Hotshots of Horticulture, our valued volunteers. Will that include you this year? Consider volunteering if you enjoy peaceful botanic gardens, meeting new people, learning new skills, and sharing your experience, all while getting a "gardening workout" that engages the body and mind, and feel the pride and satisfaction of seeing the gardens flourish with your help. Perhaps you will learn some new gardening skills!

Board!

NPBGS held a successful Annual Meeting, which capped a splendid Annual Affaire event at the Fargo Air Museum on March 2nd. A big part of that success is enjoying a full board of nine directors, including 5 returning and 4 newly elected directors at the meeting. A healthy infusion of fresh ideas and vast experience is so very welcome on the business end. We have a great deal of work to do away from the gardens, to keep our organization headed in a good direction. All nine directors, including four officer positions, are volunteer positions.

Members!

We thank all members who attended that business meeting and elected 4 new directors to our board, and who asked great questions and spurred discussion during the meeting. Our membership base is ticking upward; another welcome growth signal. I'll posit that if our staff gardeners are the heart-center, without whom the rest of us would have nothing to do (*they are*); and our volunteers are the lifeblood that circulate and nourish us (*it's true*); then our members are and especially can increasingly become the sustaining force, or aura, providing stability and ever better conditions for stable growth. I keep saying we can double our membership, and then double it again. I believe we can do that. Twice.

Donors!

Donations and fundraising events and efforts are, naturally, also a key to our growth. Fundraising Events – like our Spring Plant Sale and many others – are successful thanks to numerous volunteers, strong member support, and broad community engagement and participation. Likewise, NPBGS appreciates every donation – small, medium, large, *and mongo*. A reminder that these generous gestures may be directed toward a specific funding objective or organizational initiative, or into our general fund, and our website and finance committee can offer guidance if you are thinking of fueling our growth as a donor.

These Northern Plains are about to bloom again. Join, and be a proud part of NPBGS' growth in 2024.

~ Thank you ~
Matt Sorenson, President

Annual Affaire

NPBGS' 26th Annual Meeting

Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society's 26th Annual Meeting on March 2nd was preceded by a Vendor Faire of 30 invited market vendors who opened our first [Annual Affaire](#) market at the Fargo Air Museum with food, beverages, art, and crafted items for sale.

Susan Curtis, collections manager for the [Emily Reynolds Historic Costume Collection at North Dakota State University](#), brought [Miss Okayama](#) to be exhibited in her display case before and during our keynote speaker's presentation, and Leola Daul, Executive Director of [Heart-n-Soul Community Cafe](#), opened our meeting with gratitude for the vendors present and for our community who help support their mission.

Vern Hunter introduced our keynote speaker, Alan Scott Pate, a premier dealer and authority on antique Japanese dolls. The Minnesota Doll Jamboree members were in attendance, and it was noted that they were responsible for finding and instituting the Minnesota Friendship Doll. Vern introduced Susan Curtis, as well as Ann Braaten, the past curator of the Emily Reynolds Historic Costume Collection at NDSU. It was Ann Braaten who helped NPBGS make connections with the Japan America Cultural Exchange Society (JACES) in Okayama, who donated the Hina Doll collection to NPBGS. Vern read the [biographical background](#) of Mr. Pate and introduced him. Mr. Pate thanked NPBGS, Vern, and Barbara Villella for their hospitality, and he gave an excellent presentation on "[Japan Comes to North Dakota: Miss Okayama and the Friendship Dolls of 1927](#)".

The Business portion of the Annual Meeting included giving an award and certificates, and the election of five Board Members. Vern Hunter was named *Member of the Year* for his "Outstanding Leadership, Vision, Talent, and Work for NPBGS and the Japanese Garden", and he was awarded a plaque, a monetary gift from our Founder, Chiwon Lee, plus a Juniper Bonsai tree, and gift card. Outgoing Board Members Ruth Morton, Mary Beyer, and Jerry Raguse, and volunteers Mary Leff and Joyce Pettinger, were recognized for their volunteer service and each received a certificate of appreciation. NPBGS members present were unanimous in electing our five Board Members who are: Mallorie Taylor-Teeple, Julia Schott, Bee Mittleider, Maddysen Boecker, and returning Board Member Marissa Gapp. NPBGS gives many thanks to Barbara Villella for her tremendous amount of work in organizing and coordinating our Annual Affaire and Annual Meeting!

Lisa Brown



New Board members L to R: Busola (Bee) Mittleider, Mallorie Taylor-Teeple, Maddysen Boecker, Julia Schott
Returning Board members: Conrad Klinkhammer (seated), Matt Sorenson, Barbara Villella, Marissa Gapp. (Absent: Teresa Jesten)



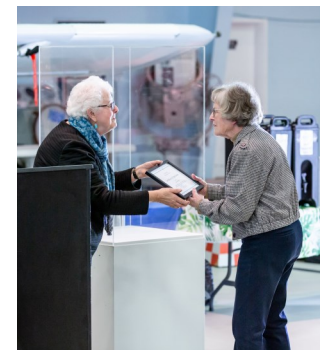
Keynote Speaker
Alan Scott Pate



Member of Year Award being presented to Vern Hunter by President Matt Sorenson



Ann Riley presents Certificate of Appreciation to Mary Beyer, outgoing Board member



Ann Riley presents Volunteer Award to Joyce Pettinger



Annual Affaire Vendors



Miss Okayama

Recent Events

Highlights From Tea Time With Flowers

The 9th annual tea event was held on Saturday, February 10th at the El Zagal Shrine Center in Fargo, with sunshine pouring through the spacious windows providing the perfect ambience for such a special event. A delicious array of dainty sandwiches, scones and sweet treats were served to our (150) guests, along with Yorkshire tea, by dashing butlers. Fifteen tables each included a delightful floral centerpiece, beautiful dishes, plus a dainty floral “favor” at each place setting, The food was provided by *Catering by Concordia, Michele’s Table*, and *Nichole’s Fine Pastry and Café*. The three tea ladies kept the kettles going throughout the entire event, and many cups of tea were served.

The Boutique (coordinated by Ruth Morton) offered many unique items such as handmade linens and crafts, jewelry, home-made baked goods, candy, fudge, bunches of flowers. Many thanks to the donors who provided the items for sale.

Beth McNea received the prize of \$100 for the *Best Hat in Attendance*, with Cara Christenson, as runner up, receiving a \$25 gift certificate to Michele’s Table. Tracy LeClair received cookies as “honorable mention”. Door prizes per table rounded off the day.

This was our best tea event to date raising net proceeds of \$5,895.18 for continued construction of the Japanese Garden. Many in-kind donations of food and other supplies helped defray expenses. A special thank you to Lisa Brown (floral sponsor), Vern and DiAnn Hunter (hat competition sponsors) and Tom and Ann Riley (table sponsors) for their generous donations.

As the saying goes, many hands make light work. **THANK YOU** to our many volunteers who contributed their time and talent towards various aspects of this special fundraiser event. You are so appreciated, and we couldn’t have done it without you!

Tea Committee: Lisa Brown, Don DuBord, Ruth Morton, Joyce Pettinger, Ann Riley.

Table Hosts: Joyce Pettinger (coordinator); Felicia Cooper, DiAnn Hunter, Lisa Kornkven, Tracy LeClair, Gloria Lee, Wilma Jean McDonald, Bee Mittleider, Ruth Morton, Mary Stremick, Linda Swanson, Ann Riley, Lou Worner.

Butlers: Don Dubord (coordinator); David Artz, Dante Battocchi, Chris Carlson, Lynn Fundingsland, John Harris, Roy Jacobsen, Tim LeClair, Gary Nolte, Dan Parries, Tom Riley, Matt Sorenson.

Floral: Sue Poitras, Lisa Brown, Lou Worner, Mary Beyer. **Food Prep:** Ardith DuBord, Cynthia Herfindhal.

Reception: Mary Beyer, Elly Heinz.

Tea Ladies: Anne Johnson, Samantha McCarthy, Lisa Meidlinger. **Additional Volunteers:** Marissa Gapp, Annette LaPalm, Judy Maxson, MaryAnn Riewer, Tim Pettinger.



Photos clockwise, right: Tea butlers preparing to serve the guests.

A collection of fancy hats.

Butler and guests are having a wonderful time!

Fancy-hatted ladies browsing the boutique.

The Best Hat winner, Beth McNea, circulating among the guests.



Recent Events

Hina Doll Exhibit in Fargo City Hall

Fargo City Hall was the site for this year's Hina doll exhibition.

Every year the doll collection is exhibited in a different public location during the month of February up to March 3rd, which in Japan is the Hina Matsuri, or Doll Festival, commonly referred to as "Girls Day".



Mayor Tim Mahoney visits the Hina Matsuri display.



The full Hina Matsuri doll display



Thank you, Fargo Junk Market SPRING 2024, for selecting NPBGS as your *Charity of Choice!*

Fargo Junk Market SPRING 2024

NPBGS had a promotional booth at this fun event. We displayed the interactive Tabletop Zen Gardens, our Virtual Garden Tour, and information about the botanic garden, pollinator plants, the Japanese garden, NPBGS, and how to get involved. NPBGS signature jams and jellies, and NPBGS chip clips and bags were available for sale. We thank the customers who contributed just over \$250 in free will donations, and we thank Fargo Junk Market for their \$500 donation to NPBGS!

NPBGS Joins the St. Patrick's Day Parade

For the first time, NPBGS participated in the Fargo-Moorhead St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 16th.

Marissa Gapp and Maddysen Boecker coordinated our float entry - a red Jeep with plant decor, complete with rooftop seedlings! Seed packets, save the date cards, and treats were distributed to cheering onlookers along the parade route. We thank these volunteers for their enthusiastic promotion of NPBGS!

St. Patrick's Day Parade



We thank our Hardy Volunteers who braved the cold and wind at the parade. They included: Niloo, Robert, Tyla, Mariah, Maddysen, and Marissa.

Garden Notes

It is Wake Up Time in the Botanic Garden!

April marks the beginning of the gardening season, starting with clearing away dead plant material that protected the perennials over the winter. Contract gardeners Linda Worner, Gail Wanek, Don DuBord and new gardener Quin Segal are already busy with these tasks as well as adding compost to some gardens as soil and nutrient enrichment. It is too soon to plant annuals but we will be ready when the time comes.

Meanwhile, if you visit the garden in April, you will find perennial Anemones blooming in the Woodland Garden. The Woodland Garden is our earliest garden to bloom. So-called spring ephemerals are featured there and they need to bloom before the trees and shrubs leaf out, creating too much shade for blooms. Somewhat later in spring, Checkered Lilies (*Fritillaria meleagris*) and *Hepatica* (*Hepatica americana* and *Hepatica acutiloba*) will bloom along the path near the bridge entrance to the garden. Summer and fall feature blooms of Zig Zag Goldenrod (*Solidago flexicaulis*) and Heart Leaf Asters (botanic name uncertain).

This year we will be adding native wildflowers White Trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*), Dutchman's Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*), and Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) to the Woodland Garden for even more early spring blooms. We will continue to add wildflowers native to wooded areas of North Dakota and Minnesota in coming years.



NPBGS Volunteers

Volunteer Opportunities With NPBGS

Come join our fun volunteers and make some new friends!

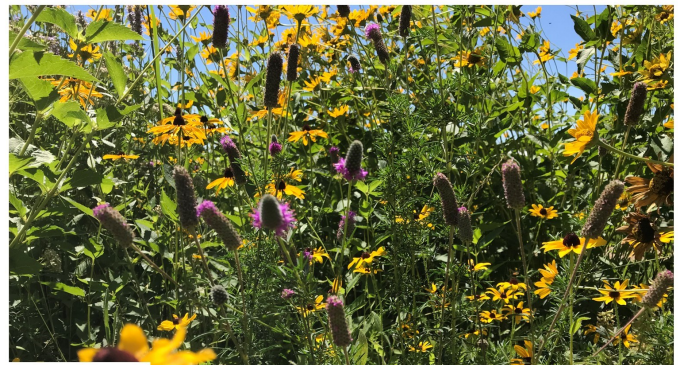
Whether you have leadership skills or prefer to work in the background, there is a place for you within NPBGS. Come and share your expertise! Your active participation will help the organization achieve its goals.

Our largest demand for volunteers in the summer season is for the maintenance and beautification of our outstanding botanic garden located at 1211 28th Ave N in Fargo. If you would like to join other volunteers, please come to the gardens on Mondays and Thursdays anytime between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. No knowledge of gardening is required, as our expert gardeners will guide you and answer your questions. Tools and gloves are available at the gardens, but you may also bring your own favorites.

Volunteers play a vital role in the continued growth and development of the Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society. Apart from helping in the botanic garden, other volunteer opportunities include: Construction/Maintenance, or being on a committee such as the Arboretum, Membership & Volunteer, Programs & Events, or Public Relations Committee.

NPBGS thrives through the support of its volunteers. New members of our committees are very much welcome! For more information, please visit our website: <https://npbotanicgarden.org/volunteer> or contact Ann Riley at annr56@aol.com You may also sign up via our website: <https://www.npbgs.org/volunteer> A member of NPBGS will respond to your inquiry.

Ann Riley



HELP US CONTINUE TO GROW!
Please Support the
NORTHERN PLAINS BOTANIC GARDEN
with your donation today!
NPBGS, PO Box 3031, Fargo, ND 58108-3031

NPBGS is a non-profit organization operating with a 9-member Board of Directors. All the programs and events are provided solely by volunteers. Four paid contract workers maintain the botanic garden in north Fargo, with the help of volunteers.

There are no paid staff for administrative or office tasks. Keeping this in mind, it is interesting to note that according to data collected during 2023, NPBGS had 50 volunteers with 2000 hours contributed to the various events and committees of the Society.

Spring 2024 Acknowledgement of Contributions

Contributions received 11/1/2023 through 3/31/2024

Membership

Linda Anderson
Mike Augustine
Mary Beyer
Byron Bjore
Maddysen Boecker
Lynnelle & Steven Bossert
Caroline & Lauren Brorby
Lisa Brown
Mark & Felicia Cooper
Reid & Susan Curtis
Mikel A. Davis
Don & Ardith DuBord
Barbara Dunn
Gini & Dave Duval
Mim Flecca
Terri Frappier
Marissa Gapp
Connie Grohdahl
Claudia Hansen
Wendell & Susan Herman
Teresa Jesten
Kim Jones
Eithnea Killilea
Sarah King
Michelle Kliem
Emily Kulland
Leo & Laurel Lantz
Annette & George LaPalm
Mary Leff
Wilma Jean McDonald
Shiny Mathews
Judy Maxson
Sandra Miles
Bee Mittleider
Carolyn Monzingo
Ruth Morton
Deborah Nelson
Steve Nygaard
Deb Ott
Pegi Palmes
Tom & Joyce Pettinger
Susan Poitras
Jerry & Bernadette Raguse
Tom Reiffenberger
Laura Richards
Lou Richardson
Dora Rooke
Julia Schott
Pauline Spencer
Kari Sunderland
Bob & Linda Swanson
Julia Trujillo
Carlos Tschirley
Jim Walla
Gail Wanek
Trudy & Robert Wimer
Linda Worner

Memorials & Tributes

Joe & Muriel Richardson, *In Memory of Nelson Richardson*
Tom & Ann Riley, *In Memory of Scottie Miller*
Allison Olson, *In Memory of Jeanne White*
Lynnelle & Steven Bossert,
In Memory of Shirley Klain
In Memory of Terry Yokom
In Memory of Tim Rondestvedt
John Zvirovski, *In Memory of Olga and Lazlo Vasarhelyi*
Steven & Lynnelle Bossert, Trevor & Lori Bossert, Amily & Brian Quam, and Tanner & Angie Bossert, *In Memory of Nancy Dahl*
Jon & Barb Swegarden, *In Memory of Douglas Harnisch*
Jon & Barb Swegarden, *In Memory of Gary Bergstrom*
Wanda Peterson, *In Memory of Pat Mattson*

Business Contributions

Fargo Junk Market SPRING 2024
Microsoft
West Acres Development

Donations

Margaret Armstrong-Law
Thomas & Katie Banley
Dollie Becklund
Patricia Belknap
Mary Beyer
Steven & Lynnelle Bossert
Ann Braaten
Lisa Brown
Marie Dill
Virginia & David Duval
Fargo-Moorhead AM Rotary Club
Fine Arts Club of Fargo, Garden Section
Sandra Fleming
Lynn & Cali Fundingsland
John Harris
Dale Herman
Wendell & Susan Herman
James Hogness
DiAnn & Vernon Hunter
Helen Kerian
Michelle Kliem
Emily Kulland
Chiwon Lee
Judy Maxson
Georgie Mechtel
Ruth Morton
Barry & Susan Nelson
Kathleen Neugebauer
Pru Olson
Deb Ott
Gaylord Paulson
Amy Rand & Scott Pryor
Tom & Ann Riley
Morrie Schwinden
Davis Scott
Jon & Barb Swegarden
Gin Templeton
The Nature Conservancy,
Larson/Newman Gift Fund
Sam & Coralie Wai
Brent & Sheri Wien
Emily Williams - Wheeler
Marilyn Woods
Lou Worner
John Zvirovski



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.





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

Save the date!
2nd Annual RRV Garden Tour:
July 17th & 18th, 2024!

Tickets on sale 4/26!



NPBGS is one of the sponsors of this event
This year NPBGS is the nonprofit that will
receive net proceeds from this event!

Bonsai in the Garden

Saturday
SEPT. 7th
10 am–12 pm

**Northern Plains
Botanic Garden**

1211 28th Ave N
Fargo, ND



More information:
[www.npbgs.org/
bonsai-in-the-garden](http://www.npbgs.org/bonsai-in-the-garden)



- Tour Japanese Garden**
- Enjoy Refreshments**
- See Bonsai on Display**
- Bonsai Presentation**
- Bonsai Workshop**

