

# News and Views From The Gardens

February 2023

Civitati Faventes Horti

Volume 26, Issue 1

## 25th Anniversary Special Edition

Featuring NPBGS Celebration, Annual Meeting & Japanese Garden Capital Campaign



You Are Invited to The  
**Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society's 25th Anniversary  
Celebration & Annual Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 7, 2023**  
**At the Rourke Art Museum—521 Main Ave., Moorhead, Minnesota**  
Program: 7:00-8:15 P.M.— Annual Meeting 8:30-9:00 P.M.  
**Sadafumi Uchiyama, Keynote Speaker: "A Japanese Garden in Fargo"**  
**Sarah Coomber, Koto performance**  
Refreshments—Hina Doll Display—Japanese Exhibit



## The Annual Meeting... A Celebration!!!

This year's annual meeting promises to be entertaining and informative. This special edition of our newsletter is all about our annual meeting, which is being planned around our 25th ANNIVERSARY and our Japanese Garden, to be held on March 7th at The Rourke Art Museum in Moorhead.

In 1998 five enthusiasts initiated the concept of a botanic garden in our area with the goal of developing a climatized glass conservatory, an arboretum, and botanic garden. The accompanying motto is "promoting community through gardening".

Progress to date includes a diverse, expanding collection of gardens and a demonstration group of trees and shrubs producing fruits and nuts called "an edible forest".

Our fund-raising Campaign is for our latest addition, a Japanese Garden. This will be the only major Japanese Garden from Minneapolis/St. Paul to the West Coast. The Garden will offer expanded tourism, economic opportunities, a venue for increased awareness of Japanese culture and a beautiful space for strolling.

There is a history of therapeutic use of plants and gardens in the care of patients with both physical and mental illnesses. Following are comments from persons participating in treatment with gardens....."it takes my mind off my problems," "...the healing garden is a big part of my recovery,"....."whenever I feel weak in recovery, I look out at the garden and realize that I couldn't enjoy all the beauty of the world under the Influence". "It reminds me how much I want recovery...." Hospitals are installing gardens for patients to either observe or wander through as a way of enhancing their healing.

Read this newsletter and if you agree the Japanese Garden deserves your support we will appreciate your monetary contribution.

If you have visited us at the gardens you know how inviting it is and you will return. If our presence is new to you a visit will be a pleasant surprise.



Sarah Coomber



Sadafumi Uchiyama  
photo by Nina Johnson

The formal program will begin at 7:00 with a koto (Japanese zither) demonstration by Moorhead resident Sarah Coomber. Sarah's connection to Japan began in 1986 with a summer exchange to southwestern Japan. She later spent two years in the same area teaching English and studying the koto, plus 10 more years of koto studies in Portland, Oregon. A former *Forum* reporter, Sarah's memoir, *The Same Moon* (Camphor Press, 2020), shares her experience of settling into life in a rural Japanese community.

Sada, Chief Curator and Director of The International Japanese Garden Training Center of Portland Japanese Garden, has received the Foreign Minister's Commendation from The Foreign Ministry of Japan, one of the highest honors bestowed by the Japanese government, given to individuals and groups with outstanding achievements in international fields, and acknowledges their contribution of friendship between Japan and other countries. Uchiyama has also been honored by the Oregon Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects as a Distinguished Practitioner, which recognizes individuals for their outstanding service to the profession design excellence, community leadership, and careful stewardship.



JAPANESE GARDEN OF MIND AND SOUL  
AT THE NORTHERN PLAINS BOTANIC GARDEN



## NPBGS ANNOUNCES

### JAPANESE GARDEN CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

NPBGS is actively raising funds for the Japanese Garden. We initiated fundraising this summer with a direct appeal to some of our past supporters.

We plan to construct the Japanese Garden in phases over three to five years. Phase 1, the Japanese Entry Dry Garden, as seen in our photo, is complete. Phase 2 will be constructed in 2023. This will include earth contouring & grading, irrigation, pathway construction, and grass seeding.

Through 2022 we have raised \$62,920.40, about half of the estimated cost:

\$34,781.60 from donations, memorial donations, and miscellaneous cash; \$5,138.80 net income from the Spring Plant Sale; \$8,000 from the Market at West Acres; and \$15,000 for a Capital Construction Grant from the Fargo-Moorhead Convention and Visitors Bureau.

**We are very grateful for this grant support from the Fargo-Moorhead Convention & Visitors Bureau.**

### The Japanese Garden Construction Phases are as follows:

- Phase Two: Site Development (83,400 sf)
- Phase Three: Plant Material
- Phase Four: Rock Material
- Phase Five: Structures (Trellis; Gazebos)
- Phase Six: Utilities
- Phase Seven: Ponds and Streams
- Phase Eight: Filter Equipment
- Phase Nine: Bridges (three)

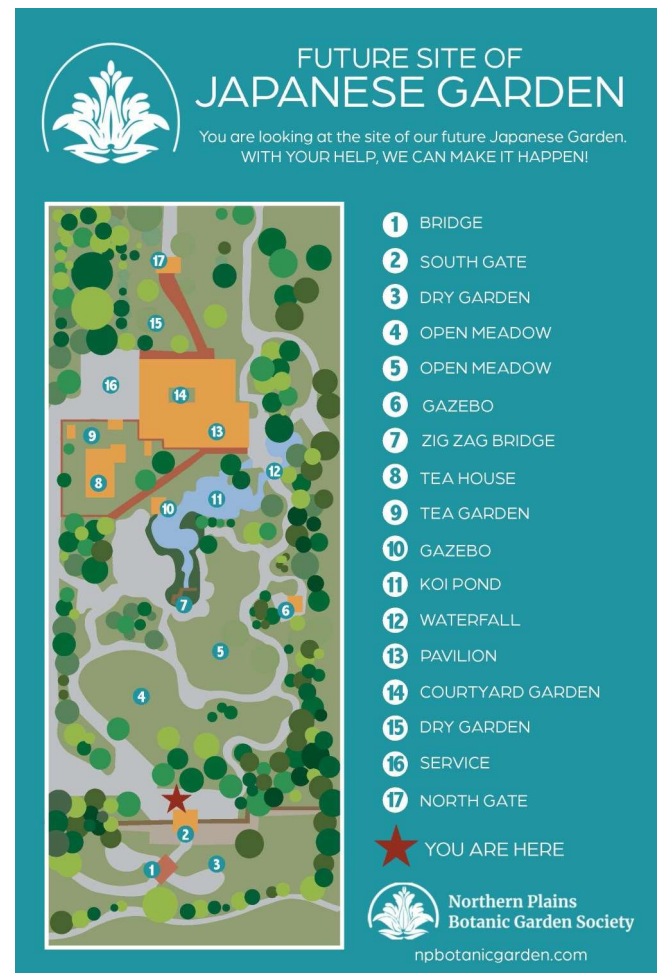
**TOTAL COST ESTIMATES: \$1,065,738**

These total cost *estimates* do not include construction of a potential Pavilion Building, but they reflect the core costs for construction of the Japanese Garden.

***We ask for your financial support so that we can complete Phase 2 in 2023.***

**To Donate by Check: NPBGS, PO Box 3031, Fargo, ND 58108-3031. Please write "Japanese Garden" on memo line. To Donate Online: Please specify "Japanese Garden" on 'Donate in Name of' box; go to this link: <https://www.npbgs.org/donate-1>.**

***We thank you for your support!***





**Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society**

**P.O. Box 3031, Fargo, ND 58108-3031**

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## HINA DOLL COLLECTION

One of the prized possessions of the **Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society** is a complete collection of Japanese Hina Dolls. In March 2013, the Japanese-American Cultural Exchange Society (JACES) gave the NPBGS a collection of dolls traditionally used in Japan on March 3rd during Hina Matsuri, a Doll Festival.

In Japan, dolls associated with the Festival are displayed in public settings and private homes. For many mothers and daughters the Hina Dolls illustrate a wish for successful health and happiness.

In the ongoing effort to display Japanese culture, and in conjunction with efforts to build a Japanese Garden, the Hina Dolls are publicly displayed by the NPBGS every February.

This year the dolls will be displayed in the Rourke Art Museum, 521 Main Avenue, Moorhead, Minnesota during normal hours from Friday February 3rd, through March 12, 2023. Also as part of the exhibit, the proposed Japanese garden will be displayed.

An opportunity for a guided tour will be available from 5:00 - 7:00 pm, Tuesday, March 7th during the reception, and prior to the Annual Meeting, also being held at The Rourke.

## BONSAI ENTHUSIASTS

Several times the NPBGS has attempted to organize a bonsai class but have been unsuccessful because the intended directors became unavailable. Now, Audrey Gilbraith of Baker Nursery hosts monthly bonsai sessions. The schedule will be shown on the Baker Nursery website.

Anyone is invited to join any session either to bring a bonsai from home to work on and/or show, create a new piece available from Baker Nursery or simply enjoy the atmosphere and observe. Each month a new bonsai is ordered especially for the club.

Audrey has an associate degree in Floral Design and Greenhouse Technology from Dakota College at Bottineau. Her Master Gardener Certification is pending. She can be reached at [audrey@bakernursery.com](mailto:audrey@bakernursery.com) and 701 532-4758.

We are excited about the opportunity to experience and share a Japanese cultural art form in support of our Japanese Garden. We are considering a future event at the Garden where individuals may bring their personal bonsai for display, attend a workshop and purchase bonsai specimens.

