



News and Views From The Gardens

December 2020

Civitati Faventes Horti

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Ad Hoc Japanese Garden Committee Formed

This past summer the NPBGS Board of Directors appointed Mary Beyer, Vern Hunter, Marilyn West and Minami Klinkhammer to serve on an ad hoc committee that will focus on developing the Japanese Garden and Phase Two Pavilion.

In August the Committee and the NPBGS Board invited the Fargo Park District Commissioners, Executive Director Dave Leker, Operations Director Dave Bietz and other directors to a 7:00 a.m. breakfast on the future Japanese Garden site. During the garden tours, we emphasized the need for a building. Summer rains helped to showcase glorious blooms in the gardens enhanced by neat edging and mulch. Volunteers helped to lead the tours and assisted with the breakfast. Jonathan Braski provided ambience with cello and violin music in the Woodland Garden. We thank the Fargo Park District Commissioners for attending; we were pleased to host them.

Thank you to Jerry Raguse, President of the NPBGS Board of Directors; Ruth Morton, Garden committee co-chair; contract gardeners Lou Wornor, Gail Wanek and Don DuBord; and volunteers Mary Beyer, Maurie Degrugillier, Jim Hanson, Ellie Heinz, Vern Hunter and Jim Walla for their assistance. Thank you to Bill Fradet of *Catering by Concordia* for the delicious food and to *Best of Times Photography* for recording the event.

We also thank Steve Iverson of *Moore Engineering* for making changes needed to update the contouring plans for the Japanese Garden. This revised plan will meet City requirements for the flood plain holding pond. Lisa Sluke will be advising us on materials for the financial campaign.

Marilyn West



Breakfast volunteers



**Northern Plains
Botanic Garden Society
Newsletter**

Ruth Morton, Editor

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

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 was 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 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, the National Park Service and Fargo Park District. If financially feasible, we will be able to have a ground breaking and work will start this spring on a Japanese Garden.

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

Jerry Raguse
President

*  *
* We regret that, due to Covid, NPBGS will not be holding a Tea Time at the Atrium fundraising event in February. We are terribly disappointed that this delightful event cannot take place, but we need to adhere to CDC guidelines for the immediate future. We look forward to offering this event some time in the future. Meanwhile, enjoy a 'cuppa' in your own cozy homes. *

Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, May 17

NPBGS Greenhouse

Watch for Details in April

Annual Meeting Information

Due to the Covid virus, options are still being considered by the NPBGS Board. We will keep you informed.

Edible Forest



New accessible picnic table in Edible Forest



Kiwi vine pergola will shade the picnic table



Visitors learning about the diverse varieties of fruit and nut trees, shrubs and vines growing in the Edible Forest.

The Edible Forest

This spring and summer the remaining trees, shrubs, bramble fruits and grapevines were planted in the Edible Forest. Two experimental plots for blueberries were also planted, one as a raised bed and one at ground level so see which method works best in our climate. Strong growth took place throughout the forest and the bramble fruits and strawberries produced some tasty fruit.

Pollinator gardens were seeded and seeds germinated quickly, with many plants reaching blooming size during the summer. More seeds are expected to germinate in the coming year, providing more diversity to the plots.

Two interpretive signs were installed, one by the entrance gate and one inside at the other end of the garden, with a bench beside it.

Refurbished park benches were installed at strategic points along the paths throughout the forest. A table and chairs were placed in one corner. An accessible picnic table, as well as accessible paths in the Children's Garden and a shade pergola were partially paid for by a matching grant from the Fargo Park District Foundation. The pergola and accessible picnic table are located near the entrance gate. Hardy kiwi vines, planted on two sides, will soon provide shade. Many visitors took advantage of the new seating both for lunch and to visit with friends.

Jim Walla gave several tours of the Edible Forest during the season to help visitors understand the concept of this part of the garden and plans for future use of the fruits and nuts. While it will take a number of years for some of the trees to reach fruiting size, the brambles, strawberries and grapevines have already begun to be productive.

With a fence around both the Edible Forest and connecting paths, NPBGS has begun the process of integrating the various garden areas that will comprise the Botanic Garden.



New interpretive signage inside Edible Forest

The Gardens

Summer Visitation Numbers Improve

Summer visitation numbers to the Northern Plains Botanic Garden increased in 2020. Why was that? “Social media” and “word-of-mouth” are two reasons first-time visitors commonly mention. Attendees are spreading the word to family and friends. “We didn’t know this was here, this place is beautiful”, is a common reaction, followed by the promise to tell others.

Unlike many destinations, gardens offer new experiences on each visit. Different plants come into bloom all summer and early fall. Who can argue that a walk through nature isn’t a restorative, pleasant experience each time.

Those who feel trapped or isolated, whether by Covid or other personal issues, can find relief and comfort in a garden. What better way to social distance from crowds during the pandemic than to walk through our 52 acres? Gardens are spaces for emotional and spiritual healing. Some major gardens have been designated as “essential” services during these trying times because officials realize their importance to society.

Vern Hunter



View of the Sensory Garden from the Touch section



Sensory Garden viewed through the Sight section looking towards the Sound section

Sensory Garden new signage and paths



The new herb planter designed by Lou Worner is eye-shaped to fit the sensory garden theme

The Gardens



Japanese Entrance to Dry Garden Nears 'Completion'

Among other planned improvements and additions to the Northern Plains Botanic Garden in 2021 is the completion of the Japanese Dry Garden along 28th Avenue N in front of the Japanese Gate. Aggregate will be added to the pond depression to create a surface that can be raked into patterns. To answer the question many onlookers ask: “No, it will not be a water pond”. Our hope is that we will include a koi water pond in the future Japanese Garden on the north side of the gate.

We also hope to improve the path leading to the gate from the sidewalk by replacing the existing class five aggregate with flagstones.

As any gardener knows, a garden is never completed, nor should it be. Plants may be added or removed and rock placement modified. The natural evolution of plant growth will change annual appearances. And, of course, regular maintenance helps to keep the garden neat.

Vern Hunter



The Japanese Garden The Body, Mind and Soul

The garden is designed to bring awareness of the basic senses: **Sight, Sound, Taste, Touch and Smell**

Therapists use Japanese gardens for recovery. It can provide **Awareness of One's Inner Self.**

The curving walks remind us that **Life Reveals Itself Slowly.**

The waterfall **produces Depth of Sound.**

The Zig Zag bridge has a view into the calm waters of Koi. Comfort in a **Noncompetitive Atmosphere**

The raking of the gravel is a “**Massage for Our Brain**”

The garden offers a **Positive Distraction** to daily lives. It doesn't have to be chaotic.

The garden reminds us of the rhythm of nature. Serenity is there for all, who can seek it within themselves.

Now the Ad Hoc committee will need the support of membership and friends to begin the spring groundbreaking in the Japanese garden and move dirt!

We appreciate any contribution, either through your regular giving or memorials. Please support this special garden by designating your gift **Japanese Garden.**

Marilyn West
Ad Hoc Committee



The Japanese Gate with the sumacs in fall color.

Fall color in the garden.



West Acres Winter Design Change-out

The holiday change-out at West Acres is always an enjoyable experience. We get to work with fresh product to beautify the Shopping Center during the Christmas season for all to enjoy. First we began with the outdoors by installing the fresh greenery on November 7th. Four volunteers assisted with installing over two hundred and seventy five tree toppers accented with Oregon cedar, white pine, winterberry and magnolia leaves. Adding to the flair were white birch poles and red twig dogwood bunches. Pine cones with red and white lights finished off the display in all the planters to add a little elegance.

The following weekend, four more volunteers joined up to install over two hundred red and white poinsettias to the interior design. Plants were added to the fountain area, the main hallway planters, the food court and all the way down to the Crave court on the east end to show off some amazing white planter displays.

The planning for this installation begins in September and is displayed in its full glory by the middle of November each year for all to enjoy. Nearly fifty volunteer hours go into the entire process to make the holidays shine with the warmest of greetings.

If you get a chance, go out to the mall and take a glance at all the beauty that has been added for the holidays. If you ever want to volunteer for any of our future installations, please let us know as we would love to have you along!!

Happy Holidays!
John Zvirovski



Thank you West Acres
for continuing to believe in and
supporting the Northern Plains
Botanic Garden!



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*no matter how
big or small,
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*Gifts support our Botanic Garden,
Edible Forest, educational
workshops, and special programs.*

*Please keep in mind the
Northern Plains
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this new year with a contribution.*

*We thank you for your consideration
and wish you the very best
in 2021!*

*Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society
PO Box 3031, Fargo, ND 58108-3031*

<https://www.npbotanicgarden.com/donate>



New & Renewing Members in 2020

Terry Adams & Naomi Nakamoto	Mim Flecca	Shirley McCaslin	Pauline Spencer
Linda Anderson	Char-Marie Flood	Sandra Miles	John & Sherri Stern
Natalie Anderson	Marissa Gapp	Ruth Morton	Bob and Linda Swanson
Margaret Armstrong-Law	Constance Grondahl	Gene Okerlund	Julia Trujillo
Rebecca Augustine	Theresa Gross	Pru Olson	Peter & Vesi Valkov
Bob Backman	Rhianna Grote	Debra Ott	Cynthia Wagner
Jennifer Berntson	Marilyn Hanson	Tom & Joyce Pettinger	Gail Wanek
Mary Beyer	Susan Heidenreich	Cynthia Phillips	Coralie & Sam Wai
Byron Bjore	Wendell & Sue Herman	Pamela Plemel-Scott	Barbara Weatherston
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Lisa Brown	Christine Holland	Jerry Raguse	Jane Winston & Roger Grimm
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LuAnn Dolan	Mary Leff	Peter & Julia Schott	
Don & Ardith DuBord	Ina Lyon	Morrie Schwinden	
Barbara Dunn	Shirley Manning	Davis A. Scott	
Ron Ellingson	Donna Maston	Kathlyn & Brian Scott	
	Judith Maxson	Jane Skjei	

We Thank and Acknowledge Our 2020 Financial Supporters!

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 West Acres Development, LLP

Memorials

Doreen & Leo Grobe,
in Memory of Harry (Tim) Henry
Connie Grondahl,
In Memory of Two Dear Friends
DiAnn & Vern Hunter,
In Memory of Harry (Tim) Henry
In Memory of Leona Belle Math
Ann & Tom Riley, *In Memory of Kirsten Riley*
Marilyn West,
In Memory of Charlotte Maas
In Memory of Nora Koenig

In Memory of Ruby Zvirovski

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Food Pantry Garden

We had a fairly successful harvest this year in spite of planting only one small garden. We harvested over 760 pounds of vegetables. This included cucumbers, tomatoes, sweet peppers, zucchini and yellow crookneck summer squash and butternut, kabocha, and buttercup winter squash. Thank you Maurie Degrugillier!

We also picked and donated 260 pounds of apples from Bob Swanson's trees.



West Acres Farmers Market

Bouquets picked from our gardens, jelly made from our own grape vines and fresh and dried herbs were popular sellers at our booth at the West Acres Farmers Market this summer. Judy Maxson collected vendor fees and tended the NPBGS booth along with Lou Worner, who also made the jelly and put together stunning bouquets.

We sold 61 jars of jelly, 116 bouquets, 14 bunches of herbs and were gifted with tip jar donations, for over \$1500.

