



News and Views From The Gardens

Fall/Winter 2021

Civitati Faventes Horti

Volume 24, Issue 2

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Botanic Garden a “Place Maker” during the Pandemic

We have been working for a number of years on creating and expanding the Northern Plains Botanic Garden into a destination garden for the public to visit and enjoy. An outdoor place where people can safely meet during a pandemic has been of special importance. Towards that end, our energy, time, and money were invested in refurbishing Fargo Park District benches and patio tables, improving and expanding pathways, and maintaining our shade pergolas for our visitors.

Our “Place-Making” activities have begun to pay off! We were privileged to host a number of social events and tours at the Northern Plains Botanic Garden this past year. A number of groups and organizations requested tours and reserved patio or pergola use for their social gatherings.

We gave 16 tours of the Botanic Garden, including the Edible Forest. Tours were organized for two Master Gardener groups, a High School Reunion group, design students from NDSU, and the general public. The FM Visual Artists hosted a summer outdoor social in August, and the Red River Watercolor Society held their July Plein Air painting session throughout the gardens. An artist hosted two “Paint Out” sessions at the Grape Pergola Patio, and pre-wedding and school photo photographers made use of the beautiful gardens for their photo sessions. There was a retirement open house party in late July that was held in front of the greenhouse. About 50 people attended and informal garden tours were given. Also, our Spring Plant Sale and Scarecrows in the Garden fundraising events gave attendees an opportunity to visit and enjoy the botanic garden.

We had an increase of families and friends visiting and meeting at the botanic garden. The new Virtual Adventure Tour of the botanic garden, created by Gia Rassier (Gia Cache) encouraged new visitors to explore the botanic garden. Also, Gia was instrumental in encouraging visitors at the FM Convention and Visitors Bureau to visit the Northern Plains Botanic Garden. We are grateful to Gia for promoting and encouraging exploration of the botanic garden!

The Northern Plains Botanic Garden remains free and open to the public every day during daylight hours. The fenced Edible Forest and Children's Garden are open from May through October.

Lisa Brown



Jim Walla leading one of several Edible Forest tours during the summer.



Gail Wanek taking a Scarecrow break on the greenhouse patio.

**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**

Members: Please consider serving on the Board. This is a valuable way to help our society achieve its long-term goals. We want your talents!



A view of the future Japanese Garden site from the location of the tree hydrangea donated and planted by Marilyn West

In Memoriam

Marilyn West

November 17, 1944 – July 15, 2021

Marilyn West, who was a Founding Charter Member of the Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society, had a real impact on the growth of the organization and the botanic garden.

After obtaining her Master Gardener certification in 1997, Marilyn sought other avenues to express her love of plants and gardens. She found that in April, 1998, when the clarion call came for people to form a new organization in support of a future

botanic garden, which became NPBGS. Marilyn devoted her energy and drive in spreading the word, engaging people's support, participation, and fundraising.

Marilyn was the creative force for a number of fundraising events. She initiated our first fundraising event, *At the Atrium Silent Auction*, and teamed with Joyce Pettinger to develop the *Tour of Garden Tables Luncheon* and *Botanic Garden Spring Luncheon*. She also helped with the planning for our inaugural *Scarecrows in the Garden* fundraiser, which was held in September.

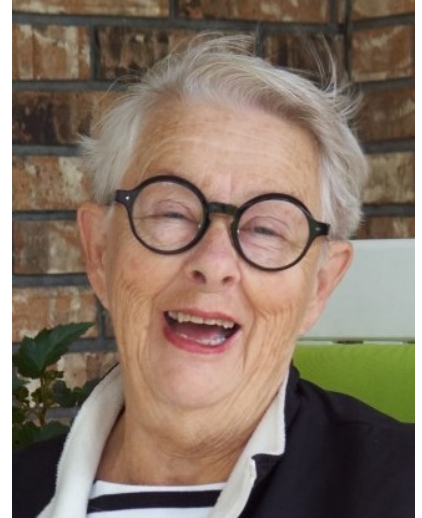
It was Marilyn, with support of Tom and Joyce Pettinger, who asked the Neuropsychiatric Research Institute (NRI) if NPBGS could make use of their Atrium space in exchange for NPBGS' atrium plant care services. As a result of Marilyn's outreach and work as our first Atrium Plant Care Coordinator, NPBGS had a home base in a beautiful atrium space for many meetings, programs, and events.

Marilyn was all about getting things done so that we could move forward. She led the way for the formation of a Logo Committee, a Logo Contest, and the selection of our logo, which was created by Surrey Gage. With her eye for design, Marilyn selected the color for our greenhouse doors, which she painted herself. She did the first design and planting for the raised bed by the greenhouse. Also, Marilyn envisioned a better use of space south of the greenhouse, and she arranged for the sale and removal of a storage trailer (an eyesore) so that a new grapevine Pergola with patio and Hummingbird Garden could be created.

As a lover of Japanese Gardens, Marilyn was very supportive of the plans for a future Japanese Garden, and she helped support the construction of the south Japanese Gate. She and Vern Hunter forged relationships with designers and builders of Japanese Gardens, and she was actively engaged in developing a new capital campaign for our future Japanese Garden.

Marilyn had served on a number of NPBGS Committees, including Garden, Development, and the Board of Directors. Through her service for NPBGS, she always sought better ways and means to accomplish our goals: through personal relationships, artistry, and the celebration of each other.

We will miss forever Marilyn's creative spirit, vision, enthusiasm, joie de vivre, and friendship!



Scarecrows in the Garden and Fall Market



Scarecrows Delight at Inaugural Fundraising Event

*"That was so much fun! Who could believe Scarecrows can be so diverse!
Well done!"*

"I had a wonderful time."

"We had a great time, thanks."

"Lunch was so delicious! Thanks, Heart-n-Soul Community Café and Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society, for a wonderful afternoon!"

"At the gardens, so enjoyable! I went early and found lots of people (whole families with little kids having so much fun!). The gardens are so lovely.

It makes me realize how enjoyable it is to go there.

It's going to be on my list of 'rewards' when I'm in need of a treat!"

Scarecrows delighted many at our inaugural **Scarecrows in the Garden and Fall Market** fundraising event held on September 18th at the Northern Plains Botanic Garden. Many positively commented about the creative, whimsical scarecrows which were displayed throughout the botanic garden, and showed off the garden's peak autumn floral array.

Approximately 300 visitors attended and toured the botanic garden and scarecrow show. Lunch was available for purchase from Heart 'n' Soul Community Café, who served many hungry customers.

The Fall Market inside the greenhouse provided an assortment of donated, home-baked goods, plants, botanical themed and hand-crafted items for sale. Pumpkins were available for purchase, and kids had the opportunity to paint and decorate pumpkins and rocks.

Thanks to all our supporters, scarecrow and fall market donors, volunteers, and event attendees, we raised \$3244 in gross proceeds! We look forward to hosting this event again next year!

Scarecrows in the Garden Event Committee: Joyce Pettinger and Cynthia Herfindahl, co-chairs; Elly Heinz, Bill Fradet, Lou Worner, and Marissa Gapp.



Visitors, food truck, scarecrows, Volunteers and views of some of the treats and treasures at the market.



Garden Notes



Maurie Degrugilier and Vern Hunter worked with Dave Dietz, metal artist, to construct and install the new Fairy Garden sign. Dietz donated computer software, tools, shop, paint booth, laser cutter and expertise. Dave said he was happy to contribute to the garden.



We are so grateful for the Plant Sciences Graduate Student Association from NDSU who volunteered at the Northern Plains Botanic Garden on October 11th. It was a real pleasure to host their social volunteer outing in the Woodland Garden on Indigenous Peoples' Day!



Sometimes a plant just doesn't thrive and has to go.



Vern Hunter working in the Japanese Dry Garden. This project has been his focus for several years. We are grateful for his dedication and expertise.



Lou Worner and Gail Wanek digging holes for the new railing.



The railing is installed.



Gail, Don and Lou resting in the cool shade of the grapevine pergola.

Garden Notes

Another Busy Garden Year Comes to a Close

Whew ! What a hot, dry summer we had. Nevertheless the gardens put on a fantastic display of color and greenery, with dedicated weeding, watering and pruning from our gardeners Don DuBord, Gail Wanek and Lou Worner assisted by volunteers Lisa Brown, Maurie Degrugillier, Suzanne and Kyle Fibelstad, Vern Hunter, Mary Leff and Ruth Morton.

It has been a productive garden year as well:

- With a generous grant from Fargo South High School students' PaY program through the Barry Foundation, we were able to add new plants and a shrub to the Woodland, Rain and Edible Forest pollinator gardens.
- All paths were refurbished with more gravel; connecting paths were built between existing paths from the Japanese Dry Garden to the Woodland Garden and from the Rain Garden steps to the Edible Forest gate. The path from the Japanese Gate was further enhanced with paving stones. Visitors will no longer have to wonder how to get from garden to garden, the way is clear!
- Davis Scott made a donation in memory of his wife, Hazel Moritz Scott, to purchase the gravel for the dry stream and paving stones for the path.
- We added a decorative sign above the fence in the Children's Garden to highlight the location of the Fairy Garden.
- The Park District helped us clean up the site by removing the unkempt compost pile by the mounds beyond the Edible Forest. A new, working compost has been started in a different location. The purchase of a shredder will help to make garden waste easier to break down into useable compost. This compost will be used to mulch around plants and enrich the soil.
- The earth mounds were lowered and smoothed to facilitate mowing for a neater appearance.
- Finally an iron railing was installed along the stairs leading from the greenhouse patio to the Edible Forest path.

With the close of this very busy, productive and challenging garden year, we will be taking a much-needed rest and will come back next year ready to implement new and exciting garden projects.



The Atrium at The Sanford Brain and Neuro Clinic

At The Atrium: End of an Era

October 30th was a bittersweet last volunteer day for the Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society at Sanford Health's Atrium in their downtown Neurology Clinic. NPBGS has been maintaining the Atrium plants since early 1999, for almost 23 years! Sanford Health will be renovating the atrium next year and plants will no longer be grown in the atrium for environmental health reasons. NPBGS opted to end our volunteer plant care services effective November 1st so that Sanford can proceed soon with their plans.

Our volunteer work and use of the atrium began in early 1999 when Marilyn West, with the support of Tom and Joyce Pettinger, asked the Neuropsychiatric Research Institute (NRI) if we could maintain and care for their atrium plants in exchange for occasional use of their space by NPBGS for meetings, programs, and events. This was readily agreed to by the NRI. A few years later, Ron Ellingson brokered our Memorandum of Understanding agreement with the NRI. In addition to use of the ground floor atrium, we were granted use of two storage rooms for plant care, office, and event supplies.

Marilyn was our first Atrium Plant Care Coordinator, followed by Ron Ellingson, Lynn Dahleen, Lisa Brown, Mary Ann Nagle, and Lisa (again). We appreciate all of the volunteers who helped take care of the plants, and especially these volunteers who each helped for many years: Tom Dolan, Ruth Morton, Maurie Degrugillier, Joyce Pettinger, Sharon Joelson, Greg Baumgartner, the late David Huebener, Vern Hunter, Lou Worner, Mary Teske, Sara Olson, and Emily Hilgers.

Marilyn West organized our first two silent auction fundraisers, "*At The Atrium*" (2001 – 2002), which set the standard for our other annual fundraising events held at the atrium: *Autumn Wine Tasting*, *Tour of Garden Tables Luncheon*, and *Tea Time at the Atrium*. Our First Annual Meeting was held at the atrium in March, 1999, and most of our Annual Meetings have been held there.

We've appreciated being able to use this facility's space as our temporary home for numerous committee meetings, programs, workshops, and social events. The Atrium space helped shape and nurture NPBGS as an organization and saw us through our infancy and growth years. For this, we are forever grateful for the support of the Neuropsychiatric Research Institute and Sanford Health and for the use of their wonderful atrium space!

Lisa Brown

Atrium views:

The fountain,
Alice in
Wonderland and
guests at the
*Teatime at the
Atrium* event



West Acres



Volunteers changing the outdoor plant displays to seasonal greenery with cone and branch accents



The Farmers Market at West Acres

The Farmers Market at West Acres—a cooperative effort of West Acres Regional Shopping Center and NPBGS.

The Market continued to grow and thrive with more vendors and diverse products this year.

The NPBGS booth did well selling flowers, jellies and herbs for a net of \$1351, and booth fees of \$4770.



Members and Contributors

Memberships (since January)

Candace Allen
 Kevyn Anderson
 Bob Backman
 Dollie & Robert Becklund
 Mary Beyer
 Christian Boechler
 Lisa Brown
 Keith Burck
 Donna Chalimonczyk
 Mark Chekola
 Joshua & Audrey Cook
 Felicia & Mark Cooper
 Amber Dean
 Clare & Marv Degerness
 Maurie Degrugillier
 Don & Ardith DuBord
 Barbara Dunn
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 Dorine Fosaaen
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 Barbara Villella
 Gail Wanek
 Julie Warner
 Barbara Weatherston
 Mary Lee Weaver
 Sheri & Brent Wein
 Robyn Wimmer
 Jane Winston & Roger Grimm
 Marilyn & Bill Woods
 Linda Worner
 Sharon Zerr-Peltner
 Marlys Ziegler
 John Zvirovski

Memorials (since April)

Donna Chalimonczyk
 In memory of Jane Skjei
 Stacey & Wesley Griggs
 In memory of Nancy Erickson
 Deborah Hunter
 In memory of Leo Grobe
 Vern & DiAnn Hunter
 In memory of Donald Gates
 In memory of Leo Grobe
 Tom & Ann Riley
 In memory of Vic Brown
 In memory of Casey Lynn Meyer
 In memory of Bob Long
 In memory of Jerry Richardson
 In memory of Paul Swanson
 Davis Scott
 In memory of Hazel Moritz Scott

In memory of Marilyn West:

Jean & Michael Dahl
 Charles & Lori DeRemer
 Janice Diemert
 Elly Heinz
 Sybil & David Hopkins
 Sylvia Hulbert
 Vern & DiAnn Hunter
 Gerald Koenig
 Michael Langdahl
 Judith Maas & Gladys Pecore
 Georgie Mechtel
 Naomi Nakamoto & Terry Adams
 Wayne & Mary Paulson
 Joyce & Tom Pettinger

Tom & Ann Riley
 Lisa & Marcel Sluke
 Paula Wright

Donations (since April)

Patricia Belknap
 Susan Bennet-Coyne
 Mary Beyer
 William Bleier
 Lisa Brown
 Keith Burck
 Vicky Dawson
 Maurice Degrugillier
 Bonnie Etter
 Fine Arts Club – Garden Section
 Brenda Fradet
 Helen Hagemeister
 Marilyn Hanson
 Dale & Ruth Herman
 Joan Horn
 Colburn Hvidston III
 Jamestown Garden Tour
 John & Anne Kaese
 Michelle Kliem
 Ryan Kliem
 Kiara Klinkhammer
 Mary Leff
 Marlene Maxon
 Judith Maxson
 Kathleen Neugebauer
 Cynthia Phillips
 Tom & Ann Riley
 John & Linda Schultz
 Davis Scott
 Staples Garden Club
 The Blackbaud Giving Fund
 Marilyn West
 John Zvirovski

Business Donations

Bell Bank
 BNSF Railway Fund
 Microsoft
 West Acres Development

Grants

The Barry Foundation as recommended by the Fargo South High students through the PaY program
 William & Anna Jane Schlossman Fund as recommended by Brad & Carol Schlossman of the FM Area Foundation

To renew memberships online: www.npbgs.org/become-a-member

By mail:
 NPBGS, PO Box 3031, Fargo, ND 58108-3031. Write 'membership' on the memo line. Checks save credit card processing fees.

To update your address or email, please send to annr56@aol.com - subject: Membership Renewal.

Ann Riley, Chair, Membership Committee



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**NORTHERN PLAINS
BOTANIC GARDEN SOCIETY**
Will continue to grow and prosper in 2022.

*Gifts support our Botanic Garden, Edible Forest,
and future programs.*

Please keep in mind the

Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society
this holiday season with a year-end contribution.

*We thank you for your consideration
and we wish you the very best in the New Year!*

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

<https://www.npbgs.org/donate-1>

News about Tea Time at the Atrium – NPBGS Annual Fundraiser

As many of you are aware, unfortunately, we were unable to host the NPBGS Annual February *Tea Time at the Atrium* fundraiser this year. With the precautions that we still feel we need to follow, for the ongoing COVID-19 situation, the Tea Committee has decided to NOT plan for this event for February 2022. We will certainly miss seeing our faithful attendees, and we regret to have to make this decision.

However, there are other ideas/options being discussed for a fundraising event, similar but somewhat more casual, to our tea event that possibly could be held at the gardens in the spring. Stay tuned for further information in our next Newsletter!

The Tea Committee is excited to plan something a little different with an outdoor event that we are certain will appeal to you and will be as delightful as our previous fundraiser.

Thank you everyone for your past support, and I hope you will continue to support our fundraising efforts in 2022.

Ann Riley, Chair, *Tea Time at the Atrium*
Committee