



News and Views From The Gardens

Spring 2019

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Volume 24, Issue 1

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Edible Forest Progress Report

One of the objectives cited when the NPBGS was established was to grow an Arboretum. This summer we are excited to start a unique form of Arboretum we call an “Edible Forest” (see our Fall 2018 Newsletter for a detailed description of the project). The project is partially funded by a grant from the North Dakota Industrial Commission through the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

Bids were recently taken for the two major components:

1. Landscaping: to include grading, seeding, pathway, irrigation, edging, and soil amendments.

2. Fencing and gates that will surround the Edible Forest and the Children’s Garden.

A contract for the landscaping was awarded to S&S Landscaping for the sum of \$31,144.40. A contract for the fencing was awarded to Dakota Fence for \$34,944.00.

By the end of summer 2019 the site landscaping and fencing will be completed with a small portion of the tree and shrub component planted. Completion of the project will occur in 2020 with all trees, shrubs, pollinator gardens, mulch and signage in place. The site will eventually be embellished with resting areas, flower gardens, and art pieces.

Like all gardens, it will take time for the planting to mature, and patience to fully appreciate the intended results. This will be the largest demonstration area for growing fruits and nuts in North Dakota.

In addition to the original Arboretum Committee, a Task Force was created to assist in raising funds to meet matching fund requirements. Also, in keeping with the NPBGS motto to “promote Community through Gardening,” a number of community food partners are involved to promote the project and support involvement in the hands-on site activities. To date, a sum of over \$7,000 has been contributed.

Vern Hunter, President

Edible Forest Kick-Off Event

Tuesday, April 30
6 p.m.—7:30 p.m.

**Rourke Art Gallery
& Museum**

**521 Main Ave,
Moorhead, MN**

Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society Newsletter

Ruth Morton, Editor

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Board of Directors

Vern Hunter, President

Jerry Raguse, Vice President

Barbara Villella, Secretary

Ruth Morton, Treasurer

Bill Fradet

Ina Lyon

Ann Riley

Matt Sorenson

Arielle Windham

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

Board News



Matt Sorenson, Arielle Windham, Barbara Viillella, Ina Lyon

NPBGS welcomes four new board members: Matt Sorenson, Arielle Windham, Barbara Villella and Ina Lyon. Matt and Arielle were appointed in October and were featured in the last newsletter.

Ina Lyon is a Fargo resident and a self-taught gardener. She jokes that over the years she landscaped her various homes mostly by trial and error. Ina is an artist and miniaturist. Over the past year, she graciously turned her remarkable talents toward leading the team of artists reimagining the Fairy Garden (included in the NPBGS Woodland Garden). She is a member of the International Guild of Miniature Artisans and previously served on their board for six years. We know we will benefit from her love of beauty and her eye for detail.

Barbara Villella has been a driving force for the Prairie Roots Food Coop since being chosen as part of the opening leadership team. Her current role as Development VISTA for the Prairie Roots Community Fund, a non-profit associated with the Coop, is important to her. One of her passions is improving access to resources, including healthy, less-traveled foods for all. New to NPBGS, Barb has quickly become a valued member of the Public Relations Committee and is full of ideas for connecting to other community groups as we grow.

Thank You for Your Service

Lisa Brown – tremendous thanks are extended to Lisa for the enormous amount of support, for handling volumes of paperwork, for serving on committees....and for the never ending energy, that she has given to the NPBGS during her recent term on the Board. Lisa has provided much-needed continuity. She was one of the Founding Members of the Society. Thanks, Lisa, for all you've done, and continue to do, for the Society.

Brandi Malarkey – has been a very active and enthusiastic Board member during her term. She has been our liaison with the Fargo Park District, has helped tremendously with rejuvenating our website, was instrumental in organizing fundraising for the Edible Forest project, and so much more. Brandi has said that she will continue to see through her commitment for all the tasks she volunteered to help with. Thanks, Brandi, for a job well done.



Highlights of the Annual Meeting

21st Annual Meeting March 12 Features Tim Chapman, CEO of the International Peace Garden

After a brief business meeting to approve last year's minutes, by-law changes and committee changes, President Vern Hunter summarized the State of the Society with this comment: "We need more workers and more finances!"

Four new board members were elected and departing board members were recognized. Don DuBord was named Member of the Year in recognition of his dedication to the Society with his work on various projects from organizing the Spring Plant Sale to helping move pavers donated by Concordia College and helping build the Dry Garden in front of the Japanese gate.

Following the business meeting, Tim Chapman, CEO of the International Peace Garden, gave a presentation on the history of the Garden, highlighted by a slide show of the many beautiful gardens and several structures. Tim answered a number of questions from the audience and invited us to come visit during the summer when the gardens are at their peak bloom.

A reception in the Atrium followed Tim's presentation with tasty treats provided by the Program Committee.



Guest speaker Tim Chapman



Don DuBord receiving his member of the Year award from Ann Riley



Highlights From Tea Time at the Atrium



The butlers are ready to serve tea

On behalf of the Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society *Tea Time at the Atrium* Committee I extend a heartfelt thanks to all the fabulous volunteers who made the 7th annual tea fundraising event another great success.

Just to mention a few key aspects, the Table Hosts who set very attractive tables, the Butlers who looked dashing in their tux attire as they poured tea and served the delicious food, (*with particular thanks to Tip-Top-Tux/West Acres for their generous in-kind donation of the tux attire for the butlers*), the ladies who kept the kettles boiling to make many pots of tea, and the amazing floral arrangements made by two of our dedicated volunteers. We were so fortunate to receive such unique donated items for sale in this year's Boutique. Mention should also be made that the location in the Sanford Neuroscience Clinic Atrium, and adjoining rooms, provided the perfect ambience for such a special winter event.

As the saying goes, many hands make light work. Thank you also to the many other volunteers who contributed their time and effort towards various aspects for the event.

THANK YOU EVERYONE.....you are so appreciated and we couldn't have done it without you!

Committee: Lisa Brown, Felicia Cooper, Don DuBord, Ruth Morton, Naomi Nakamoto, Joyce Pettinger, Ann Riley, Loretta Wickie.

Ann Riley



Linda Anderson (red hat) won the best hat contest. Runner's up were Lisa Kornkven and Sylvia Fisher.



Garden-related Projects

West Acres Activities Support the NPBGS

West Acres will continue to support the NPBGS with a new agreement for designing and filling planters inside and outside the Mall. As you visit the Mall, admire the seasonal plant displays.

Also, the NPBGS will continue to assist in operation of the Farmer's Market on the Mall's west side parking lot located on 42nd Street. The Market will open late June until the middle of October depending upon weather conditions. Hours will be 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

The NPBGS will offer bouquets and herbs for sale on Saturdays, June 29th, July 6, 13, 20, 27 and August 3, and 10th. To increase exposure for the NPBGS and add interest to the Market, the NPBGS will also provide gardening programs and activities one Saturday a month.



The Atrium Fountain Gets a Facelift

For several reasons Sanford Health has decided not to fill the fountain at Sanford Neuroscience building with water. NPBGS volunteer and contract gardener Lou Worner has created the illusion of water in the fountain pool by painting the bottom and sides a beautiful blue. This change has prompted many compliments from employees in the building.

Get a Head Start in the Garden—Plant Seeds Indoors

Longtime NPBGS member, Maurie Degrugillier appeared on KVRR TV's morning news show March 4 to talk about starting seeds indoors. Maurie suggested that all you need are a soil mix, containers that drain and seeds. It is best to start most seeds in March to get a head start on the gardening season. Tomatoes, peppers and cabbage are easy seeds for beginners. As Maurie says, "I just enjoy watching them grow and check them every day; but I think the most rewarding thing is when it comes time to harvest, you go out in the garden and pick a fresh-grown tomato."



Maurie chats with Maggie LaMere on KVRR TV



The garden site waiting for spring work to begin

Photo Contest Winners

We are pleased to announce Lisa Brown as the winner of our 2019 Brochure Cover Photo Contest. Congratulations, Lisa!

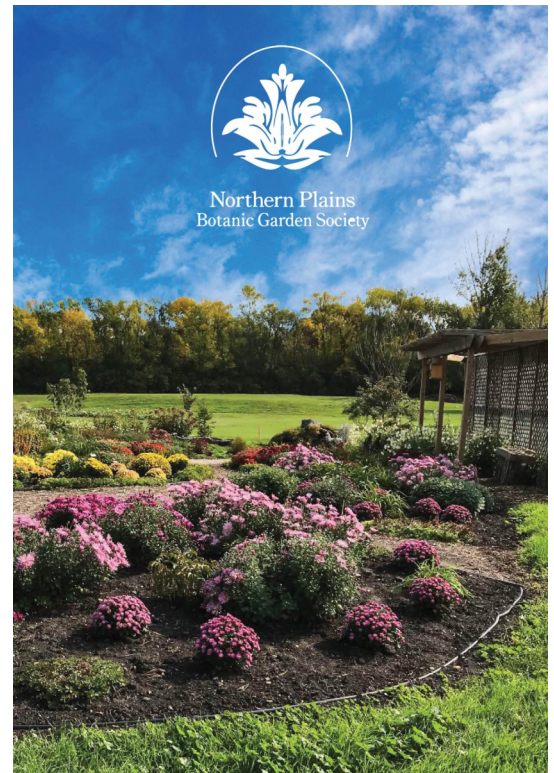
Lisa is a long-time member of the Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society and an active volunteer in many aspects of the organization. It is unsurprising that she would have so many wonderful photographs to share. Her prize-winning perspective of the gardens is excellent for our new brochure cover.

That is not all! There were too many high-quality photographs entered to select a single winner.

We are also pleased to name two runner-up winners: Lou Worner and Rebecca Lyon.

Lou submitted a wonderful photograph of ducks enjoying spring at the gardens. Lou earned the NPBGS Member of the Year award in 2017 and is a contract gardener with the society.

Rebecca submitted several stunning macro views of blooming botanicals in the gardens taken when she participated in the jointly held 2018 Fargo Moorhead Visual Artists/Red River Watercolor Society/NPBGS “Draw-In” event.



Lisa Brown's winning photo looking across the Chrysanthemum Garden



Lou Worner's photo of ducklings in the lily pool in the letter W of the Children's Garden



Rebecca Lyon's photo of a flower gone to seed

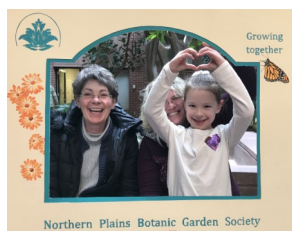


Conversations and Cocoa Jumpstarts the New Year

NPBGS hosted their third annual *Conversations and Cocoa* social on January 26th in the Atrium at Sanford Neuroscience Clinic. It was a very cold but sunny day, and we had 30 people attend, including 6 children, some of whom participated in the *Frostival* activities in nearby Island Park. Many snacks and sweets were served, along with hot and cold beverages. Attendees were able to learn about the plans for the Edible Forest, visit with NPBGS members, and enjoy the warm tropical ambiance of the Atrium.

The Idea Generator Jar was receptive to suggestions for future NPBGS programs and efforts. Some of the submitted ideas included: planting Elderberries and Hydrangeas at the botanic garden; creating a Labyrinth Garden; hosting a Garden Paint Party, an NPBGS Members Garden Walking Tour; and host more workshops and social events at the botanic garden.

We thank our volunteers for helping to host this event: Joyce Pettinger, Ruth Morton, Ann Riley, Lou Worner, Vern Hunter and Lisa Brown.



Membership

Donations Since November 2018

We thank the following Donors for their generous support!

Linda Anderson
Anonymous
Margaret Armstrong – Law
Carolyn & Henry Baer
Patricia Belknap
Bell Bank & Trust Pay It Forward, Sharon Gully
Will Bleir
Ann Braaten
J.V. & Marjorie Brown
Lisa Brown
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Jon Swegarden
Kim Wasson
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Calendar of Events

"Eggstravaganza" April 19 & 20
Children's Museum at Yunker Farm 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
NPBGS activities at the greenhouse 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

"Hello Spring" April 27
Lots of children's activities
Rheault Farm, Park District 11:00 am-4:00 pm

"Edible Forest" Kick-off April 30
Rourke Art Gallery & Museum 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Spring Plant Sale May 11
NPBGS Greenhouse 8:00 am-1:00 pm



Save the Date!

Annual Spring Plant Sale

Saturday, May 11

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.