

News and Views From The Gardens

Fall 2018

Civitati Faventes Horti

Volume 23 Issue 2

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NPBGS Moves Ahead

Celebrating a New Agreement

After exploring alternative locations for gardens in the Fargo-Moorhead-West Fargo area, the Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society decided to refocus on the existing Yunker Farm garden site in north Fargo.

NPBGS worked with the staff at the Fargo Park District to negotiate a new Concession agreement between the Society and the Fargo Park District. The new agreement was approved by the the Fargo Park Board at their June 12th, 2018 meeting. This agreement gives NPBGS permission to enhance and expand our beautiful garden area. A new master plan is being developed to cover 15 acres. This master plan will include display gardens, an arboretum and a Japanese garden.

To better focus our efforts now, we will concentrate on a garden area of six acres extending from 28th Avenue North to the shelterbelt-Outdoor Wildlife Learning Site. Thanks to the efforts of our dedicated volunteers, and our new contract gardener Lou Worner, that is exactly what we are doing. The Alphabet Garden is bursting with color, the Rain Garden has been replanted, the Chrysanthemum Garden has been reworked, and the Woodland Garden features a new access bridge and expanded Fairy Garden. Read the rest of this newsletter to learn more about other exciting new projects.

Head out to the gardens and celebrate this milestone with us!



New Entrance Sign

**Northern Plains
Botanic Garden Society
Newsletter**

Ruth Morton, Editor

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Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society
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Board of Directors
Vern Hunter, President
Jerry Raguse, Vice-President
Lisa Brown, Secretary
Ruth Morton, Treasurer
Bill Fradet
Brandi Malarkey
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.**

Box.org – Floating in the Cloud

We realized that our organization's data archiving and storage can be a paper chase of a mess, so we are in the process of archiving and storing our important data files "in the cloud". Thanks to *Box.com's* generosity, NPBGS applied for, and was granted, free data storage and file sharing through their *Box.org* program for non-profit organizations. This will facilitate secure file-sharing and archiving for NPBGS, plus access to *Techsoup*.



Board Notes

New Board Members

Welcome our newest board members, Arielle Windham and Matt Sorenson. NPBGS now has a full board!



Arielle Windham

Arielle is the daughter of a landscape architect in north Texas, and she grew up with an appreciation for plants and gardens.

Her aspirations lead her into education and writing, but horticulture has always been an important part of her life. She has toured gardens around the world, including many in Japan while living and teaching there. She looks forward to being part of the growth of NPBGS.

As a newcomer to the area, Arielle hopes to take a Master Gardener course this winter to improve her horticultural knowledge for the region.



Matt Sorenson

A software and technology consultant with a long list of other interests, Matt cares about environmental education and ecologic preservation of natural areas. On his sleeve he often wears his convictions about gardening, green spaces, wild places, sensory experiences, and a certain wanderlust – and the critical impact of these functions on health and healing, mindfulness, gratitude, and understanding the impact of our actions and decisions on the planet.

As a father, Matt believes it is especially important to foster an appreciation for nature and earth-connectedness to our younger generations. Whether a module of software code or a parcel of land, his ethos is, "leave it better than you found it".

Website Update

NPBGS is in the process of finalizing the modernization of our website so that it will be user-friendly on multiple device platforms, and will be a useful resource for members and visitors alike. The web address will be the same: www.npbotanicgarden.com.

We hope to launch the newly enhanced website before the end of this year!

New Additions to the Garden Site

NPBGS Awarded Grant for an Edible Forest!

We are very pleased to announce that NPBGS recently received grant approval for \$33,601 from the North Dakota Industrial Commission for the creation of an Edible Forest at the Northern Plains Botanic Garden. The funds are generated from oil and gas production tax revenue under the ND Outdoor Heritage Fund and the fund is overseen by the Industrial Commission of North Dakota.

The total project cost is \$84,801, including the NPBGS monetary match and in-kind services. The project includes trees, shrubs, pollinator friendly perennial plants, a walking path, fencing and an entrance staging plaza. This 42,000 square foot project will be the first phase of an arboretum, which is one of the NPBGS objectives. Onsite work for the Edible Forest will begin in spring of 2019, and the first phase of the project is expected to reach completion in the summer of 2020.

Set along a connecting, winding trail, and adjoining the established Alphabet and Sensory Gardens, this Edible Forest will be a place of rest and contemplation, as well as a haven for wildlife. As the Edible Forest grows, it will provide a number of opportunities for community members to learn how to nurture and harvest fruit bearing trees that thrive locally.

We thank the Arboretum Committee for their hard work in researching, designing and planning this project. The landscape design was created by Jim Hanson, landscape architect. Input on the plan, including plant species lists and layout, was also contributed by Jim Walla, Jerry Raguse, Dan Johnson, Maurice Degrugillier and Jim Anderson. Brandi Malarkey and Caroline McGuire gave input on how to build community support through volunteerism and donations, and garden elements to include that appeal to the general public. Vern Hunter is the project leader and grant writer. He undertook a huge task in pulling together information for the grant. We thank him for his dogged persistence and vision, from which will grow an Edible Forest!

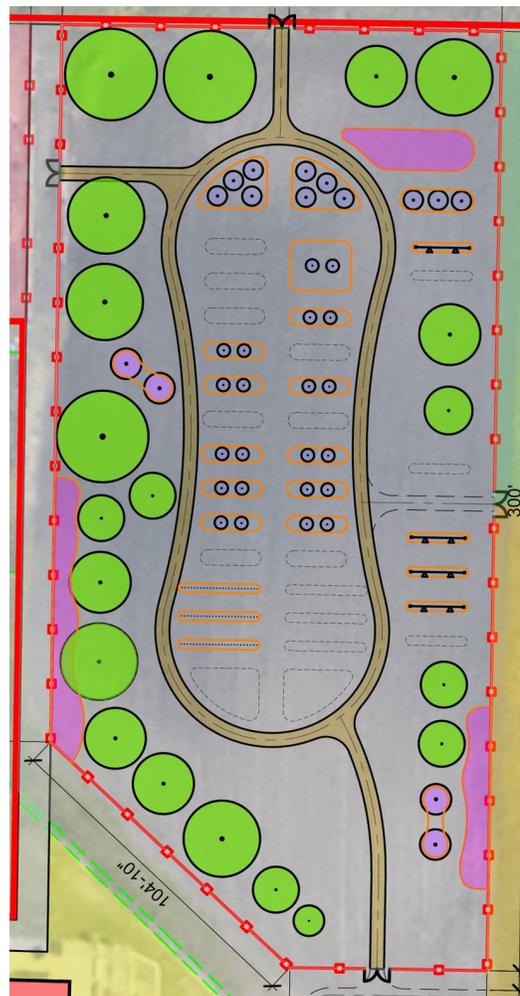
We need your help!

Let's work together to make this vision a reality!

Get your hands dirty! Garden helpers will be needed when the contract work is completed (starting summer 2019 and continuing spring through fall each year as the garden grows). Interested volunteers can contact project volunteer coordinator Caroline McGuire: carolinemcguire10@gmail.com.

Share our news with your friends, your family and your neighbors! Help spread the word about this fun addition to the gardens.

Help us reach the grant match! Join our fundraising endeavors, or donate! To kick off our fundraising efforts, NPBGS will be participating in the Fargo-Moorhead Area Foundation's new *Caring Catalog*. With a simple button on their website, www.areafoundation.org, this online giving forum will allow people and organizations to donate up to \$5,000 between November 7th and December 31st. It's a great way to help the Edible Forest grow!



Edible Forest—Plan View

More New Additions



DRY GARDEN WITH BRIDGE

As part of the entrance area to the Japanese Gate on 28th Ave N, a Dry Garden is under construction that includes a dry pond and creative use of rock. This feature when completed will include a low-slung bridge, raked crush gravel to simulate a pond and stream originating from a distant waterfall. Low-growing *Juniper* shrubs will be planted around the edge between the large rocks. Completion of the project is expected in 2019.

Garden Construction Process

Excavation of the soil bed was started in June. In July lots of class 5 material was added by front end loader and shovel, and it was tamped down to a firm base. Some rocks and boulders were selected and added from our collection that had been procured and donated by Marilyn West and stored on site, with additional rocks contributed from the Fargo Park District's collection at Yunker Farm Park. A base was created at both sides of the dry pond for seating the low-slung bridge. The bridge which was constructed and installed by Lou Worner, with help from Maurie Degrugillier and Vern Hunter.



Once the bridge was securely installed in late summer, additional rock was added to define and reinforce the pond perimeter, and to create the simulated dry stream and waterfall on the west end. Accent rocks in vicinity of the pond were added for beauty and ambiance.

Garden Vision and Support

The Dry Garden was the vision of Vern Hunter, who designed the garden with bridge. He proposed it as a project that would connect the Japanese Gate with the south facing lawn and would be visually stunning and inviting for all. Many volunteers helped with construction and installation of this project, which has been supported in part by funds raised at this year's *Tea Time at the Atrium* fundraiser. We thank everyone for their support of this ongoing project!



Garden Enhancements



Woodland Garden – New Patio!

We are very pleased with the new patio which was installed near 28th Ave N in the Woodland Garden by Lou Womer this past summer! Lou and volunteers who worked on the Dry Garden project helped excavate the foundation and laid the class 5 material base. Lou placed and installed the pavers, which were donated by Concordia College. The patio furniture, donated by Tom and Ann Riley, is now more inviting on its new patio, and welcomes all visitors at the gardens. Enjoy!

Kids Activity Zone Revs Up the Alphabet Garden

Another project completed this past summer was the incorporation of kids' activity play structures along the south side of the Alphabet Garden. Much mulch was added as a foundation, and the original bridge from the Woodland Garden was repurposed as a hop scotch bridge across the natural drain. Balance beams, jump rings and a multi-hoop exploratory tunnel was planted with vining *Thunbergia*. This project was designed, built and installed by Lou Womer, with assistance from Breanna Thompson and Sara Womer.



New Volunteer at the Atrium

Meet Nicole, our newest atrium volunteer! As an ecology student, Nicole is interested in learning more about plants. When she has free time between her studies and part-time job, Nicole likes to volunteer on Saturdays in the atrium.

Sanford Neuroscience Clinic - Atrium

Effective July 1st of this year, the Neuropsychiatric Research Institute merged with Sanford Health, so the "atrium building" has a new name and owner. NPBGS continues to maintain and care for the plants, which we have since 1999, as per our memorandum of understanding with the former NRI. Volunteers are welcome to help maintain the plants!

To volunteer, email Lisa at: 701sagebrown@gmail.com.



Pumpkin-painting event at West Acres Farmer's Market

Garden Displays Late Summer and Fall



Chrysanthemum Garden Restructured

After a lot of work last fall and this spring, the Chrysanthemum Garden rewards with a blaze of color in late summer and on into the fall. Even the newly planted seedlings put on an amazing display in their first year of growth.

Plants are arranged in beds by color and each bed includes a variety of flower types and gradations of color.



Fairy Homes



Other garden Views

Shown left to right are a few photos of the Alphabet/Sensory garden, detail of an hydrangea blossom in the letter **H**, the water lily pool in the letter **W**, red celosia in the **Touch** section and petunias in the letter **P**.



Volunteers and Support

Thank You Volunteers!

Jim Anderson, Dante Battochi, Kelly Binfet, Redgie Bohnet, Lisa Brown, Chris Carlson, Pat Chinquist, Felicia Cooper, Maurie Degrugillier, Natasha DePlazes, Kim Douglas, Ardith DuBord, Don DuBord, Perry Evans, Joan Faust, Bill Fradet, Roberta Green, Leo Grobe, Theresa Gross, Jim Hanson, John Harris, Emily Hilgers, DJ Hixon, DiAnn Hunter, Vern Hunter, Anne Johnson, Dan Johnson, Katie, Don Kinzler, Shannon Klein, Kathi Koenig, Lisa Kornkven, Gloria Lee, Sabra Low, Ina Lyon, Barbara Maag, Brandi Malarkey, Shirley Manning, Judy Maxson, Wilma Jean McDonald, Caroline McGuire, Hazel Meidlinger, Lisa Meidlinger, Sandra Miles, Carolyn Monzingo, Jeff Morrau, Ruth Morton, Chris Mullins, Mary Ann Nagle, Naomi Nakamoto, Gary Nolte, Joyce Pettinger, Jerry Raguse, Ann Riley, Tom Riley, Kris Schipper, Scott Schipper, Shaun Schipper, Lute Simley, Matt Sorenson, Nicole Stepan, Bob Swanson, Linda Swanson, Breanna Thompson, Tyler, Jim Walla, Loretta Wickie, Arielle Windham, Lou Worner, Sara Worner, John Zvirovski

Volunteer Efforts Vast and Diverse in 2018

NPBGS is blessed with many volunteers who helped with our diverse projects and activities. These included garden development at the Northern Plains Botanic Garden; plant care and maintenance at the NRI/Sanford Atrium; plant landscape design and installation at West Acres; managing the Northern Plains Farmers Market at West Acres; and our programs and events, including the Tea Time at the Atrium, Spring Plant Sale, and the Beneficial Bug Hotel Workshop.

We had over 370 recorded volunteer hours at the Northern Plains Botanic Garden, and many more hours were unrecorded. Atrium volunteers recorded 105 hours through the third quarter, and the NP Farmers Market at West Acres had a whopping 294 volunteer hours during this past market season. There are many additional untold hours invested in our fundraising events, programs, and Board activities for which we are forever grateful. **Thank you, volunteers!**

Donations

Bell Bank & Trust
William & Anna Jane Schlossman
Fund—FM Area Foundation
Lisa Brown
Vern & DiAnn Hunter
Chiwon Lee
Carolyn Monzingo
Ruth Morton
Ann & Tom Riley
Robyn Wimmer

Contributions Can Take Many Forms

If you, a friend, or relative has an employer that participates in some form of civic volunteer program, contribution matching, or pay it forward program, why not consider contributing these discretionary funds and services to the Northern Plains Botanic Garden. Our needs include operating funds and volunteers, as we work toward meeting our goals for the Gardens. We would be pleased to make information available that will describe our projects and how you can be part of their development.

Horticultural Intern Fund

We are very pleased to announce that NPBGS has initiated a horticultural intern fund, thanks to a generous *seed money* donation from Bell Bank & Trust. **We seek more donations to help grow this fund.** We hope in the next few years to be able to hire, supervise and mentor a seasonal horticultural intern at the Northern Plains Botanic Garden.



Volunteers planting *Impatiens* to add a pop of color to the Woodland Garden



Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society
P.O. Box 3031, Fargo, ND 58108-3031

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Save the Date!

Tea Time at The Atrium

Saturday, February 9, 2019

An elegant tea with dainty treats
Botanic Garden Boutique
Fresh flowers
Baked Goods, and more

Membership Renewal Notification

How can I remember when to renew my NPBGS membership?

This year we will include your anniversary month and year on mailing labels so you can easily find out when to send in your renewal check.

Merely check your mailing label and send NPBGS a check for your renewal during the month you joined initially.

Note: Mail renewals to NPBGS, PO Box 3031, Fargo, ND 58108-3031
Write "renewal" on the memo line

Look For *Calendar of Events* on Our Website in 2019:

Conversations and Cocoa: Saturday, January 26th
Sanford Neuroscience Clinic Atrium

NPBGS Annual Meeting: Tuesday, March 12,
Sanford Neuroscience Clinic Atrium

Spring Plant Sale: May, actual date to be determined
NPBGS Greenhouse