



News and Views from the Garden

November 2024

Civitati Faventes Horti

Volume 27, Issue 2

Inside this Issue:

	Page
Edible Forest Updates	1
President's Message	2
Spring Plant Sale	2
Help Us Continue to Grow	2
Recent Events	3-4
Japanese Garden Progress	4
Garden Updates	5
Big Thanks	6-7
Members and Supporters	7
Call for Volunteers	8
Tea Time 'Save the Date'	8

News from the Edible Forest



New plants have arrived in the Edible Forest: three chokecherry selections (Johnson purple, Vining yellow, and a dwarf purple), three small chestnut trees, and a Mars seedless grapevine. Fruit production continues to increase as the plants come into production – top performers in 2024 included seedless and wine grapes, currants, and aronia berries. There was very promising development of peach, persimmon, pecan, and chestnut trees, and the mulberry tree produced its first good crop of berries. The overly wet spring resulted in some plant damage in the Edible Forest. The arctic beauty kiwis died, presumably due to extended saturated soil. The same condition resulted in poor growth of the raspberry plants and the blueberry plants in the sunken bed. Tours and demonstrations included a grapevine pruning demonstration in May, public tours in June, July, and August, and five private tours including a group developing community orchards, a church group, and pre-K to 8th grade students. In addition, the Edible Forest was the main topic of the featured presentation at Gardening Saturday in Minot in April.



Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society Newsletter

Mallorie Taylor-Teeples, Editor
Contributors: Maddysen Boecker, Lisa
Brown, Vern Hunter, Ruth Morton, Jim
Walla

Published by

Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society
P.O. Box 3031
Fargo, ND 58108-3031
E-mail: info@npbotanicgarden.com
Website: npbgs.org

Board of Directors

Matt Sorenson, President
Marissa Gapp, Vice President
Teresa Jesten, Secretary
Busola (Bee) Mittleider, Treasurer
Maddysen Boecker
Conrad Klinkhammer
Julia Schott
Mallorie Taylor-Teeples

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

President's Message

These are your gardens. And if you love these gardens, thank the gardeners!

Thank you Lou for nearly 8 years of dedicated service, and thank you Gail for 6 years of dedicated service. Lou and Gail are winding down their final season as staff gardeners for NPBGS. There probably isn't room in all of our newsletters combined to enumerate all these two have done for the gardens and organization with their combined 14 years of service. Above and beyond the great and important work in the physical gardens, they've also been instrumental volunteers at our events, donated countless items, and supplied outstanding support for NPBGS' partnership with West Acres and our role in the West Acres Market.

Thank you, Don, for 5 years of dedicated service! In addition to all his hard work dutifully keeping the gardens enjoyable and operating smoothly, Don is also a familiar and key volunteer – co-organizing our Tea Time with Flowers fundraiser, spearheading our annual Spring Plant Sale, and so much more.

Thank you, Quin, for joining this masterful team in 2024 and completing your first season in the gardens. The results of your industriousness and craftsmanship will be appreciated for years to come, and we hope to see more in '25.

As always, we extend our thanks to all who support us – dedicated directors, incredible volunteers, valued members, faithful donors, and everyone who visits and shares a kind word or invites a friend.

Spring Plant Sale

Our annual Spring Plant Sale, held on May 11th, was a huge success! We raised a net of \$7,283.17, thanks to the many plants – over 243 different cultivars! – that were grown and donated by 11 supporters. We thank them and our 10 volunteers who helped with sales setup and assistance during the sale.



HELP US CONTINUE TO GROW!

Please support the
Japanese Garden of Mind and Soul
with your donation today!

NPBGS
PO BOX 3031
FARGO, ND
58108-3031



Recent Activities and Events

Bonsai in the Garden

We hosted our second annual Bonsai in the Garden on September 7th at the Japanese Garden and Greenhouse. Vern Hunter gave a brief walking tour of the Japanese Garden to show updated features, and Terry Adams spoke about the history and practice of Japanese ornamental rock display, or Suiseki. Audrey Gilbraith directed the bonsai workshop inside the greenhouse, where 11 participants practiced training Bougainvillea plants into various styles within small bonsai pots. Refreshments were provided by Vern Hunter, and over 20 bonsai trees were displayed on the greenhouse patio by bonsai enthusiasts.



Scarecrows in the Garden and Fall Market

Thanks to all that attended this year's fantastic Scarecrows in the Garden and Fall Market event! We saw an increased attendance and many generous donations of decor, plants, baked goods, pumpkins, and 19 unique scarecrows. The scavenger hunt, zen gardens, and fish pond activities were a great hit with kids. Heart-n-Soul Community Cafe joined us again this year, serving up delicious harvest bowls and other hearty lunch options to attendees - Thanks Leola Dahl and crew! We are so appreciative to our donors and volunteers that helped make this event a success. In the end, we were able to garner over \$3,000 in funds to go towards the further development of our Japanese Garden.



Our First Fairy Fest!



NPBGS was very excited to partner with the Fargo Park District for our first ever Fairy Fest, which was held on May 25th at Northern Plains Botanic Garden and Yunker Farm Park. Families and friends explored the park and gardens with their kids and enjoyed these NPBGS-sponsored activities: Fairy Scavenger Hunt, Sidewalk Chalk Art, and Find Your Fairy Name. The Fargo Park District hosted kite flying, fun Fairy Crafts in the gazebo, free face

painting & hair tinsel, and provided 200 free pairs of kids' fairy wings. The Fargo Park District estimated over 600 kids attended with their families, so it was an overwhelming success. We look forward next May to co-hosting this annual event for the Wee Fairies!



The Northern Plains Farmers Market at West Acres



Another amazing season of The Market at West Acres has come to a close. We were honored to have returning fan-favorite vendors as well as new booths set up on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays this summer. Over the course of the season, our vendors offered a bountiful variety, including meats, seafood, produce, baked goods, canned goods, hot sauces, bath & body products, and more. Our sincere thanks go to West Acres for their continued partnership and generosity in bestowing the vendor fees to our cause. Thanks to all that shopped local and supported our vendors and the NPBGS booth!

A Visit from Mr. Masaru Aoki

Mr. Masaru Aoki, Japanese Doll Artisan of the Yoshitoku Dolls Company, Japan, re-visited the Northern Plains Botanic Garden, and the Japanese Garden, on July 31st while he was in Fargo doing doll restoration work on Miss Okayama, NDSU's Japan Friendship Doll. Mr. Aoki was part of the JACES delegation who gifted NPBGS our Hinamatsuri Doll collection in 2013. Board Members Julia Schott, Bee Mittleider, Barbara Villella, and Marissa Gapp gave the tour, along with Ann Braaten (second from right), who is the past curator of the Emily Reynolds Collection at NDSU and a colleague of Aoki-san.



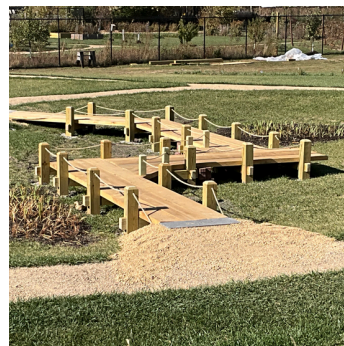
Japanese Garden Progress

It was another productive summer for the Japanese garden!

We began the planting phase, with a few shrubs and ground cover as budget permitted. We submitted a grant proposal to the ND Forestry Service for additional shrubs and trees to be planted in summer of '25. All planting follows the plan created by garden designer Sadafumi Uchiyama. **We will need volunteers for planting, watering, mulching, etc., if you or your organization is interested.**

We have also completed a zig-zag bridge, often found in Japanese Gardens.

Walk carefully and slowly on the bridge. Take time to pause and enjoy a new view at every turn as you walk among the irises. Turn off the noise, and maybe each new view is an opportunity for a better slant on life. Forget the nonsensical myth, that you lose the devil because he travels in straight lines. Just enjoy the bridge for what it is, and while you're there, appreciate the Japanese-style wood joinery of mortise and tenon with no nails or metal connectors.



The bridge was constructed by Quin Segal, our newest contract worker.

Garden Updates

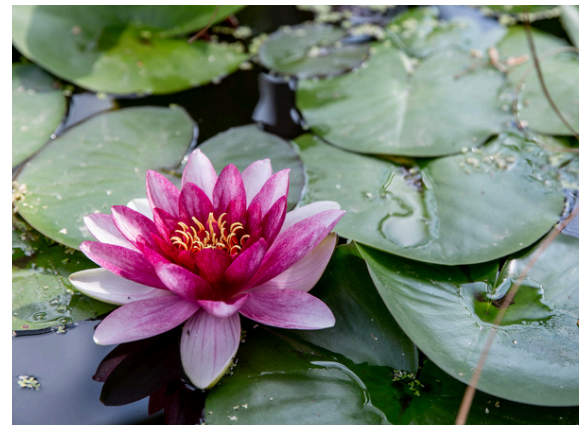
We have concluded another season with spectacular color displays throughout the garden. Our four paid gardeners, Lou, Gail, Don and Quin; assisted by volunteers Kim, Diana, Holly, Lisa, Cindy, Mary, Vern, Jim and Ruth watered, weeded, dead-headed, fertilized and replanted throughout the season to make this happen. This year both deer and a rampant rabbit population have been a challenge to even keeping plants available to bloom! Our gardens were further ravaged by the June flooding, requiring much replanting. The volunteer blue salvia seedlings -- free plants! -- were used to fill in our raised bed and bench garden near the greenhouse, and they looked beautiful through the entire growing season.

In addition to the regular garden maintenance, the crew developed and installed a secure donation box sign combined with a bulletin board and protective roof topped by succulent plants. The donation box was actually requested by some of our garden visitors and has proven to be a valuable addition. Later the group created a new circular Herb Garden that includes medicinal, culinary, and dye plants. A circular path was laid down inside the garden, with a center circle yet to be completed to include a possible bench and sundial. Laurie Somerville and Denise Quick helped with the design, selection of plants and planting. The Woodland Garden path was rebuilt thanks to grant support from the FM Area Foundation and the hard labor of Lou Worner, Don DuBord and Lisa Brown. Don DuBord also seeded a beautiful wildflower meadow on the hill of extra soil just north of the Japanese Garden, bringing to life an otherwise dreary hillside throughout the summer.



In September, the Fargo Park District notified NPBGS that the big red beach house near the greenhouse would be demolished. This required relocating our stored garden accessories and our two storage sheds. After much discussion the smaller shed was moved to the back of the greenhouse and the larger shed was relocated near the sand box area outside the mini golf course, with the help of Park District employees and equipment. Demolition of the beach house was done on October 17th.

We are sad to report that our contract gardeners Lou Worner and Gail Wanek will not return next year. Both Lou and Gail have done so much to make the gardens beautiful. Their garden knowledge, skills and creativity will be sorely missed. **Thank you, Lou and Gail, for your many years of dedicated work in the gardens.**



Thank you, Gail and Lou!

Big Thanks

Thank you, FM Area Foundation, for supporting NPBGS!



The Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society is very grateful for our grant this year from the FM Area Foundation for general operating support! Their grant support enabled us to grow and maintain the Northern Plains Botanic Garden, as well as to upgrade the Woodland Garden Pathway and construct the Zig Zag Bridge in the developing Japanese Garden.

Thank you, FM Area Foundation!

The FM Area Foundation is the community foundation created by and for the people of Cass County, North Dakota, and Clay County, Minnesota. The FM Area Foundation helps people give back to the community and ensures the needs of the community are addressed now and in perpetuity. Working in partnership with individuals, families, businesses and professional advisors, the FM Area Foundation manages charitable funds and provides grants to qualified nonprofit organizations and scholarships to students. The FM Area Foundation has been serving the community through philanthropy since 1960.



F-M Horticulture Society Donation & Memorial

We are honored to receive a generous donation from the F-M Horticulture Society as they conclude their organization's journey. As they disband, the group has chosen to donate their remaining treasury to NPBGS. This contribution, along with a few others, will total \$5,000, covering the cost of the first memorial bench in the Northern Plains Botanic Garden. F-M Horticulture Society members presented their donation at the greenhouse on Thursday, October 10th. A plaque commemorating their group will be installed on the Wisteria Bench. We are grateful for this incredible donation and commend their impact on local horticulture from 1977 to 2024.



NPBGS Receives Grant from Alex Stern Family Foundation

NPBGS received a grant in August for general operating support from the Alex Stern Family Foundation. This support has helped us to continue to grow, develop, and operate the numerous gardens at the Northern Plains Botanic Garden, such as the Edible Forest. In the Edible Forest we were able to plant additional trees and we converted an in-ground bed into an insulated raised bed, which will be planted next year with lingonberry and huckleberry plants. This support for our Fall tasks of deep irrigation, mulching, and rabbit fencing ensure that our Edible Forest will continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you, Alex Stern Family Foundation, for your support!



Red River Valley Garden Tour Donates Proceeds to NPBGS

NPBGS was very grateful to be the beneficiary of the Red River Valley Garden Tour's net proceeds! This was the second annual tour, held on July 17 & 18, and it included stops at five area home gardens, plus the Northern Plains Botanic Garden. NPBGS was proud to co-sponsor this annual event along with Baker Garden & Gift, NDSU/Extension Cass County, North Dakota Grape & Wine Association, and Mama Duck's Cleaning Service.

Members and Supporters

MEMBERSHIP

Anthony & Morgan Anderson
Margaret Anderson
Mary Beyer
Carly Bjornstad
Dean Coffman
Holly Crandall
Sara Watson Curry
Lana Fornes
Theresa Gross
Susan Heidenreich
James Hogness
Vern & DiAnn Hunter
Sharon James
Andrea Jensen
Alix Johnson
Tim & Rosi Kloberdanz
Brandi & Jason Malarkey
Dawn Mayo
Shirley McCaslin
Wilma Jean McDonald
Hazel Meidlinger
Lisa Meidlinger
William & Christine Martin
Karen Oby
Molly Phibbs
Nicole Pound
Muriel & Joe Richardson
Jamie Selzler
Laurie Somerville
Matt Sorenson
Ann Villanueva
Barbara Villella
Sherry Vining
Sheridan Wilson
Arielle Windham & Devin Gaugler
Jane Winston & Roger Grimm

BUSINESS CONTRIBUTIONS

Microsoft
Thrivent Financial

Contributions received 4/1/2024 through 10/29/2024

GRANTS

Alex Stern Family Foundation
FM Area Foundation
William & Anna Jane Schlossman Fund as recommended
by Brad & Carol Schlossman of the FM Area Foundation

MEMORIALS

John Zvirovski, *In Memory of Toni Pirkl*
John & Linda Schultz, *In Memory of Judy Nicholson*
Lisa Brown, *In Fond Memory of Joan Michalski*
Lisa Brown, *In Memory of Jason P. Larson*
Brent Christian, *In Memory of Patti Christian*
Barbara Green, *In Memory of Dianne M. Clark*
Steve & Lynelle Bossert, *In Memory of Anne Dalsted*
Bonnie Gates, *In Memory of Sandy Fischer*
Ann & Tom Riley, *In Memory of Joy Query*
Tom & Ann Riley, *In Memory of Sonja Ozbun*
F-M Horticulture Society, 1977 – 2024: *In Celebration and gratitude for their contributions to area gardeners for over 47 years.*
Ann & Tom Riley, *In Memory of Bucky Maughan*
Ann & Tom Riley, *In Memory of Mary Rose Griffin Ann & Tom Riley*, *In Memory of David Smette*
Steve & Lynelle Bossert, *In Memory of Donna Weatherly*

DONATIONS

Patricia Belknap	Lakes Region Garden Club
Alisa Bevins	Jane Lamont
Jackie Bortnem	Ola Lindell, Frey Inc.
Sarah Bosek	Sherry Mueller
Lisa Brown	Robert Mulder
Beth Cody	Karen Olson
Daniel & Frances Gilroy	Joyce Pettinger
Patricia & Ronald Grimson	Red River Valley Garden Tour
Kurt Haubrich	Ann & Tom Riley
Emily Hilgers	Linda Swanson
Vern & DiAnn Hunter	Nancy Valenzuela
Michelle Kliem	Linda Worner
Emily Kulland	John Zvirovski



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

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE

Return Service Requested

SAVE THE DATE

Tea Time
with
Flowers

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8 2025
El Zagal Shrine | 1429 3rd Street North | Fargo, ND
1:00 pm

The poster features a background image of a tea table set with various teacups, saucers, and a large floral centerpiece. The text is overlaid on this image.

GO GREEN THIS SPRING!

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS
To Grow Seedlings & Plants
in your home next spring!
No experience necessary - we will show you how!
Plants will be for our plant sale and the botanic garden.
If interested, please contact:
Don DuBord: 701-793-1165
the_grey_haired_guy@hotmail.com

The poster features a background image of several trays of green seedlings growing under a grow light. The text is overlaid on this image.