

**Northern Plains
Botanic Garden Society**



**2022
Annual Report**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we celebrate 25 years as an organization, the Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society continues to make progress towards goals that were set during the early part of our existence. We continue to see more of the public coming out to enjoy the gardens. There are several exciting things that we can look forward to in this upcoming year of 2023.

The Fargo Park District has hired a consultant to develop a master plan for Yunker Farm Park. Hopefully, when the plan is completed, it will address some of the facility issues that we deal with. We get requests for events in the gardens that are hard to fulfill without public restrooms. Also, we need office, meeting, and storage spaces. There will be more information as the master plan for the park is developed.

A goal for 2023 is to hire a person to help with administrative duties. Even though we have great volunteers that step up to take care of administrative duties, as we grow it has become a lot to ask of the volunteers. With the progress that is outlined for the Japanese Garden we will need someone to help with grant writing and fundraising. We are working on writing a job description and hopefully, if we have the resources, we can find someone to fill the position in 2023.

Many thanks to our contract gardeners who are dependable and take care of what needs to be done day to day. Also, thanks to the volunteers that come out to help in the gardens as well as to those who serve on committees and the board of directors. There is a place for everyone to help regardless of skill level.

So, look forward to another year of growth in the gardens both plant wise as well as physical.

Jerry Raguse, President
Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society



Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society
Profit & Loss
January through December 2022

	Jan - Dec 22
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
43400 · Direct Public Support	
43420 · Foundation/Grants	22,000.00
43450 · Business Contributions	6,616.49
43470 · Annual Membership Dues	7,975.00
43480 · Memorials	700.00
43490 · Donations	8,888.16
43495 · Japanese Garden Fund	26,460.00
	72,639.65
Total 43400 · Direct Public Support	
45000 · Investments	
45030 · Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	371.59
	371.59
Total 45000 · Investments	
46400 · Other Types of Income	
46430 · Miscellaneous Revenue	2,294.04
	2,294.04
Total 46400 · Other Types of Income	
47200 · Program Income	
47240 · West Acres Vendor Fees	6,860.00
47260 · West Acres Contract	14,000.00
47310 · Events - Revenue	
47310-1 · Non taxable Sales	979.00
47310-2 · Taxable Sales	353.50
47310 · Events - Revenue - Other	7,957.03
	9,289.53
Total 47310 · Events - Revenue	
47330 · Events - Donations	917.00
	31,066.53
Total 47200 · Program Income	
Total Income	106,371.81
Gross Profit	106,371.81
Expense	
60900 · Business Expenses	
60950 · Dues & Subscriptions	480.00
	480.00
Total 60900 · Business Expenses	
62100 · Contract Services	
62110 · Accounting Fees	700.00
62150 · Outside Contract Services	27,435.00
	28,135.00
Total 62100 · Contract Services	
62800 · Facilities and Equipment	
62840 · Garden Equip Rent & Maint	5,671.14
62880 · Bldg Repairs & Maintenance	481.93
62890 · Rent, Parking, Utilities	3,224.86
	9,377.93
Total 62800 · Facilities and Equipment	
63000 · Information Technology	
63210 · Stripe	186.34
63220 · Square fee	47.29
63300 · Website	324.00
63400 · Hardware/Software	452.94
	1,010.57
Total 63000 · Information Technology	

Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society
Profit & Loss
January through December 2022

	Jan - Dec 22
64000 · Program Expenses	
64100 · Events - Supplies	225.13
64150 · Events - Food	0.00
64175 · Events - Other Expenses	1,307.61
64200 · Public Relations & Advertising	1,769.22
64300 · West Acres Project Expenses	0.00
64400 · Gardening Expenses	5,607.44
64450 · Japanese Garden Expense	2,052.17
	<hr/>
Total 64000 · Program Expenses	10,961.57
65000 · Operations	
65020 · Postage, Mailing Service	744.43
65030 · Printing and Copying	4,763.76
65040 · Supplies	156.79
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Total 65000 · Operations	5,664.98
65100 · Other Types of Expenses	
65120 · Insurance - Liability, D and O	2,969.00
65160 · Other Costs	1,000.00
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Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses	3,969.00
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Total Expense	59,599.05
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Net Ordinary Income	46,772.76
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Net Income	46,772.76
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Northern Plain Botanic Garden Society

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2022

Dec.31, 2022

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

11100 · Bell State Checking 30,384.44

11101 · Petty Cash 114.00

11200 · Bell State Money Market Savings

11201 · Restricted Savings

11220 · Japanese Garden Fund 62,920.40

Total 11201 · Restricted Savings 62,920.40

11210 · Savings Unrestricted 13,981.47

11200 · Bell State Money Market Savings - Other 51,736.31

Total 11200 · Bell State Money Market Savings 128,638.18

11300 · Martha Lee Mem. Fund, Alerus CD 4,312.08

Total Checking/Savings 163,448.70

Total Current Assets 163,448.70

Fixed Assets

12120 · Depreciation -10,518.00

15000 · Furniture and Equipment 52,590.00

Total Fixed Assets 42,072.00

TOTAL ASSETS 205,520.70

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

30000 · Opening Balance Equity -570.00

32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets 159,317.94

Net Income 46,772.76

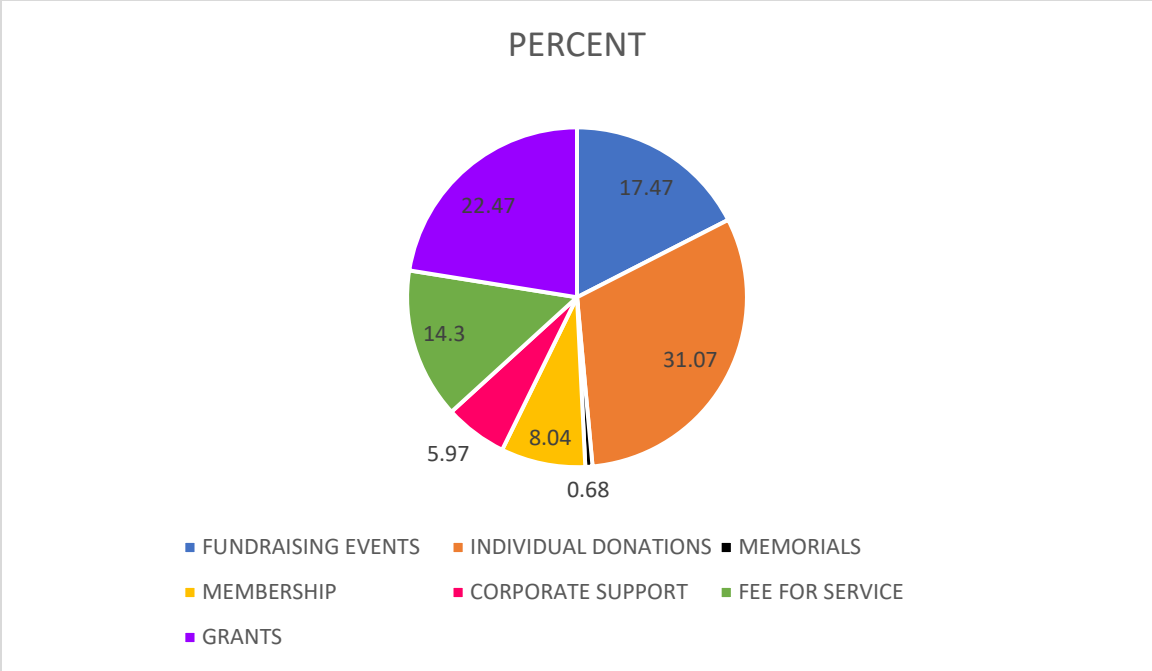
Total Equity 205,520.70

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 205,520.70

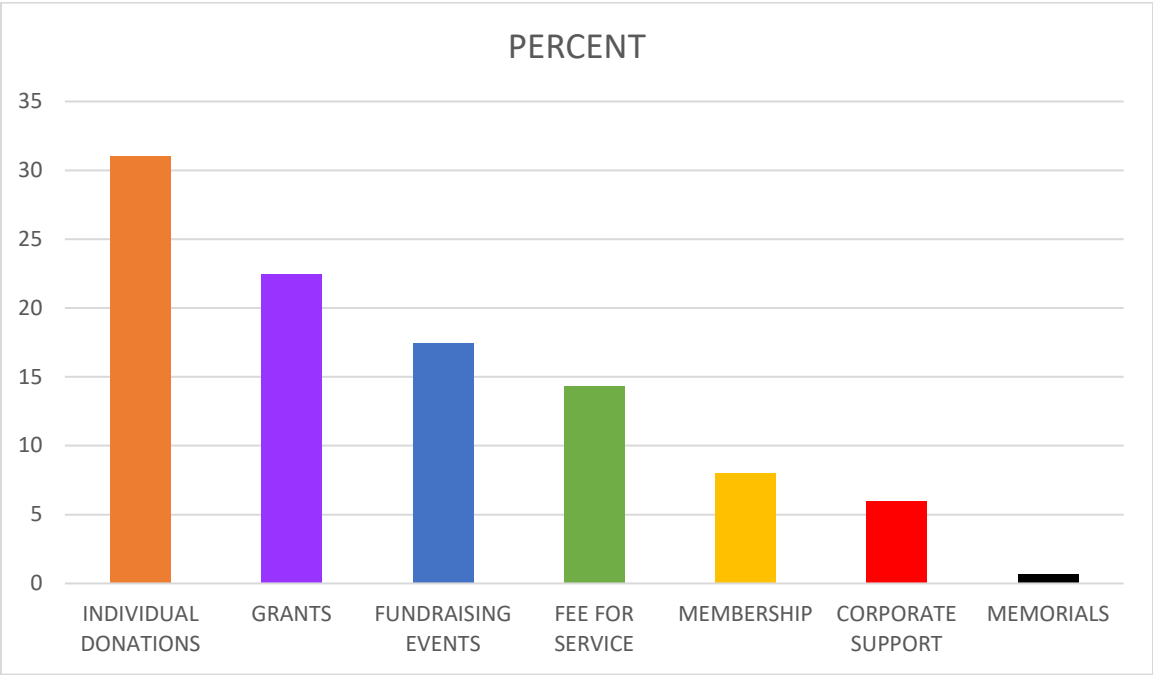
FINANCE

Our fundraising efforts this year included the *Spring Plant Sale* on May 14th, the *Scarecrows in the Garden* event on September 17th, the weekly Northern Plains Farmers Market at West Acres that is held annually from mid- June through October, and a Fall Fundraising Letter. We initiated a “silent” Japanese Garden Capital Campaign in July and created a “Giving Tuesday” fundraising campaign for Program Support on November 29th. We appealed for donor support via direct mail, social media, e-mails, and our Fall Newsletter. The West Acres Landscapes Project and The Market at West Acres provide NPBGS with additional support income throughout the year. We thank everyone who contributed their time, talent, and treasure to NPBGS. Spring Plant Sale and West Acres Market net funds were allocated for the Japanese Garden Fund. This list summarizes our 2022 income sources.

Fundraising Events:	Dollars
<i>Spring Plant Sale</i>	5,138.80
<i>West Acres Market Vendor Booth Fees & Sales</i>	8,000.00
<i>Scarecrows in the Garden</i>	3,959.92
Total Net Dollars, Fundraising Events:	17,098.72
Individual Donations:	
Fall Fundraising Letter: 18 donations	2,530.00
Individual Donations, Japanese Garden Campaign, 50 donations:	26,460.00
Individual Donations, Giving Tuesday Program Support Campaign:	1,425.00
Total Individual Donations, Direct Solicitations:	30,415.00
Memorial Donations: 24 donations	940.00
Memberships: 100 New or Renewing Membership payments (3 New Lifetime) <i>137 Current Members, including 11 Lifetime Members</i>	7,875.00
Corporate Support:	
West Acres Development, LLC	2,500.00
Bell Bank: <i>Edible Forest Project</i>	2,000.00
Microsoft Corporation: <i>Employee Match Program</i>	737.49
Bell Bank: <i>Pay It Forward, from Employee</i>	500.00
BNSF Railway Foundation: <i>Employee Match Program</i>	100.00
Dakota Fence: <i>Sponsor, Scarecrows in the Garden</i>	500.00
Wells Fargo Bank: <i>Blackbaud Giving Platform</i>	4.00
Total Corporate Support:	6,341.49
West Acres Landscapes Project:	14,000.00
Grants:	
William and Anna Jane Schlossman Fund, FM Area Foundation	1,000.00
FM Area Foundation, general operating support	4,000.00
FM Convention & Visitors Bureau, capital construction grant, Japanese Garden, 2023	15,000.00
Alex Stern Family Foundation, general operating support for 2023	2,000.00
Total Grant Support	22,000.00



NPBGs FUNDING INCOME IN 2022. Does not include investment income.



GARDEN AND OPERATIONS

The gardening year was another busy one for our contract gardeners and volunteers. We are very appreciative of all the improvements as well as maintenance they accomplished this year. Weeding, pruning, and dead-heading spent blooms are ongoing tasks that keep the garden looking its best.

The old, cracked pond by the bridge was replaced with a new, larger one. Some of the decaying log benches in the Woodland Garden and the small garden in front of the greenhouse were replaced with refurbished park benches.



The compost area was expanded. It yielded our first batch of finished compost. Some of this was used to amend the soil in the Rain Garden. From now on we can generate finished compost to amend soil in other gardens annually or as needed. To facilitate the

composting process, we purchased a grinder for woody plants as well as a light duty grinder for leaves and less fibrous plants. We also purchased other equipment and tools, including sturdy hand tools; a roller to compact and smooth gravel paths; and an Ecoflow portable power station with a solar panel charger.

New wildflowers, including wild strawberry, lady ferns, sedge, zig zag goldenrod, wild onion, and sarsaparilla were planted in the Woodland Garden. Also, numerous shrubs and a few sapling trees were planted in the Woodland Garden, including magnolia, yew, dogwood, viburnum, witch-hazel, mock orange, hydrangea, and a Northern Herald redbud. These additions are following a multi-year plan for diversifying the plants in the Woodland Garden (see Woodland Garden map, next page).



New plants were also added to the pollinator patch in the Edible Forest. The plants in this area are expanding and filling in open ground as they become established, providing more nectar for the pollinators. New fruiting plants added to the Edible Forest included a Trollhaugen seedless grape and a Norkent apple tree. The Norkent apple will be used for demonstration of espalier pruning. Turf was removed from the raspberry and blackberry areas, and landscape cloth plus bark mulch were added, to prepare this section of the Edible Forest for expansion in 2023. Also, the Japanese Dry Garden

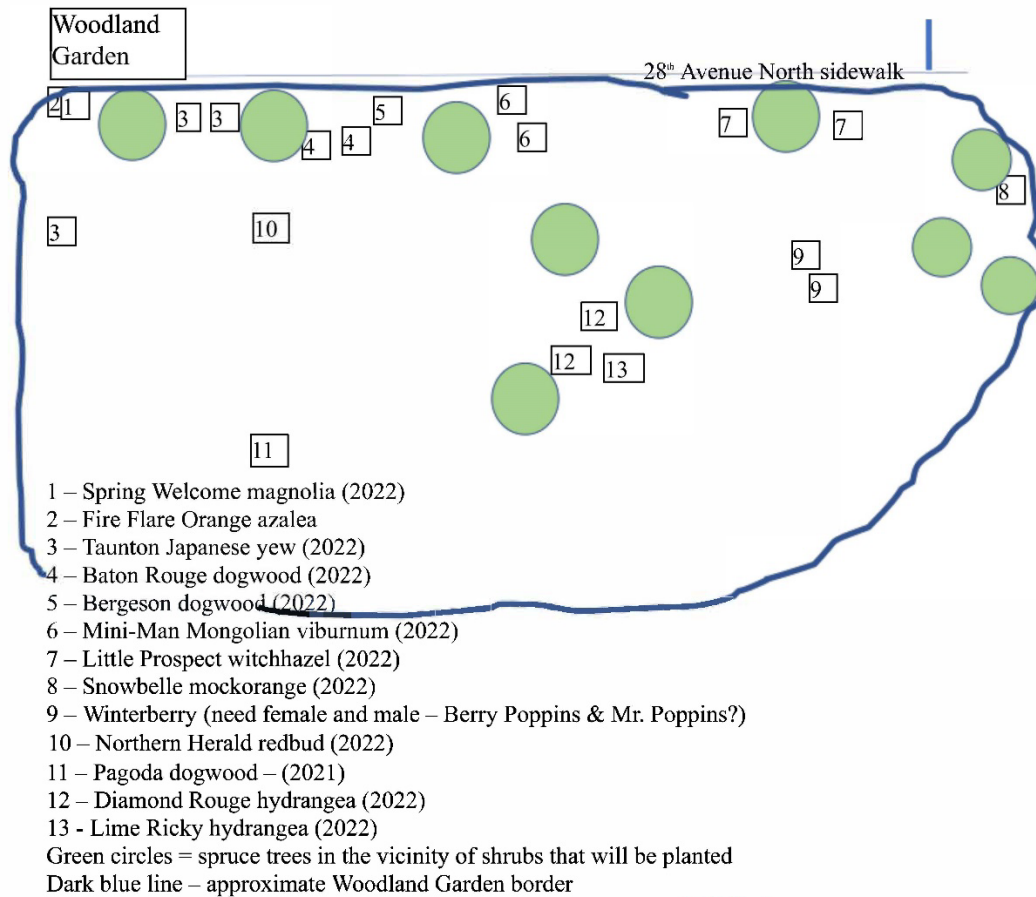
was planted with new azaleas, a burning bush, and dwarf Japanese juniper, and the flagstone pathway was leveled and repaired.

Most of the soil in the Children's Garden was amended with compost and manure. This helped to produce some outstanding plants and blooms throughout the season. We received many compliments from visitors for our colorful gardens.

We were able to expand our selection of jams, jellies, and juices for the West Acres Farmers Market by using aronia berries, raspberries, and chokecherries from the Edible Forest.

In preparation for the 2023 Spring Plant Sale, we potted up divisions of some of the perennials in the gardens that needed thinning. These pots were dug into the ground and can be brought into the greenhouse in early spring to speed up growth for a good display at the Spring Plant Sale.

It has been gratifying to be able to recycle our garden waste into a useful soil amendment and to see the results in stronger plants with more blooms. Also, we are excited to be able to divide existing plants to sell at our Spring Plant Sale as a way to help fund the gardens. And, of course harvesting fruits from the Edible Forest, to make and sell jams, jellies, and juice, also helps to support the botanic garden.



PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

NPBGS held its 24th Annual Meeting virtually via Zoom on March 15th. Dave Leker, Executive Director of the Fargo Park District, was our keynote speaker who gave a presentation about the upcoming Yunker Farm Master Plan process, the park's potential stake holders, and the possibility of making Yunker Farm a "destination site" (see Annual Meeting Minutes at the end of this report).

The annual display of NPBGS' Hina Matsuri Doll Collection was held at The Rourke Art Museum in Moorhead, MN, February 1ST – March 28th. Vern Hunter and Maurice Degrugillier installed the exhibit.

May was a busy month. The Spring Plant Sale, our popular annual fundraiser in support of the botanic garden, was held on May 14th. We also hosted a booth at the Dakota Horizons Girl Scouts' *Amplify Your Adventure* outdoor engagement event which was held at Viking Ship Park, Moorhead, MN, on the same date. NPBGS distributed *Make Your Own Seed Tape Kits* to about 30 girl scouts. Vern Hunter was invited as guest speaker at the May 17th meeting of the Valley Gardeners (NDSU Women's Club), held at Dakota Medical Foundation, Fargo. Vern spoke about the botanic garden, NPBGS, and the Japanese Garden plans. Also, NPBGS collected shelter belt soil at the botanic garden on May 27th and shipped the sample to a post-doctoral Fellow at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he will be studying climatic dependence, soil types, and the geographic extent of *Streptomyces* plant-microbe interactions with select plant species' roots. Our botanic garden was one of many botanic gardens asked for soil samples and we were pleased to help with this study.



We gave a number of botanic garden tours in the summer, including 3 formal group tours: Cheney Middle School's Science Camp kids learned about the botanic garden, the plants that grow there, and gardening challenges on June 15th (20 kids aged 11 – 13 and 3 adults); Kiwanis Rough Riders, 9 adults, toured the botanic garden on August 29th; and on September 11th the Messiah Lutheran Girl Scout Troop toured the botanic garden and learned about pollinators (10 girls ages 7 – 10 and 3 adults). A YMCA Youth Camp group of 42 kids and 6 adults from Fargo visited and informally toured the botanic garden on July 26th.

Edible Forest Tours led by Jim Walla were very popular, and several tours were held. There were five public tours (two on June 25th; one on July 27th; and one on August 25th), serving about 44 people. Also, there were some private tour groups including the Fargo Garden Society (June 28th), a Church Social Group (July 31st); a Small Encounter Group (August 18th); a group from Concordia College (August 30th); and a large group of Orchard Growers from the Hutterite Community (30 people, on September 16th). Approximately 100 additional people were served

via private group tours. Our Edible Forest is proving to be a valuable educational resource, both through these tours and our [Edible Forest Guide](#), and has informed and benefitted home owners, orchard growers, and local government employees from North Dakota and Minnesota who work in plant protection and environmental stewardship.

The Botanic Garden was utilized by a few groups for their own social events. The NDSU Women's Club Valley Gardeners held an afternoon Tea under the Grapevine Pergola on the Hummingbird Patio on June 26th, and 13 people attended.



The Red River Watercolor Society and the FM Visual Artists jointly attended their outdoor social at the botanic garden on August 4th. About 40 people attended.

We hosted our second annual *Scarecrows in the Garden and Fall Market* fundraising event at the botanic garden and greenhouse on September 17th. The Fargo Park District hosted a Community Engagement booth for the Yunker Farm Park Master Plan during the event, and Heart -n- Soul Community Café sold lunch items from their food

truck. Kids activities, including sidewalk chalk art and a mini cake walk were provided, and uniquely created scarecrows were on display and for sale. About 600 people attended.



As the growing season was ending, NPBGS invited *Hope Blooms*, a local nonprofit, to come to the botanic garden for our first *Fall Frost Flower Harvest* on October 5th. We invited their volunteers to enjoy and experience the botanic garden and to harvest flowers for use in their crafted bouquets which they gift to those in the community who need some cheer and good wishes via floral bouquets.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

NPBGS continued to promote our events and programs using social media, our two newsletters (Spring and Fall editions), and the www.npbgs.org website. The group Facebook page was the primary social media tool, with occasional posts on the formal Facebook page and Instagram account. In addition, e-mail announcements were sent to announce fundraising events and garden tours. Promoted events included: the Hina Doll Exhibit at the Rourke Art Museum; our 24th Annual Meeting and the 2021 Annual Report; Member of the Year Recipient; Gardenpalooza (NPBGS' booth); the Spring Plant Sale; The Market at West Acres; Scarecrows in the Garden and Fall Market event; Volunteer Group visits; Edible Forest and Botanic Garden Tours; our Giving Tuesday (Nov. 29th) and End of Year fundraising campaigns.



We refined the Japanese Garden promotional brochure which was created by the *Good for Nothing Marketing Team* in late 2021, and we created a Japanese Garden Capital Campaign folder. The Japanese Garden Capital Campaign was in a soft, silent phase in 2022 and was not publicly announced.

Snow Bird Media (Heather Patzner and Jamie Thompson) was contracted to help NPBGS promote The Market at West Acres and the Scarecrows in the Garden fundraising event (Sept. 17th). They created graphics, promotional cards, the website page for the Scarecrows event, and they developed a sign-up platform on the website for tracking Scarecrow event donations. Ms. Thompson also took photos of the gardens and the Scarecrow event.

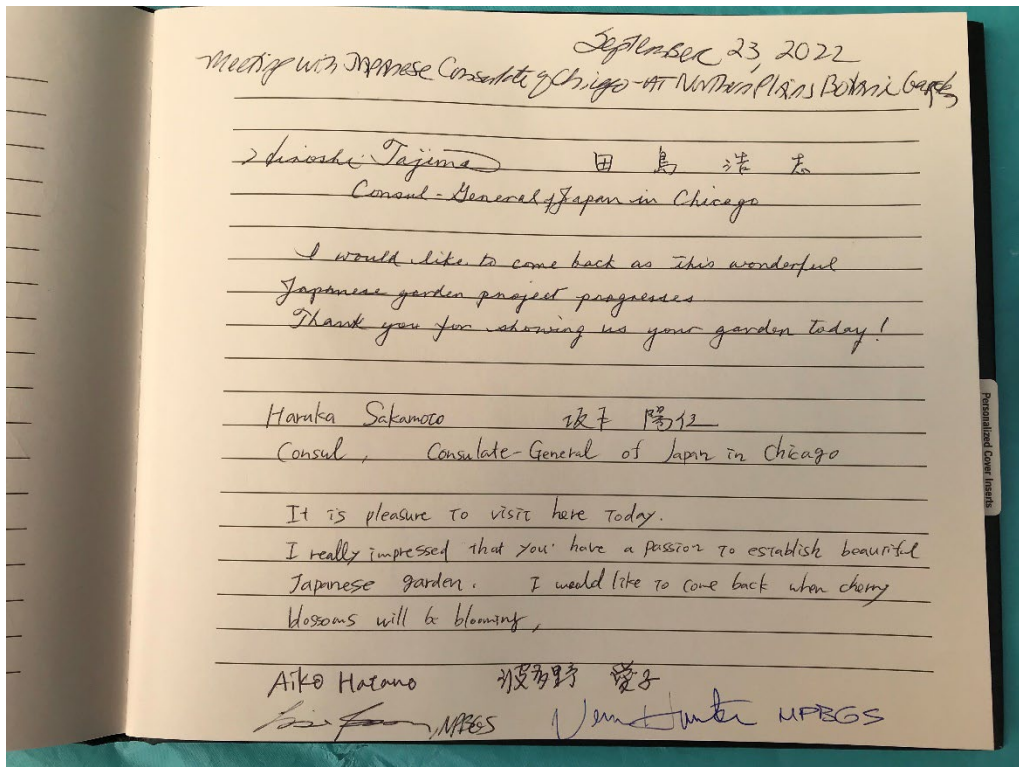
NPBGS received 3 media requests for information (Spotlight Media; AAA via FM Convention & Visitors Bureau; *Fargo Monthly*). In response, “press packet” general information was uploaded onto the Press Center of our website.

Our Northern Plains Botanic Garden was visited by Fargo Park District (FPD) officials in July and August. On July 8th, Dave Leker, Ex. Dir. of the Fargo Park District stopped by for an unannounced visit, and he was accompanied by newly elected Park Board Commissioner Aaron Hill. Lisa Brown gave them an informal tour of the Edible Forest and Children’s Garden and answered questions. Dawn Morgan, FPD Board President, and Bill Mahar, Norris Design Planner, met with Vern Hunter and Lisa Brown about NPBGS, the botanic garden, and the future plans for the Japanese Garden. Vern and Lisa gave Bill Mahar a brief tour of the botanic garden. Mr. Mahar is Lead Planner for the Yunker Farm Park Master Plan.



The Chicago Japanese Consulate expressed an interest in visiting the Northern Plains Botanic Garden and future Japanese Garden site after Vern Hunter wrote to them about the Japanese Garden project. Consul General Hiroshi Tajima and Economic Consul Haruka Sakamoto arranged with NPBGS to visit on September 23rd, in advance of their weekend attendance at Governor Doug Burgum’s “Celebration of Friendship of North Dakota and Japan” in Fargo (Sept. 23 – 25), which was a forum to promote Japan-North Dakota relations.

Vern Hunter, Lisa Brown, and Board Member Marissa Gapp gave a tour of the Japanese Garden site, the Dry Garden, and adjoining gardens, and showed them plans for the garden and the Japanese Garden Pavilion model. Ms. Aiko Hatano, Japanese Outreach Coordinator at Mayville State University, assisted with hospitality and local transportation. Linda Worner created beautiful Ikebana floral arrangements and boutonnieres for our visitors, and Anne Kaese wrote the graceful calligraphy on Welcome Cards for our visitors. As Vern Hunter wrote in the Fall 2022 edition of our *News and Views From The Gardens*: “...Consul General Tajima predicted that the NPBGS Japanese Garden of Mind and Soul will be the center of future Japanese activities in our area. We were pleased to welcome these dignitaries to our site. Their interest and the increasing importance of North Dakota’s energy and agricultural resources in the world emphasizes the potential significance of our Japanese Garden. We appreciate the Consulate representatives taking time from their busy schedule to visit us.”



MEMBERSHIP

NPBGS again focused on membership recruitment and retention during 2022. Contact with many lapsed members was received with mixed results. However, we gained 3 new lifetime members for a current total of 11. Total number of current members is 137. Many of our members increased their original membership level to the Flora level (\$100) per year, for which we are truly grateful. Often, a reminder from the Membership Committee is warranted to request a member to renew. Due to few program events in 2022, there were limited opportunities for recruitment of new members. It was anticipated that in 2022 that NPBGS would revise membership contribution levels, with the approval of the Board of Directors, but this task is on hold for a future time.

VOLUNTEERS

NPBGS is a volunteer-based organization with no paid staff and our volunteers are key to our development and success. We are grateful for all the work that our volunteers helped with in 2022, including the many “behind the scenes” efforts in preparing newsletters, maintaining databases, meeting with officials, helping in the Botanic Gardens, the Edible Forest, and the Japanese Garden. We salute our volunteers for all their efforts and their many hours contributed both seen and unseen. Naturally, we always need many more volunteers, and we appreciate receiving inquiries as to volunteer opportunities within the organization. The Volunteer Committee endeavors to promptly pursue and match inquiries with the individual’s interests and to connect them with the appropriate contact person. NPBGS encourages our members to consider one of the many volunteering opportunities that are listed on our website and to contact us to join in our efforts! Below is a glimpse at some of the volunteer work accomplished in 2022:

Northern Plains Botanic Garden: 21 Volunteers, 600 Hours

General Administrative Work (Finance, Membership, PR): 10 Volunteers, 1241 Hours

Board of Directors Meetings: 9 Members + 3 Volunteers, 104 Hours

Spring Plant Sale: 13 Volunteers, 241 Hours

West Acres Plant Scape Design: 16 Volunteers, 182 Hours

Scarecrows in the Garden: 16 Volunteers, 210 Hours

The Market at West Acres: 2 Volunteers, 126 Hours

Programs and Events: 16 Volunteers, 319 Hours

Edible Forest: 1 Volunteer, 158 Hours

Total documented Volunteer Hours: 3,181

*We thank our volunteers from
KAJ Hospitality and Baker Garden & Gift
who so generously gave their time to volunteer
at the Northern Plains Botanic Garden in
2022!*



NPBGS COMMITTEES IN 2022

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Jerry Raguse, President; Joshua Cook, Vice President; Teresa Jesten, Secretary;
Ruth Morton, Treasurer

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Lisa Brown and Ruth Morton

GARDEN AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Ruth Morton and Jerry Raguse, Co-Chairs; Lisa Brown, Joshua Cook, Bill Fradet, Vern Hunter,
Jim Walla, Lou Worner

ARBORETUM (Ad hoc, Garden and Operations Committee)

Jim Walla, Vern Hunter, Maurice Degrugillier, Don DuBord

JAPANESE GARDEN (Ad hoc, Garden and Operations, Finance, and Programs)

Vern Hunter, Chair; Lisa Brown, Elly Heinz, Cynthia Herfindahl, Joyce Pettinger

SPRING PLANT SALE (Ad Hoc, Garden and Finance Committees)

Don DuBord, Chair; Lisa Brown, Maurice Degrugillier, Ruth Morton, Lou Worner,
Barbara Vilella

MEMBERSHIP/VOLUNTEER/NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ann Riley, Chair; Jackie Jones, Darlene Rogers

PROGRAM AND EVENTS COMMITTEE

Lisa Brown, Bill Fradet, Marissa Gapp, Elly Heinz, Cynthia Herfindahl, Joyce Pettinger,
Denise Quick

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Matt Sorenson, Chair; Lisa Brown, Audrey Cook, Marissa Gapp, Barbara Vilella

NPBGS thrives through the support of its volunteers. New members for our committees are very much welcome! For Volunteer Inquiries, Contact: info@npbotanicgarden.com or signup via our website: <https://www.npbgs.org/volunteer>.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN 2022

Jerry Raguse, President (2018 – 2021; elected President, 2020; 2021-2024)

Joshua Cook, Vice President (2020 – 2023; elected Vice President, 2020)

Teresa Jesten, Secretary (2020 – 2022; elected Secretary, 2020; 2022 - 2025)

Ruth Morton, Treasurer (2009 – 2014; 2018 – 2021; 2021 - 2024) *

Mary Beyer (2020 – 2023)

Marissa Gapp (2020 – 2021; 2021 - 2024)

Barbara Vilella (2019 – 2022; 2022 – 2025)

Matt Sorenson (2019 – 2022; 2022 – 2025)

Ann Riley (2001 – 2007; 2018 – 2020; 2020 - 2023)

*Treasurer Departed Board at term end in March; rejoined Board Mid-Year, 2021; elected Treasurer at the March 2022 Board Meeting.

Board Members are elected by the Membership in March at the Annual Meeting.
Officers are Board-elected. Vacant Seats not filled through the election can be Board-appointed.

NORTHERN PLAINS BOTANIC GARDEN SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 3031 FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA 58108-3031
info@npbotanicgarden.com * www.npbgs.org

Civitati Faventes Horti
The Mission of the Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society is
to establish a botanic garden, conservatory, and arboretum in the Fargo-Moorhead area.
...Promoting Community through Gardening Since 1998...

**MINUTES of the 2022 ANNUAL MEETING
NORTHERN PLAINS BOTANIC GARDEN SOCIETY**

**March 15, 2022
via Zoom Meeting**

NPBGS Members Participating:

Board Officers: Jerry Raguse-President; Joshua Cook, Vice President; Ruth Morton, Treasurer; Teresa Jesten, Secretary; Board of Directors: Barb Villella, Mary Beyer, Ann Riley, Matt Sorenson; NPBGS Members: Darlene Rogers, Gail Wanek, Linda Anderson, Lisa Brown, Tom Riley, Jim Walla, Lou Worner, John Zvirovski, Mary Leff, Nancy Johnson, and Daniel Johnson. Guests: Aiko Hatano, Jen Walla, and Keynote Speaker Dave Leker, Executive Director of the Fargo Park District.

President Jerry Raguse welcomed guests and members in attendance and explained the changes that will occur during the zoom meeting. The board is hoping that we will be able to resume an in person meeting next year. Matt Sorenson introduced Dave Leker, Executive Director of Fargo Park District, as our keynote speaker. Dave discussed the Park District's mission to improve the lifestyle of the community through a comprehensive system of parks and programs. He discussed the partners, the future of Yunker Farm Park, and then opened it up for questions. Mr. Leker was thanked for his presentation about the future Master Plan for Yunker Farm Park.

President Jerry Raguse called the annual meeting to order at 7:27p.m.

2021 Annual Report

President Raguse announced that the report was complete and was available to view and download via the NPBGS website at www.npbgs.org .

2021 Annual Meeting Minutes

The Minutes from the March 9th, 2021 Annual Meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Ann Riley that they be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Linda Anderson, all were in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ruth Morton presented the 2021 Income and Expense Statement. The report showed total assets, liability, and equity of \$162,245.00. We have a positive balance and despite COVID-19 had a great year. We held the Spring Plant Sale, and the Market at West Acres was a HUGE success. A motion was made by Teresa Jesten to approve the financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Mary Beyer with all in favor.

President's Recap

President Jerry Raguse reminded everyone that the annual report is available on the website and thanked Lisa Brown for all her hard work and information gathered for the report. He went on to mention the year was full of challenges, but we've been resilient and growing the garden and the organization. There have been several improvements to the garden including handrails and the flagstone path.

Recognition of Departing Board Members

Teresa Jesten recognized Joshua Cook who is stepping down from his position as Vice President at this time. He will be leaving the board as soon as a replacement can be found. She thanked Joshua for serving as Vice President, and said that we appreciate his time, ideas, and his dedication to the growth of the gardens.

Call for Nominations

Board nominations and elections were made by Teresa Jesten. There is one open position on the board. Teresa Jesten made a call for nominations from the floor three times. There being no nominations from the floor, the nominations ceased.

Awards

Audrey Cook was named 2021 Member of the Year. Ann Riley displayed the plaque for all to see and mentioned that it and a book will be given to Audrey in person in the near future, along with an award check courtesy of Founding Member Chiwon Lee, at a photo op. Audrey has put in many hours behind the scenes with work on our website and provided many ideas to better the social media aspect of the gardens.

Open Discussion

Jerry Raguse opened the meeting up to discussion, questions and suggestions. Lisa Brown nominated Ruth Morton to be reinstated as treasurer on the board. Ann Riley seconded the motion and all were in favor. Ann Riley reminded everyone of the Hina Doll exhibit on display at the Rourke Art Museum in Moorhead until March 27th. She also mentioned that a date has been set for the Spring Plant Sale. The sale will be May 14th 8am-1pm at the Greenhouse.

Adjourn

There being no further business a motion to close the business meeting was made by Lisa Brown and seconded by Matt Sorenson. Meeting concluded at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Teresa Jesten, Secretary