

**Northern Plains
Botanic Garden Society**



2019

Annual Report

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After serving two years as President of the Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society, I was reminded of the amount of work required if we are to move forward. My first recommendation is that the Board look toward hiring an Executive Secretary. The Board can't do it all and the Executive Committee can't do the work that is required. I also recommend hiring one additional part time staff person in the garden. The intent is not to take work away from the Executive Committee or Board, but to expand the things we are doing now: public relations, donor contact, fund-raising, work with volunteers, create active committees, Board development, etc.

This was a good year for the Gardens after heavy rains throughout the summer. Flowers were brilliant about mid-summer and the increasing number of visitors were generous in their praise for the gardens' beauty and maintenance. It was that same moisture, unfortunately, that cut the fall season short, prematurely ending our work and the viewing season. We look forward to next summer and new initiatives.

We should remember however, that we are about more than just flowers, and our contributions to the surrounding area are many. Every year we contribute several thousand pounds of vegetables to the Food Pantry. Informative workshops and programs are sponsored. The Edible Forest will provide information about local fruit, berry and nut plants as well as being a source of food products. We manage plants in the calming atmosphere of the Sanford Neuroscience Clinic Atrium. We sponsor Hina Matsuri annually which in Japan is a girl's day celebration. We assist West Acres in managing a summer market of locally-produced products and by landscaping the interior and exterior planters. Our popular Fairy Garden and Dry Garden are unique in a style of landscape without flowers.

The flowers are beautiful too!

We do a lot, and it takes a lot to keep it all going. We require memberships, volunteers, funding and appreciation by the public for what we do. Public support is crucial.

Vern Hunter, President
Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society

NORTHERN PLAINS BOTANIC GARDEN SOCIETY
PROFIT AND LOSS
January Through December 2019

Ordinary Income/Expense	Jan - Dec 2019
Income	
43400 · Direct Public Support	
43420 · Foundation Contributions	47,270.00
43450 · Individ, Business Contributions	10,133.86
43470 · Annual Membership Dues	4,333.77
43480 · Memorials	125.00
43490 · Donations	24,513.37
43400 · Direct Public Support - Other	2,110.00
Total 43400 · Direct Public Support	88,486.00
45000 · Investments	
45030 · Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	441.84
Total 45000 · Investments	441.84
46400 · Other Types of Income	
46430 · Miscellaneous Revenue	475.50
46440 · Recycling	9.74
Total 46400 · Other Types of Income	485.24
47200 · Program Income	
47260 · West Acres Contract	9,900.00
47270 · Workshop Tuition	381.84
47300 · Events - Ticket Sales	1,959.00
47310 · Events - Revenue	10,444.61
47320 · Events - Sponsorships	1,000.00
47330 · Events - Donations	717.50
Total 47200 · Program Income	24,402.95
Total Income	113,816.03
Gross Profit	113,816.03
Expense	
60900 · Business Expenses	
60920 · Business Registration Fees	10.00
60950 · Dues & Subscriptions	160.00
Total 60900 · Business Expenses	170.00
62100 · Contract Services	
62150 · Outside Contract Services	14,181.00
Total 62100 · Contract Services	14,181.00
62800 · Facilities and Equipment	
62840 · Equip Rental and Maintenance	1,395.89
62880 · Repairs & Maintenance	2,768.60
62890 · Rent, Parking, Utilities	1,250.09
Total 62800 · Facilities and Equipment	5,414.58
63000 · Information Technology	
63210 · Stripe	43.96
63220 · Square fee	5.85
63300 · Website	980.00
63400 · Hardware/Software	1,696.72
63500 · Merchant Service Fee	1,995.87
63600 · Credit Card Equipment Rental	1,139.48
Total 63000 · Information Technology	5,861.88

64000 · Program Expenses	
64100 · Events - Supplies	639.26
64150 · Events - Food	1,537.22
64175 · Events - Other Expenses	2,478.73
64200 · Public Relations & Advertising	2,633.10
64300 · West Acres Project Expenses	2,800.46
64400 · Gardening Expenses	89,770.02
Total 64000 · Program Expenses	99,858.79
65000 · Operations	
65020 · Postage, Mailing Service	389.95
65030 · Printing and Copying	1,771.37
65040 · Supplies	261.36
65060 · Bank Service Charges	66.00
Total 65000 · Operations	2,488.68
65100 · Other Types of Expenses	
65120 · Insurance - Liability, D and O	2,322.00
65100 · Other Types of Expenses - Other	-1,278.60
Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses	1,043.40
Total Expense	129,018.33
Net Ordinary Income	-15,202.30
Net Income	-15,202.30

ACCOUNT BALANCES

As of December 31, 2019

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

11100 · Bell State Checking	71,075.90
11200 · Bell State	
Money Market	
Savings 11201	
· Restricted	
Savings	
11220 · Japanese Garden Fund	8,714.60
11221 · Dry Garden in JG	2,704.96
11235 · Garden Intern Fund	1,640.00
11240 · Memorial for Alma T. Tucker	225.00
11250 · Iris Garden-Irene Rust Memorial	1,164.00
Total 11201 · Restricted Savings	14,448.56
11210 · Savings Unrestricted	13,685.06
11200 · Bell State Money Market Savings - Other	511.45
Total 11200 · Bell State Money Market Savings	28,645.07
11300 · Martha Lee Mem. Fund, Alerus CD	4,191.36
Total Checking/Savings	103,912.33
Total Current Assets	103,912.33
TOTAL ASSETS	103,912.33

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	119,114.63
Net Income	-15,202.30
Total Equity	103,912.33
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	103,912.33

FINANCE

NPBGS was actively engaged in raising funds, primarily for the Edible Forest Project, in 2019. Many helped with fundraising, including our subcommittees: the Edible Forest Task Force, Tea Time at the Atrium Committee and the Spring Plant Sale Committee. In addition to our fundraising events, we actively solicited public donations and foundation grants. We are grateful to all who contributed their time, talent and treasure to NPBGS. Here is a summary of our 2019 income sources:

Fundraisers:

<i>Tea Time at the Atrium:</i>	\$3,404.43
<i>Edible Forest Kickoff Raffle</i>	\$ 191.00
<i>Spring Plant Sale</i>	\$3,721.45
<i>Forest Faire</i>	\$ 689.84
<i>FM Area Foundation Caring Catalog, Pathway Project</i>	\$ 575.00
Fall Fundraising Letter: 18 donations	\$2,595

Memberships: 73 New or Renewing Membership payments

90 Individual Members:	\$4,324.36
Total Individual Donations: 61 Donors donated	\$22,595

Northern Plains Farmers Market at West Acres:

Vendor Fees	\$4625
Flowers/Grapes/Jelly	\$ 568
West Acres Landscapes Project:	\$9,900

Corporate Support:

Doosan Bobcat, <i>Event Sponsor of Forest Faire</i>	\$1,000
Bell Bank, <i>Pay it Forward</i>	\$1,000
Bell Bank, <i>Edible Forest Project</i>	\$2,000
West Acres Development, LLP, <i>Edible Forest Project</i>	\$2,500
Microsoft, <i>Employee Donor Match Program</i>	\$ 929.16

Edible Forest Project Campaign (2018 – 2019):

Individual and Corporate Support, \$33,991.43; Grants, \$46,218.49
Total Funds Raised through 2019: \$80,209.92

Children's Garden Accessible Pathway Campaign

FMAF Caring Catalog, \$575; FMAF Incentive Match, \$350; Individual Donation, \$250
Total Funds Raised through 2019: \$1,175

Grants Funded:

ND Outdoor Heritage Fund, *Edible Forest Project*, \$29,814
William and Anna Jane Schlossman Fund, FM Area Foundation, *Operating Support*, \$1,426
Fargo Park District Foundation, *Laying the Foundation for an Edible Forest*, \$15,000
Fargo North High School Philanthropy and Youth Group, *Plant Signs for Edible Forest Project*, \$700
Fargo Moorhead Area Foundation, *Caring Catalog Incentive Match, Accessible Pathway Project*, \$350

Grants Not Funded:

MDU Resources, “*Planting an Edible Forest to Enrich our Environment for a Healthier Community*”, \$7,774; FM Area Foundation, Community Building Grant, “*Edible Forest*”, \$15,000; Network for Good, Online Grant Application, “*Edible Forest*”, \$1,000

Grant Submitted in 2019, Request To Be Funded in 2020:

Fargo Park District Foundation, “*Fostering Garden Usability and Accessibility*”, \$6,405 Match Grant

GARDENS and OPERATIONS

This has been a busy year for the Garden/Operations Committee. Perennials and Shrubs were planted in the Dry Garden in front of the Japanese gate, The Edible Forest took shape with paths installed, planting beds outlined with bullet brick, grass areas seeded and hazelnut bushes and raspberries planted. The entire area, along with the Children’s Garden was fenced in with eight-foot chain link fence. Sorry deer and rabbits!

The Children’s Garden (formerly called The Alphabet Garden) and the Sensory Garden were improved with more plantings of perennials and annuals throughout. We also repurposed the old boxed planting beds along the East side to grow cut flowers for the Farmer’s Market at West Acres. The bouquets and also our own grape jelly were sellouts on Saturdays. We thank Lou Worner for the beautifully assembled bouquets. Plans were made to make the garden paths ADA-accessible, to match the Edible Forest paths. This project will be implemented in 2020.

The Woodland Garden’s new picnic patio was planted with hosta and other shade-tolerant plants to blend it into its surroundings. It was decided to move the Fairy Garden out of the Woodland Garden and place it in a space near the Children’s Garden. This project will take place in 2020.

The greenhouse plantings and the Chrysanthemum Garden put on a spectacular display to greet visitors to our beautiful gardens throughout the season. We look forward to another productive and colorful year in 2020.

PROGRAMS

NPBGS started the year with a fun *Conversations and Cocoa* social gathering at the Atrium on January 26th. About 30 people attended, including 6 children, who enjoyed cocoa and refreshments while seeing the plans for the Edible Forest and having their photographs taken with our promotional photo frame.

Our 21st Annual Meeting was held on March 12th at the Atrium. Tim Chapman, CEO of the International Peace Garden, spoke on: *The International Peace Garden: What’s Next?* (see Minutes of the Annual Meeting, end of this report).

The *Hina Matsuri* were hosted and displayed by the Fargo-Moorhead Convention and Visitors

Bureau in Fargo during March. Although there was insufficient space to host a reception, we were grateful to the Bureau for hosting our Japanese Doll collection for all to enjoy.

We held a number of fundraisers with engaging programmatic elements. Our February 9th *Tea Time at the Atrium* featured our first Tea Hat Contest which engaged and challenged attendees to wear fun hats. Gardeners sought answers to questions and advice at the May 11th *Spring Plant Sale* at the NPBGS Greenhouse. The *Edible Forest Kickoff* on April 30th at the Rourke Art Museum, Moorhead, MN, featured a panel discussion about the future Edible Forest and the benefits it will provide our community. Our first *Forest Faire*, held on September 28th at the Northern Plains Botanic Garden, featured a number of speakers on topics such as processing and preparing foods (pickles; kombucha; edible flowers) and gardening (pollinators; garden ecology; preparing the garden in the fall for winter). Also, Jim Walla and Dan Johnson did some demonstration tree plantings in the Edible Forest, and answered questions about caring for trees and the Edible Forest.

We hosted a few programs at the NPBGS Greenhouse. On April 20th *Make Your Own Seed Tape* activity was held for kids during The Children's Museum at Yunker Farm's annual *Eggstravaganza* event. Kids were taught how to make their own seed tape using *Zinnia* seeds, paper, and paste. A *Draped Cement Planter Workshop* was held on May 28th, and participants were able to experiment with hypertufa texture and design in making unique outdoor planters. Also, we hosted Eric Bergeson's Fargo portion of his *North Dakota Tour* on June 15th. He spoke about some common gardening problems in our area, and answered many questions from an audience of about 50.

A few workshops were held in the Community Room at West Acres Mall, Fargo. Ina Lyon taught a *Miniature Fairy Garden Workshop* for both children and adults on August 24th. Participants were provided materials and guidance in making their own 1/12th scale fairy garden scene. An *Herbal Stocking Stuffer Workshop* was taught by Denise Quick, who taught attendees how to make herbal lip balm, herbal bath tea, and herbal culinary salts. We are grateful to West Acres for the use of their Community Room. In addition, we held a *Holiday Tree Topper Workshop*, taught by John Zvirovski, at the Atrium on November 30th. Workshop participants learned how to create an outdoor spruce arrangement with mixed greens, pine cones, and birch branches.

NPBGS continued to assist with the *Northern Plains Farmers Market at West Acres*. We organized a few programs, including a *Paint a Pot* activity for kids on July 13th, and *Healthy Cooking Demonstrations* held on August 10th, which showed the public how to cook local produce, using food at the market, for healthy meals. A *Paint a Pumpkin* activity in October had to be cancelled due to inclement weather.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

NPBGS began 2019 with the launch of our new website, after working much throughout 2018 to fix various problems of the associated software of the redesign. Work on the website continued throughout the year to fix donor and member notification communications, and to streamline online payments.

We finished the design of the new brochure and held a photo contest, from which three photos were selected for brochure use. Also, a new membership form was created. The new brochures were updated with the new membership form, and were printed for distribution in May.

We realized the need for improved visibility for our organization, so we worked on developing promotional items with our logo. New organization business cards were created which can be personalized with a user's contact information, and bulk group cards were printed for promotional use. Also, a new free-standing NPBGS banner was designed, printed, and had its inaugural use at the *Edible Forest Kickoff* promotional event held at the Rourke Art Museum in Moorhead, MN in April. For increased visibility and safety, we purchased vests with our logo for volunteer use at outdoor events. Volunteers were able to use the vests at the *Northern Plains Farmers Market at West Acres* and at *Forest Faire* at the Northern Plains Botanic Garden.

Although we produced just one newsletter this past year, we did add news content on our website. Also, we increased the frequency of our e-mail communications and switched to Mailchimp, with a standard format and helpful tools for layout and e-mail list management. We hope our biweekly e-mails will facilitate our communications and keep our members and volunteers informed about NPBGS events. NPBGS continues to use two Facebook accounts: one official account for promoting NPBGS events, programs and activities, and a second group account for informal open sharing of horticultural, gardening, and natural science information and events.

A few of our members had public speaking engagements to promote the Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society, the Northern Plains Botanic Garden, and our Edible Forest project (at FM Sustainability Network Gathering, Quota International, and Moorhead Rotary).

One very exciting development this past year was the creation of a *Virtual Garden Tour* of the Northern Plains Botanic Garden! Online visitors can visit this link to see how the gardens looked during the summer: <https://tours.bemorecolorful.com/v/73pzOpvJjM2>. We are grateful to Matthew Chaussee and Be More Colorful (www.bemorecolorful.com) for their creation and development of this virtual garden tour. We thank Barbara Villella for facilitating the connection and work with Be More Colorful. Our next big project is in process, which is the editing of some drone footage of the gardens, which we hope to complete in 2020.

MEMBERSHIP

This past year continued to have its challenges for sustaining members for NPBGS. There was a decline in 2019 from 94 to 70 memberships comprising 90 members. We gained two Life Time members for a total of 4, and we have 2 organizations as members. However, we anticipate a healthy increase during 2020 because of all the new and exciting endeavors that will be happening at the garden site. The Membership Committee again focused on membership recruitment and retention. Ideas have been discussed to partner with local nurseries and florists for incentives (e.g., small discount on purchases) to encourage people to become a member. The committee also made contact with many lapsed members, with mixed results. With a website that is now operating well for people to sign up as a member, we are hopeful that we will gain several

new members in 2020. Membership contributions for 2019 comprised 73 payments (3 duplicate membership payments) totalling \$4,324.36.

VOLUNTEERS

We salute our volunteers for all that they did in 2019, and continue to accomplish, in the gardens, at the Sanford Neuroscience Clinic Atrium, the Northern Plains Farmer's Market at West Acres, the West Acres Plant Scape Design, and at our fundraising events: the *Spring Plant Sale*, *Forest Faire*, and the annual *Tea Time at the Atrium*. Being a volunteer-based organization we greatly appreciate the many hours contributed, both seen and unseen, for the Society. Volunteers report their monthly volunteer hours on a form to this committee, but a better system is currently being devised to record/account for the volunteer hours. This information will then be readily available for the organization.

Here is a snapshot of some of our volunteer efforts in 2019:

Edible Forest Project: 11 Volunteers, 396 reported volunteer hours

Atrium Plant Care Project at Sanford Neuroscience Clinic: 5 volunteers, 150 volunteer hours

Northern Plains Farmers Market at West Acres: 6 Volunteers, 319 volunteer hours

West Acres Plantscape Design Project: 10 Volunteers, 194 reported volunteer hours

NPBGS COMMITTEES FOR 2019

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Vern Hunter, President; Jerry Raguse, Vice President; Barbara Villella, Secretary;
Ruth Morton, Treasurer

ARBORETUM COMMITTEE

Vern Hunter, Chair; Jim Anderson, Maurice Degrugillier, Sam Demarais, Mindy Grant de
Herrera, Jim Hanson, Dale Herman, Dan Johnson, Brandi Malarkey, Caroline McGuire, Jim
Walla, Todd West

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Lisa Brown, Chair; Vern Hunter, Ina Lyon, Brandi Malarkey, Barbara Villella

EDIBLE FOREST TASK FORCE (Ad Hoc, Finance Committee)

Brandi Malarkey, Chair; Lisa Brown, Marissa Gapp, Mindy Grant, Caroline McGuire, Shannon
Renfrow, Barbara Villella

TEA TIME at THE ATRIUM (Ad Hoc, Finance Committee) Ann Riley, Chair; Lisa Brown,
Felicia Cooper, Ruth Morton, Naomi Nakamoto, Joyce Pettinger, Loretta Wickie

SPRING PLANT SALE (Ad Hoc, Garden and Finance Committees) Don DuBord, Chair;
Lisa Brown, Maurice Degrugillier, Ruth Morton, Lou Worner

MEMBERSHIP/VOLUNTEER/NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ann Riley, Chair; Marie Dill, Jackie Jones, Shirley Manning, Darlene Rogers

OPERATIONS and GARDEN COMMITTEE

Ruth Morton and Jerry Raguse, Co-Chairs; Lisa Brown, Vern Hunter, Maurice Degrugillier,
Lou Worner

PROGRAM AND EVENTS COMMITTEE

Bill Fradet and Arielle Windham, Co-Chairs; Elly Heinz, Cynthia Herfindahl, Denise Quick

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Brandi Malarkey, Chair; Tori Anderson, Lisa Brown, Matt Sorenson, Barbara Villella, Arielle
Windham

NPBGS thrives through the support of its volunteers. We need and welcome new members for
our committees. Contact info@npbotanicgarden.com to volunteer. Thank you!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN 2019

Vern Hunter, President (prior Board service: 2003-2008; March, 2018 – March, 2020)

Jerry Raguse, Vice President (March, 2018 – March, 2021)

Barbara Vilella, Secretary (March, 2019 – March, 2022)

Ruth Morton, Treasurer (prior Board service: 2009 – 2014; March, 2018 – March, 2021)

Bill Fradet, (March 2017 – March, 2020; second term)

Ina Lyon (March, 2019; resigned from the Board, December 31, 2019)

Ann Riley (prior Board service: 2001 – 2007; March, 2018 – March, 2020)

Matt Sorenson (March, 2019 – March, 2022)

Arielle Windham (March, 2019 – March, 2021)

Lisa Brown+, Secretary (March, 2016 – March, 2019; third term, non-consecutive)

Brandi Malarkey (March, 2018 – March, 2019; one-year term)

+Appointed by Pres. Jim Anderson, effective March 21st, 2016

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

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...

NORTHERN PLAINS BOTANIC GARDEN SOCIETY
MINUTES: ANNUAL MEETING
March 12, 2019
At the Sanford Neuroscience Clinic, Atrium
700 1st Ave S, Fargo, ND

President Vern Hunter convened the 21st Annual Meeting of the Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society at 7:05 p.m. He introduced our Keynote Speaker, Tim Chapman, who is the CEO of the International Peace Gardens. Vern mentioned that he had taken the opportunity to “showcase” our site (covered in snow) by driving our guest and his wife around the NPBGS site that afternoon.

Immediately following President Hunter’s welcoming remarks to all in attendance the **Business Meeting convened at 7:15 p.m.** in the Conference Room.

NPBGS Members Present: Vern Hunter (presiding), Ruth Morton, Ann Riley, Tom Riley, Brandi Malarkey, Landra Malarkey, Joyce Pettinger, Cynthia Herfindahl, Denise Quick, Kris Schipper, Maurie Degrugilier, Dennis B. Olson, Connie L. Olson, Ron Ellingson, Linda Anderson, Reid Curtis, Susan Curtis, Becky Lyon, Ina Lyon, Darlene Rogers, David Rogers, Arielle Windham, Barbara Villella, Loretta Wickie, Matt Sorrenson (plus his two children), Lou Worner.

Vern thanked Lisa Brown for preparing, duplicating and assembling the Annual Report and the 2018 Minutes.

Minutes: The Minutes from the 2018 Annual Meeting were reviewed. Ann made a motion that the Annual Meeting Minutes for 2018 be approved. Maurie Degrugillier seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Income and Expense Report: President Hunter asked the audience if there were any questions, suggestions or concerns regarding the financial report contained in the Annual Report. There being no remarks, Linda Anderson made the motion that the Annual meeting Income and Expense Report for 2018 be approved. Brandi Malarkey seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

State of the Society: President Hunter gave a verbal summary for the past year. He summarized it briefly with some of the following points: we need more workers and more finances; goal is to increase finances to hire more workers, need the community’s help, we will strive to have more children’s activities at the site. The ABC garden was renamed to the Children’s Garden. President Hunter thanked everyone for their support to the NPBGS – we need to reach our goals. Our survey for responses to our Master Plan was received and we listened and will endeavor to include many of the suggestions made. The society really has no venue/location of our own. Because we take care of the Sanford Neuroscience Clinic Atrium we are allowed to use that facility. Vern encouraged everyone present to renew their membership. The membership due date is shown on the mailing page of the Newsletter.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS: PROPOSED COMMITTEE CHANGES: Some proposed changes were made by the Board and the NPBGS membership received the revised Constitution & Bylaws via e-mail prior to the Annual Meeting advising them of the proposed changes. A copy of the proposed Committee structure changes had been distributed to the audience. President Hunter outlined the proposed changes indicating how the various committees would be combined, forming 6 committees. The Executive Committee remains as such a committee.

- Section 4.3. Combine **Operations and Garden Committee**;
- Section 4.4. Expand Program to add Events – **Program and Events Committee**;
- Section 4.5. Eliminate Nominating Committee but include it in the **Membership Committee**;
- Eliminate Audit Committee but include it in Section 4.6. **Finance Committee**;
- Section 4.7. **Public Relations Committee**.
-

Approval was asked for the proposed changes. Denise Quick made a motion that the revised Constitution and Bylaws be approved as written. Kris Schipper seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

BOARD NOMINATIONS & ELECTION: There were 4 open Board positions, Members present received ballots and bios of Board candidates - Ina Lyon, Matt Sorenson, Barbara Villeda, Arielle Windham. Ann asked three times if there were any nominations from the floor. Since there were no nominations from the floor, President Hunter motioned to cease the ballot process and accept the four nominated candidates as shown. Shirley Manning seconded the motion. A round of applause was made for the new Board Members. Board terms of service will be staggered and specific terms for new Board Members will be assigned by the Board at the first Board meeting following the Annual Meeting. Ann Riley asked the four newly elected Board Members to stand to be recognized.

RECOGNITION OF DEPARTING BOARD MEMBERS: Ann mentioned some important tasks that both Lisa Brown and Brandi Malarkey have contributed to the organization. (Lisa Brown was unable to attend the Annual Meeting but the NPBGS thanks will be relayed to her.) Thank you both for the many hours of volunteering you have both willingly given to the Society over your years of being on the Board. We will miss you both!

MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD: Ann read a description of the Member of the Year. Unfortunately, the recipient was not in attendance at the Annual Meeting. Nevertheless, a round of applause was given for **Don DuBord as the 2018 Member of the Year**. A book, and a monetary cash donation (from Founding President, Chiwon Lee) will be presented to Don at a later date.

OPEN DISCUSSION, QUESTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Vern Hunter announced the next regularly scheduled Board meeting is Thursday, March 14th at 6:30 p.m. at Sanford Neuroscience Clinic.

Business Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. Judy Maxson made the motion for the business meeting to be adjourned. Darlene Rogers seconded the motion. Between the end of the Business Meeting and the Keynote Speaker's presentation seven door prizes were efficiently distributed by Loretta Wickie

Following the Business portion of the Annual meeting, Vern Hunter re-introduced Tim Chapman, CEO of the International Peace Garden, and his wife, Marielle. Tim Chapman, who is a native of Virginia, has been the CEO and Executive Director of the International Peace Garden since 2018. Mr. Chapman gave a delightful slide presentation on "The International Peace Garden: What's Next?" He mentioned that the dream of a formal botanical garden in the heart of the North American continent took shape in the late 1920's but became a reality in 1932. An estimated 50,000 people attended the dedication ceremony in July 1932 when the International Peace Garden was established thus celebrating the peaceful coexistence of Canada and the United States of America. In the 2,400 acres there are beautiful flower gardens, picnic areas, campgrounds, Historic Lodge (built in the 1930's) Wildlife Museum, Hiking Trails, Restaurants, Pollinator & Kitchen Garden, 911 Memorial Site, Interpretive Centre & Conservatory containing thousand of succulents and cacti, Carillon Bell Tower, and so much more. The Interpretative Center has more than 6,000 thriving cacti in the Vitko Xeric collection. In the Formal Garden you will find something new every time you visit. The 150,000 annuals planted each spring provide blooms at different times of the year. This area has been an ideal location for athletic camps and music camps. This is definitely a four season destination. Peak times for bus tours to the International Peace Garden would be late July early August. Check out their web site: www.peacegarden.com.

One suggestion made by Mr. Chapman for our society to consider was for us to make sure to have a one of a kind destination and focus on what will bring people back to the area and also encourage kids to come to the gardens. If kids come, parents will come.

A number of people asked questions and several guests mentioned they have visited the International Peace Garden many times over the years. It looks like the NPBGS Program and Events Committee might be planning a future bus trip up North!

Vern Hunter thanked Tim Chapman for his excellent presentation. **The meeting concluded at approximately 8:20 p.m.** Guests were invited to enjoy the refreshments and socializing in the Atrium where the Program & Events Committee had provided delicious refreshments and beverages.

*Minutes recorded and compiled by
Joyce Pettinger and Ann Riley
4/1/2019*