Fairy Garden

This “magical” bed was designed by Nancy Klammer with children in mind. All of the plants and accessories are thought to be loved by the “wee folk” (garden fairies). The following are planted and some of their “fairy uses” are noted:
Wooly Lamb’s Ears
Thyme (fairy baby-beds)
“Sorbet Orange Duet” Viola (heartsease)
St. John’s Wort (fairy horse disguises)
Alpine Strawberries (fairy berries)
Lady’s Mantle (dew diamonds)
Blue Flax (fairy flax for spinning)
Nigella (fairy teacups)
Foxglove (fairy bells)
Hollyhock (fairy cheeses)
Columbine (fairy shoes)
Catmint
Lavender
Rose
Soapwort

Herb Tours / Programs

“The Herb Bunch”, an organized group of local herb enthusiasts, will tour the herb beds and present educational programs with herbal themes on the following dates at 7PM in the garden:
June 19 – Thyme
July 17 – Basil
August 21 – Parsley
Coordinators: Nancy Klammer (457-4647) and Barb Fay (479-6990). Please call for reservations / more information.
Fee: $10 Members / $12 Non-Members

History of Herb Gardens

The word “herb” has been used for centuries to describe plants with medicinal, culinary, aromatic and other useful properties. The making of special gardens in which herbs are grown has a long history. Obviously, such gardens gathered useful plants together for convenience but there is a tradition of making decorative features out of these plantings as well.

From the earliest records, herbs have been associated with religion. In ancient Persia, the enclosed garden with scented and healing plants provided sanctuary or “paradise” for meditation. European monastery gardens followed the tradition of peaceful retreats sheltered from the outside world in which narrow paths divided beds that held powerful medicinal herbs.

The study of plants and their medicinal uses spread to scholarly institutions where patterned herb gardens displayed plants for study by botanists, physicians and artists. The first of these was at the University of Padua in Italy in 1545. By the end of the 17th century there were “psychic” gardens throughout Europe.

Colonial explorers brought back different species and more and more herbs were added to the collections. Settlers took plants and these gardening traditions with them to the New World and traditional European-style herb gardens sprang up throughout North America. The first botanical herb garden in North America was created near Philadelphia in 1728.

The great revival of interest in herb gardens today combines elements from all of the traditions mentioned above.
Shakespeare’s Garden

This bed was designed by Carol Woodall. All of the selected herbs and flowers were mentioned in the works of William Shakespeare. The following are planted:
Marigolds (Gems)
Marjoram
Hyssop
Wormwood
Fennel
Columbine
Thyme (Lemon)
Clove Pinks
Rosemary
Chamomile
Lavender
Savory (Summer)
Violet (Canadian White)
Pansies

Mexican Culinary Herbs

This bed was designed by Barb Fay. All of the herbs were selected for their culinary uses in Mexican cooking. The following are planted:
Epazote
Cilantro
Yerba Buena
Purslane
Toronjil Morado
Pineapple Sage
Fennel
Mexican Spicy Basil
Lemon Mint Marigold
Marjoram
Lemongrass
Lamb’s Quarters
Mexican Oregano

Kitchen Garden

This bed was designed by Barb Fay. All of the herbs were selected for their culinary uses either in flavoring or garnishing food. The following are planted:
Garden Sage
Honey Melon Sage
Calendula
Lemon Thyme
Thyme
Rosemary
Anise Hyssop
Genovese Basil
Purple Basil
Lemon Verbena
Cilantro
Fennel
French Tarragon
Gem Marigold
Summer Savory
Lemon Savory
Italian Parsley
Cruled Parsley
Marjoram

Scented Geraniums

This bed was designed by Nancy Klammer. It contains 16 of the over 250 varieties of scented geraniums:
Old Spice
Mrs. Kingsley
Luciflora (Rose)
Chocolate Mint
Citronella
Apricot
Rober’s Lemon Rose
Coconut
New Spice (Eucalyptus)
Skeleton Rose
Lemon
Snowflake Rose
Cophthorne (Cedar)
Velvet Rose
Nutmeg
Mint Rose

Perennial Herbs and Native Plants

This bed contains perennial culinary herbs and native plants. A partial listing of plants includes the following:
French Tarragon
Costmary
Chives
Yarrow
Angelica
Lovage
Ginger Mint
Peppermint
Sorrel (Profusion)
Pineapple Mint
Lemon Balm
Sweet Woodruff
Sweet Cecily

Special Thanks...

Irene Wood – Scented Geraniums
Gretchen Kerndt – Calendulas
The Herb Bunch – Laminated Signs
Barb Fay / Pat Holloway – Accessories
Nancy Klammer – Brochure/Accessories