Mother Nature’s Medicine Chest

This bed was designed by Nancy Klammer and Marilyn Askelin with the intent of teaching children about simple medicinal herbs of the past. The following are planted and their uses are noted:

- Aloe (soothes burns)
- Calendula (soothes skin)
- Chamomile (calms indigestion)
- Comfrey (helps healing)
- Echinacea (fights infection)
- Feverfew (helps headaches/fever)
- Horehound (relieves coughs)
- Lavender (relaxes)
- Lemon Balm (soothes cold sores)
- Peppermint (calms indigestion)
- Parsley (freshens breathe/Vit. C)
- Clary Sage (relieves eye irritations)
- Golden Sage (calms sore throats)
- Yarrow (helps healing)

Warning: This information is for educational purposes only. Please consult your health care provider before using any medicinal herbs.

The Herb Bunch

The Herb Bunch is an organized group of local herb enthusiasts who meet monthly on the 3rd Thursday from 6:30 - 8:30 PM for fun, educational programs throughout the year. They design, plant and maintain the herb beds at the Georgeson Botanical Garden.

Member Information:
Dues: $10/year.
Contact Dee King at 488-7692

Herb Garden Tour:
July 15 at 6:30 PM
Contact Dee King for reservations

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 beds.

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.

University of Alaska Fairbanks
School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences

Revised June 2004
Knot Garden
This formal “knot” garden was designed by Dee King, Maggie Waite, Jean Coghill and Heather Robertson using the following:
- Germander
- Fernleaf Lavender
- Golden Oregano
- Santolina
- Wormwood
- Nasturtium
- Lavender Thyme
- Lime Thyme
- Goldstream Lemon Thyme

Perennial Herbs and Native Plants
This bed was designed by Marsha Munsell and contains perennial kitchen herbs and native plants:
- French Tarragon
- Costmary
- Chives
- Yarrow
- Angelica
- Lovage
- Ginger Mint
- Chocolate Mint
- Sorrel
- Lemon Balm
- Sweet Woodruff
- Sweet Cecily
- Stinging Nettle
- Bedstraw
- Bergamot
- Stinkweed
- Labrador Tea
- Welsh Onion
- Altai Onion
- Chinese Onion
- Chocolate Lily
- Wild Strawberry
- Eskimo Potato
- Mountain Ash
- Allium Serescens
- Kinnikinnik

Kitchen Garden
This bed was designed by Olga Cook, Barbara Fay and Gretchen Kerndt with herbs used for flavoring or garnishing food:
- Profusion Basil
- Purple Sage
- Tricolor Sage
- Lemon Savory
- French Tarragon
- Lemon Verbena
- Gorizia Rosemary
- Gem Marigolds
- Anise Hyssop
- Genovese Basil
- Marsellais Basil
- Purple Basil
- Sweet Dani Basil
- Greek Oregano
- Curled Chervil
- Summer Savory
- Fernleaf Dill
- Bronze Fennel
- Burfena Fennel
- Golden Lemon Thyme
- Lovage
- Chives
- Calendula
- Garden Sage
- Curled Parsley
- English Thyme
- Marjoram
- Italian Parsley

“What’s New in Herbs”?
This bed was designed by Nancy Klammer and Marilyn Askelin. It contains 18 of the NEW herb varieties from Richter and others:
- Minette Basil
- Pepper Basil
- Profusion Basil
- White Borage
- Prince of Orange Geranium
- Fragrant Butterfly Lavender
- Fred Boutin Lavender
- Goodwin Creek Lavender
- Kew Red Lavender
- Pink Perfume Lavender
- Silver Edge Lavender
- Magic Carpet Lemon Thyme
- Purple Carpet Lemon Thyme
- Apricot Sprite Agastache
- Tuscan Blue Rosemary
- Huntington Carpet Rosemary
- Gorizia Rosemary
- Rhubarb Pie Sorrel

Asian Herb Garden
This bed was designed by Virginia Damron, Barbara Rondine and George Wilson with herbs that are used in Asian cooking:
- Lemongrass
- Thai Basil
- Society Garlic
- Vietnamese Mint
- Garlic Chives
- Kaffir Lime
- Rau Om
- Mitsuba
- Chinese Lantern
- Thai Chili Pepper
- Aoshiso (Green Perilla)
- Akashiso (Purple Perilla)
- Dong Quai
- Ginger

Special Thanks…
Gretchen Kerndt – Clary Sage
George Wilson - Perilla
Rex Nutter – Bed Preparation
Nancy Klammer – Brochure/Signs
The Herb Bunch – Sign Lamination