



The Urbana Free Library

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**Champaign-Urbana Herb Society Collection,
1973-2013**

COLLECTION 55

Finding Aid Author: Janna Heuer, Fall 2013

Corporate Name: Champaign-Urbana Herb Society

Inclusive Dates: 1973 - 2013

Physical Description: 19.5 linear feet. 3 half boxes. 2 poster displays, 2 award plaques, 8.5" x 11" Society information poster

Provenance: Gift, 2013. Additional materials donated 2016 and 2017 by Holly Sandholm.

Access: The records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

Biographical/Historical Note:

The Champaign-Urbana Herb Society was established through an organizational meeting on Oct 19, 1978 hosted by Marie Fowler for a small group of interested community gardeners (including Phyllis Brussel) who were involved with the initial planting of the Meadowbrook Herb Garden. The group grew, adding events, programs, and gardens to their activities. As part of their stated purpose to educate and beautify the community, they design, create, and maintain public herb gardens: including major gardens at Meadowbrook Park, Wilber Mansion, and the Jaques House. This work has resulted in many original garden designs and educational materials. In addition, the group hosts a regular monthly meeting; publishes an informative newsletter (1976 to the present), sponsors field trips, and holds an annual public herb plant sale. They have been a contributor of topical columns in the local papers which also published many articles profiling members active in the community in related professions or hobbies. The Society makes contributions of herbal related books to area libraries, and participates in educational and community events, through the Urbana Park District with whom they originally affiliated in 1977. The collection contains a history, "Summary of the Society from 1978-1985," written by Marie Fowler.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection was donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives by the official historian of the Champaign Urbana Herb Society in 2013. It documents a wide array of Society events, business, and creative endeavors, especially of the Society's earlier years (1970s -1990s). The materials contain information covering Society administration, educational materials and events, and the progress of Society developed gardens.

Society administration includes by-laws, correspondence, UPD affiliation, misc. event plans, meeting minutes (1983-84). The collection also contains designs and logbooks for the Society's herb gardens, Society publications, member writings and a complete collection of annual membership booklets (1975-2013).



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Events documented in this collection include theme dinners, field trips, the annual community plant sale, sales through a local consignment outlet, and special community events. The theme dinners were held periodically from 1978 to 1997. Each dinner had a souvenir booklet which includes a menu and/or a packet of the recipes or other relevant party information.

There are many photographs and newspaper clippings which were originally the contents of three compiled scrapbooks, a file folder, and a compiled photo album in which photographs of events, members, and the gardens at various points in time were randomly grouped. The collection contains copies of the original scrapbook arrangement. The actual newspaper articles are arranged chronologically. The scrapbook and photo album photographs are housed in the Local History Photographs collection under Scrapbooks.

Included publications are: the entire collection of booklets from the Theme Dinners which were held periodically from 1978 to 1997; CCHS authored educational leaflets describing uses and cultivation of one herb each; the large format Meadowbrook Garden book with proposed revisions; a complete collection of the Meadowbrook garden pamphlets with all its revisions over the years; two workshop packets; and some writings of founding members Marie Fowler & Phyllis Brussel including a Society history "Summary of the Society from 1978-1985". The CU Herb Society cook book is housed with the local cookbook collection.

Note that the newsletter, *Sprigs of Thyme*, is kept as part of the Local Organization Newsletters collection. The early newsletters contain the published monthly meeting minutes. A Society published cookbook is housed in the Local Cookbook Collection. The oversized originals of awards received by the Society are also housed separately [1991 Certificate of Merit for development of Meadowbrook Garden, 1998 Community Service Award, Society information poster (8.5"x14"), 2 table trifold displays (joint Nursing Home project w/ Master Gardeners, community herb gardens).

Arrangement:

The collection is in four series: 1) Administrative Records, 2) History, Scrapbooks, & Events, 3) Educational Publications, and 4) Garden Designs & Logs. Each series is arranged by subject, then chronological.

Subjects Terms:

Clubs

Elm St (Urbana), West, 207

Gardening—Societies, etc.



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Herb Gardens—Urbana
Herbs
Herbs—Societies, etc.
Parks—Urbana
Race St (Urbana), South, 2808
University Ave (Champaign), West, 709

Names:

Ater-Jaques House (Urbana, Ill.)
Brussel, Phyllis
Champaign County Historical Museum
Champaign (Ill.)—Buildings, structures, Etc.
Champaign-Urbana Herb Society
Fowler, Marie
Herb Society Of C-U
Meadowbrook Herb Garden (Urbana, Ill.)
Meadowbrook Park (Urbana, Ill.)
Urbana (Ill.)—Buildings, structures, Etc.
Wilber Mansion (Champaign, Ill.)

Container List

Box 1

Series 1: Administrative Records

Folder 1: CUHS By-laws, 1988-2013
Folder 2: Attendance Records, 1979-1984, 1996-1998
Folder 3: President's Meeting Notes, 1980-1982
Folder 4: Meeting Minutes, Aug 1983-July 1984
Folder 5: Misc. Business, 1989, 1997
Folder 6: Membership Pamphlets & Flyers
Folder 7: Correspondence, various 1984-2006
Folder 8: Urbana Park District affiliation & correspondence, 1977-2000
Folder 9: Letterhead & Envelope - Master copy
Folder 10: Garden Planning, 1993, 1996, 1998
Folder 11: Financial: Budgets, Expenses, 1982-1993
Folder 12: Sales - Retail, Plant Sale Plans 1990-1995
Folder 13: Interest Surveys - 1990 Gardening Interest, 1995 Member Interest
Folder 14: Library Titles and Donations – Donations 1986-1994, 1998-1999
Folder 15: Writings of Marie Fowler, Founder



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- Folder 16: Writings of Phyllis Brussel
- Folder 17: Mini-grants, 2013-2016
- Folder 18: Donor correspondence, 2016-2017

Series 2: History, Scrapbooks, Events

- Folder 17: Membership Annual (Yearbook) 1975-1997
- Folder 18: Membership Annual (Yearbook) 1998-present
- Folder 19: Society Histories (written by Marie Fowler)
- Folder 20: Notes on Anniversaries (25th-35th)
- Folder 21: Annual Plant Sales
- Folder 22: Illinois Herb Grower Assoc. Events
- Folder 23: Herbal Skit: On the Road to Dendron, performed 1995

Box 2

Series 2: History, Scrapbooks, Events (continued)

- Folder 1: Misc. Events 1991, 1993, 2013
- Folder 2: Awards/Recognition
- Folder 3: Scrapbook 1
- Folder 4: Scrapbook 2
- Folder 5: Scrapbook 3
- Folder 6: Newspapers - clipped articles spanning 1975-2012
- Folder 7: Society Event Photographs
- Folder 8: Community Event Photographs

Series 3: Educational Publications

- Folder 9: Workshop Handouts
- Folder 10: Herb Leaflets
- Folder 11: Meadowbrook Garden Pamphlet - Development & Revision
- Folder 12: Publications - Booklets
- Folder 13: Publications - Leaflets
- Folder 14: Publications - Herb Leaflets
- Folder 15: Publications - Workshop packets
- Folder 16: Theme Party Booklets: 1978-1985, Chronological list of dinners
- Folder 17: Theme Dinner Booklets: 1986-1988
- Folder 18: Theme Dinner Booklets: 1989-1992
- Folder 19: Theme Dinner Booklets: 1993-1994
- Folder 20: Theme Dinner Booklets: 1995-1997

Box 3



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Series 4: Garden Designs & Logs

- Folder 1: Meadowbrook: Overall Garden Planning 1982-1986
- Folder 2: Meadowbrook: Overall Garden Planning 1988-2002
- Folder 3: Meadowbrook: Photographs
- Folder 4: Meadowbrook: Culinary Garden/East Border
- Folder 5: Meadowbrook: Dye Garden
- Folder 6: Meadowbrook: Fragrance Garden/West Border
- Folder 7: Meadowbrook: Knot Garden
- Folder 8: Meadowbrook: Medicinal Garden
- Folder 9: Meadowbrook: Shakespeare Garden
- Folder 10: Meadowbrook: South Border/Native Garden
- Folder 11: Meadowbrook: Rock Garden/North Border
- Folder 12: Meadowbrook: Silver Garden
- Folder 13: Meadowbrook: Tea Garden
- Folder 14: Jaques House: Planning & History
- Folder 15: Jaques House: House History
- Folder 16: Jaques House: Design Drawings
- Folder 17: Jaques House: Plant Lists
- Folder 18: Jaques House: Photographs
- Folder 19: Wilbur Mansion: 1992-1995
- Folder 20: Plan idea for Arboretum

Series 5: Herb Garden Slide Collection

Consisted of six slide carousels that have been placed into slide sheets.

- Folder 1: Herb gardens in Saint Louis, Connecticut, New York City, Chicago
- Folder 2: Herb gardens in California
- Folder 3: National Herb Garden
- Folder 4: Ohio gardens
- Folder 5: Herb gardens in Illinois; Champaign-Urbana Jaques House and Meadowbrook;
Mahomet Botanical Gardens
- Folder 6: Herb gardens in Illinois (cont.)