

Hazel Dell School and Community Garden Garden Journal 2014

With the Boys & Girls Club of Southwest Washington
Garden Coordinators: Barbara Nordstrom and Bobbi Bellomy



Garden group showing insect drawings made with oil pastels and markers



Clark County

4-H 

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

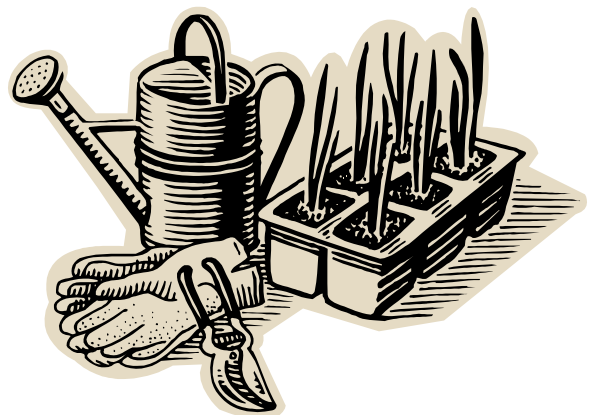
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Project History

The garden, located on the southeast corner of Hazel Dell Elementary School, was planned in conjunction with WSU Extension, Vancouver Public Schools and Clark County Environmental Services. Construction on the garden began in the winter of 2004. The garden now has a 20 x 48 foot greenhouse, compost bins, raised gardening beds, irrigation systems, and tool shed. In 2005-2006 students installed a native plant section and a butterfly/ hummingbird garden. Currently, there are 25 raised beds for Hazel Dell School classes, the Boys and Girls Club of Southwest WA, and community garden members plus 10 communal beds for harvest shared with the school backpack program and homeless shelter. WSU Master Gardeners and WSU Growing Groceries Mentors assist with garden programs.

Project Partners/Supporters

- WSU Extension Food \$ense & 4-H youth Development
- Boys & Girls Club of SW WA
- Burgerville USA
- Clark College, Health and SLIC
- Scotts
- The Home Depot
- Yard 'N Garden Land Nursery
- Vancouver Public Schools
- WSU Master Gardener Foundation
- WSU Master Gardener Program



Summary Summer 2014 Boys and Girls Club

July 9 Topic: Garden Hunt

Presenter: Jodee Nickel

18 Children

Adults:

- Master Gardeners: Bobbi Bellomy, Laura Heldreth, Barbara Nordstrom, Suzy Taylor, and Erika Johnson
- Boys & Girls Club Staff: Elvia Martinez
- WSU 4-H and Food Sense: Jodee Nickel
- Guest: Alexis Nickel

Our first day in the garden was a success.

All children stayed busy the first 45 minutes completing their garden tasks of weeding, moving mulch, deadheading flowers and harvesting berries. Jodee, Laura, and Erika worked with the group of children to move mulch. It was very rewarding watching the little ones using wheelbarrows for the first time. Many of the children didn't put much mulch in the wheelbarrow but they did a really good job trying. We had a snack of string cheese, blueberries, Ritz crackers and 100% fruit juice Capri Sun.

For the group activity, children were given an envelope with a list of things to find on one side and an adjective written in large print on the other. Children worked in pairs to find the items that were listed, including something taller than they were, a small yellow flower, something that grows on a vine, something you've never seen before, a tomato that looks like a yellow pear. Then they were instructed to put an example of their adjective (hard, soft, wet, prickly or smooth) in the envelope. After we were finished, we gathered together and shared what we had found in the garden. This was a good way for the children to get to know the garden space and see all the cool plants we are growing. When it was time for the children to go back to the club, Barbara and Jodee thanked them for all their hard work.



Children working on the scavenger hunt



Erika and the boys working hard to move mulch pile



Let's get Serious

July 16

Topic: Spiders

Presenter: Barbara Nordstrom

18 children

Adults:

- Master Gardeners: Bobbi Bellomy, Laura Heldreth, Barbara Nordstrom, and Suzy Taylor
- Boys & Girls Club Staff: Elvia Martinez
- WSU 4-H and Food Sense: Jodee Nickel

After the garden tasks of spreading bark, weeding, and planting in the Butterfly/Hummingbird Garden and harvesting, the children gathered for the singing of the Itsy Bitsy Spider. Barbara demonstrated how to make a spider from grapes, celery strip legs, and sunflower seed eyes pointing out that the legs and eyes are on the thorax while the abdomen has the stomach and silk making spinnerets. Riddles about spiders were followed by the reading of selected pages of *The Diary of a Spider*. Barbara asked the children questions about spiders including: Are spiders insects? (no), Are most spiders dangerous to humans? (not garden spiders, and black widows and brown recluse do not usually live in our area), Are spiders garden friends or pests and why? (beneficials because spiders eat garden pests).

Barbara then discussed spider facts such as: All spiders have fangs, most all spiders produce silk but not just for webs, spider legs have hairs that feel/sense smells and vibrations, spiders can't chew so they inject venom into their prey which turns it liquid and they suck it up. Spiders get their prey by spinning webs (orb, sheet, and funnel webs), hunting, or ambushing.

We discussed leaving spiders alone so they can do their work of capturing garden pests. Then the children finished the session with an Acrostic word poem finding spider related words for each letter in the word spider.

We can be thankful for spiders because they eat garden pests; they are a natural pest control!



Barbara reading to the children



Made grapes into insect snack



Love the looks on their faces



Children holding up their snack creations

July 23

Topic: Our Watershed

Presenter: Tracy Sand

15 children

Adults:

- Master Gardeners: Bobbi Bellomy, Laura Heldreth, Barbara Nordstrom and Suzy Taylor
- Boys & Girls Club Staff: Elvia Martinez
- WSU 4-H and Food \$ense: Jodee Nickel
- Special Guest: MG Tracy Sand, Watershed Steward

Since it was a very rainy day, the children came into the greenhouse where they planted Mickey Mouse mini-greenhouses donated by Scotts with peppers, cucumbers and tomatoes. Then they had a look at the raised bed and identified the growing veggies.

Our special guest, Tracy Sand, former Watershed Steward and current volunteer, presented the lesson on our watershed. She started by describing a watershed and identifying the watershed in which we live. She instructed the children to crinkle a sheet of white paper, unfold it and mark the upper ridges with a

watercolor marker to look like mountains then spray with water to show runoff.

Next, the children mounded sand and pebbles on a cookie sheet and poured water over the sand to illustrate erosion.

Last, the children colored ping pong balls with watercolor markers and put the painted balls in bucket of water to show how pollution gets into the water cycle. We all realized how important it is to take care of our water and that the water that we have on our Earth is all the water we get.

The day ended with a snack and the children taking their Mickey Mouse Greenhouses back to the Boys & Girls Club.



Bobbi helps children to make Mickey Mouse mini greenhouse garden



We all got to take a Mickey Mouse mini greenhouse is donated by Scott's



Great indoor activity for rainy days



Making our own watersheds Tracy is so cool!!!

July 30

Topic: Parts of a Plant

Presenter: Suzy Taylor

18 children

Adults

- Master Gardeners: Bobbi Bellomy, Laura Heldreth, Barbara Nordstrom and Suzy Taylor
- Boys & Girls Club Staff: Elvia Martinez
- WSU 4-H and Food \$ense: Jodee Nickel
- Guests: Tara from VPS Office of Information to take photos for the Report to the Community and Ellen to gather info for a community garden for the food insecure.



Suzy teaching about the 6 plant parts

Bobbi, Barbara, Laura, and Jodee met to plan the activities in the garden: 5 teams to do weeding, barking, harvesting potatoes, etc. As soon as the boys and girls arrived they were seated and greeted, given some basic instructions about behavior and safety by Jodee. Teams were formed, tools and gloves given out, and work commenced. Several other volunteers helped with harvesting and supervising children. After 30 minutes, teams changed activities. After another 30 minutes students, put away tools and gloves.

Next, children gathered in the green house, sat at tables, and were given snack plates containing a variety of edible plant parts as described below. Suzy explained the six parts of a plant: roots, stem, leaves, flowers, fruit, and seeds and why each part is important. Suzy showed examples of each of these with carrots (roots), celery & rhubarb (stems), bok choy (stems & leaves), broccoli & nasturtium flowers (flowers), sweet peppers & summer squash (fruit), snap peas & sunflower seed kernels (seeds). Each snack plate also had a small cup of ranch dressing for dipping the veggies in. A few students were brave enough to try some rhubarb sauce and/or some flower petals of a squash or nasturtium blossom.



Snacking on plant parts



These ladies are working hard in the butterfly garden

We discussed some plants with toxic parts: tomato leaves and rhubarb. One student correctly stated that cooking tomatoes made them more nutritious.

Bobbi read the picture book *Plant a Little Seed* by Bonnie Christensen, a story showing children planting seeds, caring for plants, harvesting different parts and kinds of plants, and taking part in a Thanksgiving feast. The final activity led by Bobbi, was to find and pull up 3 weeds. Jodee gathered the boys and girls. As they left the garden they were given the worksheet "We Eat Different Parts of the Plant" to work on later.

August 6

Topic: Beneficial bugs

Presenter: Laura Heldreth

18 children

Adults

- Master Gardeners: Laura Heldreth, Barbara Nordstrom and Suzy Taylor
- Boys & Girls Club Staff: Elvia Martinez
- WSU 4-H and Food \$ense: Jodee Nickel
- Special Guest Artist: MG Anita Jinks

After the garden tasks of spreading bark, weeding in the Butterfly Garden and harvesting, the children had an opportunity to get up close and personal with beneficial bugs and other tiny creatures and to learn about beneficials in our environment. Laura shared the amazing fact that about 99% of insects are beneficial and should be encouraged in our gardens; only 1% are garden pests. Using ladybugs as examples, she discussed the stages of the insects' growth and encouraged participants to examine each insect's anatomy to learn how they find food and survive.

The children were then set loose in the Butterfly/Hummingbird Garden with magnifying glasses, paint brushes and containers to capture sample insects. They used magnifying glasses to identify the bugs. With a variety of specimens, the children were instructed by guest artist and Master Gardener, Anita Jinks, to capture theirs in an original work of art. The resulting chalk pastels demonstrated greater awareness of the individual insect being studied as well as creativity that resulted in their own beautiful bug picture.



Today insects were our special guests



*Anita teaching the children to close look at the insects they collected.
Not sure this child could get much closer!*



Girls working in hummingbird garden



Little insect collectors

August 13

Topic: Soil

Presenter: Bobbi Bellomy

18 children

Adults

- Master Gardeners: Bobbi Bellomy, Laura Heldreth, Barbara Nordstrom and Suzy Taylor
- Boys & Girls Club Staff: Elvia Martinez
- WSU 4-H and Food \$ense: Jodee Nickel
- Guest: Roxanne and her granddaughter.

The children started the session with spreading bark, weeding the kiwi bed, and harvesting. Then they gathered for the lesson and snack. Bobbi explained that healthy soil is important for healthy plants and discussed what makes soils healthy. She gave the children sample bags of sand, hummus, and clay then discussed which soil would make the best growing medium: a mixture of the soils called loam which would drain well and be fertile. She presented the children with a snack including gummy worms and read *The Diary of a Worm*. The children wrote how worms help the soil and drew a picture of a worm. Then they wrote about their favorite part of the morning.

The summer session ended with presentations of gifts for the teachers and volunteers: Jodee: boot-shaped salt and peppers because she is the salt of the earth, Bobbi: bee window clings because she helps us Bee Happy, Laura: a cosmetic bag and book mark with beneficial insects because she is a great benefit to the garden, Suzy: a VSL water bottle for a Very Special Lady who gave a Very Special Lesson, Lilie (our teen helper): a blue stone necklace and bee box, Elvia: harvested vegetables and a sweet potato vine because she is sweet, Barbara: a special basket with candies because she is a basket case (just checking to see if you read this far!). Everyone was sad to see the summer sessions come to an end.



*Weeding squash bed
with Barbara the beautiful !*



Look at all those worms



Bobbi teaching the worm lesson



Reading to the children