



The Garden Gazette

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The Connie Hansen Garden Conservancy
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From the President's Desk:

While looking through garden books on a rainy day, I came across this quote which I thought probably would speak for Connie's philosophy on gardening. It also speaks for many of the gardeners at CHG.

"Making a garden is not a gentle hobby....It is a grand passion. It seizes a person whole, and once it has done so he will have to accept that his life is going to be radically changed. There are seasons when he will hesitate to travel and if he does travel, his mind will be distracted by the thousand and one children he has left behind, children who are always in peril of one sort or another. However sober he may have been before, he will soon become an inveterate gambler who cuts his losses and begins again; he may think he needs to pare down on spending energy and money, but that is an illusion, and he soon learns that a garden is an ever expanding venture. Whatever he had considered to be his profession has become an avocation. His vocation is his garden."

~~~May Sarton, [Plant Dreaming Deep](#)

## 2020 Calendar of Events

When events can again be scheduled, we will post them on our bulletin board and web page, also this newsletter.

**Visit our website often for up to date details,  
Share your photos of CHG on our Facebook page.**

## Summer Hours

The Garden House, with Gift Shop, Gallery, Library, meeting room and rest rooms, is closed until further notice. The garden itself remains open during daylight hours for the public to enjoy walking the pathways.

Masks and social distancing are recommended, especially considering that visitors come from all over the world.

There are plants for sale, on your honor, in front of the Garden House. Place payment in an envelope provided beside the bulletin board, and slide it through the letter slot in the door.



*Salpiglossis, a bright annual blossom*



## VOLUNTEERING IN A PANDEMIC

~ Priscilla Patterson

It's been an interesting and unusual time at the Connie Hansen Garden these past few months, but perhaps the thing that stands out as most significant is the fact that in a garden, it's all pretty much business as usual.



*Hypericum 'Hidcote'*

And what a joy that is! In a world that seems to have irrevocably changed and that has left all of us floundering on a daily basis, we lucky few are continuing to meet and share in each other's lives on a weekly basis despite the petty frustrations of masking and distancing, and remain grounded, literally and figuratively.

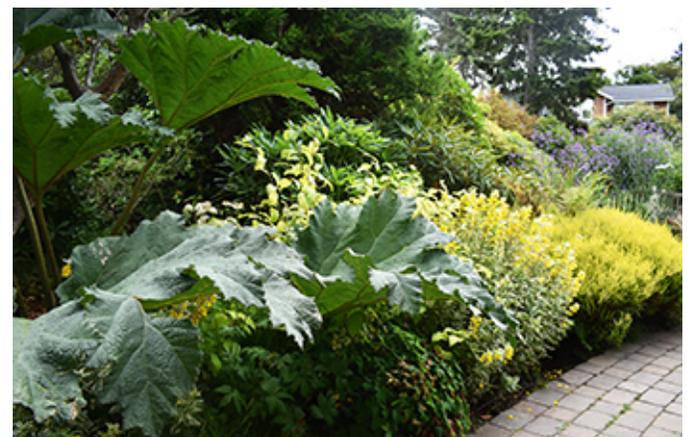


We garden volunteers are united by a common bond that brings us back to reality on a regular basis, namely the irresistible urge to dig in the dirt, to observe and help preserve the natural cycles and rhythms of this little oasis of beauty and tranquility that Connie created. Not all of our volunteers have been willing or able to continue to meet regularly, for differing reasons. But the "core" group, as I think of the half dozen that have shown up week after week, have held everything together through sheer hard work and a steadfast commitment to focusing on their particular skills and strengths, whether it be pruning shrubs, trapping moles, uprooting weeds or nurturing seedlings.



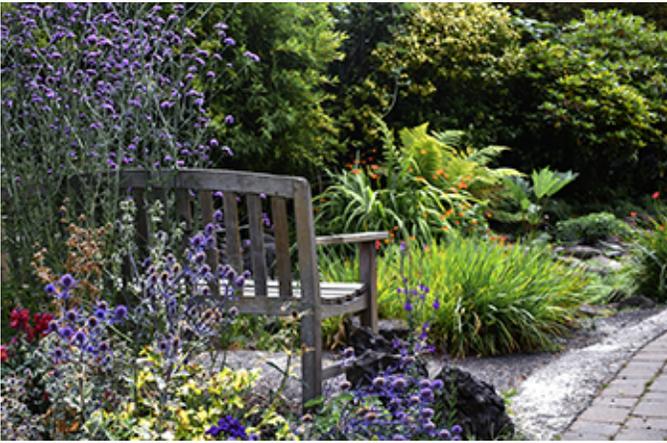
*The dryer areas have needed extra watering this summer.*

All of us have a part to play and this pandemic has helped hone our abilities and organize our time, primarily because we are of course, short-handed, and also because we have had the ability to concentrate on just the garden without the added distractions of events, tours, selling items from the gift shop and so on, an unexpected benefit but one that suits our motley crew of rugged individuals rather well.



*Gunnera tinctoria & Lysimachia in the Morning Garden*

## Summer in the Garden



*The bench by the pond is backed by Verbena bonariensis.*



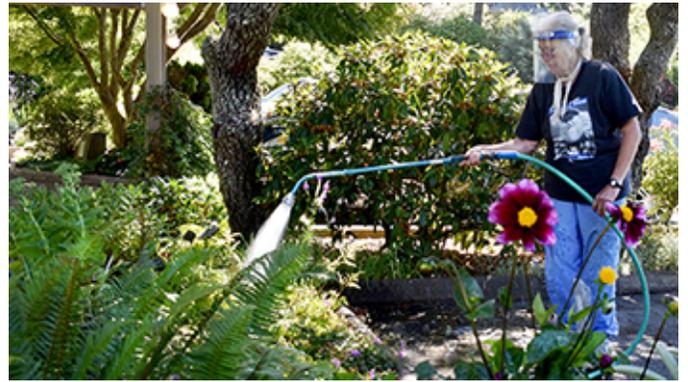
*Graceful Astilbes in the shady perennial bed during July.*



*Most Hydrangeas were at their peak in July.*



*The Peegee Hydrangea on 34<sup>th</sup> Street is in full flower.*



*It's been a dry summer.*

## Help Wanted!

Gardens grow in spite of a pandemic, and with 1¼ acres of interesting plantings, some over 25 years old, there are plenty of weeding, pruning, planting and general garden tasks to be done.

Volunteers are always needed to maintain this lovely place, and this year, due to restricted schedules, etc., helpers are particularly appreciated. During the pandemic we're all wearing masks and practicing social distancing to be safe.

If you can be of help, even for a brief time, please join the fun. Come around 10:00 on any **Tuesday** morning to get acquainted. Or, for more information, call the Garden [\(541\) 994-6338](tel:5419946338). Leave your number and your call will be referred to a volunteer to answer. Or you may email the address above and we'll do our best to answer your questions.

No gardening experience is necessary. New volunteers are at first paired with a veteran to find suitable tasks. Work begins at 10:00 am with a break for sack lunches, and most workers go home around 2:00 pm, but any amount of time you wish to contribute will be very helpful.



*Dwarf phlox 'Twinklestar'*



Connie Hansen enjoying her Rhododendrons

## From History to Today

The Connie Hansen Garden is recognized internationally as one of the best public gardens in the Northwest United States. Yet, locally, the garden remains somewhat of a hidden gem. It's tucked away, just one block west of Highway 101, in the historic neighborhood of Wecoma. At an acre and a quarter, Connie's garden spans the block between Northwest 33rd and 34th Streets. This area includes many original beach cottages and mature gardens filled with interesting plants. Many were likely gifts from Connie, who shared her love of plants freely with everyone.

In 1973, Connie Hansen returned from California to Oregon, where she had grown up. Now a widow and retired, she was free to immerse herself in her lifelong passion for plant collecting and gardening. Connie wanted to find a piece of land suitable to cultivate her favorite plant species, the iris. In Lincoln City she found her dream location, a small home surrounded by swampy land. A creek running the length of the property and towering Sitka spruce trees created a sheltered and damp microclimate that held great appeal and potential.

For the next 20 years, Connie worked tirelessly in her garden from dawn to dusk, creating the garden we enjoy today. In her 70s and 80s, Connie scalped away sod and carved out planting beds to house her ever expanding collection of plants.

Connie's hard work, starting almost 50 years ago, is still evident throughout the garden, as the plants Connie particularly loved are still the dominant features. This includes Japanese, Siberian and

Pacifica iris, Candelabra and other varieties of primrose, and a magnificent collection of hybrid and species rhododendrons and azaleas. Over the years, Connie and her garden became well known, especially among the garden community, attracting many visitors who would bring plants as gifts, or to make purchases at her annual plant sales. She was an active participant in several horticultural societies. As an iris hybridizer, Connie achieved recognition by growing and registering the Siberian hybrid "Lightly Touched". It can still be found growing in the garden today.

Towards the end of her life Connie sold her property to a friend to ensure the garden would not be destroyed. After Connie's death in 1993, a group of friends who had known Connie and loved her garden came together to help restore and preserve the garden. In May 1994, the *Connie Hansen Garden Conservancy* was formed. It operates as a private, non-profit corporation, relying on donations and a dedicated group of volunteers, who maintain the garden as a public treasure.

Many changes and improvements have taken place over the years, while keeping alive the spirit of Connie's vision. Her home is now a visitor center with a gift shop, a library, including some of Connie's personal book collection, and an art gallery, hosting local exhibits. A paver pathway has been extended throughout the garden to make it possible to enjoy a visit, even in the wettest of weather, as well as being wheelchair accessible.

Volunteers are the back bone of the Connie Hansen Garden, and new volunteers are always welcome. Besides gardening, there are a variety of jobs that need to be done, such as helping host events, greeting visitors, and assisting in the gift shop. Those who would like to garden are welcome to join other volunteers on Tuesdays, any time from 10 AM to 2 PM. No experience necessary.

The Connie Hansen Garden, located at 1931 NW 33rd Street, Lincoln City, is open daily from dawn to dusk. Admission is free. Support of visitors through donations, plant purchases and gift shopping is welcome.



*Gentiana veitchiorum 'Goetterdaemmerung'*

### Gifts to Our Garden...and Yours. Too!

We recently received a most remarkable gift to CHG from Urs Baltensperger of Edelweiss Perennials Nursery in Canby, OR. He sent a pickup load of unusual plants which are now being offered for sale. If you are wondering where all those 4-inch pots came from.....thank Urs!

Edelweiss Perennials sells primarily through their website, Edelweiss Perennials.com. The selection is amazing, and shipping is done most carefully, assuring success with the new plants. Priscilla and Joan also like to find him selling at big annual plant sales in Canby and Portland, which were not held this year.

We are grateful for his interest in supporting the Connie Hansen Garden and hope you will find his offerings interesting. There are four varieties of gentians for those who cannot get enough of royal blue flowers. Cultural information is on the label in each pot.

**Thank you, Urs, for your generous spirit!**  
~~~Joan Erlanger

Thanks also to ...

All of you visitors who helped support CHG, and beautified your own gardens, by purchasing plants on the honor system with payments through the door. Many of these plants are grown off site by Wally and Karen Brown, and donated with all proceeds going to CHG. Also thanks to Ann and Joan who came to the garden on extra days to water the plants on the benches and parts of the garden the sprinklers don't reach.

MEMBERSHIPS

If you are not currently a member and would like to be, or would like to give a membership as a gift, the options are listed below. Payments may be sent to: CHGC, PO Box 776, Lincoln City, OR 97367.

There are no meetings and no requirements. Benefits of membership include this quarterly publication, a 10% discount in our gift shop and the joy of knowing you are helping to save this beautiful garden!

- _____ Individual \$25 _____ Family \$35
- _____ Senior individual \$15 _____ Senior family \$25
- _____ Supporter \$100 _____ Sponsor \$500
- _____ Business Supporter \$100

_____ Please send my "Gazette" by Email!
The E-Gazette includes beautiful color photos of the garden in its seasons.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____



Thank You!

"Gazette" edited by Karen Brown
"E-Gazette" edited by Nancy Chase