



# The Garden Gazette

Volume 24, Issue 1, March 2020

The Connie Hansen Garden Conservancy  
Located at: 1931 NW 33<sup>rd</sup>, Lincoln City, OR  
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## 2020 Calendar of Events

- \*Saturday, March 7: "Feathers, Fur & Fins"  
Photo exhibit, Opening reception: 4:00 to 6:00
- \*Saturday, April 18: Spring Plant Sale 10:00 to 3:00
- \*Saturday, May 9: High Tea, seatings 11:00 & 3:00
- \*Saturday, June 6: "Pollinators & More" 1:00 pm  
See website for more details of June 6 events
- Saturday, July 18: Summer Plant Sale 10:00 - 3:00

\*indicates an article in this newsletter  
Watch this space and our website for more dates and times.

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

## Spring and Summer Hours

Connie Hansen Garden is open every day from dawn to dusk for your self-guided tours and enjoyment of the garden.

The Garden House, with Gift Shop, Gallery & Library, is open Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, 10:00 to 2:00. Please come in and enjoy these spaces while visiting the garden.

Call or email for more information if needed. Please leave a message so we can contact you. Remember, volunteers are not in the office every day, so your answer might not be immediate.

If you volunteer to take your Gazette by email, you'll get some of our most recent color pictures right on your own computer. If you'd like to take advantage of this option, send us a message to the address on the front page. Include the email address you wish us to use.

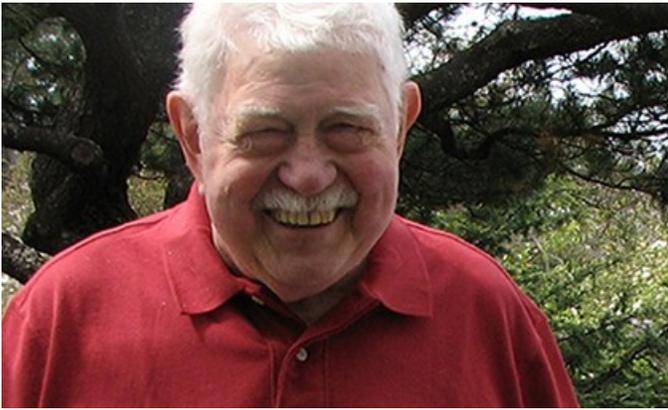


## High Tea in the Garden

Our wonderful Annual High Tea will be on [May 9, 2020](#). This is a full tea with savories and desserts. We give away prizes and have fun. You are welcome to wear any of Jenny's amazing collection of hats. Bring a mother or a friend for a real treat!

We will only be able to seat 26 at 11:00, and again at 3:00. The price is \$25.00 per person. Tickets will be available at the CHG Plant Sale on [April 18<sup>th</sup>](#) or you may call Jenny at [541-992-4567](tel:541-992-4567) to make reservations with your visa. We always sell out, so don't delay.





**Robert "Scotty" Scotton**

**7/30/1928 – 1/19/2020**

*From Priscilla Patterson:*

Scotty was one of a group of friends and neighbors who had known Connie Hansen and long admired her garden. When the garden became increasingly overgrown and unkempt following Connie's death in 1993, Scotty and these others realized that something had to be done to save this unique and beautiful collection of flowering trees, shrubs and plants. As a natural leader of the concerned group, Scotty was instrumental in the formation of the Connie Hansen Garden Conservancy, dedicated to restoring and preserving Connie's legacy. Much of what he accomplished was organizational in those early days, doing research, writing grants and conscripting friends and acquaintances to help out in whatever capacity was needed. His greatest contribution, and closest to his heart, was in the role of Head Gardener and in the hours spent, along with others who were equally committed, rescuing the garden from its dilapidated state and restoring it to its former glory. I recall him saying that he had figured out he put in 24 hours a week working in the garden during the early years of the Conservancy, a number that was likely just a guesstimate to fulfill granting requirements and a whole lot less than actual time spent.

I first met Scotty while I was wandering around the Garden, amazed and impressed by the incredible variety of plants that flourished there. After peppering him with questions and chatting for some time he told me I could come back any time and volunteer. My response was that I would love to once I retired, He sweetened the deal by digging me a clump of double anemone nemorosa for my garden, immediately recognizing a fellow plant addict. Some time later, he went to even greater lengths to conscript me by asking one of the volunteers to call me up to find out if I was ready to start work at the garden yet. Well, obviously it all worked

because 20 years later, I'm still volunteering! And, as I quickly learned, I apparently was Scotty's "retirement plan" as he'd told the other volunteers I would be the next Head Gardener. Had I known that when I signed on, I would have held out for at least a Rhododendron rather than a clump of ground cover!

Working with Scotty in Connie's garden was hard work, but always fun and often enlightening. He had a happy knack for "seeing the wood despite the trees", a gift for shaping the contours of the landscape to enhance the flow of the Garden according to Connie's original design. His pruning techniques seemed to me frequently unorthodox but somehow defied the odds and worked out just fine in the long run.

Scotty had a particular passion for rhododendrons and focused much of his attention on preserving and enhancing the vigor and appearance of these shrubs that are without a doubt the defining feature of the garden while in bloom in Spring and are the structural design anchor throughout the year. Losses have occurred over the years but the basic design has been preserved with suitable replacements and that is due in large part to Scotty's vision and tenacity, passed on to succeeding Garden volunteers.

*From Karen Brown:*

*Due to his love of plants, of course Brown's Nursery got acquainted with the Scottons as soon as they moved to Lincoln City. At the nursery were piles of rocks of all sizes, dug from the land that was the bottom of a river prehistorically. Rocks of all sizes come up every time we dig a hole. Scotty wanted some rocks for his landscaping projects, so he would drive his old Volkswagen bus out and load free rocks into the foot space between front and back seats. He made a number of trips for that purpose, and also to confer about plants and purchase those he wanted. The rocks that surround the pond at Connie Hansen Garden came from Rose Lodge. The pond developer requested a load of rocks, and he and Scotty brought a small dump truck and moved rocks to town.*

*Scotty's rock collecting began long before the beginning of Connie Hansen Garden as an organized public attraction. Scotty was one of the instigators, and he was very important to grooming the garden to a place of beauty and adding interesting plants.*

*When Scotty began to complain about having to dig too many holes by himself, the board coined the phrase, "When you find yourself down in a hole, ask yourself whose idea it was to have a hole there." He had a lot of*

ideas, and many of them required digging significant holes. He may not have rivaled Connie in his zeal for rhododendrons, but he certainly came close. He always encouraged volunteers to be involved in a lot of landscaping projects, which meant lots of digging. We have him to thank for many of the beautiful plants now thriving at Connie Hansen Garden.

***We are all sorry that Scotty is gone but our lives are richer for having known him.***



*Ribes sanguineum*

### *A Thought for Today*

*"The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt,  
head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden  
is to feed not just the body, but the soul."*

*~~Alfred Austin*

### **From the President's desk.....**

As this long wet winter fades away, we're looking forward to the promise of spring and all that it brings ---longer sunny days to work in the garden, the bloom of spring bulbs and flowers, and green growth bursting out everywhere.

It's also time to indulge our plant shopping habit. When the Garden House reopens for the season in March, we'll have a varied selection of plants available. Our annual Spring Plant Sale will be on April 18. There's no better reason to get your hands dirty. We look forward to seeing you soon.

*~~Kathie Arehart, CHG Board President*

## **Garden Report.....**

### **MAKING A GRAND(ER) ENTRANCE**



*Removing the old planter to make way for the new curbs.*

Readers of the Garden Gazette from September 2019 may remember an article describing the recent changes to the parking lot entry island and the scheme underway to create a more open, welcoming and easily negotiated driveway.

I'm happy to say that over the course of the past few weeks, during the time that we have in the past referred to as "winter," great progress has been made. All of the old, broken, surface mounted curbs have been hauled away and replaced with a new, heavy-duty style of curbing with deep footings, the asphalt paving removed and the center planting island dug completely out and reconstructed to less than two thirds of its former size. The new divided driveway now boasts lanes thirteen feet wide which should accommodate vehicles with even the most challenged turning radius and drivers.

The final phase of the project includes filling the island planter and surrounding affected planting beds with a good soil mix, reinstalling the carved entry sign, repaving the driveway once the weather cooperates and finally, planting.

Choosing the right plants is always the most enjoyable part of any new garden project, and these will need to be fairly low growing, relatively hardy and resilient and colorful. Discussions are just beginning and naturally we all have a variety of opinions and personal favorites.

(Garden Report continued...)



*Colorful mid-winter growth on Sorbaria 'Sem.'*

As you no doubt are aware, this has been the winter that wasn't. We have had these warm, wet winters before but not in a long while. And I doubt they were ever quite this mild. Consequently, several of the hardier perennials never became fully dormant so we have been obliged to prune back green, albeit somewhat straggly, growth. Some tough annuals are still alive and kicking.



*Crocus, of course.*

Bulbs are not only growing, but already in full bloom, and let's not even think about what's going on with the weeds. The soil is so wet it's relatively easy to pull them out, but where it's really heavy, as it is in the Connie Hansen Garden, the risk of negatively impacting soil structure is a real concern.



*Bergenia purpurascens 'Helen Dillon' likes wet feet.*

So the majority of work over the past few weeks has focused on pruning and clipping back whenever the pelting rain didn't dampen our enthusiasm; and of course, on walking around, enjoying the early blooming Rhododendrons such as 'Christmas Cheer,' 'Seta,' and 'Cornubia' while plotting strategy for the coming year.

~~Priscilla Patterson, Head Gardener



*R. 'Christmas Cheer' has been blooming all winter.*



*Rhododendron 'Seta' is one of the earliest to bloom.*



*In the SW corner, R. 'Cornubia' towers over Oar St.*

## Winter flowers in the Garden

Visitors are amazed at what grows here during the winter. Many rhododendrons open up in January and February, Hellebores start blooming in January, and the heather beds are beautiful year round.



*Hellebores brighten the bed under the Camellia.*



*The pruning around this white Camellia made it happy.*



*Rhododendron moupinense is an early blooming species, growing in the bed above the stone wall.*



*Visitors from Montana, enjoying a sunny day in February.*



*Rhododendron grande, a species, blooming February 25.*



*Bed 14 Rhody #9 (needs ID!) bloomed February 11.*



*Little Rhododendron 'Bric-a-brac' north of the house.*

## Photo Exhibit in the Garden House Gallery



Photo by Ernie Rose

### **“Feathers, Fur and Fins” Ernie Rose & William Henderson Photos**

**Exhibit from March through May.  
An Opening Reception will be held Saturday,  
March 7th, 4:00 to 6:00  
Refreshments will be provided.**

As Connie Hansen Gardens opens its doors to the public in March, its walls will be displaying the photography of local residents Ernie Rose and William Henderson. The show is entitled “Feathers, Fur and Fins” in reference to birds, mammals and fish.

Ernie Rose, a retired graphic designer, and wife Doreen Thirkell, moved to Lincoln City from Cornish, ME in 2005. Often asked what brought them to Oregon, Ernie jokingly states that they were heading into Portland, Maine, took a wrong turn, and ended up outside of Portland, OR. In 2009, Ernie became a board member of the Audubon Society of Lincoln City (ASLC). That’s when he began honing his skills in bird photography. Raptors are Ernie’s favorite subjects to photograph. His close encounters with hawks are what drew his interest in them. He prefers the challenge of catching the birds in flight more than being perched on a limb or standing on the ground. Since living in Oregon, Ernie has given more focus on photography than his 30+ years as a graphic designer. His wildlife photos have been displayed at Chessman Gallery, the Artists’ Studio Association Gallery, and at Sitka Center for Art and Ecology.

*“When I was an adolescent, I would walk into the woods and see the birds and animals scurry away from what I’m guessing was a threatening entity. But I’d find a*

*comfortable place to sit and stay quietly and motionless. Soon the birds and animals would feel comfortable enough to show themselves nearby. That is when I felt at one with Nature. That is what I attempt to re-create in my photos, to perhaps inspire those who are less connected to nature to gain more appreciation for the birds and animals in their natural state of being.”*

William Henderson’s interest in photography and most specifically birds began when, in the 3rd grade, he was introduced to a paperback book given to him by his father, *Field Guide to Birds*. His father also gave him a folding Kodak camera with four ‘F’ stops, two shutter speeds and a roll of 620 black & white film. *“With a degree in Graphic Design and experience teaching the art of jewelry making and pottery for several years, I hopefully bring some of those design elements into the composition of my images.”*

Being an avid fisherman and hunter most of his life, Bill was led to a 35mm camera to record his adventures. He now uses several digital SLR cameras and a mirrorless one. No more buying film for him. *“I use mostly longer zoom lenses (on a Canon of course), 100-400mm, 70-300mm when photographing wildlife, and a smaller 18-135mm for landscapes and people. When not taking photos of birds and wildlife, I love taking pictures of my grandchildren’s many sporting events. Being retired has allowed me time to pursue this passion. Whether fishing, hunting or attending their sporting activities, my camera is always with me, and I’m so fortunate to have gotten to see some of my images published in periodicals both here in Oregon and in Arizona. I love seeing them displayed in the homes of friends and family.”*



Photo by William Henderson

## Spring Plant Sale: April 18<sup>th</sup> 10:00 - 3:00

Plants are shaping up already for the ever popular spring plant sale. You'll find a much larger selection of varieties than is available on the benches every day when you visit CHG for this sale. There will be plenty of *Primula japonica*, the popular Candelabra Primrose, in several colors. We will also have several varieties of iris, hydrangeas, ferns and other varieties that thrive in our coastal climate.

Numbers of some varieties are limited, so don't wait until 3:00 to start shopping!



*Cyclamen in the greenhouse might be ready in time.*

### Pollinator Event Coming June 6

Kathy Cope, a pollinator enthusiast and volunteer at CHG, will talk to us about pollinators in our gardens at 1:00 pm.

Other activities are also planned for the day. Check our bulletin board or website for further details as they are finalized. We hope you will join us for an interesting and fun day.

### Martin Anderson: A Rhododendron Retrospective June - August in the Gallery

Martin Anderson raises rhododendrons, many of them from seedlings. Over the years, he has completed an impressive series of large oil paintings, using his favorite rhododendrons as subjects. We will be showing these paintings, along with some of his smaller florals, in a retrospective exhibit at the Garden Gallery starting at the end of May, and continuing through the summer.

## 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!*

### Editors:

"Gazette" edited by Karen Brown

"E-Gazette" edited by Nancy Chase