



The Garden Gazette

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This pink rhody towers over the entrance on Oar street.

From the President's Desk....

As the old saying goes, "April showers bring May flowers". This year April showers brought more May showers, record amounts that we'll probably be happy for in August. Perhaps there's no such thing as a "normal" spring anymore, or are all springs unusual in one way or another? At any rate, the rhodies and azaleas are happily accommodating our unpredictable weather, blooming in their usual flamboyant fashion. We're watching and waiting to see if some of the perennials have succumbed to our past long, cold and very wet winter. Stay tuned!

~~Kathie Arehart

2022 Calendar of Events

As new events are scheduled, we will post them on our bulletin board, web page, and in this newsletter.

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

Saturday, September 10, 2022...Garden Tea
Details TBA

The Garden is a Gift of Welcome

Close your eyes and imagine yourself in a hidden nook that feels warm and welcome. Now, open your eyes and look around you. You are in a welcoming garden of delight. The delight extends beyond the colorful blossoms and the sway of the trees to the people who step onto the garden path.

This has been my experience as a new volunteer with the Connie Hansen Garden Conservancy. The volunteers have been very open and friendly - always willing to lend a hand or answer questions.

The visitors - many of whom have stumbled upon the garden as if by accident - come into the gift shop with smiles and eyes full of wonder. They shake their heads in amazement: "How did this come to be?" "Only a block away from Highway 101?" "I've never seen anything as beautiful as this garden!"

I agree! As Emerson said, "All my hurts, my garden-spade can heal. A woodland walk, a wild rose, or rock-loving columbine, salve my worst wounds, and leave no cicatrice." The beauty of the garden, and the friendliness of the volunteers and visitors is infectious, and I always leave the garden feeling a little lighter with any hurts healed. My spirit shakes off the cares of the day, and I bask in the welcome of this hidden garden nook.

~From Julie McDonald, CHG Hostess

Rhododendrons Rule!

From March until July, rhododendrons make a huge statement of color in the garden. Connie collected dozens of varieties, in many sizes and colors, from little miniatures to giants that have become trees. We know the names of many of them, while others are still providing mystery to the volunteers who observe carefully, hoping to find the actual name and parentage of each.

While a rhododendron of stature is a thing of beauty, if you look closely and you will find more to enjoy in each blossom. In the photo below, notice the delicate pink of each floret, and more, the “blotch”, which up close is a spray of darker color, seeming to emanate from the heart of the flower. Like fireworks, the red tipped stamens burst from the throat of the bloom, punctuating the spray. (Notice in the photo below, by Nancy Chase, CHG volunteer photographer.)

Multiply all that by thousands and you have a complete rhododendron. Every plant differs from every other in detail, and each has a unique beauty to be enjoyed if you but take time to observe it.



Rhododendron tagged as ‘Harvest Moon’

“Harvest Moon” is usually a pale yellow with a similar blotch. The tag might have been replaced on the wrong plant, or it might be a color variant. Some of our plants are well known varieties, and you may feel you are visiting old friends, while others are unknown and new to all of us. If you like to talk “rhody”, you’ll find kindred spirits here at CHG.



Connie mentioned R. ‘Jingle Bells’ frequently in her journals, but this rhododendron with a cupped calyx is the only plant that resembles it. It clearly has some *Fabia* parentage. If not, who can identify it?



This view changes daily during the spring.

For the overall effect, stand still or sit on a bench and look all around. Rhodies are interspersed with several varieties of trees and lower shrubs. While not all are in bloom at the same time, there is a tapestry of color and texture at every season.



Here is a bench to sit on, amid the fragrant Exbury azaleas.



Rhododendron Tips

The question of the season is, "Do we have to deadhead our rhododendrons?" Who do you suppose deadheads the wild rhodies in the woods or the giants at Connie Hansen Garden? Of course you don't have to deadhead.

The popular myth that claims rhodies won't bloom as well if you don't remove the spent blooms and the little stem that held them is probably based on the theory that the new growth starts more quickly if the plant doesn't use energy to form seeds. Don't worry, new growth will happen either way.

The proper way to deadhead is to remove the center stem just above the first leaves, being careful not to harm the growth buds located at the base of each of the leaves. This not only removes the dead blooms but also the part of the structure that would later produce seed. You can break off the stem with your fingers, which leaves you with sticky fingers, or snip it with a clipper.

Deadheading does have the advantage of making the plant look tidier, so if that is important to you, go ahead and deadhead. It might also help to remind you that the best time to do any needed pruning on rhodies is right after bloom. Cut back to just above a whorl of leaves or the bumpy place on an older stem that indicates where leaves once were. New sprouts will usually begin to grow quite soon. Do not cut off all the new growth to control the size, or you won't get any blooms.

Old rhodies that have more gnarled woody stems than foliage are telling you that the conditions are not quite right where they are located. Once they reach this ugly stage, it is better to remove them and start over than to try to resurrect them. Various factors may be at fault, such as soil fertility, moisture (too much or too little), prevailing wind exposure, salt air or water, and once in awhile, disease or insect damage. If you can't correct the conditions, it may be better to choose a different plant for that site. Poor blooming and leggy growth may be caused by too much shade as well. While rhodies like shade from hot summer sun, most can grow just fine without it in this climate.

Since rhododendrons set buds for the following year during their summer growth period, it is important to provide soil moisture, especially to young plants, during dry summer months. If fertilizing is needed, apply it now according to package instructions. A lighter dose can be given when fall rain begins as well. Overfertilizing, particularly in dry soil situations, can cause leaf damage.

Another handy thing to know about rhododendrons is that in early fall, after new growth is established and buds set, the oldest leaves naturally yellow and drop. Happy plants should have two or three whorls of healthy green leaves left. Old leaves on the ground are not a cause for worry.

~Submitted by Karen Brown,
Retired from Brown's Rose Lodge Nursery, Otis



R. yunnanense, *R.* 'Unique' & *R.* 'Coastal Spice'

Looking for Shopping Opportunities?

The question we hear is,
“Are you having plant sales this year?”

Sorry to say, we are not having formal, one day, all out plant sales this summer. However, there are plants for sale in front of the garden house from early March until late summer. A fresh supply is brought in at least once each week, and oftener when the options available dwindle. Envelopes for purchase of plants are next to the bulletin board.



The plant sale bench

We know lots of you enjoy getting together to shop and visit with garden volunteers during our traditional sales. We appreciate that. But with scheduling a crowded event still a little uncertain, we have decided not to plan a sale this year.

We invite you to drop in, walk about, and visit with gardening volunteers on any Tuesday, between 10: AM and 2:00 PM. They'll be working, though, so while you visit, maybe you can pull a few weeds to help. Volunteer help is always welcome, whether for a few minutes or on Tuesday every week.



Limnanthes is a moisture-loving native plant that attracts every pollinator in the neighborhood.



A visitor who appreciated the grandeur of this rhody.

When to Visit?

The garden itself is always open to visitors, dawn to dusk. There are many ways to enjoy it, shared with friends or alone. You can walk around the many paths, rain or shine.

Sit on a bench and meditate. Enjoy the feast of color and texture, or close your eyes and notice the sounds of a garden, the birds and insects busy about their business, oblivious to your presence. Leaves rustle, with varied sound in gentle or harsh breezes. Gentle sounds come together in a restful symphony.

On Tuesdays, you will find volunteers removing weeds, planting new plants, trimming and grooming, working soil for more plants, and actually enjoying the garden in our own ways. Stop and visit for a moment, ask your questions, and for a few moments you will become part of the beauty of the garden. Take that feeling away with you.

You are welcome to bring a snack. (Please take the remains out of the garden when you leave.) Walk with your dog or your children as fast or as slowly as you choose. We just ask all visitors to stay on the paths, avoid walking or running through the garden beds, and walk any bicycles. No skateboarding. Be respectful, please.

What Is Inside the Garden House?

The Garden House is open again, with a host on Friday through Tuesday, closed on Wednesday and Thursday. Come on in and take a look.

In the first room you will find the Gift Shop, with practical garden items, hand cream, garden gloves, plant labels, used garden books, and whimsies.

Continue on into the house to see the CHG Botanical Library, with plenty of books to research, and a chair to sit in to read. On the table you will find more gardening tips in printed form.

In the library you will also find scrapbooks, past "Gazette" copies, information on many of the plants in the Connie Hansen Garden, and a transcribed copy of Connie Hansen's garden journals.

And, finally, we have a meeting room with an art gallery, currently displaying a Bird and Wildlife photography exhibit, with a renewed selection of framed photos.

Feathers, Fur and Fins" **Ernie Rose & William Henderson Photos**



Come into the Garden House and browse!

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!

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Family \$35
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior individual \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior family \$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporter \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$500
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 _____

Email _____



"Gazette" Editors: Karen Brown, Print version
Nancy Chase: "E-Gazette" version & photographer