



The Garden Gazette

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The Connie Hansen Garden Conservancy
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Happy New Year

New Years come and New Years go,
Pieces of time, all in a row.
As we live our life, each second and minute,
We know we're privileged to have you in it.
Our appreciation never ends,
For our greatest blessings are
Our family and friends.

~By Joanna Fuchs

From the President's Desk....

As this year draws to a close, all of us here at the garden appreciate your support of Connie Hansen Garden throughout this past very challenging time. The garden continues on, as gardens do, and we'll continue to do our best to maintain and improve the garden, to honor Connie's vision and make it a good experience for you.

~Kathie Arehart, CHG President

2021 Calendar of Events

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

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

Autumn Came!



Exbury Azalea in mid-October

After a long, dry summer, rain came again, and every shrub and tree that could decorated itself in brilliant autumn color. This deciduous Exbury azalea glowed in spite of dull, rainy days. It was joined by lots of other colorful foliage as summer flowers waned. Even on the dullest days, there is beauty to be found at Connie Hansen Garden, and calm uncrowded paths to walk in peace.

Looking Forward...

We are all looking forward hopefully to spring, and the opportunity to again open the Garden House, with its gift shop and gallery, space for meetings and events, plant sales, demonstrations and all of the fun gatherings we like to offer. Thanks to all for your support in so many ways, memberships, plant purchases, donations and visits, during the time we've needed to be closed.

See you in the spring?



Connie Hansen, enjoying her spring garden.

Changes?

It is not at all unusual for visitors to the Connie Hansen Garden to ask a volunteer, “Are you Connie?” Of course, we then try to answer with a brief description of the history of Connie’s garden and who Connie was. However, one day while I was working there, the visitor asked, “Is the garden still the same as it was when Connie was here?”

That question requires a quite different answer. It would seem that it is, but it isn’t really. During the last 28 years since Connie died, many changes have occurred, although much of her basic layout designs and quite a few of her plants still remain. The overall scheme of the garden is as true to Connie’s vision as we can make it. We do like to think that Connie would enjoy the changes.

The first major change was to create an entrance and parking area for visitors. Connie’s narrow gravel driveway gave way to a paved entrance with an adjacent parking lot for several cars, which also required moving Connie’s special Japanese iris “stream” to a location west of the entrance, and providing a comfortable entrance walkway to the house.



The path leads from the parking lot to the pond.

Plant material has grown, of course, and some plants and trees have reached their expected life span and been removed. A large old alder west of the house dropped most of its top on the beds below during a wind storm, destroying several choice plants adjacent to it, for example. Such changes offer new opportunities, in that case a location to place a donated bench. In order to be comfortably used, the new bench required some terracing and included a border bed for low flowering plants.



Saracena by the pond in September.

The shallow bowl-shaped pond that captured water from a little stream at the east end of the property was remodeled into a larger pond, deep enough for the lovely water lily and a few goldfish to thrive, while still accommodating the little green tree frogs whose ancestors Connie probably enjoyed hearing.



A volunteer built a drystone wall in the East Garden.

A low-lying lot to the northeast was donated by a volunteer, enlarging the garden by a quarter acre, now called the “East Garden.” We can imagine Connie would have filled the area with more of her favorite plants, including heathers, so a volunteer who specialized in heathers created a large central bed of mingled heather varieties. This eye-catching heather berm change colors with every season.

[Changes? Continued]

In an ongoing project, some of the original paths and trails have been replaced with hard surfaces to make wandering about easier for visitors. All the bridges over the creek have been rebuilt, including the arched ‘Monet’ bridge.



The foliage by this bridge stayed green late in the season.

Signs identifying some of the more unusual plants have been placed, and many more plants added to the mix. In Connie’s spirit, we choose plants that will thrive in the coastal climate and sometimes boggy soil; plants that are interesting to see and enjoy.



The seed pod of Kiringeshoma, Yellow Wax Bell.

We are thankful for Connie’s journals and writings that were given to us by her sons, which give us more understanding of her gardening goals. The Journals allow those of us who may not have known the garden when she created it to feel closer to her and the garden she loved, even as it continues to change over time.

The Garden Gazette has documented the changes, season by season, for the last 25 years. Recordkeeping is so important.



A Rhododendron in Winter?

Rhododendrons were one of Connie’s favorite plants. This unidentified variety by the entrance on 33rd street faithfully blooms every spring, and reblooms again in fall. It is still a beautiful sight by the mailboxes, inviting your visit.



We have dubbed it R ‘Mailbox’ until further ID is found.



Another winter blooming rhody, ‘Yellow Hammer’.



The colors of Rhododendrom moupinense buds in November give a hint of its beauty in February.



Hesperantha (aka Schizostylis) blooms any time it feels like it, here in front of heather.

Thank You !

At a recent Board meeting, someone pointed out that we really appreciate one of our volunteers who has been doing something very important for Connie Hansen Garden. We should give her special credit and thanks in this newsletter.

Then another Board member spoke up and suggested another person who does a lot. She was joined by others with more and more names, until it was obvious that we really appreciate every one of you who donate time, energy, and funds, to keep the garden the special place it is.

A list of everyone who contributes would require another sheet of paper, at least.

Please know that whatever you do, each of you is appreciated very much!

**Editors: Karen Brown, Print version
Nancy Chase: E-Gazette**

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!

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|---|---|
| <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 _____

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