



The Garden Gazette

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The Connie Hansen Garden Conservancy
Located at: 1931 NW 33rd, Lincoln City, OR
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2023 Calendar of Events

*Visit our website often for up to date details and new events.
Share photos of CHG on our Facebook page.*

The Garden is always open from dawn to dusk for your enjoyment, to visit, walk or sit and enjoy. Please avoid walking on closed pathways and grass.

The Garden House, with gift shop, library and gallery will be open from 10:00 to 2:00 daily. It will be staffed by volunteers every day. The Gift Shop, just inside the front door, has been restocked with useful and interesting items, and is ready for your visit between 10:00 and 2:00 any day of the week.



Welcome to the garden!



Kathie, weeding the Japanese Iris bed last spring. These Iris are in bloom this week.

From the President's Desk...

The rhododendron and azalea blooms are just past peak bloom, and the size and color of the show was gorgeous, perhaps in part due to the generous (and seemingly endless) rain earlier this year.

The sunny dry days we've been waiting for are here, and the volunteers are busy weeding and planting annuals and perennials to give the garden color. The removal of infected plants continues, opening up new vistas and possibilities for the garden to come.

Come by to see the changes in the garden, and check out the gift shop, now open daily. We appreciate all the support of the friends of the garden in the past, and we look forward to your continued support in the future.

~Kathie Arehart, CHG President

A Rainbow of Colors

Connie Hansen was an artist. She arranged her rhododendron colors so they harmonized and accented each other, and if she didn't like a combination, she dug up the plants and moved them. She designed beds as if she were painting a picture, using filler plants, sometimes azaleas and sometimes perennials, to give continuity of color and form.



The rhododendron in the center is R. 'Rudolph's Orange.'



Despite recent changes to accommodate the public, like the bench, paver pathways, and the wall, the rhododendron plantings are Connie's basic design. In this view, many of her original rhododendron have needed to be removed.



A ball of rhododendron flowers is called a "truss."



A solid flame-shaped streak on a petal is called a "flare."



A "blotch" refers to a contrasting area of spots on a petal.



Azaleas have five stamens, one per petal, while Rhododendrons have ten or more stamens.



R. Fastuosum FlorePleno has ruffled double flowers. Connie had three of these rhodies in different spots.

GARDEN REPORT – SPRING 2023

We have spent a great deal of time this year “creating space” in the Garden, a necessary but unwelcome task involving removal of several diseased rhododendrons that have been a defining feature for many years and the highlight of the spring bloom season.



R. 'Coastal Spice' still fills the garden with fragrance.

But as work progressed, we began to appreciate the fresh perspective that opening up created, and to see, and really look at, things we had either not been aware of before, or dismissed as “ordinary” or “ubiquitous,” or worse, “stuck with.”

One such plant truly came into its own this year thanks to increased sunlight in formerly shady spots, creating a sparkling carpet of glorious color in early May reflecting the deep azure of the frequently cloudless sky we’ve been blessed with this spring (once the rain finally stopped).

Commonly known as the bluebell, this formerly overlooked and frequently maligned perennial bulb is my choice for “Flower of the Month” for May. The bluebell has an ancient and complex history that has given rise to a variety of botanical names including *Endymion*, *Scilla*, and is currently known as *Hyacinthoides*. The bluebells growing in Connie’s garden appear to be what is now known as *Hyacinthoides hispanica*, or Spanish bluebell, also known as *Scilla campanulata* (or *S. hispanica*) and *Endymion hispanicus*. Another common name for these are Wood Hyacinths.

Scilla are a vigorously spreading perennial bulb, originally native to southern Europe. They also come in pinks and whites, are unscented and bear bell-shaped blooms all around the flower stems.

To further complicate things, the traditional bluebell of lore and legend, the English Bluebell, is actually another member of the same genus and known as *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*. It is native to northern Europe and has become known for populating ancient English woodlands and hedgerows, and for its association with fairy rings, witchcraft and folklore. The fragrant flower is borne on one side of the slender, nodding stem and is a rich violet blue, deeper in color than its close cousin the Spanish bluebell.

When planted in proximity to the Spanish bluebell it is liable to cross, thus adding to the general confusion. Regrettably, *H. non-scripta* is now considered a threatened species in Britain due to the proliferation of *H. hispanica*, whose vigorous growth out-competes its more delicate relative.

In a woodland garden setting, in partial shade to mostly full sun, these ridiculously easy to grow bulbs will naturalize readily and provide sweeps of welcome color for a few weeks in mid spring. The only maintenance required will be to manage their spread into more formal areas. Look for bulbs in fall bulb catalogs.

~Priscilla Patterson, Head Gardener



Scilla beside Rhododendron 'Lori Eichelser'

**Spring Quilt Show in the CHG Gallery:
 “A Field of Sun and Flowers”**

~Linda Bice, quilter and CHG volunteer



This quilt is “Sunny Days” by Nancy Cross

“We are known as Lincoln City Quilters. Our group started in the 70’s when a few quilters got together to hand quilt like a quilting bee. The group has since progressed to a quilting group of as many as 10 to 14, meeting every Tuesday and Thursday at Senior Center. Most of our group are 60 and over, the oldest being 90 and 95. Several of the quilts in the show were made by our 90-year-old member.

We work on our own projects and charity quilts. So far, we have donated 20 quilts to the hospital for babies, 20 quilts to Lincolnshire at Xmas, and donated quilts to nonprofits for raffles.”



This quilt is “Circles” by Laura Martin

MEMBERSHIP

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 _____

Email _____



Editors: Karen Brown & Nancy Chase

Forget-me-not Fun Fact

“The yellow ring at the flower’s center fades to white after pollination, signaling to insects there’s no more nectar. The insects therefore learn to visit the flowers that haven’t yet been pollinated, ensuring that no forget-me-not flower is forgotten.”

~Leif Bersweden

Addendum

Important Announcement:

Due to the Discovery of the fungal pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum* in the Connie Hansen Garden and in the neighborhood, there will be a Community Meeting that we urge you to attend.

Ramorum Blight in Lincoln City Community Meeting

**Monday, June 26, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
North Lincoln Fire & Rescue Station
2525 US-101, Lincoln City, OR 97367**

Zoom option available for those who would like to attend virtually.

Join experts from Oregon Department of Agriculture for an education and information community meeting on the status of Ramorum blight in Lincoln City.

Registration is FREE and required.

To register and for more information, visit <https://beav.es/Sv7>

or email OSU Extension Forester
Dan.Stark@oregonstate.edu