The Garden Gazette

Volume 31, Issue 3, September 2026

The Connie Hansen Garden Conservancy
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2026 Calendar of Events

Due to a burst pipe in our house bathroom that caused extensive water damage, the shop and meeting spaces are closed until the end of September.

Upcoming Gallery Exhibit

When the Garden House again opens, the gallery will be presenting paintings by Sidney-Angelique Green, graphic artist, designer and writer. Her acrylics and watercolors have been shown at the Freed Gallery and in private collections. Sidney is a self taught artist with a range of techniques from broad-brush abstracts to finely lined Japanese style portraiture.

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



Leaves early Sept 2026



Gazania in CHG parking lot

From the President's Desk….

"A fallen leaf is nothing more than summer's wave goodbye." ~Unknown

Hello Friends of the Garden,

Summer brought some beautiful flowers and plants to life in the garden, with some help from our fantastic gardeners. The gazania in the parking lot puts a smile on our faces as we drive in and out. The gunnera has sprung from the ground with its giant leaves and humungous seedpods. Surely a dinosaur is lurking nearby!

Summer also brought a watery mishap to the Garden House. (continued on next page)

A broken pipe sprayed water for several hours overnight and caused significant damage to the walls and baseboards. The gift shop has been closed since July 23. We hope to be back in business in late September.

We are looking forward to a spectacular autumn. It's a great time to visit the garden (open dawn to dusk) to see the leaves changing colors and breathe in the fresh ocean air.

Happy Fall to you all.

~Cheri Rice, CHG President



Bamboo pruning in the pond area highlights its beauty thanks to Bobby and Shana, new volunteers at the CHG

Garden Report

Welcome New Volunteers!

A very warm welcome to new volunteers Art Smith, Tamara Tardy, Helen Jiang, Jill Smith, and Shana and Bobby Vilas. Though with us for just a few weeks so far, these folks have individually and collectively made a tremendous difference to what we have been able to accomplish. The Garden looks beautiful and our appreciative visitors are full of compliments. Let's keep the momentum going!

Garden Report

The summer of 2026 has been both rewarding and challenging for the volunteer gardeners; an abundance of unusually warm and sunny weather combined with almost no measurable precipitation resulted in long and productive working days, but in which we also frequently spent many hours either hand watering or modifying inadequate irrigation coverage. However, a recent influx of new volunteers has kept the Garden flourishing and the weeds on the run in many areas, without needing to resort to herbicide applications, for which I am very thankful.

You may notice a major improvement to the pond area on your next visit to the Garden; new volunteers Bobby and Shana are bamboo enthusiasts and have put their considerable knowledge and skills to work pruning and highlighting the beauty of this former background plant, now transformed into a feature. Now under consideration – introducing clumping forms of bamboo, such as Fargesia robusta, into some of the newly opened parts of CHG.

Unfortunately, we have received news from ODA that recent testing has revealed a recurrence of Phytophthora ramorum on several of the rhododendrons. There might still be some funding available to assist with the removal of affected material, however, we do not know how extensive this current infection is, how long funding will last, or what remediation methods are now recommended or covered.

~Priscilla Patterson, Head Gardener



Rhododendron polyandrum

The Tools That Build a Garden: Insights from Connie Hansen's Journals

When visitors admire the beauty of the CHG, they often focus on the remarkable collection of plants, the mature landscape, and the creative vision behind the garden. Connie Hansen's journals reveal another important story: the tools that helped make it all possible.

A quick and heartfelt Thank You is needed right now to our volunteers for maintaining the garden today. Human hands and minds are also tools, and we would not be enjoying this without your time and efforts.

Throughout her writings, Connie recorded not only the plants she acquired and the gardens she visited, but also the practical work of maintaining a thriving landscape. References to mowing, edging, pruning, digging, hauling, spraying, and pest control appear again and again, offering a glimpse into the daily realities of gardening.



Connie Hansen Garden Toolshed

The journals show that tools are more than equipment. They represent the countless hours of work invested in creating and maintaining a garden. The mower, edger, cart, pruners, saws, sprayers, and traps that were the most mentioned tell a story of dedication, observation, and care.

My thought after searching 17 years of journals ('74-'91), the garden cart purchased in 1980 was one of Connie's favorite garden tools. How about you?

~ Connie Peabody, co-editor



Connie Hansen Garden Toolshed

Playing Favorites

When asked to write an article about my favorite garden tool, I was flummoxed.



Joan's favorite garden tools

Was it my Root Slayer shovel that I use on raspberries in an attempt to control them? Sometimes an exercise in futility...

Perhaps my Korean Ho-Mi blade weeder which is great for going after deep-rooted weeds?
(find out on the next page)

At last, I have settled on my two favorite garden tools: my hands and my three-tined hand fork. The three-tined hand fork I had made to suit my needs by a great company called Red Pig Tools. It is perfect for light cultivation, digging for transplanting small plants like annuals and veggie starts, weeding and fluffing up soil to improve aeration.

The Ho-Mi triangle weeder/hoe has a heavy blade on a stout shaft that is perfect for uprooting the deeply rooted. If you are thinking dandelions and dock, you're getting really warm! It is also useful for creating a furrow for seeding direct as one might do in a vegetable garden and for creating planting holes for transplants. If I use the flat side, I can discourage an abundance of small weeds in short order.

My hands: indispensable, flexible, gets me in touch with the soil in ways that tools can only dream of.

~Joan Erlanger, Volunteer

Garden Tools some of our other hardy volunteers prefer to use when helping us keep the place or their own yards looking so good.

Tom Gory:
DeWalt cordless reciprocating pruning saw - general cutting, roots and limbs.

Terry DeJongh:
Japanese hand-held dual headed tool with flat hoe and 3 prong cultivator. Great for weed removal and breaking up soil.

Priscilla Patterson:
Felco pruning shears. For cutting small (1") branches, roots, flowers and foliage, very useful as slug control, a weeding implement and occasionally a screwdriver.

Cheri Rice:
Winged weeder is a fav of hers.

Roberta Baker:
I mostly use a trowel. A trowel is excellent for digging up weeds. You can also dig holes with it, and use it to clean off mud and dog poo, from the bottom of your shoe.

Nancy Chase:
I always carry my Japanese horihori when I go out to my own garden. Its wide concave blade, pronged tip and serrated edge make most weeds removable. I find it useful for dividing and transplanting clumps of perennials. Like most tools, it needs to be cleaned, disinfected, and oiled after use.



Nancy's HoriHori has helped rescue her garden after the Otis fire



Tom's favorite tool is the saws-all



Cheri's favorite garden tool –

winged weeder



Roberta's favorite tool is this trowel



Priscilla's favorite pruning shears



Terry's favorite tool is a dual headed flat hoe and three pronged cultivator



Gunnera in August top-down view



Gunnera in February 2026



Gunnera Full Size August 2026

MEMBERSHIP

If you are not currently a member and would like to be, 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_____



Connie Hansen Garden is always open from dawn to dusk for the public to visit, walk the pathways, or sit and enjoy.

Editors: Nancy Chase and Connie Peabody