



The Garden Gazette

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The Connie Hansen Garden Conservancy
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2022 Calendar of Events

When events can again be 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, and share your photos of CHG on our Facebook page.

From the President's Desk....

Happy Spring Everyone!

Now that our 'mud season' seems to be ending at last, the gardening volunteers are ready to go back out and get our hands dirty again! Hellebores, daffodils and primula are in bloom, and the Rhododendron 'Christmas Cheer' is still in full bloom after a long season. The Magnolias have opened up, and many other plants are beginning to show signs of awakening, ready to leap into a new year's growth.

As Covid seems to be on the wane, we are hoping to be able to open up the garden house too. Stay tuned! As usual the garden is always open for you to walk through and enjoy.

~~Kathie Arehart

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



We think this may be Connie's Rhododendron 'Brocade.'

The first buds tell us spring is on its way!

Rhododendrons are a highlight of Connie Hansen Garden, with some variety in bloom from December through July. Collecting varieties with early and late bloom periods was one of Connie's goals, and the benefit of her research gave us the collection of rhodies to be enjoyed by visitors today.



Rhododendron "Christmas Cheer" in winter.



Winter in the Garden

~Nancy Chase

Everything was dormant when it snowed in December...well, except for the *Primula*, the Satsuki azaleas, *Rhododendron* 'Christmas Cheer,' and a few blossoms on that crazy rhododendron by the mail box. The flowers were beautiful in the snow.

The real beauty in winter months, however, is the actual rhododendron buds: elegantly wrapped little packages, each one different. They are ready to open as the days grow longer, each on its own time clock. We'd like to share the fun of watching the rhody buds unfurl in the spring with you.



R. ciliatum, with hairy edged leaves, is pretty at all stages.



Huge leaved *R. Sinogrande x Macabeanum*, is opening now.



Species *Rhododendron siderophyllum*, will open later.



R. 'Scintillation' gleams by the entryway.



R. 'Yaku Angel' opens mid-spring, pink turning white.



R. valentineanum buds, along with seed pods. Joan has started some of the seeds that we gathered.

The volunteers tend the garden beds all winter, anticipating the gradual opening of each rhododendron, often in the same order each year.



The earliest rhododendron to open is usually R. 'Christmas Cheer'. Connie planted it, along with an almost identical R. Rosamundi. The two of them started in December, a bit late, and bloomed through February in astonishing mounds of pink.

Next rhody to bloom is R. 'Seta', a hybrid of *R. spinuliferum* x *moupinense*. It opens up in early February, a welcome splash of color.



In mid-February we welcome the *R. moupinense*, a species rhody started from seed by Rich Cravens.



Pretty little R. 'Bricabrac' also blooms in mid-February, with its very special bright red sepals.



Later in February, bright red R. 'Cornubia' opens up, a huge rhody outside the fence on Oar Street.



Speaking of that fence, it was rebuilt this winter by Tom, one of the volunteers. Thanks, Tom!



Close on the heels of Cornubia, over in the 34th St border we have the enormous *Rhododendron arboretum*, unfurling masses of red blossoms on 34th St this week. No photo yet – go see it.

The Hellebores of Bed #4



Photographing Hellebores is challenging. Hint: Put your camera phone on "Selfie" and slide it under their little shy faces, somehow not stepping into the bed to do it. With luck you will catch your own face in the background.



This Hellebore is by the teak bench.



My favorite Hellebore



The notorious black Hellebore.



The yellow Hellebore



The Parrotia tree, newly pruned

The Hellebores mostly grow in the same bed as this Parrotia tree, along with a beautiful rhododendron that Connie Hansen had labeled, "Smith: Fabia x bureavii." This winter a branch of the Parrotia broke off and attacked the Fabia x bureavii, leaving us with sadly broken branches of rhody buds and velvety indumentum covered leaves. Poor timing to make starts, but we are making a futile attempt to grow new plants from the newest growth on those branches. Wish us luck with that!

QR CODE PROJECT

Due to a recent generous contribution, the Connie Hansen Garden this year will be adding signs with QR (Quick Response) codes for visitors to gain more information about some of our plants and flowers. The codes will be placed on signs around the garden. Using the smart phone and pointing the camera at the code, you will be linked to a web page on our website which gives you more information from our CHG gardeners.

So that you can see how QR codes work, here is an example of one for garden bed #1 that we used as a rough test.



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.

Include your name, address, phone & email.

Yes, please send my more colorfull "Gazette" by email!

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

Plan a special workday, and they will come!



Wanted: Garden Volunteers

Volunteers are the life of the Connie Hansen Garden. We want to say a big Thank You to the people who have helped maintain the garden over the past two years during Covid. This spring and summer we hope to return to some of our normal routines, and as we do, we are seeking new volunteers.

We need folks who would like to weed and dig and plant flowerbeds. We also need volunteers to greet visitors, assist in the gift shop and help in the office. Whatever your skill and preference we would love to work with you!

You can join our intrepid crew of volunteer gardeners, Tuesdays, 10AM-3PM. We welcome beginners and green thumbs alike. There is plenty of room to social distance in the garden for those who wish to do so. You can choose to work with others or on your own with instruction from our head gardeners. Come for all or part of the day. We take a break around noon, so bring your lunch. Tools provided.

We can use help in the gift shop and greeting visitors every day of the week, 10AM to 2 PM. Volunteers who work just four hours a month receive a free membership which includes quarterly newsletter, discounts at the gift shop and tickets for special events.

For more information, come by the garden on any **Tuesday** or contact Jenny at [541-992-4567](tel:541-992-4567).