



The Garden Gazette

Volume 25, Issue 2, June 2021

The Connie Hansen Garden Conservancy
Located at: 1931 NW 33rd, Lincoln City, OR
Mail: PO Box 776, Lincoln City, OR 97367

Website: www.conniehansengarden.com
Phone: (541) 994-6338
Email: conniehansengarden@msn.com

2021 Calendar of Events

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

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

Summer is Coming!

The garden itself is always open during daylight hours for the public to enjoy walking the pathways. Masks are still appropriate for those who are not vaccinated. Social distancing is also recommended.

The Gift shop and Garden House will open beginning in June, with hosts available Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Please cooperate with any requested safety measures.

Plants for sale are available on the bench in front of the house. More are added weekly as they become ready to move to your garden.

Your plant payments and donations are welcome. Place cash or check in an envelope provided beside the bulletin board and put it through the letter slot in the front door. Thank you for your generous contribution to the future of this garden.



Gazania, looking forward to Summer.

From the President's Desk:

Well, we've made it through a year of Covid-19, and now everyone wants to move on. We'll resume activities as permitted, so check the website for updates. The gift shop will reopen in June on Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sundays.

The garden has continued on as usual, putting on its annual spectacular show of rhody and azalea blossoms. It seems every year the bloom tries to outdo the past year's show. The garden continues through the seasons, open every day, with the help of our loyal group of dedicated volunteers. If you haven't visited for a while, we welcome you and thank you for your support.

~~ Kathie Arehart, President



Rhody 'Sir Charles Lemon' bloomed mid-April.

Head Gardener's Report

Spring threatened to arrive early this year due to an unseasonably warm beginning, but came to an abrupt halt sometime in March when nighttime temperatures began to drop. By April we were convinced that winter had finally arrived but, notably, minus the usual rainfall.



Enchantingly lovely spring bloom at the end of April.

Plants are nothing if not resilient. As are gardeners. Climate confusion has currently added a most welcome dimension to the coastal garden experience by allowing the spring flowering display of rhododendrons to linger on far beyond their usual allotted time span, much to the delight of visitors.

Two gentlemen remarked to me a couple of days ago that they always visit in the 3rd week of May and had never seen the Garden looking

so good, to which I responded that they were actually seeing the garden as it usually is in the first week of May.



Rhody #9 in the Rhody berm at its peak on May25.

The recent wet weather is pushing growth at an unprecedented rate to all of the thirsty perennials, as evidenced by the luscious blooms on Candelabra primroses and the magnificent leaves and flower stalks on Gunnera tinctoria.



Candelabra Primroses were one of Connie's favorites.



The Gunnera leaves were too large to fit on the page.

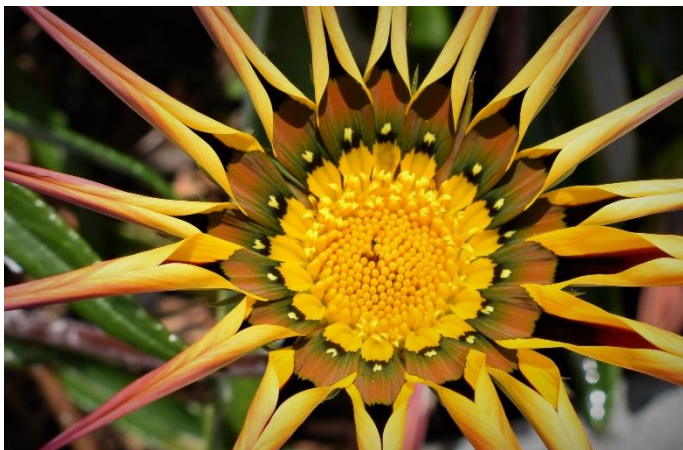
Not only are shrubs blooming more abundantly and with extended vigor, the overwintering half-hardy annuals such as the gazanias in the small driveway island are providing arriving visitors with a very warm and colorful welcome.



The Gazanias and biennial Erysimum in the entry island bed overwintered this year.

You never really know what to expect these days, and we are all learning to deal with new challenges almost daily. As gardeners, maybe we have an instinct for recognizing the inevitability of change and the necessity to adapt simply by our close association with all the ways in which the natural world constantly demonstrates a myriad of survival techniques. We as volunteers are learning together, from the Garden and each other, as we work towards our common goal week by week. As always, it is the "working towards" that brings the real reward.

~~Priscilla Patterson, Head Gardener



The crazy Gazanias have amazing form and color.



A New Feature Added

When Connie originally purchased the piece of ground that became her Garden, she bordered it with a variety of plantings designed to provide privacy, some protection from the elements, and to define her planting areas. Over time, many of these plants, mainly shore pine, holly and bamboo, have outgrown their usefulness and have been gradually removed.

We have been fairly conservative in our approach when removing trees so as to preserve a clearly defined perimeter that allows visual access. With the recent removal of a couple of shore pines on 33rd Street, and hollies on 34th, it became evident that a fence was in order.

Local contractor Loren Wand was hired to construct a post and rail fence along both sides of the Garden, in much the same style as the old cedar split rail that can still be seen along portions of the Oar street border. The new fence is constructed from treated fir and has a weathered, rustic appearance that blends beautifully with the mature border plantings, and is guaranteed to stand the test of time.





What Happened to My Hydrangea?

You went to the nursery, and picked out the prettiest pink hydrangea, took it home and planted it in a nice partially shaded spot. Winter came and went, it grew and set buds...so exciting! The buds began to open and the flowers formed, and (oh dear), they are the same color as all the old blue hydrangeas in the neighborhood.

What did happen? Hydrangeas are nature's tricksters. The color of the bloom depends on the minerals in the soil. Aluminum is the key to blue blooms in most hydrangea varieties. Western Oregon soil is rich in aluminum and the hydrangeas respond by producing blue flowers.

Calcium and some other minerals bond to aluminum ions and prevent the aluminum from dissolving and becoming available for the plant roots to absorb. Unfortunately in our rainy climate, the calcium tends to leach away, leaving the aluminum easily available for the hydrangea to use to make blue petals.

If you plant a hydrangea in potting soil, which does not usually contain any native soil at all or any aluminum, it will very likely either be pink from the start or turn pink within a year or two. To trick a plant in your own soil, add lime around the plant, or mix it into the soil when

planting a new hydrangea. Garden lime, an easy source of calcium, is readily available as a supplement for lawns and can be "fed" to your hydrangea by sprinkling a thin layer on the soil around it during the rainy season every year.

On the other hand, if you want a bluer bloom, find aluminum fertilizer in the garden shop and "feed" it a little bit of that. Remember the old stories about planting rusty nails with a hydrangea? That would provide iron for the plant, which often will darken both foliage and bloom color. Iron supplement is also available to buy in garden shops, and now days possibly easier to find than those rusty nails.

If all that is far too much bother, just enjoy your hydrangea blooms whatever color they turn out. Hydrangeas are one of the most successful flowering shrubs you can choose for Western Oregon gardens.

There may be a few varieties of hydrangea on the market that are a little more resistant to this mineral hocus pocus, and you might find one that will stay pink or rosy red. My question has always been, what is happening that results in that gorgeous deep purple color one sees now and then around town? My guess is that their soil contains enough iron, calcium and aluminum to turn a rose red hydrangea purple.

~~Karen Brown, CHG plant grower, etc.



Visit the tranquil pond any day of the week.



Tree peony, 'Bartzella'

Who Dunit?

There's nothing like a good mystery, is there? So, who takes care of this garden? The answer is complex perhaps, but not entirely impossible: A dedicated group of a few gardeners (something like six or seven comes to mind), a couple of people who propagate and deliver plants for sale, six board members, ten or more hosts to greet you and take care of the gift shop, two office managers....

Okay, that's a lot and there is quite a bit of overlap with everyone doing lots of things. More volunteers are always (ALWAYS) welcome! And there are lots of other opportunities to help in ways not already mentioned.

Just stop in and have a chat with someone working on the Tuesday crew for suggestions of jobs needing to be handled, or tell us what you would really like to do to help. Tuesday is "work day", usually from 10: am to 2: pm or as long as anyone chooses to stay. There is a lunch break with an opportunity to get acquainted and make new friendships.

You don't have to know anything about gardening, and someone can show you around and find out what you might like to do. See you soon?

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!

- Individual \$25 Family \$35
- Senior \$15 Senior family \$25
- Supporter \$100 Sponsor \$500
- Business Supporter \$100
- Please send my "Gazette" by Email!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____



Editors: Karen Brown, print version
Nancy Chase: E-Gazette & Photography