The Garden Gazette

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The Connie Hansen Garden Conservancy
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2024 Calendar of Events

Coming up soon!
Petal Heads Slideshow & Sale - *March 8, 11:00*
They bring a truckload of plants to choose from!

CHG Volunteer Art Show "Many Pathways"
Mid-March – May, 2025

Mother's Day Tea*: *Saturday, May 10, 2025
Two seatings, 11:00 and 3:00
Tickets $30, see our website for details.

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

Rhododendron 'Cornubia' blooms in February.

From the President's Desk....

Winter Bloomers

The dry days of January allowed our hardy group of volunteers to get a lot of pruning and cleanup done, ready for the garden's awakening. There are a few hardy primroses in bloom already, soon to be followed by other early bloomers. Snowdrops, with their nodding white flowers, are the first signs of spring to bloom in my garden. They are blooming now, and were followed by *Iris unguicularis*, the winter blooming iris, with soft lavender blooms. The hellebores have emerged with their dark foliage to bloom in shades of darkest purple, to shades of pinks, yellows and white.

Hooray for spring, we are ready to garden again!

~Kathie Arehart, CHG President

More on Growing from Seeds

In the beginning there was a seed and what happened from there is nothing short of miraculous. I suppose you can guess where this is going.....

Starting seeds for your 2025 garden is not particularly difficult provided you have indoor space (or a heated greenhouse) to devote to leakproof trays to hold small pots or seedling trays. Heat mats can be helpful and are readily available online. Mine is 20" X 10" and didn't send me to the poorhouse.

Starting from seed has taught me what the babies look like. If I am lucky enough to have them seed themselves in my garden, I know what NOT to weed out during spring cleanup. Yet another benefit besides saving $ of starting with seed.

Let's get started with the medium:

Do use a starting (seedling) mix which is usually peat and perlite based. Reusing potting soil will likely lead to failure due to damping off fungus.

Next, plant the seeds and monitor:

Dampen the starting mix, fill your containers and seed thinly. Cover your seeds with a thin layer of the seedling mix and prevent drying out by using a plastic dome or used grocery sack that are transparent so you can keep an eye on your babies.

Some seeds require light to germinate, so be sure to check your package for seeding details. Those seeds are sown on the surface and lightly firmed in.

As soon as the seedlings sprout, remove the cover and be sure to give them adequate light. If too many seedlings emerge, thin them out using tweezers.

First up: Sweet Peas. Sweet peas are tough little plants and can be set out in mid-March if you can work your soil at that time.

Soak the seeds in tap water for a few days and you will see the roots reaching out of the hard shell around the seeds. Pop those little puppies into potting soil in 2" or 4" pots.

Plant about 3 times the diameter of the seed in depth, cover, keep moist (not soggy) on a windowsill.

General info:

1) Large seeds either do best after soaking or nicking the seed coat carefully with a sharp knife.

2) Perennials are hardier than annuals, so they can be germinated earlier in the season. Ditto biennials. Many annuals are fairly hardy as well: calendula, ageratum, linarias (tall and short), alyssum are the first to come to mind. There are others.

3) Some seeds are slow to germinate; others pop right up in a few days. Again, read your seed packet instructions or go online for more information. One plant I think of in the first category is Rhodochiton (aka purple bell vine). It frequently overwinters in its hanging basket, but doesn't always look happy the second year, so I start a new one.

4) Once you have sprouts, stop overhead misting or watering which encourages fungus. Water from the bottom and don't overdo it. Damp is good; mucky is not.

5) Transplant out of the seeding medium into potting soil, but not until you have a pair or two of true leaves, not counting the seed leaves (cotyledons) which are the first to emerge.

The hyacinths and daffodils and crocus are up, so Spring is right around the bend.

~Joan Erlanger

The Sequoia on the left will be an effective windbreak.

Garden Report

~Priscilla Patterson

In the fall of last year, the Garden contracted with a local arborist company, Roots and Shoots, to plant 3 new trees, take down several old and failing specimens and prune up some of the older trees and shrubs that had become very overgrown. The new plantings, 2 Coast redwood and 1 *Sequoiadendron giganteum*, are situated on the northwest side of the Garden where they will afford protection for the remaining and future plantings from dominant ocean winds. Now that the Garden is so much more open due to the removal of so many large rhododendrons, mitigating wind damage is going to be an ongoing challenge for us.

The loss of the rhododendrons in the Northwest corner has opened up the area to wider views of the stream

The Coastal Pine was pruned to enhance Connie's original branch design.

Pruning will continue to play a major role in garden maintenance, particularly now that we have lost so many beautiful and valuable mature plants to disease.

The plan is to continue installing wood rail **f**encing in the remaining open areas, after which we will focus on planting. Bringing sunlight into the Garden has enhanced its remaining beauty, without a doubt, creating potential while opening up new vistas into and through the landscape. It is vital that we keep the Garden in the healthiest condition possible, and part of that can be accomplished by minimizing overcrowding and encouraging airflow. Regular pruning and appropriate plantings all feature in our future plans for garden development.

The Twelve Months:
Snowy, Flowy, Blowy,
Showery, Flowery, Bowery,
Hoppy, Croppy, Droppy,
Breezy, Sneezy, Freezy.
~George Ellis

Surprising Colors in Late Winter

The Hellebores have been putting on a show all winter..

Rhodendron 'Christmas Cheer' lives up to its name by blooming in December. It is still in flower.

One of the earliest rhododendrons to bloom is R.moupinense, often blooming in January.

Rhododendron 'Cornubia' is now blooming on Oar Street.

This Rhododendron blooms twice a year, spring and winter. We don't know its name, but since it grows by the mailbox, it has gotten the nickname of 'Mailbox.'

The Heather beds are in full bloom in March.

Volunteer Focus: Inside and Outside

~ Jenny Dahrens

Linda Bice has been volunteering as a hostess "almost forever," says Jenny, who joined us in 1996. Linda spends two days every month as a Hostess. But that isn't all Linda does as her garden volunteer efforts. Linda is President of the local Garden Club which meets on the 4th Thursday of each month at CHG.
Thank you, Linda, for all you do for CHG and for the Lincoln City Garden Community.

Kathy Cope, Stream Whisperer

Often you'll see Kathy Cope in her boots while she cleans our creek. The creek was a big reason Connie bought the property and, thanks to Kathy and our other volunteers, we can enjoy it all year as we stroll through the garden. Kathy is an Artist and teaches mandala painting as well as selling her artwork locally.

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