



The Garden Gazette

Volume 30, Issue 3, September 2025

The Connie Hansen Garden Conservancy
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2025 Calendar of Events

Coming up soon!

October date tbd – Petalheads visit

December 6 - Holiday Craft Fair from 10-4.
Call Jenny at (541) 992-4567 if you'd like to be a vendor.

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



Heather Garden

From the President's Desk....

Change Is In The Air

Change is in the air in the garden, summer is winding down and fall is upon us.

Changes have also been made to the Connie Hansen Board of Directors. Kathie Arehart has stepped down as president and a new president has been elected. Kathie has served as president since December 2012 and been a garden volunteer since 2006.

Kathie has seen many changes in the garden; she dealt with the P. ramorum virus that infected the garden and the removal of countless large rhododendrons that changed the landscape of the area. Her leadership kept us optimistic when the outlook was grim.

Kathie's dedication to the garden is admirable. She volunteers each Tuesday as one of our faithful gardeners. One of her favorite projects is the heather display and her expertise has them looking beautiful.



Cosmos bipinnatus

Kathie's presence in the garden and on the board are much appreciated, and we are thankful for her assistance in maintaining our lovely garden over the years.

New Board of Directors

The following officers were elected for the 2025-2027 term of office. President: Cheri Rice; Vice President, Jenny Dahrens; Secretary, Karen Brown and Treasurer, Karen Beechler. Karen Beechler and Joann Smith were approved to become new members of the board. Other board directors are Kathie Arehart, Priscilla Patterson, Nancy Chase, Jenny Dahrens, Shannon Loch and Connie Peabody.

~Cheri Rice, CHG President



Pollinator at work in the CHG

Garden Report

Generally speaking, by this time of year the pace of work has begun to slow down a little but this year that doesn't seem to apply. Partly due to the unusually dry and warm weather, but equally because of so many more open and sun-filled spaces that have been renovated and replanted, the Garden is still actively growing and blooming.

In addition to ongoing maintenance, some of our long-standing to-do's can now be struck off the list.

- Re-fencing the entire Garden is now a fait accompli thanks to local contractor Loren Wand.
- The new irrigation system is up and running, with ongoing modifications.
- The new Sequoia and Redwood trees are establishing well;
- We've planted several new, Phytophthora-resistant shrubs including *Laurus nobilis*, *Cistus*, *Itea*, *Philadelphus*, *Chamaecyparis* and others.

- We have also added a short hedge of variegated *Eleagnus 'Olive Martini'* a strong grower known to be immune to salt winds, to provide protection in a recently exposed area.

Deer resistant annuals are on display in the beds and borders around the parking lot and throughout other parts of the garden. Many of these are unusual and quite striking (see accompanying article for more information). It's been annoying and frustrating to deal with this additional challenge but introducing new plants that do well makes it very worthwhile.

~Priscilla Patterson, Head Gardener

Summer Blooming Beauties



Venidium fastuosum

Perhaps you have noticed the brilliant orange blossoms of *Venidium fastuosum* by the east entrance to the garden. It is commonly called 'Cape Daisy'. It is also available in white with the same black center. Aside from being astonishingly beautiful, it is useful as the deer don't seem to like the fuzzy foliage. It is annual, but starts readily from seed.



If you have wandered over by the pond, you may have noticed an annual white flower on wiry stems waving to you in the slightest breeze: *Agrostemma githago* 'Ocean Pearl'. It is the only flower I have seen that has a bit of olive drab color sprinkled on the midrib of the petals. It is also available in bold pink. It is considered a field weed in the Midwest. I have not found it to be an invasive seeder here. I am fond of flowers that dance with the wind. .



Agrostemma githago



Nierembergia caerulea

From the majestic to the diminutive: *Nierembergia caerulea* 'Purple Robe'. This delightful little edging plant has a pleated purple cup that sits atop wiry foliage with slender almost spiky looking leaves. It is hardy in zones 7-10, but is usually grown as an annual. As this is a new one for me, we'll see if they overwinter. It is certain to draw attention in a sunny spot with its cheerful yellow center.

Hope this kick starts your dreams of next year's garden. If you have plant questions, you can find experienced gardeners on Tuesdays who may be able to help give you information.

~Joan Erlanger

Gunnera, aka "Dinosaur Food"

I like to select a particular plant to write about every so often and there is one that stands above all others this summer as something extraordinary. This remarkable plant is located just east of the 34th Street gate and is known as: GUNNERA TINCTORIA

I had made reference to it in the last issue of the Gazette and as you can see from the accompanying photograph, it has continued to thrive alarmingly.

The figure beneath is proud papa Tom who keeps bringing in more starts so you, our unsuspecting visitors, can take one home to feed your own dinosaur.

The nickname "Dinosaur Food" may actually have some validity because this ancient genus dates back to the Cretaceous period when dinosaurs did indeed roam the earth. The peeled young petioles (leaf stalks) of this particular species (there are a total of 63 species in the genus) has in fact been eaten by indigenous people from its native environment of Latin America.



Tom Gory poses by the *Gunnera*



Gunnera plant for sale at CHG

We have planted an additional *Gunnera* several feet away from the original to keep it company; if that one performs as robustly, they will fill the entire area, no mean feat. Plans are to reclaim the former species Iris bed just west of the 34th Street entrance, now infested with sedge, and add another *Gunnera tinctoria* and perhaps some additional species. We are currently growing *G. perpensa*, aka River Pumpkin, which can be seen along the creek in the East Garden, also *G. magellanica*, by the pond, and *G. monoica*, which froze out but is readily available and is a tiny leaved, spreading mat.

This may be the plant for you if you have unlimited space, consistently wet but draining soil, and a moderate, maritime climate that doesn't freeze hard. We have had success in overwintering our *Gunnera* by loosely covering the crowns with dry material when we know a freeze is imminent. The flower spikes are produced in late summer and will turn red as the seeds ripen, one way to distinguish *G. tinctoria* from its close cousin, *G. manicata*. When happily located, those seeds may well produce an ongoing supply of new plants for you.

~Priscilla Patterson, Head Gardener

Volunteer Focus:

Inside and Outside



Vivian Lucero does most of the gift shop purchasing and so much more.

Vivian Lucero, volunteering since March 2016, orders most of the items for sale in our Gift shop plus being a hostess on the first Thursday of each month. She is an amazing cook, she even makes cheese! Vivian is instrumental in helping with the planning and menu for our Annual Tea.
~ **Jenny Dahrens**



Tom Gory, Volunteer extraordinaire

Tom is the guy every volunteer organization needs who will always step up to take on the most difficult of challenges, figure out the best way to get things done, and see the job through to completion. He is always ready and willing to lend a hand when asked, no matter how many people are bugging him, and still keeps a smile on his face and a quick reply at hand. Tom can be found working clearing pond weeds and other invasive plants, talking to his Gunnera, and making improvements to the irrigation system.

~ **Priscilla Patterson**

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