

JUNE'S GARDEN

Description of a passionate gardener: An intense interest in and love of nature, optimism, enthusiasm, being inquisitive to research and learn more about all plant life, not being discouraged by the trials and errors due to conditions of weather or the aches and pains caused by hard labor, and a determination to attain one's goals. Being able to visualize the dreams of a beautiful garden before the first spadeful of soil is dug is also a part of what makes a true gardener. Are these traits inherited through one's genes? Beth Holland pondered on this question and added, "They must be, as my three sisters and I are third generation passionate gardeners; we have followed in our mother's and grandmother's footsteps."

As a young girl, Holland was interested in the many wild flowers she observed as she walked along the banks at the ocean's edge in Cannon Beach, especially in the area of the old Warren Hotel before the Tolovana Inn and the State wayside parking lot were built. At that time she was not aware of the names of the different plants, and her interest led her to enroll in Utah State College. The studies offered were plant and greenhouse production and she also gained even more practical knowledge by working with the campus landscape crews.

In 1980 when Beth and Mike Morgan married they moved into the home Mike built in the dense forest in the Tolovana area of Cannon Beach. Morgan designed and built a greenhouse on the top floor and this is where Holland first started to grow trays of seeds to use later for landscaping the area around the house. She soon learned what would grow best in the forest and what would survive so near the elements of coastal environment. Trips taken to Europe, especially England, strongly influenced her preference for plants and styles of gardens.

A trip to England with Grace Dinsdale led each of them to start a flower business. Dinsdale now owns a huge nursery called "Blooming." Holland and friend Phyllis Brown raised many flats of flowers using a friend's greenhouse plus Holland's in her home, and they planted boxes and pots full of the flowers and displayed the plantings for sale wherever they could. Laughingly, Holland said they even packed the station wagon with the tailgate down, displaying the many planted containers to sell to people traveling by on Highway 26. They also sold some in the parking lot of Don's Market in Tolovana and a few to Raintree and Lyle's Nursery in Seaside and to Saturday Market in Portland. This was the beginning of her business, which she named "Holland's Flowers."

In 1981 Holland opened a flower shop using two spaces: one behind Pat's Coffee Shop using a greenhouse left from the former "Mulberry Bush" flower shop that had been there years ago, and an open space between El Mundo for Women and the pharmacy that is now the Cookie Company. Later, as the open space was enclosed with George Vetter's new buildings, "Village Center," she moved the flower shop behind Pat's Coffee Shop.

Holland's Flowers was a fantasy shop for all gardeners and flower lovers. There were trays of plant material, herbs

and large varieties of all kinds of perennials and annuals, and hardy shrubs like Lavatera (Tree Mallow). This shrub became a familiar plant and because of its beauty many locals and visitors bought them for their gardens throughout the Northwest. Holland told of finding the original plant in Dinsdale's "Blooming" nursery and how she started many more plants from it by propagating stem cuttings. She also took cuttings from old, hardy roses that grew throughout the town, saving some of these plants from extinction. The greenhouse and two other buildings displayed potted hothouse plants, a variety of containers and garden decor for homes and gardens, cut bouquets of mixed flowers, some she grew like sweet peas, cosmos, delphinium, alstroemeria added with other varieties she bought from the flower markets in Portland. The shop was successfully run for many years and sadly missed when it closed in 1994.

Through those years Holland started other businesses, floral bouquets for weddings and other events, and became a landscape designer for new developments like George Vetter's Village Center, Ecola Square, the Criterion, and later Tuckman's Cannon Beach Hotel and Courtyard and the complex of Hain's Bakery, Cannon Beach Art Gallery and Cottage Apartments. She has continued to maintain some of these commercial landscapes with the help of employees.

In 1990 Beth and husband Mike bought 3.6 acres east of the property where their home is located to develop a nursery. On the cleared area, with the help of their friend Sean Ohrenich, they built a 30' x 60' greenhouse. The greenhouse was designed in the older traditional style, with an extended area that is used for an office. On the south side of the building are cold frames for holding more mature or hardier plants. Close to the greenhouse is a huge stump left from first cutting of old growth spruce in the early 1900's. Holland has added plant material to enhance the historic stump. A 4' deep holding pond supplied by rainfall, which is filled most of the year, is landscaped with water lilies and circled with other water-loving plants. The 3.6 acres are enclosed with a high elk fence, attractive gates designed by Holland and built by Ohrenich, one double gate at the entrance and a moon gate at a path that leads through the forest to their home nearby. The grounds are almost completely landscaped with terraced beds on the slopes and flagstone walks laced through the many flower beds that hold nursery stock.

Holland and Morgan are aware of the dangers of using pesticides and herbicides. The nursery grows free from these dangers, letting the more healthy environment of the natural balance of nature be the protector. She used a carpet weed barrier under all the paths and graveled areas.

Holland recently has been contracted to design landscape plans for two sites in Astoria. One is the Mill Pond project in the Gateway area. The 13 acres around the pond will include parks and public streets. The other is the old Fairgrounds on 20th Street.

During the last several years Holland has taught classes in garden design and propagation at her greenhouse,

through Portland State's Haystack summer program. For information on available classes, nursery stock or the need for landscape and garden designs, call Holland's Flowers, 1-503-436-2574.

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