



KAZ KIDS

Last month I told the story of Kaz Tamura and how Tsuru Island came to be. I introduced Jenny Halley as one of the “Behind the Scenes” people that we have partnered with.

We began hosting the students from Gresham High once a month to come to Main City Park and participate with the landscape maintenance along the “spur trail” between Powell/Main and Tsuru Island

On one occasion a student asked me what the word “Kaz” on my shirt sleeve meant and I explained who KAZ was and what he did for the community. The response was “that is what we are doing too”...Thus was born “KAZ KIDS”. When I told Jenny about this conversation we came up with the idea to have t-shirts made for the kids. She informed me that Donny, who was one of the students, enjoyed art and it may be possible for him to come up with the artwork for the t-shirts.

Donny and I discussed that he would have samples for me to review the next month at the group volunteer day. Donny had his folder and three examples that he wanted to show. The criteria were that the logo would have big and bold letters and each letter would be a different color. With no apprehension Donny presented his examples to me, one at a time and watched my expressions

to determine what I was feeling. “So, what do you think about this one...Yes...No...Ok?” I explained my lack of responds was not due to the lack of enthusiasm about the sample, but rather my amazement at his talent and detail that he put into this project. Once he realized that he was not missing the target and did not need to be dusted off, we continued. We discussed putting some of the aspects of each to make a design. Seeing that another sheet had been in the folder, I asked, what is that one?

“Oh, that was the first one that I did and I did not think you would like it” Well folks that one was the home run.

With help and magic from Sue Hughes, the art work was digitized, the shirts were donated by Katey Card and Cy Graphics produced the logo onto the shirts without charge.

Donny is shown with the first shirt out of the box which he signed and will be displayed at the Tsuru Island Resource Center in Main City Park

Cont. on page 2



It's not all Niwaki...

When referring to the Japanese style of pruning called “Niwaki”, it must be specific to that style and not what looks similar to that form or other styles of pruning/training. Some may think that clouds, pads, balls and so on are a result of this unique style of tree care/pruning, but they are not the same. I realized that an assumption could be made when I was reading an article in Sukiya Living magazine that specifically discussed the differences between clouds and pads and the art of Niwaki resulting in the tree forms. Niwaki is specific to the East. Other forms of pruning to create pads and clouds are western. I have drawings of the two comparisons from a publication that shows the differences which are the results of the selective approach to needling and candling pines and other conifers. I have discussed some of the principles of candling and the results are obtained. As Tom Dufala at Bentwood Tree Farm suggests, it is predictable what the outcome will be when you specifically prune black pines in certain areas of the tree, with

KAZ KIDS cont.

This goes to show you that there is always a story. I am sure that KAZ would never have seen this one coming. 40 years later he has his own fan club. I thank Jenny for knowing her students so well and showing them the way to the challenge.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Some time ago the person working on the website retired and an effort began to determine what to do when we needed to make updates. I was introduced to Sue Hughes by Paul Warr-King who knew Sue through the Gresham Chamber of Commerce. Since we met Sue has designed and produced the new website for GESCA and assisted with training, maintenance and advice for the advancement for our website.

Sue's graphic design career began at Ohio University where she earned a degree in "Fine Arts". At that time the computer was just beginning to be introduced as a graphic arts tool. Sue took the opportunity to learn computer graphics on state of the art equipment even before the Macintosh. Later Sue moved to Gresham and worked in the multi-media industry, launching several computer based design companies.

In the mid 1990's Sue launched her own company, Resolutions-inc. with her target customer to be forward thinking and looking for a strategic and efficient marketing partner. Sue has raised two children while in Gresham and at the same time answered her calling to volunteer with PTA's and soccer. In 2007 Sue

This is "**Behind the Scenes**". I intend to do this focus each month telling about a person or organizations that work with "Friends of Tsuru Island" to make the garden, its programs and the information possible. Most projects have individuals that work behind the scenes providing a service, a product or volunteer time to make all that is accomplished possible and we want our readers to know who they are. Not only do I want to tell you who they are but also how I might have become acquainted with them and how they have helped build, grow and offer.

No one person can do what we do, it takes a network and we hope you enjoy seeing and understanding what it takes "Behind the Scenes" to make it happen.

started a soccer program for special needs players and still runs the TOPSoccer program through Gresham's local soccer club, Eastside Timbers. In her "spare time" Sue serves on the Gresham Chamber of Commerce Board as well as Eastco Diversified Services.

It's an honor and a privilege to have Sue "behind the scenes" Thanks to Paul Warr-King

NEXT MONTH:

IT'S ALL ABOUT LAWNS

questions or comments:

gresham.japanese.garden@gmail.com



It's not All Nikiwa,

a certain approach.

Want to see the differences in person? We will have further instruction and tours to see the differences, watch future newsletters and our website.



All Those Things To Do

Over the past 4 years we have taken on dozens of projects with most being completed or underway.

Take a look around the garden, shoebox, or the storage yard at Main City Park and realize that there are dozens of volunteers engaged, donors participating, and our Cities unwavering support for our programs. We are closing in on 10,000 volunteer hours. We have not hit our 5th year yet!

Our newsletter audience includes volunteers from all three of our GESCA divisions; the Garden, Skosh, and the Student Exchange Program. I will announce projects in the newsletters to offer the volunteers and those invested in the Garden information so as to find something that they would be interested in or donating to as it relates to Tsuru Island.

Each of the projects will have a project leader/coordinators. The greenhouse installation coordinator is Karl Davis. The pavilion machining and construction project coordinator is Kent Thompson. No one does these projects alone, we have excellent support for graphic layout with drawings, pictures for the projects progress, construction, woodworking, stone work, soil preparation, irrigation, natural resources and composting, just to mention a few skill sets.

I am pruning this because:

During my years owning a landscape company, most people wanted to prune because the plants were getting out of control or it does not look good and needs to be cleaned up. The customer seemed to be satisfied for the shrub to be sheared, which is in most cases the worst thing you can do. There are exceptions to this statement. There are specific processes originating in the Asian countries for shearing. Those plants have been specifically propagated for this process.

Before pruning the plant you need to understand the plant and it's natural behavior. How does it respond to the pruning? Pruning falls into one of three categories. 1) the ACT of pruning; 2) the Craft of pruning; and 3) the ART of pruning.

The basics of the pruning process are to observe what the plant wants to do and which side is the front of the plant. If the style of the plant is not what you want facing forward, a replacement may be in order. The first priority is to remove any broken and/or crossing branches that will eventually cause some type of damage to the other branches. Unless the branches are broken they may be dry because the sun is not getting to the center and/or to the opposite side of the plant. This would indicate that the plant needs to be thinned out.

Now the fun starts; the selection of the branches to remove. As your experience of the ACT progresses an understanding of the energy of the plant will become more apparent. If the plant is totally out of control and it has not been pruned for 3 or more years, the effects of the pruning will become a mass production of new growth. It is a natural response and should be expected in the next growth cycle. Depending on the size, location, age and type of plant it is advisable to take a step by step process to the plant. Take the branches out evenly around the plant over 3 years or so. After the plant has been pruned it needs to be observed to see what the ENERGY of the plant is doing. In years 2 and 3 the original old growth will begin to grow and the new growth will appear.

Once a person begins to feel confident with the process and the results, there can be a natural advancement to the CRAFT of pruning. Viewing the plant from different angles and pondering which branch to remove and what to leave. The fear of doing things right goes away.

With the ART of pruning, the term "aesthetic pruning" begins to take focus. One can begin to see the results of the process before the pruning is totally complete. The vision and understanding of what the plant wants to do and it's energy

distribution is apparent. You will also find yourself spending more time with the plant material regardless if it is a tree, a shrub or something special because it is becoming your own piece of art.

All this while you should have been learning patience too, don't be in a hurry to cut that branch. It is not going anywhere, envision the tree without it. Try to look a year ahead and further if you can. Remember that Tom said; some outcomes are predictable.



STUDENT WORK DAYS

February 26 - 11am to 3pm

April 1 - 11am to 3pm

May 13 - 11am to 3pm

A lunch will be provided for the students and staff on these dates to provide as much volunteer time as possible

Would you like to contribute to the KAZ Kids Lunch program?

Donations can be designated to "Kaz Kids" and given to Jim, Tomiko, Ron or Wendy

or mailed to: GESCA

PO Box 1652

Gresham, OR 97030

PROJECT LIST

- A new chain-link fabric for the fencing around the shoebox.
 - the existing hardware will be used and painted black
 - the areas can be upgraded in stages on different days
 - the equipment is available
 - if anyone knows a fence installer that will be appreciated
- Replacing the lawn for the emergency path in-front of the shoebox.
 - The seed and soil provided
 - Needed are prep labor and a commitment to keep watch over the lawn during the HOT months. Also to provide nutrients so that it will flourish.
- Design and build a sign board that will display the schedules for educational events and classes that will take place at the Garden and/or in the shoebox. Materials and equipment are available.
- Install an additional irrigation main line from the horseshoe area leading up to the shoebox. (planning in progress for more than a year)
 - The Dingo with a trencher is available.
 - The pipe and glue for the installation are available.
 - A team leader is needed. The knowledge needed is available to get the project started and ongoing.
- Winter green has been installed in the general vicinity of the "Turtle" on Tsuru Island. There are 5 left.
 - Many more are needed for this area and will need to be purchased and installed so that the area is filled in.
- A generous donation to purchase materials to produce "Tsuru Island" banners to put on light poles between Main/Powell and Tsuru Island.
 - Materials have been purchased and sown and are currently at the screen printers.
 - Adoption of this project would require coordinating the installation of the banners and installation of brackets that are provided by Parks and Recreation. This is a one day project.
- A project that I have started with Sue Hughes for the website has to do with plant material identification for Tsuru Island.
 - It will require taking pictures of areas in the garden
 - then of individual plants in that area that can be focused on through the website.
 - Pictures of the areas and plants need to be taken in proper light conditions and be passed to Jim for organization and labeling