



Tsuru Island

James Card: Editor

Keeping a Lid on Vandalism

In the past several days the garden has experienced a number of incidences that involved vandalism. As many readers are aware there is a camera installed in the garden that will allow us to monitor and record what goes on. The process has worked fine and the camera did its job for several weeks until the vandals decided to pull the cameras power cord out of the J-box and alter the position of the camera.

On Saturday, Oct 15th, the volunteers met in the Resource Center instead of working in the rain. It was a time of discussion and planning for upcoming events. There was also a discussion about the vandalism and how to develop a plan of action to respond and protect OUR investment.

The designated "Chief" John Harold will be the director of security for Tsuru Island. John, so graciously volunteered to coordinate the security needs. He will develop procedures, review equipment needs, coordinate other volunteers and network with others that share our ownership.

Since the Oct. 15 meeting Police reports have been submitted, lines of communication have been established with authorities and a meeting has been set up as part of the networking process John has established. The camera has been reconnected and downloaded information was reviewed. Pictures of occupants at the garden have been distributed to authorities.

The Gresham Outlook featured the garden vandalism. Check it out online. As mentioned in the article "If you see something, say something" by contacting John, Jim or Tad.

Not only do we want to detour the disrespect of those creating the damage but we want visitors that faithfully come to the garden to feel safe and welcome. Many have expressed their disgust over the vandalism and support for the volunteer efforts. Donations have also come in allowing repairs and additional equipment to be purchased to aid in the security of the garden



VOLUNTEER ENTHUSIASM

Recently I went to purchase a special ladder at PCI Equipment, to assist in trimming the tops of trees. I asked if I could post a notice for a "volunteer tree climber" to trim the mature tall pines. They were kind enough to say yes. When I returned with my notice, Joe McMains, the manager, greeted me with excitement. He is a *Climber Specialist*. Joe and a couple of assistance will be coming later in the fall to take care of the garden needs.

I learned that this type of project is much easier to fill with volunteers when they do not have to clean up and remove the debris. Thanks to our wonderful garden volunteers who will do the cleanup and debris removal. *James*





Camera View of Tsuru Island

KAZ KIDS WORK SCHEDULE

During the school year the KAZ KIDS come to the garden on Tuesdays and Thursdays from Gresham High school All the teachers and students come to Main City Park to provide maintenance on Fridays. They help to maintain the grounds from Tsuru Island north to Powell and each side of the "Spur Trail".

In partnership with Parks and Recreation this area is cleaned of debris and leaves. The area is weeded, pruned and raked. In order to allow for the efficient use of time, the garden volunteers provide the students with lunch at the COHO...rain or shine.

The Parks Department provides tools and vehicles to load the debris into for disposal. The students have a system and have the routine down pat! Stop by and see how they are doing and give them encouragement.

The KAZ KIDS work schedule dates

October 28th, January 20, 2017, April 21st, & May 19th

A NEW ATTRACTION

The Cryptomeria plant is now in the ground at the garden waiting to be pruned to complement its surrounds. It was purchased to replace a pine that had been eliminated by the pine moth.

Now the appearance of the island will be enhanced by adding a new maple ("Ukon") to the west slope. Early in the design process, 2 trees were eliminated due to age and safety. One was a large weeping willow. That removal left a huge hole to the view on the northwest side of the garden. Attempting to provide a fall show of color to the entrance end of the bridge and the whole west side several other maples were added to the west slope. The plants are all in the Palmatum family with their rich and deep red foliage.

As the balance and flow began to take place with the plants maturing, another endeavor was to draw the eye to the middle of the area south of the bridge with bright green leaves in the summer and a brilliant yellow in the fall which created a beautiful display. This maple loves the shaded morning and the full sun afternoons. It will be maintained to a maximum of 8 feet.

Don Schmidt Nursery was able to provide the tree that is about 5 feet tall and will push outward as the shape takes place over the second year of planting. Later, another version of this same maple will be used as a container plant. The right color and shape of pot will allow the plant to become a showcase of texture and color. Hopefully this will all happen in November.





PLANT SEARCH

Each month some plants in and around the garden will be showcased. Clues will be provided in the description to be able to visit the website and identify the plant and then venture to the garden to find that particular plant.

Any questions or comments please send to Gresham.Japanese.Garden@gmail.com

#10 - Always near or in the water, this plant enjoys a natural environment. These plants came from two sources; the City of Gresham removed these from a construction site and Cardscapes donated the other group. They have an insignificant bloom in the spring and summer and are cut back each fall.

#11 – Do not reach into the middle of one of these. It is not a pleasant experience. This plant looks totally different during the growing months and does a good job of catching papers and leaves as they blow by. Use this plant when needing to provide a spot of color to balance the blues and yellows in the garden.

#12 - This plant is always hardy and not too particular about where it resides or the soil it lives in. It always acts as an anchor to the landscape. Some varieties are domestic and some come from Asia. Oh and keep your pruners sharp as you may need to use them often.



The Garden Endowment

Over the past few weeks substantial progress has been made toward the Endowment program for the Japanese garden. The first step was to acquire an agreement with the City of Gresham to endorse the needs of the endowment which will support the maintenance and programs within the garden. Secondly, written procedures / guidelines for the handling of the investments were established. These include expectations of the investment managers and monitoring the governing board who are the directors of the Gresham Ebetsu Sister City Association. And third, a written document is being prepared that will provide guidelines for the acceptance of donations. Not all donations to the fund will necessarily be cash. Donors may wish to provide material that requires some type of inspection, appraisals and/or handling. These gifts will have to be handled explicitly to the guidelines.

The endowment is intended to support the critical maintenance that will be needed to preserve the garden as garden management changes over the years. This information will not only assist with the solicitation of services but will allow for the tracking of service performance. To build those guidelines a small committee will be established to aid in the process and make the best decisions possible.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Normally a person would be featured in the "Behind the Scenes" section. The "Japanese Tea Ceremony" will be the center of focus this month. To tell that story would be difficult even for an expert because there is nothing simple or quick to learn about this centuries old event. Even the most basic elements of tea have a background that is not only involved but have also evolved as time has passed.

There are thin teas and thick teas; different preparations for different types of tea. Some teas are used indoors and some outdoors. The guests have preparations before the ceremony and exact places at the ceremony. The host has a special way of preparing and presenting the tea depending on the event.

At the tea ceremony at Tsuru Island an Ikebana flower arrangement was suggested by Jim Card, for a beautiful setting for spectators. Mary Dickson politely said no to any arrangement without asking the host. The arrangement must be ordinary and simple so as to not distract from the ceremony. It should give the viewer the same impression that those flowers naturally would give if they were growing outdoors, in nature. Unnatural or out-of-season materials should never be used. Also, props and other devices are not used.

The skill of preparing and drinking the green tea used is an art requiring many years of study to master. The whole process is not about drinking tea, but is about aesthetics, preparing a bowl of tea from one's heart. The host of the ceremony always considers the guests with every movement and gesture. Even the placement of the tea utensils is considered from the guests view point. The relationship of the tea server with the tea, the environment, the tea ware, the guests are well-thought-out. The intimate tea room is usually large enough for 4-5 people. In this space, often surrounded by a garden, the participants withdraw from their busy lives. Each gathering is a unique experience. The

guests are to abide by tea house etiquette regarding gestures used to drink the tea and appreciation of utensils. The host acquires a collection of bowls and utensils to fit the aesthetic of that particular ceremony. The ceremonies are classified as informal or formal tea gatherings; Informal is a simple course of hospitality that includes sweets, thin tea and maybe a light meal. The formal tea ceremony includes a full-course meal followed by sweets, thick tea and thin tea and usually lasts 4 hours.

The changing of the seasons is important to the tea ceremony. Traditionally the year is divided into two main seasons: the sunken hearth season, constituting the colder months and the brazier season, the warmer months. For each season, there are variations in the performance and utensils. All the tools for tea ceremony are handled with exquisite care. They are scrupulously cleaned before and after each use and before storing. It is meant to be a fun and social event, where guests leave feeling uplifted and content.

Those participants who prepared and presented the tea ceremony at Tsuru Island in August are students of Gracey. They are at various levels of accomplishment. The ceremony was part of their studies.



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