



Tsuru Island

James Card: Editor

Oh! What a Day

The 2017 Skosh was fantastic. Guests were greeted by volunteers and then ventured to booths that were presented throughout the day. Things started popping very early when awnings and chairs, food trucks and vendors displaying their goods for sale. Two tea ceremonies were put on by Grace. An hour long koto presentation by Nobuko Chalfen of the Oregon Koto-Kai, entertained the crowd. The birds, the wind, the water and music. What a Day!



BRIDGE UPDATE

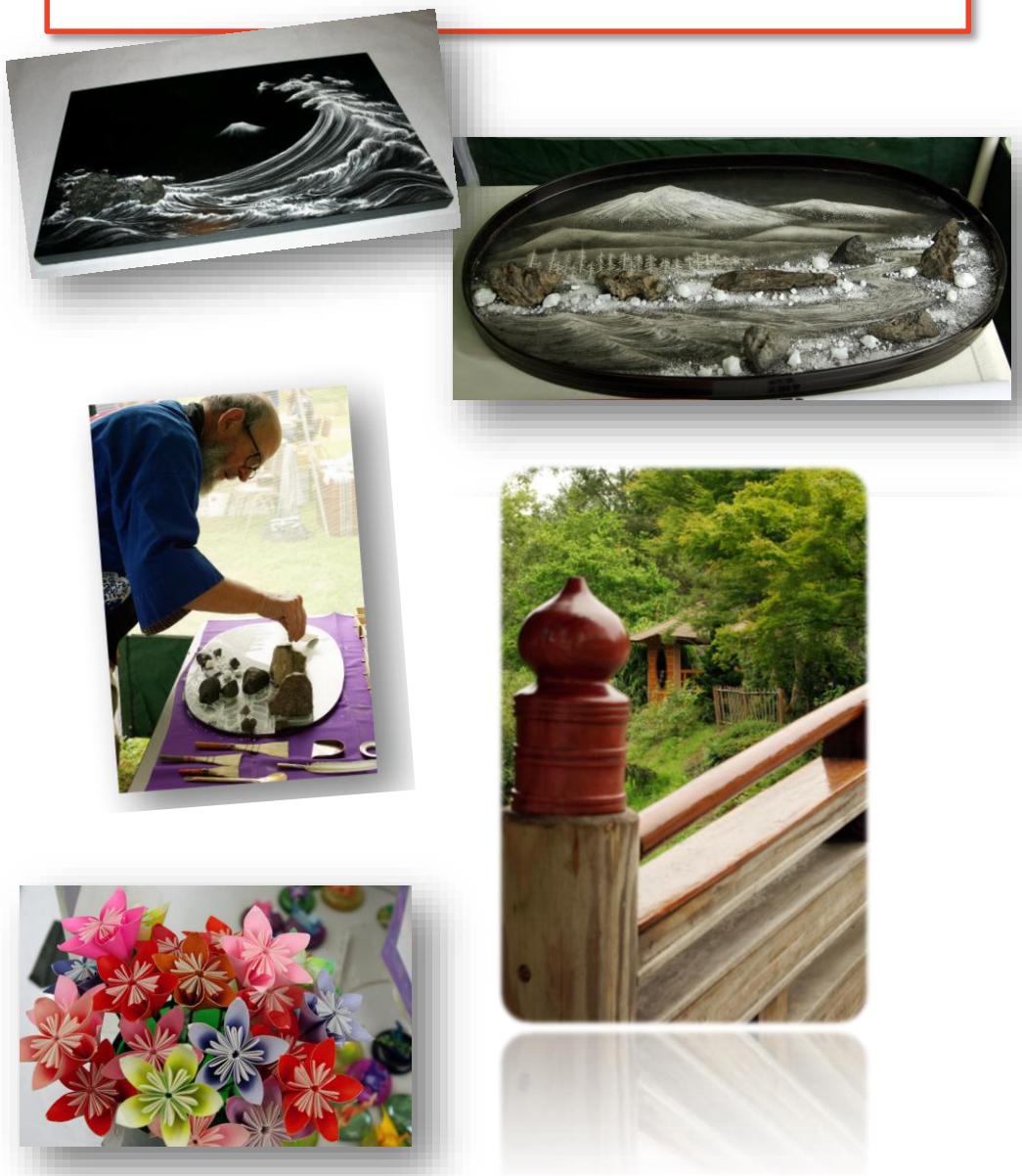
The glue in the wood that was used to assemble the components was effected the most. Only the hand rail, giboshi and the top layer of the top beam were affected. Even after lengthy discussions with the manufacturer of the glue and assurances, there was issues with the glue giving way to the stress and movement of the wood.

Over the past year, Tad and Toshi are credited for working with the railings and the top beam. They first split the joints to the point that they were stable, cleaned the mating sections and dressed the parting lines. A two-part epoxy was applied to both mating surfaces and then rejoined together. The sections were held together with clamps until they could be bound with zip ties and left to cure for a couple of days. After the joints were again stable, Tad and Toshi decided to bring the wood to its original color by removal of the exposed surface with abrasives. The surfaces were coated with a finish base and a clear coat of UV protective, marine grade varnish.

The new Giboshi have been placed on top of the end posts. Much thanks to Tad, Toshi, and Jim Buck.●

Skosh continued:

One of the displays was a presentation of sand art called "bonseki". This art begins with pouring colored sands and powdered pigment from natural or synthetic sources to make fixed or unfixed sand painting. In the case of unfixed sand paintings, it can also be called dry painting and is usually used in cultural, religious and ritual ceremonies by many people's around the world. It would be like going to the beach and building a sand castle, knowing full well that the tide was coming in. Sand painting started in Japan as the result of influences by Buddhist Monks from Tibet and has continued for centuries. Many adaptations are used. Pouring the colored sands onto a black lacquered board and sometimes in a tray to produce a display that might contain a bonsai is an amazing presentation.●



Changes at the Resource Center

Many of the plans made for Tsuru Island have included the Resource Center structure and the areas around it. Several constructive changes have happened which include a new restroom placed alongside the building.



Ron Ture is credited for painting the bathroom the same color as the building.

A new irrigation mainline was installed this past month. The mainline will never be seen but the benefits of drip irrigation allows for 100% coverage of all the plants around the building and the stored plants that are maintained by our volunteers. It is controlled by a timer inside the building. Wendy is more than pleased with this addition.

In the next few weeks the space on the upper plain of the storage yard will be utilized. The security fencing will be moved to the lower level where it can be more accessible when needed. This is the first step in the long-time plan to propagate plant material that can be used in the Garden and marketed at the plant sales which supports the garden.

The biggest benefit of this change is for the Kaz Kids. They can set up and organize the small containers that will be filled with planting media and new crop starts can be planted for the future. ●

Those Grand Old Buildings

On August 5th volunteers in the community came together to support the efforts of the Rotary Club of Gresham, Tsuru Island and the Historical Society of Gresham, to refurbish the landscapes of the old library and the old church on Main Street.

This has been the dream of John Clark, owner of Stamp-Connection in Gresham. John is a member of the Historical Society and a member of the Gresham Rotary Club as well as a volunteer at Tsuru Island. John did a fine job of enlisting people, equipment and materials to make this project happen.

To accomplish this type of project without really knowing how many people would be showing up, takes hours or planning and organization.

Prior to this work day a few volunteers helped to clean the parking lots, prepare hand rails to be painted, pressure wash hard surfaces and clean the buildings as needed.

The projects included reorganizing the plant beds, introducing new plants, drip irrigation installed, long overdue removal of trees, shrubs removed, stumps ground down and tall grasses being cut down to the ground. The bricks which lined the tree wells were removed and reset once the ground was cleared of debris and smoothed. Railings were painted and the preserved plant materials were pruned. All of that clean up accounted for 3 full and compacted truckloads of debris being hauled off for disposal.

That last portion will be completed on August 26th by volunteers from Tsuru Island who will be spreading bark dust which was donated by the Stamp-Connection. ●



Corporate Supporters

Bentwood Tree Farm
Kichler lighting
Rainbird
SiteOne
J Frank Schmidt Nursery
Cardscapes
Moxon Hardwoods
Patterson Nursery
Reardon Nursery
Cy Graphics
Quality Woodworking Inc.
PCI Arbor Equipment
Stamp-Connection

SHOWCASE GARDEN PLANTS

Gresham Japanese garden is a Japanese style garden and not a Botanical garden where plants are usually identified. The plant material is not all that unusual to the Pacific Northwest or even Japan for that matter.

The plants that were established in the garden by Kaz and the original volunteers have been pruned and refurbished over the last 5 years. Some may have come from Japan and others from local sources.

Each plant in the garden has its own story about where it came from, why it was chosen and placed in that particular spot.

A committee, which includes Sue Hughes, the web developer, Bill Peterson and Jim Card was formed to answer questions about plant material.

Bill has taken pictures which include a broad view and a close up, and placed it on a digital index card. A description, including the botanical name, the common name and the story of the plant is included. The date, time and the position that the camera was held is added. As the cards are completed, Sue adds the information to the website.

These cards will also be kept in a notebook to be presented for onsite use. At this point a digital record of the original plants will be kept along with the changes in future years. This record gives data about the plant growth, how it was pruned and how it is affected by other plants and its general progress.

Visit the website at greshamjapanesegarden.com and see the plants under interactive garden. You may download the pictures and take it to the garden as a reference. ●

