



# Tsuru Island

James Card: Editor

## SKOSH FESTIVAL

Yes, it has been four years since Tomiko put together the first Skosh celebration. The first event was not at Main City Park but was at another facility and the response was 4 times better than expected. This year the production will be on **August 12th** at Main City Park. While thinking that these events cannot get any better they always do. They do because of Tomiko's endless energy and that gift she has for organizing and putting together the massive network of people that she knows. If someone does not know her, she convinces them that they do and that they need to assist in any way they can for some upcoming event.



With the event being at Main City Park again this year we have learned much from previous events and how to overcome some of the obstacles that were present the first years. Last year's event was dedicated to the many volunteers that have helped in so many ways, not only with Skosh but with the Gresham Ebetsu Sister City Association and the Japanese Garden.



Many presentations will be taking place this year with the Japanese culture in mind including Ikebana, a Koto concert

with Nobuko Chalfen, tea ceremonies with Grace Mishikawa and the Garden tour. Recent changes and future plans will be discussed.



If you are a volunteer at this year's Skosh, remember that there is a hospitality area set up inside the Resource Center (shoebox), just for YOU!

**Volunteers** are needed. If you want to assist with some of the program set up or tear down please contact Tomiko at her email address [tomiko@frontier.com](mailto:tomiko@frontier.com) or contact Jim Card at [gresham.japanese.garden@gmail.com](mailto:gresham.japanese.garden@gmail.com)



*Iron rusts from disuse, stagnant water loses its purity and in cold weather become frozen, even so does inaction sap the vigor of the mind...·Leonardo de Vinci*

## Vinegar v/s weeds



For some time now vinegar has been used at the Garden to treat the weeds, especially this season since they have gotten out of control. There were an abundance of weeds that were not pulled or treated before the seeds dropped last year allowing the increase of production.

When searching Google, Pinterest or other search engines many recipes are published with ideas for the use of vinegar. Leaving all the “green” discussion behind, consider what vinegar is really doing in regards to weeds in the garden.

Vinegar can be diluted with water, mixed with dish soap and/or other items in a solution. No matter how vinegar is mixed or diluted, the weeds will not be killed by the solution. That is right, it will not kill the weed, but only stunt the growth and make the plant wilt. To kill the weed the root system needs to be treated and vinegar cannot do that. The vinegar will not transfer to the root system below the ground, it only effects what it touches and will not saturate the soil. It actually becomes totally harmless and functionless when it comes into contact with the soil.

So, one might ask, what is it doing for us and are we wasting time and money to use it. Its actual benefit, with the proper practice, is to wilt and destroy the leaf system of the weed, which in turn prevents the weed from absorbing the sun so it can survive and flourish. Be assured that in most cases the weed will be able to flourish and reproduce. That is the key. Limiting the plants ability to absorb the energy of the sun. There are several ways to accomplish this. Placing a second and third application if necessary and / or covering the plant with mulch or another barrier will do the trick as well.

One thing needs to be remembered with any weed elimination product, if you get it on the good guys it will affect them too. This means that after you pass through the garden with the vinegar you may later notice some browning on the leaves of adjacent plant material, so be careful with the spray, especially with those tall weeds that you try to cover from head to toe. The spray is going well beyond your intended target. The best thing to do in this case is to break off the stem and then spray.

The discussion here is very basic and does not include a lot

of scientific data. The use of garden chemicals has been discussed in previous articles. More is not better. There may be a need for over the counter chemicals from time to time. Using vinegar is a great option.

The habit of pulling weeds can be restful and enjoyable to those that choose to do so. The Garden volunteers will continue to practice that approach and will also continue using the vinegar to treat weeds and keep them in control.



## That Lace Bug Problem

Two years ago, the garden had an issue with a lace bug attacking the azaleas and rhododendrons. Everywhere I went I could find the clues that the bug had been there that spring. The lace bug infection started in the spring of 2009. We can detect which year the issue started on some rhododendrons by counting each year's growth and working backward down the stem. A history of about 4 years or so can be detected before the leaves fall.

Research has shown that lace

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## Using the Garden by James Card

Gardens are present in all parts of the world. Going to a garden gives one pleasure in seeing what has been created by design, colors, textures and smells. Yet it goes even deeper.

The creators usually had a plan in mind, had joy in creating, collecting and experimenting. Traveled to collect prize specimens and spent money to secure the area and to maintained it. Out of all of this comes sharing, learning and ...JOY. Joy is what takes us away from the stresses of the daily burdens that come with life. Beyond the pleasure of having and visiting gardens there is an industry attached to every element associated with the garden. Out of all of that the only thing that is free is the results of our efforts in terms of those blooms, textures in the spring and the maturity of the garden...The Joy.

I started working in the garden at a very young age (11) and realized everything and more that I have written here was true. I learned very early on that the garden could provide me relief from what was stressful. It gave me a place to figure out what alternatives may be used to solve the issues that created the stress.

I was reading a poem a few days ago that talked about being swept away by the current of life. It amazes me when I stop to think about it, how much impact the cell phone has had on our lives and what goes on around us. Now it is at our finger



tips...a call, text or email from anywhere in the world. Yes those phones cause stress, wondering what we missed and what is going on, got to be in touch.

There is a limit that we need to control for ourselves. One of those controls is leaving the speed of life and phones for a few minutes each day to relax. Go play catch, walk a pleasant path, go to a garden. My wife used to ask me why I did not answer the phone while I was at the garden. She gets it now and tells people he is at the Garden and will not answer the phone.

I have always had an appreciation for Japanese Gardens. The closeness to nature, the style, balance and the effect they had on me is amazing. The more I learn, the more I want to learn. I cannot forget the opportunities I have had at Tsuru Island, beginning with the first day that I walked across the bridge with Tomiko. The opportunities for me were and are endless, especially after retirement, I get good exercise, I challenge my mind with design, seeking opportunities, and solving problems.

“JOY” is what I get out of the garden. I am so glad I got to meet Tsuru Island.



Lace bug cont.

bug is somewhat new to the Pacific Northwest while it has been around for some time on the east coast.

A picture was featured of one of the plants at Tsuru Island on the web site. The article's title was "some of our challenges". Some readers thought it was just a picture of a bad plant that was always that way. Not the case. It was an example of the lace bug damage. Oddly enough, some of the plants at Tsuru Island did not have the infestation, such as the Gumpo azalea varieties while the Hino Crimson and Jean Marie's had the problem. Some varieties have been listed by experts to be bug resistant, which does not necessarily mean bug proof. The one thing that became clear is that azaleas and rhododendrons are not that care free plant in the garden after all.

Some of the symptoms of the lace bug include a blotchy appearance to the top of leaves of the plant, almost looking gray, yellow or white in some cases. This is because the bug has sucked the chlorophyll out of the leaves, which in turn hinders the plants ability to produce nutrients from the sunlight. On the bottom of the leaf you will find black or brown spots. The first words out of your mouth is "that looks like poop". You are right it is bug poop from the adult and nymph lace bugs. Using an over-the-counter spray may not help to alleviate the bug and you will not improve the appearance of the leaves. Naturally those bugs laid eggs along the midrib under the leaf

and will hatch in May and then again in late June or July. After the eggs hatch the bugs will develop to the Nymph stage, where they will begin doing the damage but not as severe as that of the adults.

If you are not paying attention the issue may get way out of hand and not a lot that can be done without serious investment in chemicals. If you do not have many plants that are infected, a garden hose can be used to blow the bugs off the underside of the leaves. It may take several sprayings to do a sufficient job of it. Once the Nymphs are on the ground they will not survive to become adults.

There are choices of chemicals that include systemic drench products, spray and granular that kill the bugs once they start feeding on the leaf. Be careful of the product selection and use. **(READ THAT LABEL)** because that chemical may influence beneficial bugs and BEES as well. The less time that the chemical is active, the better. The time of day a spray is used is important for the best results. Another product is Green lacewing that can be purchased online and are said to be excellent for controlling the lace bug.

Your job will be much easier if you have pruned the plants in an open manner which will make the garden hose effective at eliminating the bug. If your plant is tight and if you have sheared your azaleas you might not be able reach all sides.

## Learning Tai Chi Jim Card

The starting of the Tai Chi classes was announced last month. I had not been involved with such a martial art class before. Before I knew it I was hooked. There is nothing fast about tai chi as Liz mentions in her class. One of the purposes of the activity is to learn how to relax your body and eventually that will progress to relaxing your mind.

I realized that the practice of relaxing does not come natural. Although the warm up activity seemed familiar. That awareness came from my childhood when I would hold my hands and arms in a certain fashion that seemed weightless and comfortable. Usually this natural "exercise" was practiced while I was having difficulty breathing as the result of an asthma attack.

I have begun to realize that this exercise program would have been helpful for me many years ago, in handling the stress in my life which manifested in health issues. Even though we think the body is resting, the mind continues to work. Like anything, tai chi takes time and practice to learn the warm up, movements, breathing and balance, but it all comes in time. When it all comes together the benefits are immeasurable.

Liz also instills the need to follow through at home and use Tai Chi to reduce stress and become physically fit. Bad habits are replaced by good habits and tai chi has become a good habit.



# SKOSH *a little* JAPANESE CULTURAL FESTIVAL



**AUGUST 12, 2017**  
**SATURDAY 10-3**  
**GRESHAM MAIN CITY PARK**  
(219 S MAIN AVE, GRESHAM, OR 97080)

- \* TRY A TEA CEREMONY
- \* MAKE ORIGAMI CRANES TO HANG FOR GOOD LUCK
- \* WRITE MESSAGES AND HANG THE CALLIGRAPHY
- \* CHECK OUT LOCAL ARTISTS, CRAFTS, AND AUTHORS
- \* LEARN ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT, RECYCLING, AND CONSERVATION
- \* FOOD CARTS

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[greshamjapaneseclub.org/annual.html](http://greshamjapaneseclub.org/annual.html)