

# Tsuru 鶴 Soars

Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden Newsletter



## Pollinator Garden Coming This Spring

**O**ur newest addition to the Japanese Garden will be a pollinator garden in the Ambleside Annex behind where our picnic tables are located and the new community reader board.

The pollinator garden will be comprised of native host plants for two specific butterflies; the Monarch and the Painted Lady. Habitat for pollinators is necessary if we want to ensure their future. The Monarch butterfly, for example, was

once established here but due to loss of milkweed we no longer can support their life cycles. These native plants will provide a richer supply of nectar for all pollinators.

All of these native plants are currently being cultivated in our greenhouse as well as some non-native favorites that pollinators love.

If you want to learn more about creating your own pollinator garden, join Deb's free class coming in May.



### PHOTOGRAPHER'S PICK

*This photo was taken in mid January but it could have been taken at any time during the spring rainy season.*

*To me it seems the lantern, sitting quietly, has a view of interesting reflections in a private pool. The pebbles in the background may have formed a small waterfall in heavy rain but it is now quiet. The grass in disarray, similar to one's hair upon waking, is a bit like nature waking after the winter.*

— Bill Peterson

# Upcoming Workshops and Free Classes



**Sat, April 10  
1-3pm**

## Spring Lawn Maintenance

Getting green, healthy grass is not easy without some TLC. This Spring's lawn maintenance class will cover keeping your lawn healthy and green throughout the summer months in the northwest weather. It will also cover how to get moss out, and what blend of fertilizer works best for lawns, how to apply, an overview of sprinkler systems and how to water your lawn and your plants. FREE



**Tuesday, May 11  
6:00-7:30pm**

## Pollinators for Your Yard

Deb Peters will take us through this free class in the Garden's greenhouse for a discussion on native host plants for butterflies and how to create a pollinator yard. Learn where and how to plant milkweed and other plants to attract monarch butterflies. Butterflies aren't the only pollinators. Learn about keeping mason bees too. FREE



**Tuesday, May 4  
1-3pm**

## Ikebana for Every Season

Instructor Nana Bellerud will cover the basic concept, techniques, tools and equipment, and plant care for ikebana (Japanese floral art.) Participants will make 1 basic style and 1 freestyle arrangement with emphasis on seasonal themes. Starter kits are available for purchase or participants may bring their own vases. \$55.00 - Includes instruction and plant material.



**Tuesday, April 20  
6:30-8:00pm**

## Organic Vegetable Gardening

Jim Buck, an avid gardener since childhood has a strong interest in native plants and their uses by indigenous tribes. In this class Jim will cover how to improve your garden's health and our environment by growing organically. The class will include soil preparation, planting succession tips, companion planting, avoiding diseases, different types of composting, and elements of permaculture. FREE.



**Third Saturday of each  
Month, 1-3pm**

## The Art of Bonsai

Learn how to create your own Bonsai arrangement. Each month will be a different project to be completed in class to take home. Connect with nature and experience the stress-relieving benefits of this hobby. \$35.00 - Include instruction and all material.

**THIRD THURSDAY BONSAI CLASS IS FULL.**



**Thursday, May 6  
2-3:30pm**

## Hanging Baskets Class

Take a few hours out of your day to make your own hanging basket of spring flowers at Gresham Japanese Garden's greenhouse. Cherié with Cedarglen Floral will guide you in creating a beautiful arrangement. Cost - \$22.00

**Gift certificates available**

**ZOOM  
OPTION**

**Tuesday, April 6  
6:30-8:00pm**

Classes and workshops are in person. Registration is mandatory to keep class size small. Register at [GreshamJapaneseGarden.org](http://GreshamJapaneseGarden.org)



## GARDENER'S TIP

Slugs are coming out in force after a very damp winter season. Sluggo® is one product that helps control slugs and is not toxic to other wildlife. It provides nutrients to the soil since it is composed only of iron phosphate. Slugs have favorite plants such as hyacinth and narcissus blossoms, lily, etc. You can pick them off just after dusk and dispatch them saving the cost of the chemical products. Slugs are cannibalistic and will eat the remains of dead slugs so putting them in a small pile will bait your next night's culprits.

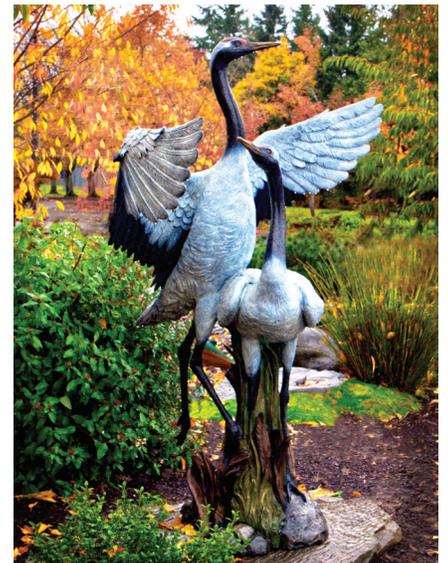
— Jim Buck

# Dancing Cranes

Ebetsu Plaza's newest edition, *Dancing Cranes*. Huge thank you to Alyson Hunting for this magnificent Rip Caswell sculpture she donated to the city of Gresham.

Alyson spends numerous hours at the Garden taking care of plants in the greenhouse, weeding, and picking up garbage, to name a few.

The Garden is very fortunate to have Alyson as a dedicated citizen of Gresham and a garden volunteer.



# Community Reader Board On the Horizon

**W**ith the development of Tsuru Island and Ebetsu Plaza, the south end of Main City Park experiences a lot of traffic. Two years ago Jim Card came up with the idea to build a reader board. Coincidentally, the city was dismantling a covered areas on the Springwater Trail and he asked if we could have the structure. Of course, the scrappers that we are at the Garden, we said, "now we can use the materials to build the Community Reader Board."

Like all projects, they find their space and time to get done and stuff happens for a reason. With this reclaimed structure available, we got a call from a young man asking if we have a project for him to earn his Eagle Scout badge. As you can imagine I was elated to tell him about the Community Reader Board that

needs to be built.

Here we are March 2021 and the Community Reader Board is 85% complete. Nick Bacon, the Eagle Scout with the assistance of his father from Lovett Construction and other volunteers helping, Nick has done a super job on the sign. The gables and beams are the reclaimed wood, and the metal roof and pine underlayment is new.

The Reader Board is 8 ft x 4 ft double sided. Half of the sign is for you to post your events, lost dog, or whatever you desire—except politics and religion. The other half of the sign will be devoted to Garden and City news. Postings will be taken down at the end of each month. We're thrilled to offer this amenity to our community.



*Nick Bacon at work building the Community Reader Board for his Eagle Scout project.*



## 2021 Summer Cultural Series at Main City Park

### JUNE 5

Sho-Art (Calligraphy) Live Performances  
Art of Bonsai Demonstrations

### JUNE 19

Shinobue (Bamboo Flute) Performances  
Ikebana (Floral Arrangement) Demonstrations

### JULY 10

Koto-Kai (Japanese Harp) Performances  
Origami for All Ages and Abilities

### JULY 24

Koto-Kai (Japanese Harp) Performances  
Ikebana (Floral Arrangement) Demonstrations

### AUGUST 7

Takohachi's Q (Drums) Performances  
Art of Bonsai Demonstrations



*Sponsored by Arts and Cultural Assistance Grant*

CITY OF  
**GRESHAM**  
GOING BEYOND

# Who Are We, and Where Are We?

**F**riends of the Gresham Japanese Garden are a group of volunteers who have come together to “re-birth” the south end of Main City Park. At the forefront of this rebirth is Jim Card, a retired landscaper.

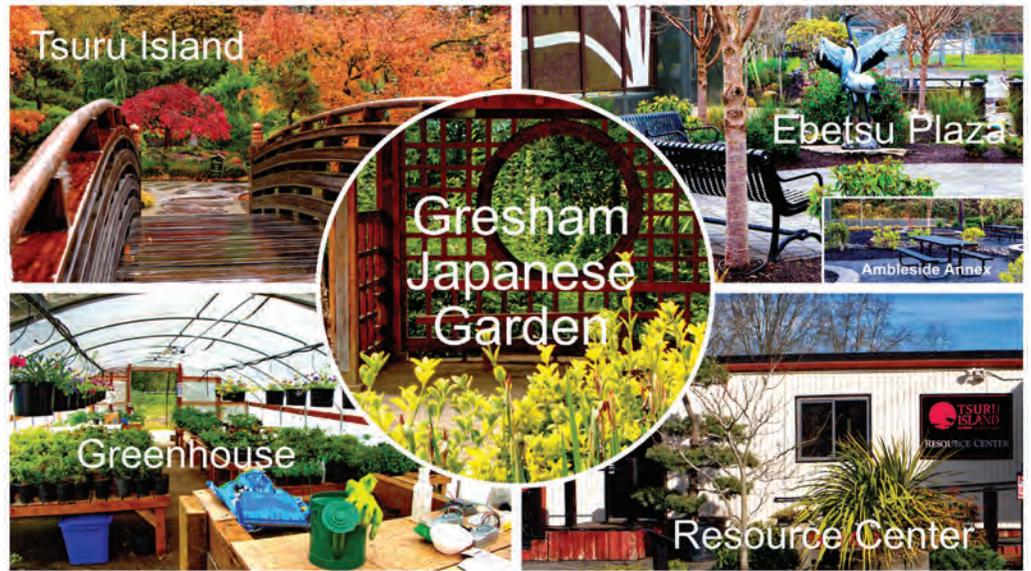
This year they celebrate their 10th year as stewards for the City, but the story really began in the '70s.

Efforts to build a Japanese Garden were undertaken by the Japanese American Citizens League after a bond was passed in 1969 to build Main City Park, widen Powell Blvd, and reroute Johnson Creek. JACL named the island Tsuru (pronounced Sue Do) Island. Tsuru means crane in Japanese.

Many of the original builders from JACL, Ed Fuji and Kaz Tamura have passed and the Tsuru Island fell into disarray.

In 2011, Tomiko Takeuchi, first cousin to an original JACL member, contacted Jim Card to “look” at repairing Tsuru Island. *Be careful what you “look” at.* The rebirth is flourishing under Jim Card’s leadership.

After Tsuru Island was completed, Jim



developed two more spaces south of Tsuru Island; Ebetsu Plaza and Ambleside Annex, two public gathering areas complete with benches and picnic tables.

Behind the scenes is our Greenhouse where we conduct our educational Floriculture classes for students and is our test garden.

If anyone is interested in volunteering, you can find them working away every Saturday from 9am - noon. Contact [info@GreshamJapaneseGarden.com](mailto:info@GreshamJapaneseGarden.com) for more info.

## Our Mission

*The Gresham Japanese Garden provides a place of culture, beauty and learning for all who enter. The Friends of Gresham Japanese Garden bear responsibility to the city of Gresham, to build upon the Japanese American legacy in the community. We foster sustainability through leadership, stewardship, education and volunteerism.*