

Tsuru 鶴 Soars

Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden Newsletter



Beautifying Gresham

Next time you stroll through Main City Park, look up. The Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden planted 13 hanging flower pots. They're big, heavy AND way up there. We needed a lift to install and Orient Electric came to the rescue.



ORIENT ELECTRIC INC.
SINCE 1974

the extra large containers, combined with a rigorous watering schedule and gobs of fertilizer, should keep Main City Park looking beautiful all summer long!



They may not look like much now, but



PHOTOGRAPHER'S PICK

雨上がり七色深し花あやめ
Ama agari nanairo fukashi hanaayame

Iris
more rainbow-colored
after the rain

by Hiruta 2009

— Bill Peterson

Touchstone Paver Campaign



of Edward Jones. In two years, we have surpassed \$30,000. Our goal \$100,000!

**Jim Card proclaimed,
"Protect the Investment."**

7" x 7" custom-engraved paver can be purchased for \$125. 100% of the proceeds can be designated to the Garden or you may designate 20% of your donation to one of our community partners. [Order your paver here.](#)



We're really proud to offer a means to support other non-profits through our community partner offer. We're also really proud to brag about the businesses supporting

us through our Business Paver campaign. For \$1500 a business can purchase a large paver.

BUSINESS PAVER PARTNERS!!

- All About Automotive
- Chase Me Again
- East Hill Church
- Edward Jones - Dino Rocha
- JA CL
- Les Schwab - Burnside
- Mt. Hood Glass

We only have four business pavers left!

[INQUIRE HERE](#)



In 2011, Tomiko Takeuchi, first cousin to Shiro Takeuchi, an original Japanese-American Citizen League committee member, contacted Jim Card to "look" at Tsuru Island with her. The goal was to clean up the neglected and vandalized Japanese garden by cutting trees, pruning, removing blackberries, etc. It's clear to say today, the project grew legs!

After countless volunteers hours and many months revitalizing Tsuru Island, the result, Jim Card proclaimed, "Protect the Investment."

Tomiko always wanted pavers in the garden, and as Ebetsu Plaza's pathway started taking shape, Jim turned her vision into reality with the Touchstone Paver Campaign.

The money from the Touchstone Paver Campaign goes into an endowment fund for the maintenance of the properties. The endowment is managed by Dino Rocha



GARDENER'S TIP

The soil is now getting warm enough for tomatoes. When planting them, be aware of the hairs on the main stem which are called trichomes. Each is able to form a root. Therefore, plant the tomato a little deeper than it was in the pot or plant at an angle so the trichomes can become roots and make your tomato more productive.

Tomatoes like calcium. Add a half cup of lime, half cup of bone meal and 1/4 cup of egg shells to your soil, along with compost when planting.

— Jim Buck, Garden Volunteer

May Celebrates Japanese Children's Day



Children's Day (Kodomo no hi) festival on May 5th is one of the most popular national holidays in Japan. It's an occasion for children to thank and respect parents, relatives

and teachers.

The festival flags (Koinobori) are made in the shape of carp because carp are known for their ability to swim upstream and they symbolize courage and determination.

Children's Day was originally known as Boys' Day. The number of carp (and size) flying represents number of the boys in their family.

Name the Turtle



Our turtle on Tsuru Island needs a name!

Can you help us? We're seeking a name related to Gresham or to Japanese culture. Email your name by July 1st to info@GreshamJapaneseGarden.com.

The winner will receive an engraved paver to be placed in Ebetsu Plaza.

A Lesson On Pines

As a pine tree ages, interior and low branches die off from lack of light and energy. To keep a pine tree healthy, spring candling, winter needling, and cutting out branches to retain its shape are necessary.

Before pruning, you first study the natural shape of the tree. *This may conflict with your desired shape.* Strive to bring out the best potential for its natural beauty according to its natural shape. (See Figure 1)

Start in the winter by removing needles. Removing needles can reveal the graceful limbs and trunk of the tree, allow light and air to penetrate the center of the tree and lower branches, and help reveal its natural shape. (You can do this now too, but winter is the best time of year.)

After you've determined its shape, (and your desired shape), the way to achieve this is by pruning or "candling". Candles are new growth on a pine. They develop from fall

through winter until spring. To learn how to candle refer to Figure 2 and watch the How-To video. Candling is done in May and early June.

PURPOSE OF CANDLING

1. Control the length the branches
2. Make a greater number of branches
3. Make branches more dense

Through proper pruning, you can direct the energy flow and achieve your goal for shape, density, and form. You can direct where new development is likely to take place and create optimum opportunities for future growth.

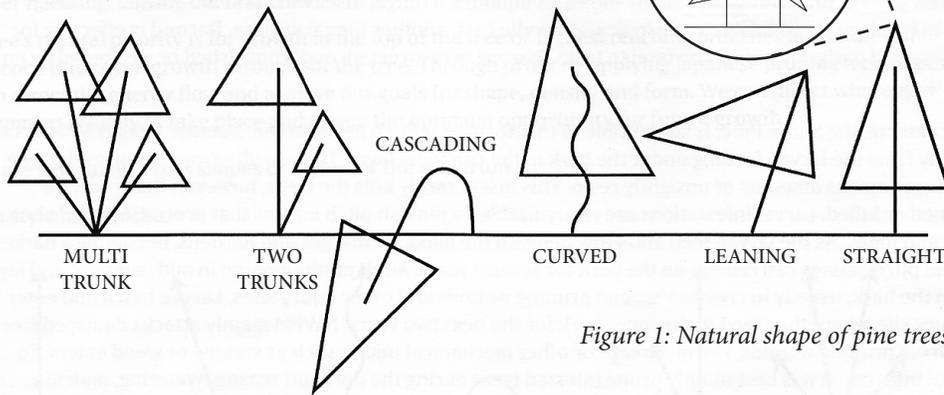


Figure 1: Natural shape of pine trees

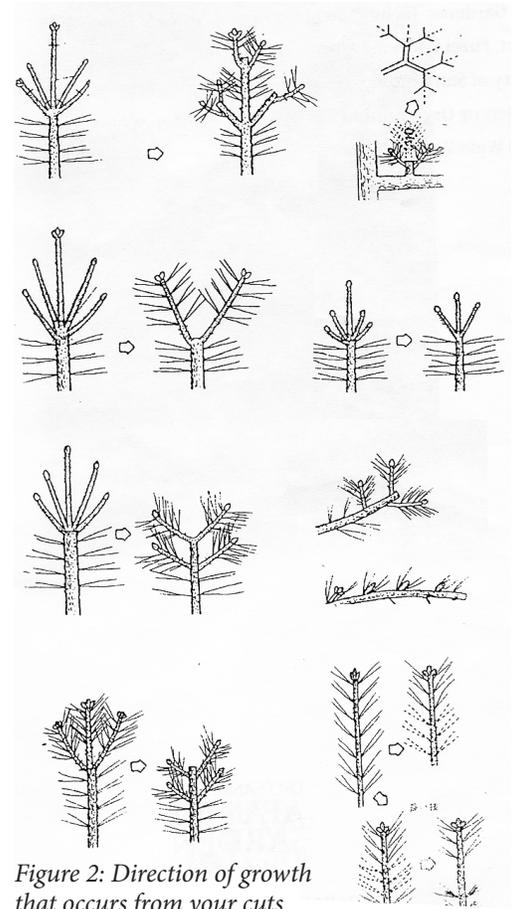


Figure 2: Direction of growth that occurs from your cuts

HOW-TO CANDLE VIDEO



Roots Travel Far

by Terry Nishikawa



As I walk through Tsuru Island, I light up when I find in bloom a very special peony plant I donated to Tsuru Island two years ago.

I am a descendant of one of the founders of Tsuru Island and wanted to make sure this peony plant had a place of meaning.

In the early 1900's my grandmother, Fusae,

a mail-order bride, came to Boring from Wakayama, Japan, to marry my grandfather, Shotaro. She traveled with this peony plant as her gift to her future husband. The peony was planted on their family farm in Boring, Oregon.

As the story is told, my grandparents gave a cutting to their good friends, the Sosaki's who lived in the Sherwood area.

In 1979, after my grandparents and father passed away, my mother sold the farm. The peony didn't go with her. After she got re-established in Gresham, Art Sosaki Sr. gave her a cutting from the original plant

as a housewarming gift, which is how I was able to donate a cutting to the Gresham Japanese Garden.

The story lives on with Art Sosaki Jr. He recently sold his land and donated the original plant to the Tualatin Heritage. It will be renamed to honor Shotaro and Fusae Nishikawa.

Last year I am told the plant almost didn't survive because of an infestation of moles. It was replanted in October with a mole barrier that's working!

A 120-year-old peony plant carried from Japan lives on Tsuru Island!

2021 Summer Cultural Series

JUNE 5

Art of Bonsai Demonstration - 11:30am to 1:30pm
Sho- Art (Calligraphy) Live Performances - 1:00 & 2:15pm

JUNE 19

Music with Japanese Instruments - 1pm & 2:15pm
Ikebana (Floral Arrangement) Demonstration - 10am to noon

JULY 10

Koto-Kai (Japanese Harp) Performances - 1pm & 2:15pm
Origami for All Ages and Abilities - Noon to 2pm

JULY 24

Koto-Kai (Japanese Harp) Performances - 1pm & 2:15pm
Ikebana (Floral Arrangement) Demonstration - 3:00 to 5:00pm

AUGUST 7

Takohachi's Q (Drums) Performances - 11am & 1pm
Art of Bonsai Demonstration - 2:00 to 4:00pm

GRESHAM 'ON-THE-GO VIDEO

Sponsored by Arts and Cultural Assistance Grant

CITY OF GRESHAM
GOING BEYOND



The Way of Writing

by Mary Taylor

It's been a long journey for Sora: growing up in rural Usuki, Oita, high school exchange student in Indiana, homeland for college, followed by marriage and a new home in the U.S.

Sora began her study of Shodo ("the way of writing"), at the age of 6. As she's matured, she has followed an old Japanese style of calligraphy, studying the Bokutensha method under Master Futo Suzuki in Japan as well as Sekko Daigo in Portland. In the process she has received the name of Sora Shodo (宇宙書道).

While calligraphy is an ancient art, Sora's live presentation of calligraphy is

completely new. It's a personal interpretation inspired by her three children. The dramatic use of her body, in particular her hands, distinguishes Sora's style and instills in the viewer a sense of unity with the world.

Sora chooses to work with both black and gold inks. She finds that the appearance of black sumi ink, on a white background, produces a calming effect. It allows her to breathe and slow down, to experience oneness in the present moment. The gold ink is light and says "I get it."

Sora appreciates the opportunity to

JUNE 5

Art of Bonsai Demonstration: 11:30am - 1:30pm

LOCATION: TSURU ISLAND

Bonsai instructor Mark Vossbrink demonstrates the 'art of bonsai' in the azumaya. Mark grew up in Japan and comes to the Garden with over 30 years learning and practicing bonsai techniques. His knowledge of plant material and its tendencies is strengthened by his background as a florist.



Sho- Art Live Performances - 1:00pm & 2:15pm

LOCATION: EBETSU PLAZA

Mesmerize yourself in the art of Shodo, a form of calligraphy, a writing technique that uses one's body and heart. **Performer Sora Shodo** combines striking and meaningful visual art with entrancing performance art. Read article below on Sora.



JUNE 19

Ikebana Demonstration - 10am - noon

LOCATION: TSURU ISLAND

Beyond simply producing a beautiful work of art with flowers and natural objects, instructor Nana Bellerud will show you how ikebana explores artistic concepts such as balance, contrast, and negative space.



Music with Japanese Instruments - 1pm & 2:15pm

LOCATION: TSURU ISLAND

Listen to the sounds of traditional Japanese folk and modern music played by musician Yumi Torimaru on her authentic Japanese Shinobue and Shamisen instruments.



once again publicly become one with her art and her community.

Sora leaves us with this final thought: "Bring back who you really are and find yourself."

Volunteer Newsletter Editors: Sue Hughes, Jim Card, Mary Dickson, and Mary Taylor.
Photos by Bill Peterson.