

# Tsuru 鶴 Soars

Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden Newsletter



## In the Works...

**W**e are again extremely fortunate to live in a compassionate city where businesses recognize and reward the efforts of the Gresham Japanese Garden.

Two years ago, we were able to renovate the interior of the Resource Center. We added a kitchen, flooring, a visual display system, and display cases increasing our ability to offer event rentals, Japanese-focused workshops, and classes. But, we did not have the funds to plumb running water to the kitchen and add a restroom.

The wonderful news is the Garden is

The Garden is getting a restroom!

getting running water AND a restroom!

The funds are coming from three Edward Jones Gresham branches; Dino Rocha, Christina Price, and Lynne Page AND Chase Me Again Foundation.

Come see us in the fall and use our indoor restroom.



**Chase Me Again**

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



### PHOTOGRAPHER'S PICK

#### *A Garden Bridge in the Rain*



*Sudden showers, a favorite subject of Edo haiku poets and ukiyo-e artists, are often depicted with a criss-crossing pattern of fine lines of rain—a difficult woodblock technique.*

— Bill Peterson

# Sharing the Stage with Plants and People

by Mary Dickson



**M**itsuke Dazai is well known in Oregon as a koto performer and founder of Oregon Koto-Kai, a group of people who are passionate about playing the Japanese koto. On July 10 and July 24, members of the group will perform at Gresham Japanese Garden at 1:00 pm and 2:15 pm.

Mitsuke Dazai grew up in Tokyo, where her father collected vinyl records of Western classical music from the Baroque era to symphonies and German lieder (art songs). She sang in her church and school choirs and enrolled in Japan's renowned Kunitachi College of Music, where she majored in vocal performance in the Western classical tradition.

Fortuitously, she took a class in ethnomusicology, studying traditional music from around the world. She found The Beatles, and recognized their interest in music of India and the sitar. She heard the shamisen and koto, both traditional Japanese instruments, and wondered why they were not more frequently played in Japan.

She studied classical koto music, then enrolled in the Sawai Koto Institute,

Oregon Koto-Kai will be playing at the Gresham Japanese Garden July 10th and July 24th

where she studied contemporary koto music. When she moved to Eugene, Oregon, she started playing in a Japanese restaurant. She now plays worldwide and collaborates with other musicians who play a variety of instruments. She incorporates traditional, contemporary,



and pop tunes in her performances, including songs like *When You Wish Upon a Star*. She even likes Irish music played on the koto! She claims that people in Oregon appreciate the differences in musical styles and instruments. She says, "My job is to bring the instrument alive, that's all."

Mitsuke is enthusiastic about playing at the Gresham Japanese Garden. She sees the passion that people have for the plants in the Garden and especially notes the many volunteers who have renovated the Garden. Her performances will combine her passion for music, people, and plants. She says of the Koto-Kai performances, "our joy of being together and making music together is our gift to the audience."



## GARDENER'S TIP

*July is a great time to divide irises and deadhead the first flowerings to stimulate your plants to produce new blooms.*

*It's also a good time to be thinking of planting what you want for a fall vegetable crop. These plants may need some protection from the afternoon sun—especially with our heat wave!*

*Every month is a good time for turning your compost. Place around your vegetables—which will appreciate a little more mulch in this hot weather.*

— Jim Buck, Garden Volunteer

## July in Japan



**Gion Matsuri** (Japanese cultural festival), a month long, is one of the most famous festivals in Japan. The name comes from the neighborhood of Gion, which is

home to some of the more traditional parts of Kyoto—including the geisha quarter.

Gion Matsuri began in 869 as a way to appease the gods during an epidemic. Every year, a local boy is chosen as a sacred messenger to the gods. From July 13 until the parade ends on July 17, he sits on one of the many elaborate floats and his feet never touch the ground.

## 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. We've extended the deadline to August 31st! Email your name to [info@GreshamJapaneseGarden.com](mailto:info@GreshamJapaneseGarden.com).

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

# Pollinator Garden Takes Shape

by Mary Dickson

**D**eb Peters is a woman on a mission, a mission to improve habitats for those little creatures which increase our supply of fruits, vegetables, and flowers. Butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds need specific native plants so they can pollinate plants that are important to our food supply.

After moving from Pennsylvania to Troutdale in 2011, Deb had a fortuitous meeting with another volunteer at Tsuru Island and involved herself from the early days of its restoration. Her grandfather got her interested in gardening, and she now claims, "Gardening is my thing."

Deb is creating a Pollinator Garden in the Ambleside Annex picnic area of the Gresham Japanese Garden, drawing upon her experience in designing a Pollinator Garden at Sunrise Park in Troutdale in 2020. She collected seeds from Sunrise Park, grew them in the greenhouse, and is transplanting them this summer. She's also installed a drip system.

The Pollinator Garden has a specific purpose—to increase the habitat necessary to support the Western Monarch butterfly. Its native habitat has been lost through the use

of pesticides and mowing. Butterflies need Showy Milkweed in small clumps of two to three plants, since they lay only one egg per plant. This is the only host plant for Western Monarchs.



According to the New York Times, the population of Western Monarchs in California has decreased by 99%. California has planted 30,000 Milkweed plants to try to bring back the Monarchs. Deb is helping that effort, since the Monarchs migrate through Oregon. Deb says that Painted Lady Butterflies have a greater range of host plants: hollyhocks, lupine, sage, legumes, and borage. She is planting a native variety of Checker Mallow which produces a lovely subdued blue flower.



The Pollinator Garden will also feature driftwood and logs which become homes for hover flies and other beneficial insects.

Though she knows that it will take several years to create a successful Pollinator Garden, Deb's goal goes beyond planting a lovely garden. She wants to increase awareness that quality nectar and blooming plants are needed in all gardens, all year long. She plans to network with schools, parks, and her own friends to help them build habitats for all pollinators. She wants to encourage them to use fewer pesticides and make a safe garden.

Deb's passion shows through, and the Pollinator Garden will reflect that passion when more pollinators call it home.

## Students Excited About Pruning

**W**e know the pandemic caused everyone havoc. The Garden experienced disruptions as well with our educational horticultural program. Two years ago we partnered with the Gresham-Barlow School District Adult Learning Program offering job skills in horticulture. Our students are back!

In this short semester with limited transportation options, we only had five students. They concentrated most of their efforts repotting over 100 of our heritage azaleas from 1 gallon containers to 2 gallon containers. It doesn't sound like much, but if you think about it, they learned about soil mixtures, depth plants should be potted, watering, and ways to identify dead branches from live branches.

They also planted seeds for the pollinator garden. Deb Peters, who built our pollinator

garden, gave them an educational lesson on pollinators.

But, when we asked them what they most enjoy, they said, pruning. Jim Card, Garden Director was not surprised to hear this. Jim talks a lot about how pruning is a one-on-one connection with nature. It's a procedure you follow with the plant. By addressing a plant, you create openness and aesthetic beauty. In the end you're creating an art-form—it's instant gratification. Our students will return in the fall, and, guess what, in the fall most of our plants need pruning.

Jim says, "pruning is a one-on-one connection with nature."

One of our missions at the Garden is to educate all citizens about horticulture. Teaching them young and providing opportunities to enrich lives brings us the most joy.



Sponsored by Arts and Cultural Assistance Grant



Please enjoy the upcoming Japanese cultural demonstrations and performances this summer at the Gresham Japanese Garden in Main City Park. Free to all!

### GARDEN TOURS

JULY 10 - 11am and 2:45pm

JULY 24 - 11am and 5:00pm

AUGUST 7 - 10am and Noon

# 2021 Summer Cultural Series

## JULY 10

Oregon Koto-Kai (Japanese Harp) Performances - 1:00pm & 2:15pm

Origami for All Ages and Abilities - Noon to 2pm

## JULY 24

Oregon Koto-Kai (Japanese Harp) Performances 1:00pm & 2:15pm

Ikebana (Floral Arrangement) Demonstration 3:00pm to 5:00pm

## AUGUST 7

Takohachi's Q (Drums) Performances 11am & 1pm

Art of Bonsai Demonstration 2:00pm to 4:00pm

## JULY 10

### Oregon Koto-Kai: 1pm & 2:15pm

Engross yourself in the sounds of the Oregon Koto-Kai as they play Japanese inspired music on kotos, long horizontal Japanese harps. They will be playing in the Japanese Garden.



### Origami: Noon to 2:00pm

This interactive origami workshop is designed for children of all ages AND abilities. Stop by and make a bird or two with educator Eileen Holzman.



## JULY 24

### Oregon Koto-Kai: 1pm & 2:15pm

If you missed the July 10th performance they're back—this time performing in Ebetsu Plaza.



### Ikebana Demo - 10am to noon

Nana Bellerud returns to demonstrate Japanese floral arranging—called Ikebana. Check out her class at [www.greshamjapanesegarden.org/happenings](http://www.greshamjapanesegarden.org/happenings).



## AUGUST 7

### Oregon Koto-Kai: 1pm & 2:15pm

To end our cultural series, we first bring you an energetic, musical performance by Takohachi, a Portland-based non-profit organization founded by Yumi Torimaru. Don't miss hearing Shamisen, Taiko, and Bamboo flute music performing in Ebetsu Plaza!



### Art of Bonsai Demo - 2 to 4:00pm

And last we bring you our bonsai workshop instructor Mark Vossbrink giving you a glimpse of bonsai creations. His knowledge in the art of bonsai is vast and inspirational. He offers a Saturday workshop every month, too. Find it here: [www.greshamjapanesegarden.org/happenings](http://www.greshamjapanesegarden.org/happenings).



Volunteer Newsletter Editors: Sue Hughes, Mary Dickson, and Mary Taylor. Photos credit, Bill Peterson.