

Tsuru 鶴 Soars

Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden Newsletter



Hot Weather Suits Mike Fine

It's summer, which means Mike is back volunteering, and we were prepared to put him to work! If you haven't met Mike cruising Springwater Trail, you can find him helping at 'Garden Saturdays'.

Last fall we purchased a Gorilla Cart® waiting for Mike to return. With a little ingenuity, Jim, Garden Director, modified the cart's handle so it can attach to the back of Mike's motorized chair. Mike can pull plant material, haul yard debris, or whatever else is needed throughout the day.

Mike has never let his disability stop him from doing what he wants to do. For 40 years he worked for Multnomah Dog Track as the 'Gateman' to the paddock



area. He's very proud, as he should be, to say that he's never missed a day of work.

Those days may be over, and Mike may be a few years older, but he's still raring to help out. It just needs to be hot outside since his body can't take the cold anymore. With a grin on his



PHOTOGRAPHER'S PICK

After this long season of Covid, let's meet in the Garden this Summer.

— Bill Peterson

face, at the end of a 'Garden Saturdays', he complained about the potholes in the parking lot. Going back and forth over the potholed pavement made his butt sore. Sorry, Mike. Maybe the right people at the City will read this and add this paving project to their budget. In the meantime, he'll keep pulling the cart wherever his services are needed.

Service is Good for His Psychic

by Sue Hughes

Do you know the feeling when you meet someone, you work alongside him/her for a while, and then say, "I'd like to know more about this person"?

That's what it's been like for me since I met Chuck Page. A fellow Garden volunteer introduced me to Chuck as a new volunteer with the Garden. After a few 'Garden Saturdays' mentored by volunteer John Harrold, I started taking notice to this unassuming, jack-of-all-trades, and easy-going personality of a man. He quickly turned into a volunteer one could count on.

So, one day I asked Chuck if he would grant me an interview for our newsletter. With hesitancy, he agreed.

The Dalles was where most of Chuck's young life was spent after his father was discharged from the Army. After graduating from high school, Chuck continued on to college earning a degree in Industrial Arts Education. After a stint teaching, Chuck discovered it just wasn't paying his bills, so from teaching students how to build, he switched to a career in construction.

Chuck married his college girlfriend

and lived in Dufur, OR with her until 2000 when he moved his then ailing wife to Gresham for better medical services and to be close to their daughter. After Chuck talked about his wife who lived with Alzheimer's for 20 years, I asked him about his daughter. His eyes light up as he describes his daughter's life. At the age of 21, she was involved in a single-car accident and ended up a quadriplegic. She could move her wrists and learned to drive a modified vehicle to get to her volunteer job with Oregon Vocational Rehabilitation. She lived to the age of 49, which is considered a 'long life' for a person with her disability. Chuck describes her life as, "a good life."

In 2004, Chuck retired, cared for his wife full time, and to clear his head, picked up trash along the Springwater Trail, for an hour and a half each day. This unassuming man's gesture didn't go unnoticed by the City of Portland, or the City of Gresham, but Chuck wasn't interested in recording his volunteer hours for the city, or receiving any recognition.

Twenty years later, this quiet, humble 79-year-old man has found peace doing good deeds for the City of Gresham



Park's Department and the Gresham Japanese Garden. He volunteers daily from about 8am-noon cleaning up transient camps, weeding, and picking up trash. With the Garden, he's been given the labels of paver installer, go-to-guy, and most fitting—generous soul.

Whether he's on the trail, in the park, or in the garden, Chuck will tell you, it's good for his psychic.

Next time you're in Main City Park, look for this man in work clothes meandering about with a gardening tool in hand and easy smile enjoying every minute of giving his time to help others.



GARDENER'S TIP

August is a good time to plant broccoli, cabbage and brussel sprouts from starts, as well as your fall crops (beets, carrots, chard, arugula and lettuce) from seeds.

Be sure your plants receive sufficient water during this dry time, especially evergreens like cedar trees.

Before the rains come in the fall, consider constructing a new raised bed for next spring or in time for the fall planting.

— Jim Buck, Garden Volunteer

Name the Turtle



Our turtle on Tsuru Island needs a name!

We've extended the deadline to August 31st! Please email your entry to: info@GreshamJapaneseGarden.com.

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



Family Folding Workshop

Learn to make a flapping bird, or maybe a swan. Instructor Eileen Holzman

will take you step-by-step through the creation of origami.

This workshop is geared for all ages and abilities. Offered monthly starting September 22, 6-7:15 - \$20. [Register online.](#)



Choosing the Right Plant Location

by Jim Card

During the past month we've had some long-lasting, unusually high temperatures, and as a result, some of our plants were damaged with burned foliage.

This can happen anytime during the late spring and summer if plants are in the wrong place with negative exposure. Many affected plants were in the correct exposure in normal years, but with the direct sun and for the length of time they were exposed, plants were damaged. Many times, people will be inclined to cut that damaged foliage for aesthetics. That could be a mistake if certain precautions are not taken.

Remember, the foliage that is removed is protecting the material that is behind or under it, so the same can happen to the uncovered material. If one removes the affected foliage, the remaining areas can be covered from the exposure by shade cloth. If movable, you can move it into the shade, or sometimes a coating of *Wilt Proof*[®] can help when sprayed on the plant. *Wilt Proof* is a wax-based material that is water soluble and can be purchased at landscape suppliers. This product will put a shine on the foliage and protect it from the sun or wind and help prevent burning and dehydration.

Remember that a plant which is sun-burned will often survive. Next spring, it will go through the same growth push that it did this year and when the new foliage pushes out, the damaged leaves and/or branches can be removed.

Also, heat reflects off any surface such as glass, and can be absorbed by house siding, pavers, or concrete walls, and in turn, throws heat to whatever is near them. Look for the suggested planting orientation on the plant tag indicating morning sun or part shade. If the plant is in the path of the reflected sun it may get damaged. The same holds true with

the plant being positioned too close to the house, sidewalk or street. This is especially important to consider when the plant is first placed into the ground. The root system has not expanded beyond the root ball and the soil around that root ball will actually soak up the moisture from the root ball as the surrounding soil becomes dryer. Remember the same thing happens in a pot, once the plant uses the moisture from the soil in the pot it has nothing to draw from and it will die or be badly stressed.



A burnt 'Davidii Viburnum' in Ebetsu Plaza

Exposure is the key word here and that relates not only to the sun but also to wind, frost and snow. Many times in the spring, blooming plants will be covered with burlap or bed sheet to protect from early morning frost. Likewise, trees and shrubs may need to be protected during the winter months. For instance, East County can produce freezing rain weighing down limbs and eventually breaking them. Other areas may be a bit milder in the winter, but you may still need to deal with frost and wind conditions.

Hanging plants are subject to summer conditions too. If you are new to growing flowering baskets, some will do well in the direct sun while others will do much better in morning sun and afternoon shade. If the hanging plant gets dehydrated after a hot day, give it extra water over a few hours time and allow the soil to become fully damp in the pot. Once you feel good about the soil water again, fertilize once a week and the plant

should recover from the heat-induced stress and continue on its blooming journey. If you fertilize the plant before the moisture in the soil is renewed, it will just leak out. Then move the planter to another area that is shadier if the heat is expected to continue.

Last, food for thought: all plants are different and will respond to conditions differently, even within the same species. For instance, I have had the same age and size *Davidii Viburnum* planted in the direct sun, one burned and the other did not. They just reacted differently, so don't always think it is something you did wrong.

Ask Jim!

Video How-To's

Would you like to learn why your plant is not doing well?

Ask Jim! is a video series featured on Gresham Japanese Garden Facebook page, [@greshamjapanese-garden](https://www.facebook.com/greshamjapanese-garden).

Submit your Ask Jim! gardening question to <https://www.greshamjapanese-garden.org/ask-jim/>.

If your question gets picked for our video series, we'll send you a pack of our exclusive Garden note cards!



Find Ask Jim!

2021 Summer Cultural Series

Sponsored by Arts and Cultural Assistance Grant



Please enjoy our last Japanese cultural demonstration and performance for the summer at the Gresham Japanese Garden in Main City Park. Free to all!

AUGUST 7

Takohachi's Performances

11am & 1pm

- *Ebetsu Plaza*

Art of Bonsai Demonstration

2:00pm to 4:00pm

- *Japanese Garden*



AUGUST 7

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

To end our cultural series, we first bring you an energetic musical performance by Takohachi, Inc, a Portland-based non-profit organization founded by Yumi Torimaru. Don't miss hearing Shamisen, Taiko, and Shinobue 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.



PLANT SALE

	Dwarf Andromeda, 2 gal	\$15
	Dwarf Nandina, 2 gal	\$10
	Black Mondo Grass, 1 gal	\$ 7
	Hino Crimson Azaleas, 2 gal	\$10
<small>Our heirloom azaleas have been propagated by the Garden from the original bushes on Tsuru Island.</small>		
	Japanese Iris, each	\$ 5
	Lily Grass, Big Blue	\$ 3
	Dianthus	\$ 3
	Sedum - Autumn Joy	\$10
	Kinnikinnick, each	\$ 5

GARDEN TOURS
10am and Noon