

Tsuru Soars

Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden Newsletter



Our Turtle Has a Name

We had 13 thought-provoking names submitted for the Tsuru Island turtle. Here's a short description of the 'why' that accompanied each name.

- 1. Kamekichi.** 'Kame' means 'turtle' and 'kichi' means 'luck.' So, its name could mean that it's a lucky turtle, or that the turtle brings luck.
- 2. Pacer.** A slow, steady pace for successful living and longevity.
- 3. Reiki Takara.** Reiki means 'spirit turtle', and Takara is the Japanese word for 'Treasure'.
- 4. Kame.** Means turtle in Japanese

- 5. Ka Mae.** Kame with a twist
- 6. Kenoshita.** Gresham berry farming family.
- 7. Johnson.** Tying in support and water through Native Americans, Johnson Creek, and Reverend Jonas Johnson, a leader in the Gresham community.
- 8. Midori Mosu.** Represents the green back, and moss. Means love and charity in a Japanese garden.
- 9. Gamme.** Ranald MacDonald wrote Gamme in his glossary, instead of Kame.
- 10. Heiwa.** Translates to peace.
- 11. Iroh.** Wise, calm, patient character



PHOTOGRAPHER'S VIEW

長月の空色裕きたりけり

naga tsuki no sora iro awase kitari keru
Ninth Month the sky wears a colorful kimono

— Kobayashi Issa 1806

— Bill Peterson

- 12. Kameko.** Female name for turtle
- 13. Marimo.** Marimo moss balls grow in Japan and are very cute!

The Turtle Naming Committee had much to discuss. The winner is:

Kamekichi

Help Maintain the Garden with the Gift of Time

Gardening and service is a shared passion with our volunteers. For the past 10 years, volunteers have come together every Saturday from 9 to noon to prune, rake, plant, build, and share. We call this time together, 'Garden Saturdays.'

If Garden Saturdays are not a conducive time for your schedule, but you would like to volunteer with us, we've got two new volunteering programs to fit your schedule. *Adopt a Spot* and *Adopt a Project*: Both programs are non-financial. The gift of time and hands-on help is our ask.

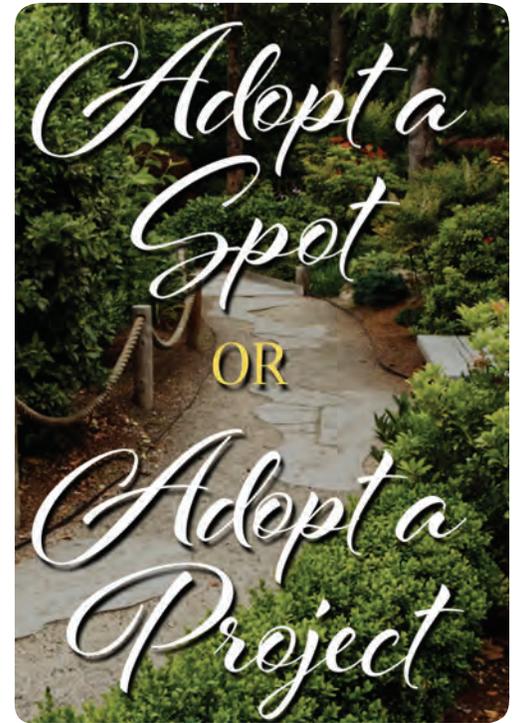
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Adopt a Spot is a service opportunity designed for gardeners to volunteer on their own time and pace. Dependent on your skill set and the number of hours you would like to commit to in a month, you can decide to adopt a pine tree to candle in the fall, and prune in the spring, adopt *all* the pine trees to maintain, or, you may want to adopt an entire



space that offers a variety of different plant species to maintain and prune. *Adopt a Project* is for gardeners, builders, and fixers. Projects that need adopting now are:

- Re-potting of plants in our shade house
- Bridge re-construction: There is two groups that would gladly accept more help.
- Hard scape maintenance: We have some broken fences that need fixing.
- Woodworking projects: We need a kimono stand built.



The Benefit of these Programs

- Choose your own hours.
- Work at your own pace.
- Receive one-on-one guidance and training from Garden Curator, Jim Card.

Please fill out this [volunteer questionnaire](#) and we'll find a good fit for you and the Garden.



GARDENER'S TIP

Early fall is a good time to sow cover crops, such as annual rye grass, crimson clover, and Austrian peas. They add tilth and nutrition to the soil.

Keep dead heading penstemon, roses, zinnias, etc., to encourage more flowering into the fall.

When the soil starts to soften with the onset of rain, is the best time to divide perennials like peonies, and to plant fruit or shade trees.

— Jim Buck, Garden Volunteer and Organic Gardener

New Addition



The Friends of Gresham Japanese Garden are looking out for our bicycle enthusiasts. Many, many cyclists park in the upper lot to access Springwater Trail, and then return to enjoy Ebetsu Plaza and Ambleside Annex.

The city answered our request and is installing a bike rack. Thank you, City of Gresham Parks Department.

Ask Jim!

Plant Care Videos

Ask Jim! is a plant care video series featured on our Facebook page, [@greshamjapanesegarden](#).

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

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



Beavers are Amazing Creatures

by Sue Hughes

If you stroll down the south bank of Tsuru Island you will notice the beaver dam. If you're like me, I wanted to know more about it on this stretch of Johnson Creek. For information, I reached out to Daniel Newberry, Executive Director of Johnson Creek Watershed Council (JCWC). Here's what I learned. Note, some of this information is extracted from Johnson Creek Watershed Council's informative website.

Beavers are native to much of North America. The North American beaver, *Castor canadensis*, is one of two beaver species in the world—the other is the Eurasian beaver, *Castor fiber*.

Beavers can live for 12-20 years. Beavers mate for life. A pair of beavers will have 2-6 kits, in a single litter, each spring. Kits can swim within 24 hours of being born. They usually live with their parents for the first 2 years of life, helping to build dams, gather food, and raise younger kits before leaving the colony to find a mate.

Beavers are herbivores, eating the inner bark of woody plants such as willow and alder. When they cut down a tree or shrub, it is sometimes for eating and sometimes for building.

Beavers do not live in their dams. They build their dam to create a pond, so they can build a lodge upstream to live in. The pond also provides protection from predators. Beaver lodges are uncommon in Johnson Creek. Katie Holzer, Watershed Scientist with the city of Gresham, said the beavers in our area usually build 'bank dens'. She said the den where the beavers at Tsuru Island live is likely somewhere upstream near where the Springwater Corridor Trail bridge goes over the creek. She called 'our' dam, a 'primary' dam, meaning it is mainly used to make sure that the entrance to their den is well underwater so predators



cannot get in. Over the 6 years JCWC has conducted surveys, beavers have made a dam at this location for 5 of them.

So, why do beavers choose this stretch of Johnson Creek? First, beavers look for a spot with the least resistance to build, a 'pinch point'—a narrowing in the stream that sits a little higher. Beavers also like the sound of running water, and last, they look at their surroundings for an abundance of material. They will haul material up to 100 ft, if they have to.

Historically, it was thought that beaver dams cause flooding, and as we know on Tsuru Island, destroy trees and cause erosion. But, data shows that beavers are amazing and important creatures to our ecosystem, and can be our new partner in habitat restoration. Beaver dams contribute to reducing the effects of soil erosion, pollution, and water temperature. Most beaver dams are porous, meaning water flows through the dam and brings the water temperature down. The city of Gresham has measured the water above and below 'our' dam and the water below the dam is 3-4° cooler.

And last, I was curious why we don't see beaver dams in Johnson Creek in the winter time. Newberry explained that Johnson Creek is considered a 'flashy stream'. In the winter, it rapidly collects



water, floods, and then the beaver dams get washed out.

For more great information about beavers, and in-stream habitat projects to restore Johnson Creek, go to JCWC.org.



2021 Summer Cultural Series

THANK YOU!

Thank you City of Gresham for giving us the funds, to share to others Japanese culture through performances and demonstrations of talented musicians and artists.

And thank you to this great community for joining us and embracing the summer events we were able to offer to you!



Bonsai Teacher, Mark Vossbrink



Ikekana Teacher, Nana Bellerud



Origami Teacher, Eileen Holzman and Garden Volunteer, Ron Ture



Musicians from Oregon Koto-Kai



Musicians from Takohachi, Inc.



Musician, Yumi Torimaru



Performance Artist, Sora Shoda

