

# Tsuru 鶴 Soars

Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden Newsletter



## Clean Air Monitor at the Garden

**W**e have new install at the Garden that doesn't need watering! Neighbors for Clean Air (NCA), a clean air advocacy group, expanded its network of low-cost air sensors into Gresham. Known as Purple Air monitors, these sensors provide real-time measurements of particulate matter (known as PM 2.5) in the air. The data is readily visible on the [PurpleAir.com](https://PurpleAir.com) website.

The particulate matter the monitors detect is composed of small particles and liquid droplets suspended in the atmosphere. Some of the worst contrib-

utors to particulate matter in our Metro airshed is from diesel engines. Concentrations show up to 20x the levels associated with elevated risk of cancer and elevated rates of asthma, cardiovascular disease, and low-birth weight.

With the Purple Air monitors, NCA can gain a better understanding of what's in the air we breathe. In fact, that's the goal of the project—to share data and



### PHOTOGRAPHER'S VIEW

.春雨や相に相生の松の声  
*harusame ya ai ni aioi no matsu  
no koe*  
*spring rain, growing side by side,  
whispering pines*

knowledge about particulate matter, especially in East Multnomah County.

The Garden is excited to work with NCA to co-create knowledge of the air quality in Gresham. Learn more at [NeighborsforCleanAir.org](https://NeighborsforCleanAir.org)

# Mural Mural at the Barn



Depiction of final design

**A**fter two years, we can finally announce the mural project—earmarked to begin by the time you read this article. Along with a large historical mural of east Multnomah county, we will landscape the space in front of the barn to compliment the mural.

Partial funding comes from a 2020 Community Enhancement grant, a Regional Arts and Culture Council (RACC) grant, (awarded to the muralist, Madison Hughes, [#achy.hands](#)), a Sherwin

Williams Gresham paint donation, and support from the City's Facilities Dept.

The muralist and a design committee of five finalized the layout. On the right, you'll find Tsuru Island's moon bridge stretching over Johnson Creek featuring resident wildlife. Left shows farm life of Nikkei neighbors and cartouche. And, of course, in the background, majestic Mt. Hood stretches amongst the cascades. Once a new garage door is installed, look for a large kanji (ideogram to be determined) painted on the door.

*One unique element of this mural is it will not be painted on the barn.*

One unique element of this mural is it will NOT be painted on the barn. It will be painted on plywood panels, and then fastened to the barn's façade at different depths to create a 3-D effect. And, if in the future the City decides to remove the barn, we can move the mural. We are so excited to get this project underway.



## GARDENER'S TIP

Typically, you can plant your cold vegetables (eggplant, peppers, tomatoes, squash and cucumbers) in May when your soil has warmed.

Incorporate about 10% compost or other organic material. Add mulch (wood chips or straw) around your plants to conserve moisture and reduce weeds.

May is also a good time to prune sprouting suckers in trees or too much growth in other shrubs..

— Jim Buck, Garden Volunteer and Organic Gardener

## 'Hino Crimson' Azaleas



Enjoy this month's flowering shrub, the hino crimson heritage azalea.

These azaleas were planted on Tsuru Island in the 70's. They survived all these years without additional water or amenities.

GJG propagated over 1000 root cuttings that now live in 2 gal. containers—enough so the species will not die out. We can replenish our stock and sell as a fundraiser.

## Flower Baskets in the Park



It's that time of year again when we hang flower baskets along the path of Main City Park. The GBSD Exploratory Program students are back 100% and learning seed germination, planting techniques, watering and fertilizing, and growing annuals.

And, they will take a hanging basket that they made home in time for Mother's Day!

# Spring is the Time to Enjoy Your Garden

In [January 2022](#) we've suggested keeping a schedule of when to prune, fertilize, and clean up debris. Below are the reasons why you should and should not prune at certain times of the year, a good reminder for all us gardeners.

## SPRING

This is **not** a good time to structurally prune your trees. They've used up all their stored energy from the winter to leaf out. Instead, use the time to analyze the growth and response from the cuts you made in the winter. Did the tree respond the way you intended? Are there water spouts? Answer your why questions?

Now IS a good time to candle your pines by breaking back the tallest candles to create a uniform size to the outline of the needles. Also, when you have a cluster of candles, thin by cutting out the 2nd and 3rd bud candles, usually the center one ([See June 2021 newsletter](#)).

It's also a good time to renovate your broadleaf evergreen shrubs, such as euonymus, and Oregon grape, and it's a good time to shear your hedges. If

it's azaleas, wait until they've finished blooming. After shearing, don't forget to remove inner branches to promote air flow.

## SUMMER

Early summer is a great time to prune trees like your maples, because all the energy is used up from the spring leaf out, which means that summer pruning won't stimulate growth. Removing suckers and water spouts will slow down future suckering growth.

Thin out regrowth from previous heading cuts. Remove dead, damaged, diseased and crossing branches.

Prune plants prone to natural suckering and/or winter bleeding, such as magnolias, viburnums, and witch hazels.

For plants prone to fungal and bacterial diseases, such as lilacs and maples, summer pruning is best.

## WINTER

In the winter time deciduous trees are dormant and a less pest and disease problems are associated with pruning wounds. They're also showing their structure, so it is the best time for re-

juvenation, structural cuts, and a good time to make heading cuts (only when necessary) to stiffen young branches and encourage new branching.

Remember, when your tree goes dormant in the winter, it stores enough energy for it to leaf out evenly in the spring, when it went dormant. If you notice water spouts, and/or excessively long branches in the spring, the tree is telling you, you removed too much. The rule is no more than 1/3 its size.

## FALL

You're off the hook again in the fall to prune. Do very little if any pruning at this time. Plants are in the process of hardening off for the winter, and pruning may stimulate new growth susceptible to early frost or cold temperatures. The exception to this rule in the Pacific Northwest is trees in the Rosaceae family and pines. Prune these trees in early to mid-September after the cherry bark tortrix adult moths stop flying.

Pines susceptible to sequoia pitch moth should not be pruned until mid-late September when the adults have died off.

## Volunteers Give Heart and Hands

by Sue Hughes

I love the title of this article. That's what we do every Saturday, and many times during the week. I believe we are one of the few non-profit organizations that don't ask our volunteers for money. We ask you to you lead with your heart, and work with your hands to beautify, maintain, improve, and preserve areas in The Garden; Tsuru Island, Ebetsu Plaza, Ambleside Annex, along with the greenhouse and shadehouse, the pollinator garden, and the Gresham-Barlow School District (GBSD) Exploratory Program. GJG records over 600 volunteer hours per month, 600 hours!

And, we're adding the mural space, and the area in MCP where the Hiroshima Peace Tree will be planted in September (stay tuned for more on that). We group all of these areas together and say "The Garden."

*GJG records over 600 volunteer hours per month.*

We have two opportunities coming up if you're interested in becoming a volunteer. The first is a **Volunteer Orientation meeting on May 12th, 5:30-7pm**. Jim Card will speak in-depth about the areas we steward for the City, and where we need help. Send a RSVP



Sharon Williams trimming Karl Forrester feather reed grass

to [info@greshamjapanesegarden.com](mailto:info@greshamjapanesegarden.com).

The second opportunity is through a partnership with Johnson Creek Watershed Council. They answered our call for help by organizing a **JCWC Work Party on June 11th**. Sign up here: <https://www.jcwc.org/events/gresham-japanese-garden-work-party/>.

Thank you!

# The Art of Ikebana

Ikebana is a traditional Japanese art form that uses plants and other materials. It was established in the mid 15th century though the origin dates back farther. More than simply putting flowers in a vase, ikebana is a disciplined art form in which nature and humanity are brought together. Ikebana emphasizes simplicity, minimalism, asymmetry, negative space, and selection of material and form of the arrangement.



Sogetsu School of ikebana is a contemporary style of ikebana, founded in 1927 by Sofu Teshigahara. Sogetsu Ikebana can be created anytime, anywhere, by anyone, with any kind of material. Plants are the products of mother nature, but the basic principle of Sogetsu is *"ikebana reflects the person who created it."*

Nana Bellerud has been studying Sogetsu School of Ikebana since 2005. Beyond simply producing a beautiful work of art with flowers and natural objects, she seeks to inspire others to

explore the artistic concepts of ikebana. In her bi-monthly workshop at the Gresham Japanese Garden, she shares the history and core principles of ikebana, tools and equipment needed to create ikebana, how to prepare the plants, and demonstrates the creative process of various styles. Students then create basic style and freestyle arrangements followed by constructive critiquing by Nana.

Sign up for her Tuesday, May 10, workshop from 1-3:00pm. Cost is \$55.

<https://www.greshamjapanesegarden.org/product/ikebana-for-the-season/>



*Freestyle arrangement*

# Children's Day



As soon as Hina matsuri (Girl's Day) is over, the Japanese celebrate Tango no sekku (Boy's Day) May 5th. It is among Japan's most popular national holidays.

Traditionally, the festival was a day to honor male children and express hopes for their future prosperity and strength.

However, in 1948 the Japanese government renamed the day Kodomo no hi (Children's Day) and it became a more general event celebrating the happiness of all children.

Despite this change, traditions associated with this festival date back to its association with boys, and includes symbols of strength—particularly carp, samurai and oak leaves. As a result, families display kabuto (samurai armor), eat kashiwa mochi (rice cakes wrapped in oak leaves), and most notably hang koinobori ('koi' meaning carp, and 'nobori' meaning flag) from their homes.

There are stories that has been passed down for generations about how koinobori became the official symbol of Boy's Day. Here's one.

There was a time when many fish tried to swim up the stream of the Koga River. The current was strong and many attempts were futile. However, a golden carp managed to successfully reach the upper stream and became a magical dragon. Of all the fish to attempt to swim upstream, only the carp's strength and perseverance allowed it to become the one to succeed.

Source: <https://sugoi-japan.com>

## Free Class



### POLLINATORS FOR YOUR YARD

**Saturday, May 21**

**1-2:30pm, IN PERSON**

Join Deb Peters 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 butterflies and other pollinators.

<https://www.greshamjapanesegarden.org/class-registration/>

## Upcoming Event



### KOI EXPO AND MORE!

**Saturday, July 9th**

**10am - 5pm**

Join us for our first Koi Expo brought to you by Northwest Koi and Goldfish Club, July 9th at Main City Park. Educational seminars, the viewing of dozens of koi, a paper fishing pond for children, and a live auction with koi and pond related items are all scheduled!

Next to the fish tanks, you will find bonsai and bonsai containers for sales along with bonsai and ikebana, and koi origami demonstrations. Mark your calendar for this special event!

## Workshops

### IKEBANA

**Tuesday, May 10, 1-3pm**

<https://www.greshamjapanesegarden.org/product/ikebana-for-the-season/>

### BONSAI

**Thursday, May 19, 1-3pm**

**Saturday, May 21, 1-3pm**

<https://www.greshamjapanesegarden.org/product/art-of-bonsai/>

### ORIGAMI

**Saturday, May 28, 3-4:15pm**

<https://www.greshamjapanesegarden.org/product/family-origami-folding/>