

Tsuru 鶴 Soars

Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden Newsletter



Please Support the Garden





 NAME _____

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\$2,100 VALUE

We've raised over half of our projected \$50,000 remodel goal! With your help we're confident we can raise the rest of the money to turn the Resource Center into a beautiful Japanese-inspired piece of architecture complete with a redesigned

tsuboniwa (courtyard garden). Please purchase a \$20 raffle ticket to win a chance for a vacation to Cabo San Lucas, or any Pueblo Bonito Resort; Pueblo Bonito Sunset Beach, Pueblo Bonito Pacifica, Pueblo Bonito Los Cabos, Pueblo Bonito Rose, Pueblo Bonito Blanco, Pueblo Bonito Mazatlan, and Pueblo Bonito Emerald Bay. The winner can use certificate through the end of November, subject to availability through Pueblo Bonito Sunset



PHOTOGRAPHER'S VIEW

*Early morning mist
A tall red eyed weeping spruce
Winter go away*

Beach. Date may be extended at winner's expense for one year at \$169.00 or two years at \$249.00. Upgrades are available at winner's expense. Winner will be provided the contact information to book vacation.

Purchase at:
<https://www.greshamjapanese-garden.org/>.

Science Converges in the Garden

You know the saying, “everything happens for a reason,” or, when you feel compelled to use the word “serendipitous” in a sentence? Now add Bartlett Tree Experts.

As you may know..., one attribute of a Japanese Garden is the cleanliness of the grounds; you don’t see leaves or plant debris piled up around the plants. But, by removing these byproducts in the winter when the leaves have fallen and are decomposing, we’re depriving the soil of nutrients.

This discussion was reoccurring amongst the volunteers on our work day; pick up the leaves or leave the leaves. Jim Card our director, knew science told him to let the leaves decompose, but it’s not how you maintain a Japanese Garden. It’s too “messy.”

So, here comes the serendipitous piece. Kevin Carr with Bartlett Tree Experts hears about our garden and arranges a meeting. He says, “and we know replenishing nutrients in the soil is a concern with Japanese Gardens.” Boy, did Jim’s ears perk up.

Founded in 1926, The Bartlett Tree

Research Laboratories, the research division of Bartlett Tree Experts has developed guidelines for all of the services. One of these services is root invigoration. Root Invigoration is designed to repair damaged soils and promote an efficient soil environment which optimizes fine root performance. The procedure is useful to prevent the decline in aging trees and promote growth in younger trees, among other uses. It creates a natural, forest-like soil, providing an efficient uptake of higher levels of water and nutrients by the fine root system, resulting in improved tree health.



Aerating the soil around the root system.



Bartlett Tree Experts working on Tsuru Island.

Bartlett Tree Experts offered us, free of charge, a site evaluation and soil analysis. This site evaluation resulted in their service of root invigoration on three red pines, a dogwood tree, and a white birch tree, resulting in de-compacted, fertile, biologically-active soil around each tree creating an optimal environment for the uptake of water and nutrients by fine roots. Root invigoration is designed to relieve stress on root system function and restore a tree’s health.

Yes, we know this doesn’t solve all our issues with replenishing nutrients in the soil, but it sure is nice to know our mature trees were given a boost on life.



GARDEN TIP

PLANTING LILY BULBS

Our heavy winter and spring moisture can cause lily bulbs to rot as water sits near the sprout bud on top.

To reduce this outcome, plant your bulb not straight up but at a 75 degree angle so water is less likely to sit on the sprout bud.

— Jim Buck, Garden Volunteer and Organic Gardener

Pines are Looking Mighty Fine



For two days in February the Garden was blessed with the help from our aesthetic pruning instructors, Francheska Snyder, Lincoln Proud, and Bill Prope.

The instructors gave of their time to meticulously prune almost all of the specimen pine trees, a dogwood tree, and a few maples on Tsuru Island.

Making a Difference



Celestica is a global technology and manufacturing organization with many employees in the Gresham area. They provide end-to-end solutions in the semiconductor industry.

Celestica’s employees are encouraged and supported to volunteer. The Gresham Japanese Garden is fortunate to be a recipient of Celestica’s civic engagement.

Hina Matsuri Brings Spring Festival Dolls to GJG

by Mary Dickson

As buds appear on the trees and early spring plants push up through the ground in the GJG, Japan celebrates one of its most endearing holidays—*Hina Matsuri* or Girl's Day (sometimes called Doll Festival,) on March 3rd.

The Gresham Japanese Garden has recently received a wonderful gift of a set of *hina-ningyo*, special dolls made for this day, given by Machiko Watanabe, who received them from her parents (Yoshiaki and Reiko Itoh) about 40 years ago. The doll brand is 吉徳大光. The doll maker's name is Yoshi-toku Tai-kou (<https://www.yoshitoku.co.jp/>). It's hard to tell by the image, but this set is 4.5 feet tall by 3 feet wide—quite large and beautifully crafted.

For a month in March 2024, after the Resource Center has been updated, these *hina-ningyo* will be displayed during Girl's Day for all to view in a place of honor.

Hina Matsuri is a Shinto and cultural holiday in Japan, according to Wikipedia. On or before March 3, families set up the dolls as a wish for happiness and prosperity of their daughters. The tradition goes back to the Edo period (1603-1876) when the dolls were thought to ward off evil spirits. Now, it is more of a tradition.

A full set of *hina-ningyo* includes 15 dolls, all representing the royal court, and are dressed in traditional court dress of the Heian period (794-1185). They often have many layers of silk and brocade garments, intricately crafted. The dolls are set on a red cloth in tiers, with the Emperor and Empress at the top. On lower levels are placed two ministers, three ladies in waiting, and five court musicians. There are also plants and other decorations from the court. The festival used to be called the Peach Festival since peach trees

bloom around this time, so peach blossoms are part of the decorations.

Sets can be as simple as folded paper or very elaborate, costing thousands of dollars. Traditionally, girls and their mothers set up the *hinakazari* (platform), perhaps as early as the first few days of spring in February. Superstition has it that they should be put away the day after *Hina Matsuri* because leaving the dolls out longer could result in late marriage for the daughter! (Some people leave them up longer to enjoy them.) The dolls may be purchased by grandparents when a granddaughter is born, and are often handed down through generations as heirlooms. For practical reasons, they are carefully packed away



Set of *Hino-ningyo* gifted to GJG by Machiko Watanabe.

before the start of the rainy season with its humidity that comes soon after the holiday.

During this time, girls have parties with their friends with special foods.

In 1926, Dr. Sidney Gulick established the Committee on World Friendship Among Children. His belief was that children who learned about and became friends with foreign children would be less discriminatory towards foreigners as adults. His goal was to send dolls from the US to Japan. Nearly 13,000 Friendship Dolls were sent to Japan, along with its own passport, train and boat tickets, and handwritten letters from American children. The dolls arrived in time for *Hina Matsuri*. They were distributed to schools throughout Japan, and then Japanese children sent Japanese dolls to the US for Christmas. Some of these 58 *Torei Ningyo* dolls now live in museums and one is in the Smithsonian Institution.

The Gresham Japanese Garden is very grateful to Machiko for this incredibly beautiful set of *hina-ningyo*, and will cherish it for years to come.



Even small *hina-ningyo* sets can be beautiful, like this one I purchased in Tokyo.



Mariko Hashimoto, mother of Hana, who named the turtle on Tsuru Island, when she was about two years old, very similar to GJG's gift.

Upcoming Happenings

Introduction to Aesthetic Pruning Approach Course, Zoom: Thursday, March 9th, 6-8pm \$45



Don't miss 'Introduction to Aesthetic Pruning Approach' with instructor Maryann Lewis—the first in a series of aesthetic pruning courses offered by the Gresham Japanese Garden. Maryann Lewis is an APA Certified Aesthetic Pruner® and a co-founder and past president of the Aesthetic Pruners Association. She began teaching in 2005 as an adjunct instructor at the Academy of Art San Francisco and in 2012 began teaching various aesthetic pruning classes with the Marin Master Gardeners Pruning Guild. Maryann was a guest instructor for the Fresno Central High School Agriculture Department in 2015 and was a lead instructor for two North American Japanese Garden Association pruning workshops in 2014

and 2015. In 2022 she was one of three pruning instructors for the International Japanese Garden Training Center's Waza to Kokoro seminar. Maryann has taught workshops and given presentations for the Aesthetic Pruners Association, the American Conifer Society, The Hoffman Center for the Arts in Manzanita, Oregon, the JM Winery in Woodinville Washington, and now the Gresham Japanese Garden. *NOTE: The class will be recorded and available for two weeks.*

Introduction to Aesthetic Pruning Approach Course Recap, Onsite: Saturday, March 11th, 12:30-1:30pm \$20

This is an optional one-hour Course Recap to the Introduction to Aesthetic Pruning Approach course. Tsuru Island will be your classroom to practice assessing trees in a garden context and develop a pruning plan with personalized attention by Maryann.

Ikebana for Every Season, Tuesday, March 14th, 1-2:30pm \$45

In this workshop, Nana Bellerud will cover the basic concept, techniques, tools and equipment, and plant care for ikebana. Students will make one basic style and one freestyle flower arrangement (*ikebana*) with emphasis on seasonal themes. The Garden's vases and tools are available to use for class.

The Art of Bonsai, Thursday, March 16th, 1-3pm \$35

Explore the art of bonsai with Mark Vossbrink. Learn how to form your own bonsai tree. The \$35.00 cost includes all materials. Each month will be a different project. Show and tell is part of the workshop, so feel free to bring one of your pieces for critique. Please bring your own pruners or snippers and plastic table cloth to protect the table.

The Art of Bonsai, Saturday, March 18th, 1-3pm \$35

The Saturday workshop is a repeat of the Thursday workshop. Explore the art of bonsai with Mark Vossbrink. Learn how to form your own bonsai tree. Cost includes all materials. Each month will be a different project. Show and tell is part of the workshop, so feel free to bring one of your pieces for critique. Please bring your own pruners or snippers.

Ikebana for Every Season, Tuesday, April 11th, 1-2:30pm \$45

In this workshop, Nana Bellerud will cover the basic concept, techniques, tools and equipment, and plant care for Ikebana. Students will make one basic style and one freestyle of Ikebana with emphasis on seasonal themes. You may use the Garden's vases and tools for the class.

Assessing and Pruning in an Overgrown Landscape, Zoom: Thursday, April 13th, 6-8pm \$45

Managing an overgrown landscape can be overwhelming. How do you even start? Learn ways to gracefully bring your landscape back into a scaled composition with instructor Francheska Snyder.

Assessing and Pruning in an Overgrown Landscape Course Recap, Onsite: Saturday, April 15th, 12:30-1:30pm \$20

A one-hour course recap at Tsuru Island with Francheska. It's your chance to ask more personalized questions.

More information at: <https://www.greshamjapanesegarden.org/>