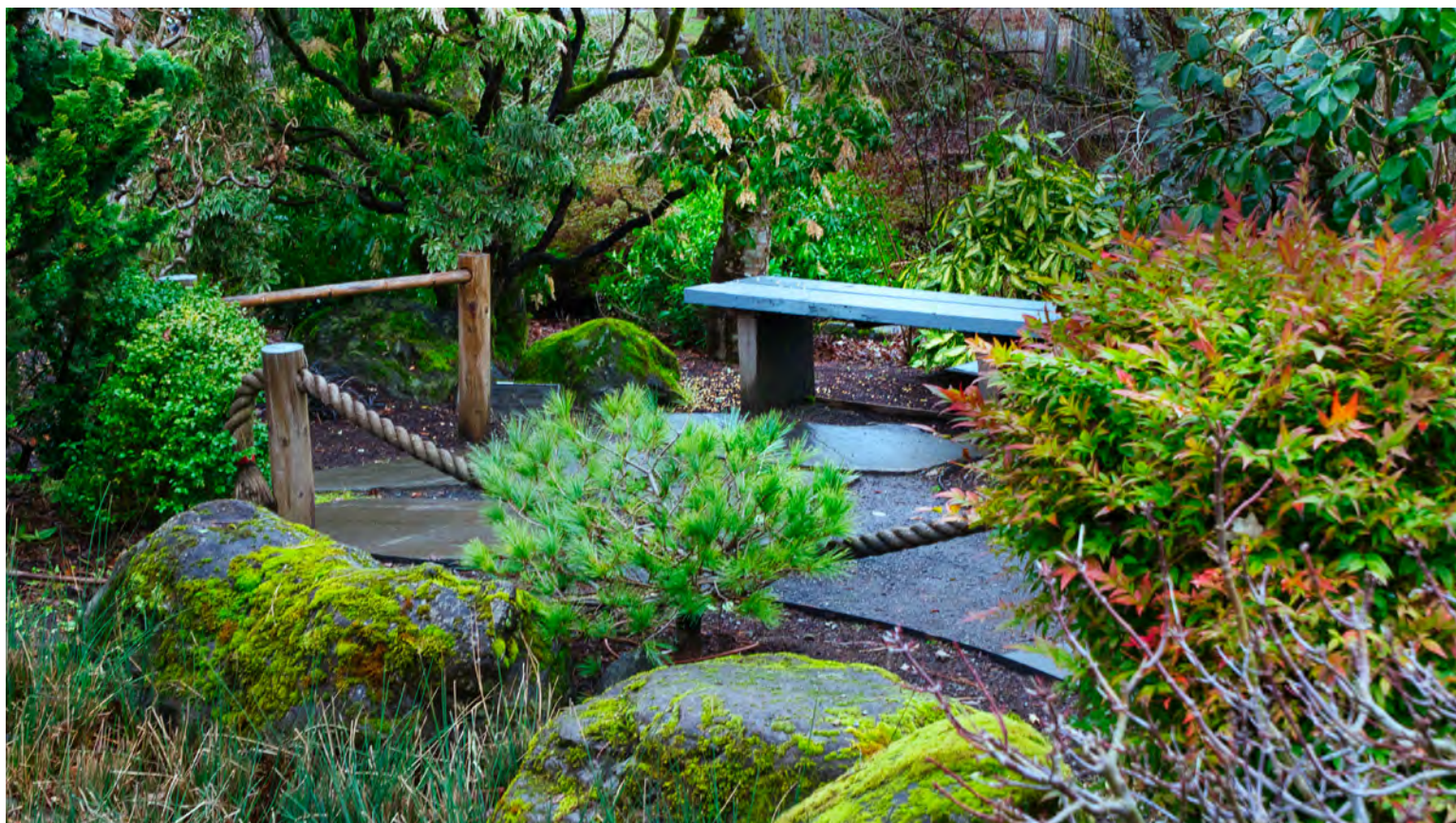


Tsuru 鶴 Soars

Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden Newsletter



And the Winner is...

The Gresham Japanese Garden has a tremendous need for funding the remodel of the Resource Center, and we couldn't be happier in the support we received from everyone who participated in our most recent Cabo San Lucas vacation raffle. Our total ticket sales were \$6,160.00!

The drawing took place Saturday, March 11th during Garden Saturday. The winner is Sue O'Halloran. For those of you who don't know Sue, she is one of the managing partners with KMO Real Estate, known for her acuteness in commercial real estate. And, she's also a big supporter of arts and culture in Gresham.

Speaking of supporters, another big shout out goes to Bob McDonald. He donated the Cabo trip to the Garden, and he sits on the board for the Center for the Arts Foundation.

Our hearts are full, but our remodeling spreadsheet tells us to keep on fundraising. In the works...another raffle for a week's vacation on the Coast and maybe a plant sale?

Please hang in there with us. The Garden, accompanied by a Japanese-inspired building, is sure to become the cultural destination in East County.



PHOTOGRAPHER'S VIEW

*Feel the warm spring day
Garden plants display colors
Sit here on the bench*

– Bill Peterson



Bob McDonald, Sue O'Halloran and Sue's husband Al Richards

Have a Pruning Plan

As spring approaches, we all want to start playing in our gardens. All gardens should start with a plan, but we're a little biased at GJG and are constantly re-aligning the overall plan of each shrub and tree, and the garden as a whole.

So, as you pursue your retail nursery, rely on a plan and ask yourself these questions. Do I need foundation plants, or a specimen tree? What's my height limitation, color desire? Evergreen, deciduous, sun/shade, shape? This will not only help your shopping experience, but keep you on task. You still have a lot of work ahead of you *after* you pick the right plant material.

In Japan, nurseries provide plant material that has already been pruned for several years or decades. A specimen tree will look like a specimen tree when you buy it. Most Western nurseries do not prep prune their inventory, so it's left to the gardener to know how to prune suitably for their garden.

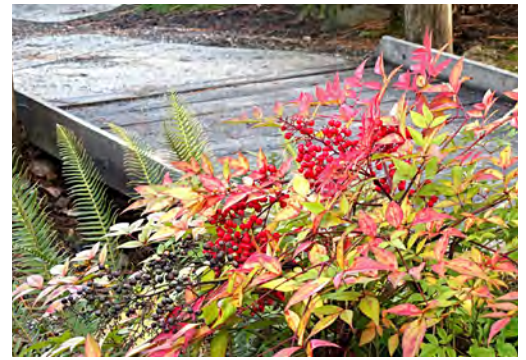
Take our common *Nandina domestica* 'heavenly bamboo' multi-trunk shrub. When you're shopping, look at its cane structure. Are there crossing canes or

ones growing sideways? Make sure you have enough viable canes to keep, and remove to thin, so air can pass through. This keeps the plant healthy and reduces the trapping of leaves and debris. Once you've removed the obvious problem canes at the base, you can choose to cut other canes. Where you make your cut will flush out new growth. Yes, you can cut all the canes to the bottom and they will grow back, but it's not recommended on a newly purchased plant. Wait a few years, until you've studied its growth habits in your space AND see what needs to be done to fulfill your garden plan.

Nandina domestica can stay short and compact, tall, or leggy. If you plant in too shady of a spot, it won't be adorned with its winter reds. So as you can see, this plant is very versatile, it's an evergreen and fairly easy to prune.

Pruning instructor, Francheska Snyder, will be talking about these issues in her upcoming pruning course, '[Assessing and Pruning an Overgrown Landscape](#)'.

The key to purchasing a plant at a nurseries and then planting in that perfect spot (you think), is to give it time



Nandina domestica 'Heavenly Bamboo'

to acclimate. Be patient. Don't prune too much off at once. Pruners devise landscape plans as far as five years out. They take notes about how it reacted to last year's pruning and photos are also a really good resource. Just don't rely on that shrub or tree you brought home from the nursery to be ready-to-plant. They rarely are.

We've talked a ton about the top of the plant, but pay attention to the root system too. If you see roots breaking through the bottom of the container don't buy it. Pull it out of the container and if it's root bound, don't buy it either.

Happy Planting!



GARDEN TIP

Avoid damping-off fungus affecting cucumbers, beans, peppers and tomatoes, that with our gardening enthusiasm we tend to plant too early.

Damping-off fungus is fostered by wet, cool conditions, so wait until the soil warms sufficiently before putting out these vegetable starts. And, do not add *any* fertilizer until leaves have emerged on the plants you started from seeds.

— Jim Buck, Garden Volunteer
and Organic Gardener

Employees With a Heart



For Bess Wills, the owner of Gresham Ford "The Dealer with a Heart", philanthropy is second nature. She encourages her employees to contribute to a "slush fund", to be given to a local non-profit. Karl Davis, a Gresham Ford employee and Garden volunteer asked for this slush fund to be directed to our Exploratory Program.

And the connections keep getting better. Karl's wife Michelle, works with our students in the school district!

It's Time to Fertilize



Japanese maples, woody shrubs, rhodies, azaleas and trees with a trunk diameter of 6" or less should be fertilized in early spring before leaves emerge.

Most woody plants begin the new year's growth with energy stored from the year before. An application of fertilizer gives an additional boost to this new growth.

Family-Owned Business Highlights

by Mary Marrs

Gresham may be Oregon's fourth largest city, but it feels good that we still have that hometown feeling anchored by family-owned businesses.

Orient Electric is our first family-owned business highlight. Mike Opray started at Orient Electric as an apprentice electrician over 20 years ago, before he and his wife Kristi bought it in 2012. Today, their sons Clinton, Jacob, and Luke work beside them as journeyman electricians, and the previous owner still works in the office.

When it came to wiring the greenhouse in 2018, Garden director Jim Card called his friend Mike. He told him how much money the Garden had to spend from a Community Enhancement Grant, and Mike gave a fair estimate. Mike didn't tell Jim the real cost, and in the end donated a good portion of the labor and materials. And when volunteers couldn't figure out some of the extra electrical needs on their own, Orient Electric came back and finished the job—without charge. "Just helping a friend out," Mike said. "Just helping people move forward."

"Just helping a friend out," he said. "Just helping people move forward."

– Mike Opray, Owner, Orient Electric

Mike says something he likes about Jim is that he's frugal, and more importantly knows how to optimize what people bring to the table to make sure it adds value to the larger picture. So while Orient Electric has the skills, people, and experience, Jim has a way of bringing the right folks together to make a project better.

Since the greenhouse, the Garden has leaned on Orient Electric for their restroom installation and now the remodel of the Resource Center.

"There's a joy knowing that your skills

are appreciated," Mike said, "and that your contributions are valued." And Jim's response, "Boy, are they ever!"

Our second family-owned business highlight goes to Tyson Redfern, second-generation owner of Gresham Heating and Air Conditioning. The volunteer construction team of the Garden made the decision to get rid of the drop ceiling. The volunteers were overjoyed with that decision, but as one also knows, with changes comes effects. They removed the drop ceiling knowing the ancient duct work would have to be dealt with.

Connecting with Tyson was a huge relief to our budget and our sanity. Even though Tyson doesn't install the type of ductwork we needed anymore, he provided a great solution and a fair quote.

Tyson and his crew, which included his experienced cousin Corey and apprentice Galen, completed the project in one day.



Tyson Redfern with Gresham Heating and Air working in the Resource Center.

Tyson said, when he worked with his dad, he learned to assess projects and problem solve on-site. For this project, Tyson creatively figured out how to fit over 120-feet of new ductwork along the building's structural beam. Jim says, "They did a really clean job."

Tyson's dad Loran started the company in 1992 and based it out of their Gresham home. Tyson had gone



Jim Card and Mike Opray at Orient Electric's office.

to school to study architecture and engineering, then came back to work in the business. When his dad passed away in 2010, Tyson had many years working in the industry. In 2014, he officially took over Gresham Heating and Air Conditioning.

His business card includes the title "Comfort Specialist" which he explains means that he specializes in creating HVAC comfort systems for homes. He seems to prefer that title over "Owner". As owner, Tyson has his eyes set on a bigger space to expand his crew. And, with the coaching advice from a retired business owner in the trade, Tyson is developing the plan.

Whether it's as lead technician or owner, he appreciates his family's history in Gresham. His grandfather was the city's first inspector, and Redfern Avenue and Redfern Place are streets named after him.

Tyson remembers his own time as a kid down at Johnson Creek catching crawdads. Back then, he admits, Tsuru Island wasn't in the best of shape. "I'm really glad that there's an organization taking care of it now".

With the attention and generosity from Orient Electric and Gresham Heating and Air Conditioning, it sure feels like we live in a much smaller town. We can count on two local family-owned businesses who genuinely care about the community and are helping the Gresham Japanese Garden move forward.

Upcoming Happenings

[Assessing and Pruning an Overgrown Landscape, Zoom: April 13th, Thursday 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 Francheska Snyder.



Francheska Snyder is the current owner/operator of Niwa Method, a landscape business specializing in Japanese gardens. She has previously worked at the Portland Japanese Garden, Shofuso Japanese House and Garden, and Wyck Historic House and Garden. She holds a certificate in Ornamental Horticulture, a 3rd Term Master Level certificate from the Ohara School of Ikebana and is a recognized Chanticleer Scholar. She also uses her time and talent on the board of Leach Botanical Garden, and now consulting and teaching for the Gresham Japanese Garden.

NOTE: The class will be recorded and available for two weeks.

[Course Recap, Onsite: Saturday, April 15th, 12:30-1:30pm \\$20](#)

This is an optional one-hour Course Recap to the Assessing and Pruning an Overgrown Landscape course. Tsuru Island will be your classroom to review how to access and tackle an overgrown landscape with personalized attention by Francheska.

[Ikebana for Every Season, Tuesday, April 11th, 1-2:30pm \\$45](#)

[The Art of Bonsai, Saturday, April 15th or Thursday, April 20th, 1-3pm \\$35](#)

[Pruning Workshop, Onsite: May 6th, 9am-3pm \\$100](#)

This all-day pruning workshop will combine everything you've learned from the courses into an all-day hands-on pruning workshop at Vanport International's Japanese Garden in Boring, Oregon with instructor Francheska Snyder.

Mark your calendars! Thanks to the cultural grant from the City of Gresham, we're able to provide you with these events.

- May 16** ['How To Haiku' Workshop with Michael Dylan Welch. Zoom, Cost \\$20](#)
An overview of haiku poetry, and a short history of Japanese haiku. This workshop explores the targets to aim for. Includes writing exercises, sharing and feedback.
- August 26** **Educational Koi Expo, Free**
A family-friendly educational event for those new to the hobby and/or those thinking about becoming koi and pond owners.
- September 10** **How To Haiku' Workshop, In-person with Michael Dylan Welch, Cost \$45**
The writing exercise will take place on Tsuru Island.
- October 14-15** **Manga: A Brief History & Animation Workshop Cost \$45**
Brian Gonzales, a professional artist, will expose you to the rich cultural history of manga and engage you in the physical process of making a traditional cell-based animation. This workshop will be followed by an art contest. Limited to 45 students. Reserve your spot now by sending an email to sue@GreshamJapaneseGarden.com.
- November 5** **Remodel Open House and Ikebana with Nana Bellerud**

Volunteer Orientation

**Wednesday, April 5th
5:30-7pm**

In the greenhouse behind
the Resource Center
219 S Main Avenue

Have you been thinking about volunteering, but didn't know if we're the right organization to fit your needs.

Join us on the 5th, listen about our story, and the breadth of our organization. Maybe there's a something that interests you. (It's not all gardening!)

More "Happenings" information on: <https://www.greshamjapanesegarden.org/>