

Tsuru 鶴 Soars

Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden Newsletter



Did You Know?

Did you know that the water feature on Tsuru Island was rebirthed from the original water feature of the '70s Japanese Garden?

When Jim Card, Tomiko Takeuchi and Sada Uchiyama unearthed the feature, they found small stones and a front stone forming a circle. Because there were no remnants of a vessel or basin, their best guess was a water basin, or *choubachi*.

The stones were replaced, and all the elements were purchased to make a tea basin for cleansing your hands before a tea ceremony.

The wood structure to the right of

the tea basin is called an *azumaya* (a-zu-maya), a covered resting place.

Jim Card, Kent Thompson, and many volunteers built the *azumaya* from an assembly plan purchased online. The sides and back were made from recycled Douglas fir from the original bridge—all in Jim's wood shop.

To complete the structure, a bench was built and placed in front of the moon window.



John Harrold maintains the water feature.



PHOTOGRAPHER'S VIEW

花さくやとある木陰も開帳仏
hana saku ya to aru kokage mo kaichôbutsu
 cherry blossoms--, under every tree, a Buddha on display

– Issa



A covered resting place, commonly called an azumaya

Koinobori Fly High on May 5 in Japan

by Mary Dickson

Walk through any neighborhood in Japan on May 5 and look up. Above, you will see colorful *koinobori* windsocks flying from poles in the breeze. They are symbols of *kodomo no hi*, originally known as Boys' Day (known since 1948



Koinobori windsock

as Children's Day). The public holiday celebrates children's personalities and wishes for the happiness of all children. Traditionally, *koinobori* are flown with the black carp at

the top of the pole, representing the father, red carp next, representing the mother, and additional colorful carp representing the children, with specific colors and sizes denoting the gender and age of the child.

According to Wikipedia, "the day was originally called *Tango no sekku*, one of the five major annual ceremonies

held at the imperial court" and started back in the 12th century, the Kamakura Period. It was a day to celebrate the perseverance, strength, and well-being of boys. It is now celebrated on the fifth day of the fifth month, just as *Hina Matsuri* (Girl's Day) is celebrated on the third day of the third month.

Iris are the official flower, since the leaves are shaped like the blade of the samurai sword. Irises are believed to ward off evil with their medicinal properties, so people would traditionally put iris leaves in their bath water, soak thinly sliced roots or leaves in sake to drink, or put irises in their pillows at bedtime.

Just as Girl's Day has its imperial court dolls for display, Japanese families



Japanese armor and kabuto called Gogatsu Ningyo.

display miniature Japanese armor and *kabuto* called *Gogatsu Ningyo*. The armor collection includes a bow, long sword, war fan and samurai hats. Samurai dolls are called *musha ningyo*.



Traditional food to celebrate kodomo no hi.

All festivals in Japan include food, and the food for this festival includes *kashiwa mochi*, sticky rice cakes filled with red bean jam and wrapped in oak leaves, as well as *chimaki*, sticky rice wrapped in an iris or bamboo leaf.

All over Japan, events celebrating Children's Day are held, usually in parks or riverbanks, with colorful displays of *koinobori*.



GARDEN TIP

Slugs can be a menace in the garden. I give the native banana slugs a pass, but there are very few of them. Sluggo®, composed of iron phosphate, is environmentally friendly and can work in deterring them. As a cheaper, non-chemical alternative, slugs are cannibalistic. Dispatch a few at night. The next night you may be surprised to see their relatives feasting on them and not your plants.

— Jim Buck, Garden Volunteer and Organic Gardener

Repeat Supporter



SHERWIN WILLIAMS.

Sherwin-Williams® Gresham comes through for us again. Last year they donated paint and supplies for our Kyodo Garden mural. This year they're supporting GJG with paint and supplies for the Resource Center remodel.

Thank you Steven Dunford, Sherwin-Williams Gresham manager.

Remodeling Hazards



Our newest volunteer, Kevin Abt, joined our construction at a very timely juncture in our remodel.

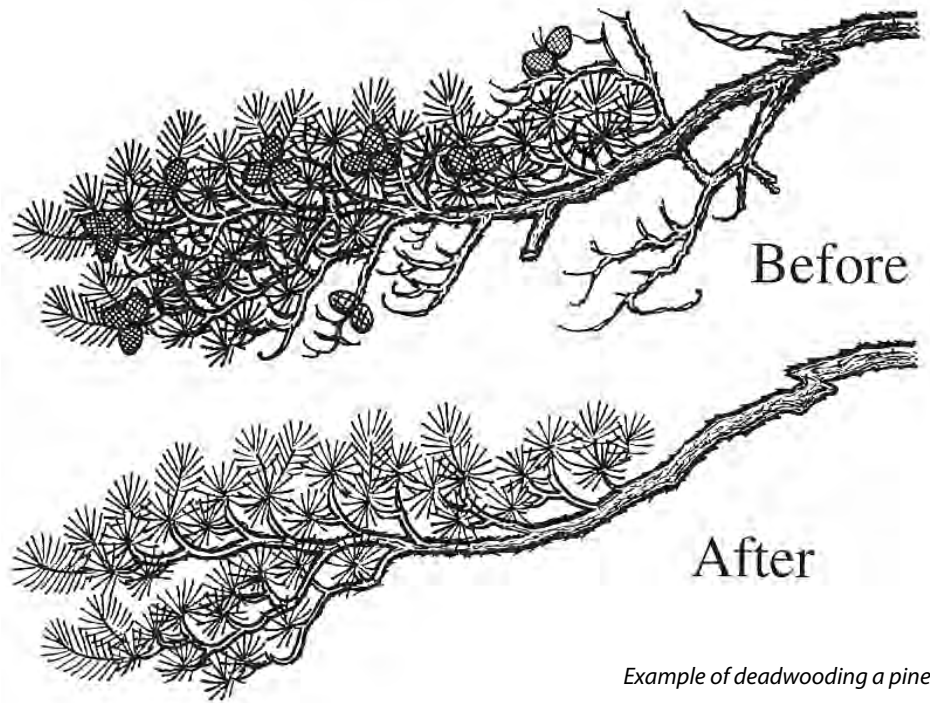
He brings complementary skills to our team such as drywall finishing and texturing. And, he's a super nice guy who doesn't mind getting a little dirty.

Good-Bye Deadwood

As the weather gets nicer and you're wanting to spend time in your yard, we can't stress enough the importance of deadwood removal. It's one of the easiest pruning concepts: if part of the tree is dead, it needs to be removed to enhance both the health and appearance of the tree.

Deadwooding eliminates bug nests, mold and rot. It allows air, sunlight, and rain water into the interior. From an aesthetic point of view, the simple task immediately makes the tree (or shrub) more attractive. If you plan on pruning it, deadwooding is always the first thing you do so you can see the structure more clearly.

In the case of pine trees, dead branches, leaf and needle debris, stubs, and pine cones are all easy to spot and should be removed. Yes, pine cones. Pine cones zap unnecessary energy from the tree. Plus, if you remove them while on the tree, you don't have to clean up from the ground later.



Example of deadwooding a pine.

Remember, when deadwooding pines, most pines don't back bud, so make sure the branches you're cutting off are dead. Scrap a small portion of the outer bark. If it's brown, it's dead. If you see green, it's alive and don't remove it.

Cane and woody plants are much more forgiving plants than pines. If you cut a live branch, it will most likely sprout a bud at the nearest node you cut.

Source: Sukiya Living Magazine

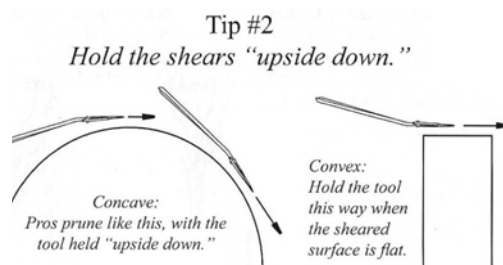
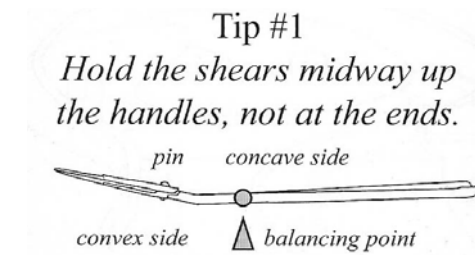
Shearing 101

Another basic pruning technique is shearing. When done skillfully, shearing produces beautiful results.

Japanese hedge shears, *karikomi-basami*, (Tip #1) have long handles and relatively short blades with an angle built into the tool. Holding the handles halfway up helps balance the weight of the blades and controls your cut better.

The desired plant shape determines how to hold the shears (Tip #2). For flat surfaces, hold the tool at a convex angle facing toward the plant. For tanamono, the semi-spherical shrub seen in most Japanese gardens, the position of the tool is concave following the form of the shrub.

Although the pruner has two handles,



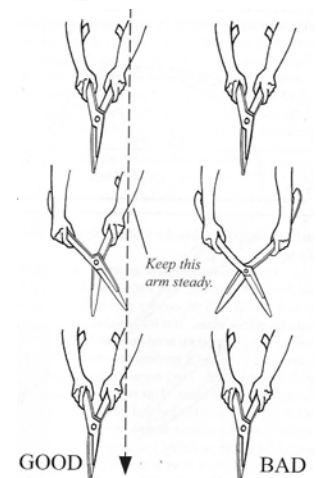
keep one hand completely still and steady (Tip #3) often tucking in an

Tip #3
Hold one arm steady while shearing.

elbow near the waist. The other hand slips in and out doing the shearing. This stabilizes the action and provides for more precise cuts. With practice, you'll take as many as

2-3 short cuts every second. Turn your body into a shearing machine.

Source: Sukiya Living Magazine



Upcoming Happenings

[Ikebana for Every Season, Tuesday, May 9th, 1-2:30pm \\$45](#)

[The Art of Bonsai, Thursday, May 18th or Saturday, May 20th, 1-3pm \\$35](#)

[‘How To Haiku’ Workshop with Michael Dylan Welch. Zoom, May 16th, 6-8pm PDT - \\$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.

俳句
Haiku

Pruning Program - Spring Course

[‘Soil! – What it is and How it Works’ with James Cassidy. Zoom, June 19th, 6-7:30pm PDT - \\$20](#)

We’re adding a scientific element to GJG’s pruning program, Soil! It’s ALL about soil! Most people only have a vague idea of what soil is and how it works. You will learn more than you ever thought possible about soil, including why you are alive, what nutrients are, and how soil stores water and nutrients, all fundamental information important to your landscape.

GJG instructor, James Cassidy has been a teacher of Soil Science at Oregon State University for over 18 years. He teaches a similar introductory class to over 100 students each term, and it’s very popular. *This course is underwritten by Bartlett Tree Experts.*



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

August 26 Educational Koi Expo, 10am-3pm, Free

A family-friendly educational event for those new to the hobby and/or those thinking about becoming koi and pond owners. Designated children’s area with fish seminars and origami workstations!

September 10 ‘The Nature of Haiku’ Workshop, In-person with Michael Dylan Welch, 2-4pm, Cost \$45

An exploration of haiku poetry in English with an emphasis on the seasonal and nature-focused aspects of this poetry, covering such techniques as kigo (season words), kireji (cutting words or a two-part juxtapositional structure), and shasei (primarily objective sensory imagery). Includes a nature walk, writing exercises and a sharing/feedback session.

October 14-15 Manga: A Brief History & Animation Workshop, all day, 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, 2-4pm

“Happenings” information and registration at: [GreshamJapaneseGarden.org/](https://www.greshamjapanese.com)