

# Tsuru 鶴 Soars

Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden Newsletter



## The Presence of Water

by Bill Peterson

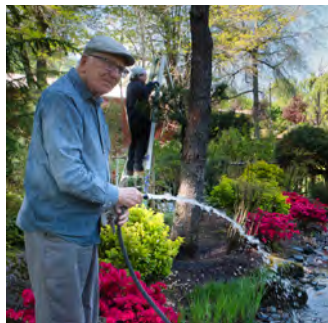
I have spent a lot of time around big ponds, oceans to be exact, but I've never paid much attention to small bodies of water.

Some years ago I started taking photos in the Garden, and noticed that the little pond at the entrance to Tsuru Island often had beautiful reflections, and the photos I took really turned out nice.

Last fall we needed to renovate the stream bed, removing 10 years of debris build up. It included the little pond. We added a drain in the bottom of the little pond to prevent the overflow of water spilling over the path. Sadly, after

the rains stopped and the drain emptied, our little pond had no standing water.

Water ('sui' 水) has always been central to the design and layout of Japanese gardens. In a karesansui garden, the presence of water is suggested rather than actual. It is still the central, unifying, role.



Bill filling the stream bed.



### PHOTOGRAPHER'S VIEW

古池や蛙飛び込む水の音

*Furu ike ya  
kawazu tobikomu  
mizu no oto*

*The old pond  
A frog leaps in.  
Sound of the water.*

– Bashō 1686

I felt we needed the water present all the time, so we installed a shut-off valve. About three times a week, I fill the little pond with water. Voilà, beautiful reflections, birds, and I heard a frog the other evening!



# Our Students Receive a Blessing

Each year, Trinity Lutheran Church, located at the corner of Eastman and Powell, invests in work that is meaningful for the church and the community through an Endowment Fund Annual Grant.

Church member Deb Peters, devoted Garden volunteer and lead teacher for GJG's Adult Living Exploratory Program, is the \$1,500 recipient of the Endowment Fund Annual Grant, to enhance and expand the horticulture curriculum.

In 2019, GJG partnered with the Gresham-Barlow School District to teach the ALP students horticulture skills, that are transferable in the job market.

The grant from Trinity Lutheran Church has already impacted the students. Last month, bonsai instructor Mark Vossbrink conducted three bonsai workshops. He would start by telling a story that applied to the bonsai project. For instance, envision a small island with a little man holding a fishing rod with a fish on the line. He's sitting in a shady space that is very comfortable. He's very calm and thinking about how life is good to him. Then Mark talked about how



ALP students with bonsai instructor, Mark Vossbrink

the student's bonsai can represent the good feelings of this man. In the end, because of the way this man feels and approaches life, fish swim to him to be caught.

*...bonsai can last forever and is a vehicle for teaching life lessons.*

As demonstrated in Mark's stories, bonsai can last forever and is a vehicle for teaching life lessons.

Other projects on the horizon when they return in the fall are holiday arrangements, seed propagation, more bonsai, and pruning.



Lizbeth and José, showing us her bonsai

Also, we'll be able to purchase extra pruning tools. When we asked the students what they most enjoy, they all say, pruning. Jim Card, Garden Director was not surprised to hear this. Jim talks a lot about how pruning is a one-on-one connection with nature.

Thanks to the generous donation from 100+ Women Who Care East County (see *Making Great Things Happen*, below) we will be able to expand the curriculum, and create more opportunities for skills to be taught.



## GARDEN TIP

To enjoy continuing blossoming on many annuals (petunias, zinnias, etc.) and perennials (dahlias, roses, etc.), remove the blossoms after flowering by cutting them off so the plant doesn't waste energy creating seeds.

Also on your tomato plants, remove those upright stems that grow from the notch between the trunk and lateral branches, called suckers. This will help the plants produce more fruit, rather than just foliage.

— Jim Buck, Garden Volunteer and Organic Gardener

## Making Great Things Happen



Ladies, if you haven't heard yet about this philanthropic organization, [100+ Women Who Care East County](#), please look it up. GJG is the proud winner this quarter.

Individually, none of us can give \$100 and make a huge difference, but together this organization has demonstrated it can be transformational for all in our community by uniting together.

## Thank you to *The Oregonian*



It's still nice to receive publicity even when you're not driven by the number of people who visit the Japanese garden.

After visiting us on a Garden Saturday, Dennis Peck, writer with *The Oregonian* wrote an inviting and warm article about the Gresham Japanese Garden. And, their photographer really captured the essence of Tsuru Island.

# The Power of Goodwill

by Sue Hughes



Inside the Resource Center looking out to Ebetsu Plaza.

Over the course of our Resource Center remodel, we've been nothing short of blessed with the goodwill from our volunteers and business partners.

When owner Lloyd Anderson with Armadas Exterior answered our plea to install the two 12' sliding glass doors and 6' moon window pro bono, we were thrilled. What was unusual was we had no prior relationship with Anderson. AND, he'd never visited the Gresham Japanese Garden before.

Armadas Exterior wasn't new to giving back to their community. You see, for the past couple years Anderson, a Gresham resident, every Saturdays would clean up homeless camps along his work routes of Foster Road and north along Airport Way. Anderson says, "At first I felt like my employees and I were really contributing to our community, but instead I think we were perpetuating the problem."

In the beginning of 2023, Anderson made a commitment to find a more positive way to help the community. He joined the Gresham Area Chamber of Commerce, and then, our email landed in Anderson's inbox. Within days, Armadas Exterior told us they could help.

Another big line item was figuring out how we were going to pay for the doors and window! Staring at us in the face was a \$12,000 ticket. Card's vision of an all-glass façade was not going to disappear, so I went to work researching window vendors and associated grants.

Milgard Windows and Doors was at the top of my list, because they have a manufacturing facility in Tualatin, and a distribution center in East county. We fit the criteria for their grant; non-profit and within 75 miles of a distribution center.

In March, Anthony Scales, Milgard Director of Sales Northwest, sent me an email saying they would be pleased to help us with our request. In addition to Milgard's commitment to support the arts and community, when asked why he chose GJG, he said, "the project looked really intriguing." And like Anderson, had never visited the garden before. Again, over the moon with joy!

These beautiful black-framed window

and doors were the missing piece we needed to truly call our building, Japanese-inspired architecture. See for yourself. Stop by and take a look from the *inside*

looking out when we're there working.

What's next? The 8' wrap-around overhang, deck, and roofing—completed by mid September.

The power of goodwill does not go unnoticed with GJG. Armadas Exterior will be back on the job to install the roof.



Drone photo from Armadas Exterior looking into the new building.

## Volunteer Orientation Meeting

Thinking you may want to volunteer with the Gresham Japanese Garden. Come to a volunteer orientation meeting and find out all the possibilities for volunteering. RSVP to [volunteers@greshamjapanesegarden.com](mailto:volunteers@greshamjapanesegarden.com)

Saturday, June 10th: 11:30am - 12:30pm



# Upcoming Happenings

## Pruning Program - Spring/Summer Courses

### **'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, Most people only have a vague idea of what soil is and how it works. You will learn more than you ever thought possible, including why you are alive, what nutrients are, and how soil stores water and nutrients, all fundamental information important to your landscape.

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.*



### **Pruning Broadleaf Evergreens with Francheska Snyder. In-person, June 24th, noon-2pm - \$45**

Broadleaf evergreen shrubs are the foundation of landscapes, and in the Pacific Northwest our shrubs can grow out of control. Discover how to prune them, especially in an overgrown landscape. Francheska will show you how to prune for beauty, and get them back to a manageable size too.



### **Ikebana for Every Season, Tuesday, June 13th, 1-2:30pm \$45**

### **The Art of Bonsai, Saturday, June 17th, 1-3pm \$35**

**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 workstation!

#### **September 10 'The Nature of Haiku' Workshop, In-person with Michael Dylan Welch, 2-4pm, \$45**

An exploration of haiku poetry 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 and feedback session.

#### **October 14-15 Manga: A Brief History & Animation Workshop, all day, \$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:

<https://www.greshamjapanesegarden.org/calendar/manga-animation-workshop/>

#### **November 5 Online Auction Begins, Open House and Ikebana with Nana Bellerud, 2-4pm**

**"Happenings" information and registration at: [GreshamJapaneseGarden.org/](https://www.greshamjapanesegarden.org/)**