

Tsuru 鶴 Soars

Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden Newsletter



Meet the 'Kyoudou Center'




We think it's only fitting to rename our beloved Resource Center after a major remodel. Some volunteers actually still call it the 'Shoebbox'.

Meet the 'Kyoudou Center' (Key o doe). You may recognize the word Kyoudou from our mural. On the barn's garage

door was 共同 Kyoudou: collaboration, cooperation, community. That's what we say, practice, and teach. Soon, we will have a beautiful space to complement our mission.

To help with operating costs, the Kyoudou Center will be available to rent. To complete the remodel, a 7' deck,



PHOTOGRAPHER'S VIEW

*summer iris
after the rain
heads bowed*

- Bill Peterson

8' wrap-around overhang and an entrance garden are all scheduled to be completed by September.

It's a busy time, and this remodel is a very fulfilling accomplishment for the Gresham Japanese Garden volunteers.



Stone is King

To some, the selection and arrangement of stone are the most important aspects of a garden. They provide a strong suggestion of nature, whether it be a mountain, hill or island. Stone also adds balance and stability that you can not achieve with plant material.

When arranging stone, keep in mind its placement should look natural. Natural placements are asymmetrical and lead the eye along an imaginary axis or along a hardscape or stream, telling your eye to pause or maybe turn. (See fig 1)

THREE BASIC STONE SHAPES

LOW, ROUNDED, OR BLOCKY: This is the most common shape. Its base is larger than its top, generally flat, and has a very stable appearance.

UPRIGHT/COLUMNAR: This shape gives the appearance of a rugged, mountainous feeling. Almost as tall as wide, but still very stable. This stone (boulder) may stand alone, or as the dominant feature in a mass grouping.

PROSTRATE, FLAT: Typically low to the ground, much wider than tall, like a stepping stone.

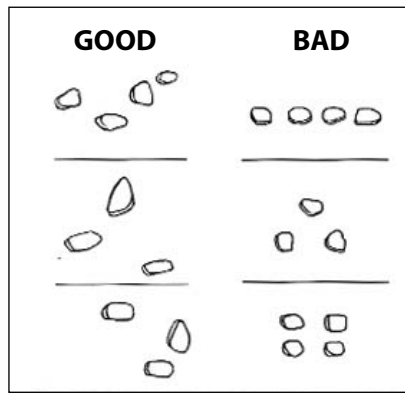


Fig 1

SELECTION

When selecting your stone, a rock quarry will have a wider selection to choose from than a garden center. Don't be afraid to go big. It would be difficult to overpower a garden with too large a boulder. Have a plan in mind how you want to move the viewer through the garden. This will help you make calculated choices on size and shapes.

Color and looks are important too. Stay consistent with your color palette, and choose stone that looks old and weathered, so it appears as though it's been in the garden forever.

PLACEMENT

Placing stone can be a difficult task especially, since we said to not be afraid

with going big. Place your stones from back to front. Or, if there's enough room to move freely around the garden, place your largest stone first. Be sure and dig a hole where the stone is to be placed. (See fig 2) This helps keep the stone in place and creates an illusion of emerging out of the soil.

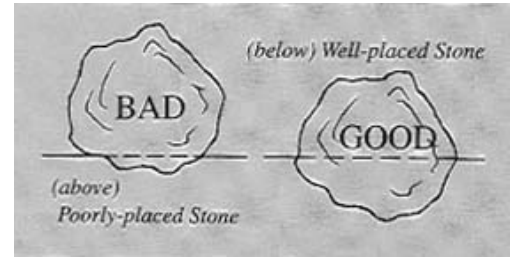


Fig 2

Stone has always been at the foundation of Tsuru Island. Documentation shows that garden designer Sam Iwamoto, was extremely particular in the type of stone that was chosen for the path. Over 5000 stones were hand-picked out of the Clackamas River.

When Jim rebirthed Tsuru Island he searched for like color and material of the original stone. He found most of it within five miles of the garden. He also was able to trace the stones back to the Glacier Lake Missoula floods.

Source: Sukiya Living Nov/Dec 2022



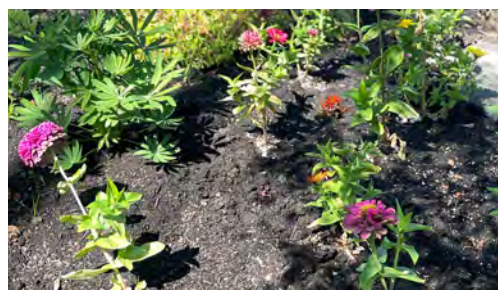
GARDEN TIPS

Our summers have been getting drier for longer periods, which puts strain on plants and trees needing moisture.

Mulching your garden spaces will help conserve plant moisture and reduce the need for water. Composting can also help. Add organic material to your soil that will help retain moisture and nutrients. Keep mulch 6" from the trunks of trees to reduce the risk of rot, pests, or diseases.

— Jim Buck, Garden Volunteer and Organic Gardener

Cultivation Takes Time



This year marks the third summer for our pollinator garden. The plants are cultivated from seed by the students in our Exploratory Program. We still consider the garden a work-in-progress, simply because it takes time for native plants to mature. And, we also have resident bunnies who enjoy our plants. Caging the plants have helped. Sorry bunnies.

Pruning Broadleaf Evergreen



Broadleaf evergreens are the foundational plants of a garden. They're also shrubs that can easily get overgrown and out of balance in a landscape.

On a glorious Saturday, Francheska Snyder, taught 10 pruning program students her art of pruning broadleaf evergreen shrubs for health, aesthetics and size management.

Celestica Employees Reap Joy in Volunteering

by Mary Marrs

They say they get a lot of joy from volunteering at the Gresham Japanese Garden. That's something we never get tired of hearing. "You just fall in love with the garden because it's so alive," said Celestica employee Katsumy Keller. She and others have found that joy through their employer's volunteer program.

Paul DeWater, Human Resources Administrator at Celestica's Portland office, said that every year employees are offered 16 hours of paid time to volunteer and has organized up to 30 different employees for monthly volunteering since March.

Whether it's pulling invasive grasses from Johnson Creek banks, deadheading spent blossoms of heirloom azaleas, or digging up shrubs and trees in preparation for the resource center remodel, Celestica employees have been pitching in. "I knew that I wanted to give back to the community," said Celestica production operator Paul Jumron. He says that paid time for volunteering is nice, but it's not the most important thing to him. Contributing to the garden has become his pleasure and reward. "When I come back to the garden, I'm happy to see what I've helped to accomplish."

Celestica, an international company with 40 offices worldwide, manages the design, manufacturing, and marketing of electronic products. Their buildings, bordering both Portland and Gresham, have up to 250 employees, with about 50 who volunteer locally. When Paul DeWater was asked to manage their volunteer program, he pulled from his own college experience at a Seattle food bank. He looked for sustainable opportunities that could be more than short-term activities that sometimes require extra time and energy for the receiving organization.



Partnering with Jim seemed like a good fit. Every month, Paul and other employees show up ready to work; they receive a lot of information and learn new skills from Jim, activities director Sue Hughes, and other volunteers.

"Everyone here is so welcoming. They're eager to teach us and offer their wisdom." That's something that Jumron didn't expect. Having never worked with plants before, he's learning about plant care, how to prune, what plants need to be healthy. Sounding introspective, he says, when learning something new and focusing on the plants, it's like meditation. "It's calming, and that's a good thing for me."

Katsumy, also a production operator, said that she didn't know much about growing plants or gardening either. She appreciates the opportunity to learn about both, and admits that there's a lot she wasn't aware of. "The more I'm here in the garden, the more I see the beauty that I didn't see before."



Above photo: Paul DeWater hauls debris off the island. Below photo: Employees hard at work clearing the west bank of Tsuru Island.

"The more I'm here in the garden, the more I see the beauty that I didn't see before."

DeWater brings a different array of employees each time. Some go back to the office and tell others about what they did, what a great time they had, which encourages others. He knows that volunteering can inspire teamwork and team building. Even employees from different departments are getting to know each other because of volunteering together.

DeWater appreciates the personal value of volunteering and comes on his own time to help on Saturdays. When asked how this has affected him, he says with a big smile that it, "makes him feel lighter."

Upcoming Happenings

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

- July 11** **Ikebana for Every Season, 1-2:30pm, \$45:**
<https://www.greshamjapanesegarden.org/calendar/ikebana-for-every-season-5/>
- July 15 or 20** **The Art of Bonsai, 1-3pm, \$35:** <https://www.greshamjapanesegarden.org/bonsai-workshops/>
- August 5** **Pruning Workshop, Onsite at Vanport International, 10am-4pm, \$100:**
<https://www.greshamjapanesegarden.org/calendar/winter-courses-pruning-workshop/>
- August 26** **Koi Expo, 10am-3pm, Free**
A family-friendly educational event for those new to the hobby, thinking about becoming a Koi owner, water quality and more. Designated children's area with fish identification and origami stations!
- September 10** **'The Nature of Haiku' Workshop, In-person with Michael Dylan Welch, 2-4pm, \$15**
An exploration of haiku poetry with an emphasis on the seasonal and nature-focused aspects of this poetry, covering such techniques as kigo, kireji, and shasei. Includes a nature walk, writing exercises and a sharing and feedback session. Thanks to the city of Gresham Cultural Grant, we are able to offer this workshop for a reduced cost. Space is limited. Reserve here.
<https://www.greshamjapanesegarden.org/series/haiku-workshop/>
- October 14-15** **Manga: A Brief History & Animation Workshop, 2-day workshop, \$45 total**
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**



Koi Expo

August 26th

10am-3pm

Main City Park

Gresham

Free Expo



Hosted by:
The Gresham Japanese Garden
and the **Northwest Koi & Goldfish Club, NWKG.org**

Tailored to teach adults how to care for your koi through healthy water, and sound maintenance. What happens to a pond and Koi when the unexpected happens? Children can learn how to identify Koi by its Japanese name, and learn its meaning.

PRESENTATIONS

10:00am: 'What To Do If The Unexpected Happens' presentation

11:30am: 'Interactive Water Quality' presentation

Children of the Sun Koi:

Koi for sale

Koi Appreciation and Identification

Childrens Center:

Koi Fishing

Koi Matching Game

Koi Coloring Station

Origami Station

K.O.I. Informational Booth

"Happenings" information and registration at: GreshamJapaneseGarden.org/

Volunteer Newsletter Editors: Mary Dickson, Sue Hughes, Mary Marrs and Mary Taylor. Photos by Bill Peterson.