

# Tsuru Soars

Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden Newsletter



## Regional Workshop at GJG

It's always nice aiming for goals to keep one focused. The Gresham Japanese Garden's goal is to have the Kyoudou Center completed by the time we host a four day regional workshop, September 21-24, for the North America Japanese Garden Association (NAJGA).

We have peace of mind that the building is 90% completed. This month the volunteers are frantically working to stay ahead of the weeds and maintenance projects for entertaining 50 guests.

This workshop is open to everyone, not just NAJGA members. There are approximately 10 spots still available.

### SCHEDULE:

**Day 1:** Tour three unique nurseries and gardens you probably have never visited before in the Portland area.

**Day 2:** Private tours of three of East County's premier wholesale nursery operations with a catered dinner at Bentwood Tree Farm in Boring.

**Day 3:** Learn about GJG with presentations, tours, and a complimentary Happy Hour on Tsuru Island.

**Day 4:** Build GJG's entry garden's nobedan and landscape.

*90% of the meals are covered in the cost of the workshop.*



### PHOTOGRAPHER'S VIEW

*a bright perfect garden  
on a summer morn  
in the shade a weed*

*- Bill Peterson*

### JOIN US!

Complete agenda and registration at [NAJGA.org](https://www.najga.org).



# The Structure of Pine Trees

To identify a pine tree, count the needles in each fascicle first, next evaluate the appearance of the cones, and then take note of its natural range. Counting the needles is an easy step to identification. They grow in clusters of 2, 3, or 5 needles per fascicle. Among the three categories, 2-needle pines are the best choice for Japanese gardens. The *Pinus thunbergii* is the emperor of the 2-needle group with its contorted character, predictable growth pattern, and beautiful dark tone of needles and bark.




In general, pines are easy to distinguish from other needle-leaved trees because of their long, narrow needles bound in bundles; or fascicles resembling whisk brooms; woody cones with tough scales; and distinctive whorl of branches when pruned correctly create a specimen tree.

In Japan, the *Pinus thunbergii*, black pine, grows spontaneously in the coastal regions, much like our coastal shore pines. The trees adapt well to poor and waterlogged soils, and have a talent for resisting drastic pruning, which makes them ideal specimens for cloud pruning and bonsai.

Pine trees are among the most

indispensable and quintessential elements of Japanese horticulture. Combined with rock, azaleas and mosses, pine trees define the perceptive scale of a composition forming a landscape of heights and depths that fade the boundaries between a garden and a picturesque landscape. But remember, the specimen pines we see take an enormous amount of skilled maintenance over a long time. They are not “born” beautiful.

Eight species of pine are native to the Pacific Northwest; jeffrey, knobcone, limber, lodgepole, ponderosa, sugar, whitebark and western white. Enjoy the native pines of the great Northwest, and Tsuru Island’s specimen shore pines and black pines, and our very tall red pines.

TWO-NEEDLE PINES		
	<i>Pinus contorta</i> Lodgepole/Shore Pine	
	* <i>Pinus densiflora</i> Japanese Red Pine	
	<i>Pinus mugo</i> Mugo Pine	
	* <i>Pinus nigra</i> Austrian Pine	
	<i>Pinus resinosa</i> American Red Pine	
	* <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> Scotch Pine	
	* <i>Pinus thunbergii</i> Japanese Black Pine	
THREE-NEEDLE PINES		
	<i>Pinus attenuata</i> Knobcone Pine	
	<i>Pinus bungeana</i> Lacebark Pine	
	<i>Pinus jeffreyi</i> Jeffrey Pine	
	<i>Pinus palustris</i> Dai-oh-sho	
	* <i>Pinus ponderosa</i> Ponderosa Pine	
	* <i>Pinus rigida</i> Pitch Pine	
	<i>Pinus taeda</i> Loblolly Pine	
	FIVE-NEEDLE PINES	
	<i>Pinus aristata</i> Bristlecone Pine	
	<i>Pinus albicaulis</i> Whitebark Pine	
	<i>Pinus cembra</i> Swiss Stone Pine	
	<i>Pinus flexilis</i> Limber Pine	
	<i>Pinus lambertiana</i> Sugar Pine	
	<i>Pinus monticola</i> Western White Pine	
	<i>Pinus parviflora</i> Japanese White Pine	

\* Well-suited for Japanese gardens

*Pine chart from Sukiya Living magazine*

If you're looking for a specimen tree for your landscape, consider purchasing a two-needle pine.



## GARDEN TIPS

This time of year arborists are busy trimming and mulching, so it's a prime time to secure wood chips.

[Getchipdrop.com](http://Getchipdrop.com) has been a good source for me in getting free wood chips. The loads tend to be as much as a unit (7 yards), so you may want to share with a neighbor.

Winter mulching protects young trees or plants sensitive to winter frosts. Only gather now. You can spread after we've had a few good rains.

— Jim Buck, Garden Volunteer and Organic Gardener

## Gresham Rotary Club



The Gresham Rotary Club came through again for GJG. This time we had nine volunteers removing debris and weeds from the west and north banks and also weeding by our shade house. The Rotarians continuously support GJG's mission and we are very thankful for their service.



## New Kanji



The paint brushes haven't dried up completely on Sue Protz. She dug deep in her schooling to hand paint the stylized kanji on the new barn door.

Although the descriptive words were too difficult to reproduce with paint, Hollywood Signs cut the words out of vinyl that she was able to apply to the garage door.

# Be Mindful of Plant Material

by Jim Buck

**G**ardeners know that annuals, like geraniums and petunias, typically need a lot of watering and fertilizing over the summer months. What you may not realize is that your trees and shrubs need attention too.

The prolonged dry spells of the Pacific Northwest's recent summers have stressed *all* plants. You can identify stress in trees by dropped, curled or cupped leaves, or entire limbs shedding. Wilted leaves can be the first sign of stress in deciduous trees, and they may not show this symptom until there has been several weeks without measurable rainfall. Conifers show stress through wilted or drooped tips and needles that turn a rusty color.

It is helpful to ensure when watering mature trees that the moisture will penetrate well below the first inch or two of soil so the roots will grow deeper into the ground. Using slow, soaking measures is the most beneficial for mature trees. If you water with sprinklers, it's best to water more often, but with less time, so you promote roots to grow deeper. It is also advisable not to place the sprinkler or soaker hose near the trunk, but closer to the edge of the tree canopy, so the roots are also encouraged to grow outward. This will help prevent the tree from toppling during heavy winds since its roots will be more broadly distributed. Also, if tree roots dive deeper into the soil, you can more easily plant shrubs beneath the tree canopy.

Trees that grow in isolation or without the shade of adjacent trees may show stress more quickly. It may be helpful to grow trees in small groves to help provide more shade during at least a part of the day when the daytime temperatures are high. Temperatures in the shade can be at least 10 degrees cooler that help prevent tree stress and

moisture loss as well.

Mulching is an important measure in conserving water for all your plant material. Avoid spreading mulch right up against the trunk of the tree, as that may promote disease or harmful bacteria in the tree.

## *Resist the urge to remove partially dead leaves.*

Now let's talk about the other plants in your garden that are getting enough water, but are still droopy or the leaves are brown. These issues are not because of lack of water, but may be because of too much heat or sun. Droopy leaves say heat and scorched leaves say sun burnt. Resist the urge to remove partially dead leaves. Leaves, dead or alive, help shade foliage that wasn't burned, and those with some green remaining will continue to photosynthesis. Also, keep in mind, if you cut back spring-blooming

plants like rhododendrons, you'll be cutting off buds that will be flowers next year. Foliage will grow back unless the plant is too far gone.

As to scorched plants or trees like Japanese maples, if they're in containers, move into the shade. If they are in the ground, put a shade cloth over them, until the temperatures during the day cool down.

In times of stress, avoid pruning or fertilizing because these actions tell the tree to work harder, and a stressed tree can't afford to expend more energy. Pruning also forces new growth that will be damaged if there is another heat wave.

With *all* your plant material big and small, dig away the soil and feel how deep your water is traveling. Look where and when the sun is hitting the stressed plants. Determine the issues and react.



*Water deficient dogwood (Cornus)*

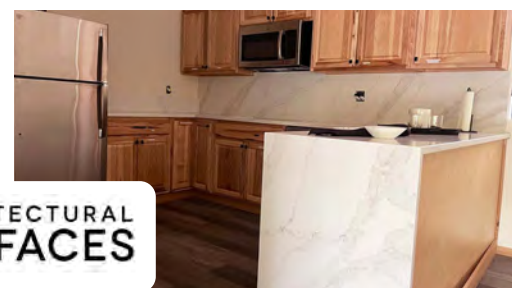


*Sun burnt weeping maple (Acer dissectum)*

## Quartz Countertops

Like most remodels, once you update one space, another space feels out of date. GJG's kitchenette counter tops was our space, so we went to work on how to fund it.

A huge thanks to Architectural Solutions for donating two slabs of quartz. They were extremely accommodating and gracious with their donation. Also thanks to Brian and crew at Baseline Granite in Gresham. Not only are they excellent fabricators, they are easy to work with, efficient, and willing to discount their services too. And a thanks to Rodger. He's one of our multi-talented volunteers we appreciate.



 ARCHITECTURAL SURFACES

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## Haiku

### Gresham Japanese Garden Workshop 'The Nature of Haiku'

Sunday, September 10th - 2-4pm

with Michael Dylan Welch

ONLY \$15



Michael Dylan Welch's workshop will take you on 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 on Tsuru Island, followed by writing exercises and a sharing and feedback session in GJG's newly remodeled Kyoudou Center. [REGISTER HERE!](#)



Two days of exploration: Oct 14-15, 9am - 4pm  
Curriculum is designed for all ages of Manga artists  
taught by local artist Brian Gonzales - ONLY \$45

Participants will have the opportunity to enter a coloring contest judged by local artists.

[REGISTER HERE](#)