

# Tsuru Soars

Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden Newsletter



## New Signage at Tsuru Island



**T**he sign to the left of the Tsuru Island and the A-frame sign both received a face lift. The new interpretive sign spans the history of



Tsuru Island from the early '70s to 2023. We're quite proud of the rich history, and the milestones GJG has accomplished, and felt it was important to share with



### PHOTOGRAPHER'S VIEW

*a stone lantern  
near the garden path  
shadows passing by*

*- Bill Peterson*

visitors.

We asked our 28-year-old volunteer to help us with the re-wording on the our A-Frame NOTICE sign, and this is what she came up with. We suspect it will get a laugh, but more importantly, the message.

# Koto-ji Lantern

by Mary Dickson

**A** new lantern will soon grace Tsuru Island Japanese Garden. Its style is known as koto-ji. The most famous koto-ji lantern is found at the Kenrokuen Garden in Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture, often described as one of the three most beautiful gardens in Japan.

Kenrokuen Garden is on the grounds of the Kanazawa Castle, where influential lords lived during the samurai era. The garden was the outer garden of the castle for many years.



Mary Dickson at the Kenrokuen Garden in Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture

The koto-ji lantern design is unique since it has two legs rather than the usual four of other lantern designs. While

the most famous is at the Kenrokuen Garden, others have been presented as symbols of friendship with Kanazawa's seven sister cities around the world. There is also a large one at the Portland Japanese Garden.

When I was in training to become a Tour Guide at the Portland Japanese Garden, I learned that the lantern there



The bridge of a koto

is a copy of the one at Kenrokuen. It is called a koto-ji lantern because the legs resemble the bridge of the koto, the 13-stringed Japanese

instrument.

Traditionally, one leg of a koto-ji lantern is set in the water and the other on land, symbolizing the interdependence of land and water.

The new koto-ji lantern at Tsuru Island will be located on the banks of the stream, near the entrance to the garden. It comes from Pacific Stonescape, Inc., out of Corvallis, and was donated by Judy Beattie, Mary Dickson, Bill Peterson and his daughter, Sabrina Peterson.

## Movie Night

Celebrate the 65th anniversary of the Portland-Sapporo Sister City Association on October 22nd with a beautiful, deeply moving film written by George Takei about the era of Japanese camps.

[Download flyer](#)

A flyer for a movie night event. The top section says "PORTLAND-SAPPORO.ORG / THE PORTLAND SAPPORO SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION PRESENTS FUNDRAISER MOVIE NIGHT". It features a QR code and the date "OCT. 22 2 PM". The movie is "ALLEGiance" by George Takei and Lea Salonga. The bottom section lists ticket prices: \$35 Adults, \$20 Student, and 5 &amp; Under Free. It also says "BUY HERE PORTLAND-SAPPORO.ORG/".



## GARDEN TIPS

Prevent vegetable or annual flower growing areas from becoming saturated and hard-packed this winter by planting a cover crop you can turn over in the spring.

Crimson clover germinates easily in our climate as does annual rye grass. When you turn it over the cover crop will decompose adding tilth and nutrients to the soil. Healthy soil is 10% air in minuscule pockets and this process will help inject air into the soil.

— Jim Buck, Garden Volunteer and Organic Gardener

## Backyard Clean Up



The back of GJG's Kyoudou Center was not spared either in the clean up and preparation for the NAJGA workshop. The foundation and first row of the concrete blocks were set by Cardscapes, Inc., and then volunteers Chuck and Scott, almost single handedly, built the rest of the retaining wall. Each one of those blocks weigh 80 pounds. They weighed them!

## Bamboo Fence Repair



After 10 years of wear, the bamboo fence on Tsuru Island required a major overhaul. Luckily few of our newest volunteers were interested in learning bamboo fence building. Between stained fingers and blisters Sarah and Mark completed the fence—again in time for our big workshop.

# 'Best NAJGA Regional Workshop' Award

by Sue Protz

Last spring, the North American Japanese Garden Association (NAJGA) asked the Gresham Japanese Garden to co-host a regional workshop. We were so honored to be asked, and frankly a bit reluctant to say yes.

After the shock wore off by the ask, the question was "why us?" "We were so happy to ask the Gresham Japanese Garden to host a NAJGA Regional because they epitomize the NAJGA spirit, a wonderful garden that is strongly connected to its community and embodies resilience and cooperation," said Jeanette Schelin, NAJGA Board President.

*...they epitomize the NAJGA spirit, a wonderful garden that is strongly connected to its community and embodies resilience and cooperation.*

This response from NAJGA opened our eyes to the realization that they were asking us to hold a workshop that wasn't completely centered only around Tsuru Island.

With a background in marketing, I knew my first action item was coming up with the vision for the workshop. What makes the Gresham Japanese Garden unique? And, given that some of the participants would be coming from the Northwest region, what makes Gresham unique?

We had 21 volunteers involved in the workshop, making buddha bowls and lemon bars, driving the 18-passenger bus borrowed from Gresham Ford, to leading the GJG tours. Everyone that could help did help in some fashion or another, and the participants felt the energy.

We knew that touring the Oregon State Penitentiary would be a once-in-a-lifetime event, so Marisa Rodriguez, NAJGA Manager and I worked many months on securing this highlight, and that it was.

After I mapped out all the places and activities, a jam-packed 4-day schedule



Tom Dufala's workshop on pruning black pines.

came to fruition. The below retrospect sums it up.

*The Gresham Japanese Garden conference was powerful. All the attendants seemed to be so happy to be with you and involved with your event. Everything was extremely well organized and executed. The tours of Iseli Nursery, Schmidt Nursery and Bentwood Tree Farm were a special treat most people will never have. The Bartlett Tree Experts presentation on root invigoration was important and helpful information for all levels of participants and gardeners.*

*Workshops were taught by top-level passionate professionals. The black pine pruning workshop by Tom Dufala of the Bentwood Tree Farm was the most informative I have ever attended. Tom made sure we all had the opportunity to understand what he was teaching.*

*The group workshop on laying stones for the nobedan path entryway at the Kyo-udou Center was very well managed and executed. You let the participants do all the work learning new skills and shining in their accomplishments as a team. The end product is impressive.*

*Your passion and dedication are revealed in your magnificently designed and meticulously groomed garden. I feel the NAJGA family grew here and so do others.*

— Jim Elmore, NAJGA member from Arkansas

NOTE: Jim could not participate in Day 1 because he was busy buying trees from the nurseries.

## REGIONAL WORKSHOP AGENDA

### THURS, SEPT. 21: GARDEN TOURS

**Oregon State Penitentiary:** Only healing garden in a maximum security prison run by the adults in custody. Garden designer, Hoichi Kurisu was onsite to answer questions.

**Oregon Garden:** Pruning instructor Maryann Lewis gave a private tour of the Conifer Garden.

**Arbutus Garden Arts:** Norm Jacobs shared his urban strolling garden in SE Portland.

### FRI, SEPT. 22: NURSERY TOURS

**J. Frank Schmidt & Son:** One of the largest wholesale nurseries in the world right in our backyard. And, they allowed us to bring in lunch to their beautiful arboretum.

**Iseli Nursery:** Known for their vast array of high-quality, unique cultivars and they're located in Boring.

**Bentwood Tree Farm:** Specializes in cloud pruned 2-needle pines. After our nursery tours we had a catered backyard dinner on a beautiful fall night.

### SAT, SEPT. 23: AT GJG

Participants spent the entire day at GJG learning about who we are and what we do. We sent them into downtown Gresham for lunch so they could get a feel for our town. We ended with happy hour at our new deck and Kyo-udou Center.

### SUN, SEPT. 24: BUILD THE GARDEN'S NOBEDAN

Francheska Snyder led the work project to build the nobedan.



Fourth day, building the nobedan.



## Manga Workshop

**Two days of exploration and drawing  
Oct 14-15, 9am - 4pm  
Curriculum is designed for all ages of  
Manga artists - ONLY \$45**



Taught by local artist Brian Gonzales, a professional artist who was born in the late seventies and proudly grew up in the eighties. He devoured entertainment,

fashion, and products that defined his generation, and especially fell in love with the medium of comic books, science fiction, toys, and animation.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

## Pruning Classes

**Pine Pruning for Character: Saturday, October 14th, 12:30-2:30pm - \$45**

**LAURA DUFALA, INSTRUCTOR:** Watch Laura unlock the hidden character of a pine tree by removing unnecessary branches and needles, both for the aesthetics and the health of the pine tree. Laura will cloud prune in the niwa method on the black and shore pines on Tsuru Island.

**Structural Pruning Upright Japanese Maples: Saturday, November 18th, 12:30pm-2:30pm - \$45**

**LINCOLN PROUD, INSTRUCTOR:** This course is offered when the Japanese maples are in silhouette. It's the best time to see the structure of your upright maples. The class will begin with a short lecture on basic botany and growth habits of upright maples and then Lincoln will prune various upright maple and teach how the fundamentals are applied in various circumstances. Finally, you will learn how you can prune your own maple trees.

**Fundamentals of Pruning, on Zoom: Thursday, December 7th, 6-8pm - \$20**

**LINCOLN PROUD, INSTRUCTOR:** In addition to how to make cuts and shape plants, Lincoln will discuss why we prune, what tools should be used, and even some basic plant biology—all of which form the foundation and provide the necessary background knowledge needed to prune woody plants correctly. After covering these topics, he will describe how to approach a variety of plants found in landscapes. *Zoom courses are recorded and available for two weeks after the course date.*

[REGISTER HERE](#)