

Tsuru 鶴 Soars

Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden Newsletter



Spread Your Support

As Garden Director Jim Card was re-birthing Tsuru Island (2011-2016), he made a promise to not let Tsuru Island fall into disarray again. Because Japanese gardens require so much maintenance, it's actually quite a common problem for smaller gardens.

The solution occurred during the development of Ebetsu Plaza. Tomiko Takeuchi loved the idea of a paver pathway, and Jim was searching for a sustainable fundraiser to set up an endowment fund. The answer, the Touchstone Paver program.

If you're looking for a unique gift to

honor someone this holiday season, for \$125 you can purchase a 7.5" x 7.5" custom engraved paver, where it will live at Ebetsu Plaza in Main City Park.

Thanks to Stamp Connection who donates the engraving, all the proceeds go into the endowment fund to support future maintenance. Our goal is \$100,000. We're currently at \$36,000.

We make it easy. [Download the form](#), or [purchase online](#). Arigatou.



PHOTOGRAPHER'S VIEW

*falling leaves
paint the garden
where are the butterflies*

- Bill Peterson



Cassie Fisher

by Mary Marrs



A self-taught artist,

Cassie Fisher entices the viewer into her artwork. And in the mural she created for the GJG's Kyoudou



Cassie Fisher, muralist

Center, she does just that. Her solitary crane standing in the foreground seems to beckon the observer to be part of the ancient pine trees, peaceful river, and soft mountains.

"I like to find the magic in my paintings," Cassie says, *"and nature is magic to me."*

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Commissioned to paint the interior mural as part of the Center's renovation, Cassie said that she worked with Garden Director Jim Card and Activities Director Sue Protz to develop their ideas. Then with rough sketches, she suggested the simplicity of just one red-headed crane gazing into the distant misty cliffs. Through color and depth, the mural invites the observer to step into the serenity of the landscape alongside the crane.

Originally, Cassie couldn't imagine making a living as an artist even though talent runs in her family. It wasn't until she won a high school contest and her

artwork displayed in the White House that she realized she could.

When she started her business in 2012, one of her first commissions was with the Portland Ronald McDonald House. Using Northwest themes, she painted rooms and hallways with evergreen forests, ocean beaches, sagebrush plains, Mt Hood, and many of the iconic animals of those landscapes.

It was her talent and passion for nature that got her recommended to the Garden. While painting the Center's mural, she got to experience the joy and passion of other Garden volunteers. She said their interaction was beautiful, and after being treated to a plateful of cookies, she said, *"They are the nicest volunteers!"*



GARDEN TIPS

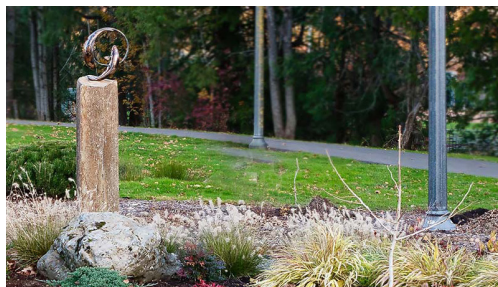
December is the best time to complete pruning of larger tree limbs before much colder weather occurs. Once leaves have fallen you can remove sucker branches from fruit or flowering trees.

I hope you and your garden flourished after you read two years of "Garden Tips." It's time to pass the baton. Starting In January, 'Garden Tips' is being replaced with 'Haiko Corner'

Thank you for sharing your time with me.

— Jim Buck, Garden Volunteer
and Organic Gardener

Peace and Harmony



Thanks to a City of Gresham cultural grant awarded to the Gresham Butte Neighborhood Association, the City of Gresham and the Gresham Japanese Garden are stewards of another Rip Caswell bronze sculpture. 'Koi in Harmony' is a beautiful piece of work that found a home in the Hiroshima Peace Tree garden. A dedication took place in 2021.

Wreath Making Workshop



A sold out crowd attended the wreath making holiday event, raising \$2,500 for Snowcap Charities.

GJG co-hosted the event with Burns Feed Store. All the wreath material was supplied by friends and neighbors. Sue Protz says, *"It's great to live in the PNW where the variety of plant material is so plentiful to choose from."*

Arigatou to a Successful Year

by Sue Protz

The Gresham Japanese Garden has much to be thankful for. In the space of nine months in 2023, from funding to completion, we transformed GJG's trailer into a Japanese-inspired architectural building. We ended 2022 with a capital campaign raising \$25,000 through an auction, sponsorships and donations. It was a nice boost of confidence moving into the new year.

In the months of January and February when weather was bad, we replaced two windows in the back of the building and ripped out the drop ceiling. With the help of our first partner, Gresham Heating and Air Conditioning, we were able to replace the air duct system in a now, vaulted ceiling. Not having a dated drop ceiling opened our eyes to the possibilities ahead.

After a successful raffle raising \$6000, we received our first big win. Milgard Windows and Doors awarded our request for over \$12,000 worth of product—the two 12' sliders and the 6' moon window.

By April, we were almost done with the interior of the Kyoudou Center. An all-volunteer group completed all the drywall, taping, painting, etc., saving us a lot of money. Orient Electric donated all their services, making us incredibly fortunate to be deserving of their generosity.

And it just doesn't get any better. All throughout the year, we were blessed with donations for the remodel, and vendors giving us a break on costs.

With an all-glass facade, Jim Card and I had been researching a possible solutions to protect the new windows that were going to take up the entire facade. We weighed ideas from a metal security roll door to custom-made shutters. Our first let down came when we did not receive a City of Gresham Community grant to fund security doors.

Not receiving the grant just propelled Jim and me more to figure out a cost-effective AND aesthetic solution. Then, out of the blue as we're talking to Jodie at Budget Blinds, she says, "Oh, I know a guy who installs a protective film on windows." Boost #10. Advanced Film Technologies were lined up to install the protective film on the windows within a week of the window install. This was all happening too when the downtown Gresham establishments got their windows smashed.

Spring and summer brought great weather. GJG hired a contractor to build the wrap-around overhang. And the deck was completed by a hard working, detail-oriented group of volunteers, saving us more money. The building was completed by the end of August. We were ahead of schedule.

You see, way back in 2022 we made a commitment to the North America Japanese Garden Association to host one of their regional workshops. We chose Sept 21-24, 2023, giving us nine months in 2023 to complete the remodel.

Everything continued to fall into place. We even *added* a project in September, building a retaining wall for the City in the back of the Kyoudou Center.

The last big highlight of our year was hosting 35 members from North America Japanese Garden Association traveling from all over North America to GJG. They were in awe of our bountiful nurseries, gardens, amenities, and most of all the volunteers. We showered them with our hospitality. On the last day of the workshop, the participants helped us build the *nobedan* that's part of the entry garden you see today.

And now it's December, and yes we are compiling our bucket list for 2024. Stay tuned.

WE'RE FOREVER THANKFUL

100+ Women
Advanced Glass Technologie
Architectural Surfaces
Armadas Exterior
Baseline Granite
Beacon
Bentwood Tree Farm
Bev Carlon
Bill Proppe
Budget Blinds East
Carol Cherin
Cassie Fisher
Camp's Lumber
City of Gresham
Darlene Lengacher
Diana Colvin
Edward Jones, Christina Price
Edward Jones, Dino Rocha
Francheska Snyder
Gresham Heating and Air Conditioning
Gresham Ford
Home Depot
Jan and Gary Rankin
Jerry Sunday
Jim Elmore
Joan Albertson
Ikebana Intl Portland - Chapter #47
Lincoln Proud
Maria Gorostiaga
Mary Dickson
Maryann & Jim Buck
Milgard Windows & Door
Mt Hood Tax and Accounting
Oregon Deck and Remodeling
Orient Electric
Pinnacle Contractors
Portland Nursery
Riverview Bank - Gresham
Rodger Flint
Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation
Sherwin Williams - Gresham
Simpson Strong Tie
Villa Garden Club

What Does Aesthetic Pruning Mean?

After a little over a year offering pruning classes, GJG has been asked periodically, “what does aesthetic pruning mean?” It’s a good question since we use the word “aesthetic” a lot in our material. I was happy to see this question answered recently in one of our trusted publications, *Sukiya Living*.

Leslie Buck, an aesthetic tree pruning specialist, says to imagine paint thrown on a canvas. Someone has to move the paint around to develop a picture. Someone has to dust the painting or restore

the painting if it’s neglected. Instead of working with paint on a canvas, an aesthetic pruner works with three-dimensional living plants. It’s both simple and complicated at once.

The natural aesthetics of the tree drives the pruning session. What would the mature tree or shrub look like in nature? How do the branches hang, or stand up? Is it suppose to be tall or wide? What are its most important features: the bark, leaves, or its overall branching structure? An aesthetic pruner studies these variables before

the pruners are opened. Another variable in consideration is the landscape. Are other plants crowding the space? Is there enough sunlight reaching the space? What is the focal point in the landscape?

An aesthetic pruner tries to creatively problem solves issues through the three basic pruning cuts: thinning, reduction, and heading, always keeping the health of the plant as the priority to create a work of art.

Pruning Program Classes

Fundamentals of Pruning, on Zoom: Thursday, December 7th, 6:00pm–8:00pm - \$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.*

All-day Hands-on Pruning Workshop at Vanport International’s Japanese garden in Boring, OR - Saturday, January 6th, 10:00am–4:00pm - \$100.

The focus of this workshop will be pruning vine maples and upright maples.

Fundamentals of Conifers, on Zoom: Thursday, February 8th, 6:00pm–8:00pm - \$20

MARYANN LEWIS, INSTRUCTOR: In the Northwest, we know there is more to conifers than Christmas trees! Learn fundamental pruning techniques for your favorite conifers including pines, spruce, hinoki and how to interpret cultivars. This class will help you feel comfortable making pruning decisions so you can enjoy your conifers even more. There will be time at the end of the course for questions and answers. *Zoom courses are recorded and available for two weeks.*

Spring Maintenance on Pines: Saturday, May 18th, 12:00pm–2:00pm - \$45

LAURA DUFALA, INSTRUCTOR: Learn the niwa method of candling and needling to maintain cloud-prune aesthetics and keep a manageable size, and aesthetic focal point of your pines in a landscape. This workshop is in person at Tsuru Island, Gresham Japanese Garden. Bring your pruners. Laura typically turns her classes into an interactive collaborative session.

Pruning Lace-leaf Maples for Character: Saturday, June 22nd, 12:30pm–2:30pm - \$45

LINCOLN PROUD, INSTRUCTOR: Many people care for maple trees on their property, especially lace-leaf maples. One of the most popular lace-leaf maples is *Acer palmatum* var. *dissectum* ‘Crimson Queen’. In this pruning course, Lincoln Proud will focus on the fundamentals of pruning as it pertains to lace leaf maples. The class will begin with a short lecture on basic botany and growth habits as it pertains to lace-leaf maples in Gresham Japanese Garden’s newly remodeled Kyoudou Center. After the lecture students will walk down to the Japanese garden with Proud and learn how pruning fundamentals are applied to various circumstances of lace-leaf maples on Tsuru Island, and how to apply this information to their own trees. There will be time at the end for questions and answers.

[REGISTER HERE](#)