

# Tsuru 鶴 Soars

Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden Newsletter



## The Year of the Dragon (tatsu)



**J**apanese zodiac signs were directly derived from China. The Chinese zodiac is calculated according to the Chinese lunar calendar, but, since 1872, Japan's is based on the solar calendar. The zodiac was

introduced in Japan around the third to fourth century.

People born in the year of the Dragon Japanese Zodiac are healthy individuals who maintain a sense of well being. Dragon people are highly energetic in nature and like to keep to themselves. They are easily amused, yet have downsides too. Dragon people are very short-tempered and tend to lose control at times. They are also very stubborn if things don't go their way.

Regardless of these negative traits, Dragon people are honest individuals and follow a good deal of self disci-

*chill in the air  
holly with red berries  
empty lonely Azumaya*

- Bill Peterson

pline. They are brave and courageous when times get rough. Dragons always stay the course.

Dragon people are very sensitive individuals and can get hurt easily. They are capable of inspiring trust in almost anyone. As the Japanese Dragon Zodiac Sign, they are the most peculiar of all the 12 signs.

Source: [japanesezodiac.org/](http://japanesezodiac.org/)

# Haiku Corner Introduction

by Bill Peterson

One of the first questions one may ask is, "What is haiku?" Haiku is a poetry art form developed in Japan. A definition by Michael Dylan Welch, an English haiku poet said, "haiku in English is typically a three-line poem that uses concrete sensory images to convey or imply natural and human seasonal phenomena, using a two-part juxtapositional structure as well as simple and primarily objective language." Or a more poetic definition given by Basho, one of the most famous Japanese haiku poets is, "haiku is a poem of the moment, a fleeting glimpse of eternity."

In this January issue, and the following issues, I will be editing the new Haiku Corner (below). I will include interesting haiku that relate to the season, the Garden, or both. I will include haiku by both English and Japanese poets. We are all about Japanese gardens and culture, so it is natural to include haiku by the Japanese masters. I will also provide haiku by English poets just to show that haiku in English is a real and widely practiced art form.

My own brief encounter with learning haiku was by attending a couple of workshops, hosted by the Gresham Japanese Garden, by a professional poet, Michael Dylan Welch. The first workshop was on Zoom, followed by an in-person workshop in our new Kyoudou Center. I gained a tremendous appreciation for this style of poetry, and subsequently have included in my own practice.

Some years ago, I almost dropped out of college because an English teacher informed me that it would be almost impossible to teach an Idaho farm kid interested in engineering, how to speak, read, and write the English language. And when listening to someone like Amanda Gorman one can conclude that her form of poetry is way out there in the ether. But, reflecting on Michael's teaching I got the impression that a professional poet might spend a lifetime getting haiku "just right," but in another way in its simplicity it is a poetry form designed for everyone.

In fact I am now thinking that haiku might just be a gift from professional

poets to us "common folks."

One of the most famous haiku of all times is by Mashuo Basho.

*Furuike ya  
kawazu tobikomu  
mizu no oto*

**Translated by Fumiko Saisho**

*The old pond-  
a frog jumps in,  
sound of water.*

If one wants further info on haiku, Michael's web page [Graceguts.com](http://Graceguts.com) provides a huge amount of information. Also on Amazon there are a number of books (both Kindle and paper) that provide a lot of info. Here are some books that may be of interest:

- *Becoming a Haiku Poet* - Michael Dylan Welch
- *How to Haiku* - Bruce Ross
- *Write Like Issa* - David G. Lanoue

## 俳句

### HAIKU CORNER

Christmas Eve...  
at the lot, the trees  
not chosen

- Tom Tico

.今見れば皆欲目也枯木立  
*ima mireba mina yokume nari kare kodach*  
still I see them  
how they were...  
bare winter trees

- Issa

### Making Spirits Bright



In a small way, the Gresham Japanese Garden hopes we've made spirits brighter for holidays by decorating one of the pine trees with ornaments.

At the end of this month, a traditional Japanese decoration, *kadomatsu*, made of bamboo and pine will greet visitors entering Tsuru Island.

### Wreathmaking Workshop



The Exploratory students ended the year making holiday wreaths in the greenhouse with leftover supplies from a fundraiser. The project was new and challenging, and the teachers needed extra help. The GJG volunteers stepped up and assisted the students with one-on-one support. Everyone had a really fun time together.

# Looking Back and Planning Ahead

by Sue Protz

**A**s I read past newsletters, we said that 2020 was a growth year. If 2020 was a growth year, then what do we say about 2023? Every year we seem to make huge strides in one area or another. This year our efforts were focused on renovating GJG's trailer to create a Japanese-inspired architectural building. This alone was quite a feat, but our volunteers also hit a home run hosting the North America Japanese Garden Association Regional Workshop. Thirty-five participants attended from all over North America and experienced the warmth from a well-oiled volunteer-based organization.

Speaking of volunteers, at the end of 2023 we can boast thirty-five active volunteers logging in 766 volunteer hours per month. Our monthly average in 2022 was 664 hours.

## Accomplishments in 2023

- Raised \$30,000 towards the remodel through an online auction, sponsors, donors, and a Cabo raffle.
- Launched the aesthetic pruning program.
- Gained a partner in Bartlett Tree Service.
- Welcomed Celestica, a company that worked with us throughout the spring and summer.
- Awarded the highest number of points from the City of Gresham cultural grant committee. Received \$4,650.
- Hosted our first Haiku and Manga cultural workshops, and our second Koi Expo.
- Won grants from Trinity Lutheran and 100+ Women Who Care East County.
- Produced and installed a new interpretive sign to adorn the entrance of Tsuru Island.
- Built a retaining wall in the back of

the center.

- Hosted a jam-packed 4-day North America Japanese Garden Association Regional Workshop.
- Hosted two open houses in the Kyoudou Center: one to thank donors and businesses, and a second one for the public.
- Installed the 4th Rip Caswell bronze sculpture, this one in the Peace Garden.
- Co-hosted a Snowcap wreathmaking workshop with Burns Feed Store.
- Completed another successful year teaching the Exploratory Program students horticulture, adding the art of bonsai and wreathmaking to their resumes.
- Remodeled the Resource Center, adding a patio and entrance garden and renaming it "Kyoudou Center."

## More Engagement in 2024

We're excited to say, 2024's schedule is all about community engagement: free educational classes taught by GJG volunteers with AI's Garden Center partnering, three free community events, and two fundraisers. We'll also welcome back the Northwest Koi and Goldfish Club expo and introduce the Ambassador Program.

Starting in March, GJG will celebrate three popular Japanese events. The first celebration is Hinamatsuri with an exhibit of the Hina Matsuri doll collection donated by Machiko Watanabe. Second, a week-long event hosting *yozakura*, cherry blossoms viewing at night, and ending the year, with 'Winter Illumination', lighting up Tsuru Island, Ebetsu Plaza and Ambleside Annex for the holidays.

Another effort towards engagement is partnering this year with AI's Garden

Center in Gresham. We will be co-hosting a few seminars. The first will be on blueberries, followed by a seminar on pollinators. There will be more to share, as we keep a pulse on the interests of the community.

Over the past couple of years, we were asked many times when are we going to have a plant sale. The first and only one we offered was in 2019, and as Jim says, "it was a lot of work." Well, this year we're going to do another one, this time partnering with Gresham Historical Society. They will sell flowers, and we will sell landscape plants. The most exciting part of this fundraiser for GJG is incorporating it into the Exploratory Program's curriculum.

The second fundraiser will be wreathmaking workshops hosted by GJG, followed by a wreathmaking workshop co-hosted with Burns Feed Store to raise money for Snowcap.

## Behind the Scenes

Just when you think there is nothing else the volunteers could possibly add to the Gresham Japanese Garden, you're surprised. For years Jim Card has thought about how to safely and securely incorporate a bonsai display into GJG's setting. Well, in 2024, GJG is building a bonsai display! Other improvements include: a new fence joining the barn to the Kyoudou Center, a garden for the building sign, improvements to the shadehouse, and finishing the exterior enhancements of the Kyoudou Center.

For 13 years now, passionate volunteers have joined together to serve the Garden and their community. We will continue our efforts keeping Main City Park beautiful and bettering the livability of Gresham.

# Free Seminars in 2024

## **Growing and Caring for Blueberries, Saturday, March 2nd, 12-1:30pm**

**JIM BUCK, GJG INSTRUCTOR AND JONATHAN FAITH, AL'S GARDEN & HOME STORE MANAGER, AND BLUEBERRY EXPERT**

The Growing and Caring for Blueberries seminar will describe the main parts of a blueberry plant, what soil conditions the plants favor, how and when to fertilize blueberries, the harvest times and show-and tell for various varieties, pruning recommendations, and responses to a couple common diseases that may occur. Al's Garden Center will also be bringing coupons to spend on re-stocking your blueberry crop.



## **Spring Lawn Maintenance, Saturday, April 13th, 1-2:30pm**

**JIM CARD, GJG INSTRUCTOR:** Getting green, healthy grass is not easy without some TLC. This spring's

lawn maintenance class will cover keeping your lawn healthy and green throughout the summer months in the northwest weather. It will also cover how to get moss out, and what blend of fertilizer works best for lawns, how to apply, an overview of sprinkler systems and how to water your lawn and your plants.

## **Pollinators for Your Yard, TBD**

**DEB PETERS, GJG INSTRUCTOR AND JUDY ALLERUZZO, AL'S GARDEN & HOME INSTRUCTOR:** Pollinators, such as bees, butterflies, moths, and hummingbirds, are crucial for the reproduction of many plant species. This seminar will focus on native host plants for butterflies and how to create your own a pollinator yard. Learn where and how to plant milkweed and other plants to attract monarch butterflies.

## **Fundamentals of Pruning, June 8th, 1-2:30pm**

**SUE PROTZ, GJG INSTRUCTOR:** Learn the four basic cuts of pruning and the subsequent reaction from these various pruning cuts. Learn also about tools and tool care. Take a tour of the Gresham Japanese Garden to understand the niwaki-style of pruning and how you can attempt it in your own setting.

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## Pruning Program Classes

### **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 winter workshop will be on pruning Vanport's many 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.*

### **Pruning Conifers in the Garden, Onsite, Sunday, February 11th, 1:00pm-3:00pm - \$45**

**MARYANN LEWIS, INSTRUCTOR:** This class will build upon the knowledge gained in 'Pruning Fundamentals for Conifers' on the 8th. It will be beneficial to take the Zoom class. We will look at various small conifers in and around Tsuru Island and apply useful techniques and strategies that can be used in any garden style.

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

**LAURA DUFALA, INSTRUCTOR:** Learn all about the why's and how's of candling pines. Also learn about needling to maintain cloud-prune aesthetics and keep your pines at a manageable size, and as a focal point in a landscape. This workshop is in person at Tsuru Island, Gresham Japanese Garden. Wear your gloves. Laura may turn the class into an interactive collaborative session.

**More classes listed on the website. [VIEW AND REGISTER HERE.](#)**