

Tsuru 鶴 Soars

Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden Newsletter



GJG Hosts Gresham Chamber



The Kyoudou Center decked out for the Chamber meeting.

The Kyoudou Center and Ebetsu Plaza were decked out to host the Gresham Area Chamber of Commerce Friday, May 19 morning meet up. Hosting a Friday .am includes providing refreshments, a chance to

talk about your business for 10 minutes and an opportunity to show off your space and introduce your "staff". It's a great way for people to learn about your business.

Not all Chamber members have the capacity to host, so it was very gratifying for Sue Protz and her band of volunteers to spread out the white tablecloths, pull out the dinnerware and every amenity they own to showcase the Kyoudou Center. Knowing attendance was going to exceed the Kyoudou Center's occupancy level, spreading onto Ebetsu Plaza was a wonderful bonus. The chill in the morning air did not

*a rhody
back again
hello*

— Bill Peterson

discourage 80 Chamber members from attending, some first timers to the Garden. Volunteers offered a friendly smile and answered questions.



Volunteers on hand to greet guests.

Time to Candle

If you own a pine tree, you will notice that this year's growth has emerged and looks like candles pointing straight up. These candles (shoots) develop from fall through winter until spring. "Candling" is a term used for pruning pines that is done in May into June.

Start with pruning 101, and cut out dead branches at the branch collar and remove dead pine needles.

PURPOSE OF CANDLING

1. Control the length of branches.
2. Stimulate growth.
3. Create density.
4. Direct growth and shape.

The best way to candle is to pinch with your finger tips, rather than snipping with trimmers. By pinching you can grab just the bud and NOT the needles surrounding it. Cutting the needles causes them to brown and die.



Once the male candle's pollen has been released, the candle will wither and create a dead branch.

#1: Control the length of branches

If your desire is to just control the height of the pine tree, then pinch off each candle to about 1/3 its size, or remove all candles

completely. Some pines, like a mugo pine, can produce many candles that cover the perimeter of the tree. Go ahead and hand shear. Yes, we typically frown on shearing, but there are times and plants that do well with HAND shearing. Never use an electric shear. If the blade is dull at all, it tends to rip the candle, leaving an unsightly cut.

#2: Stimulate growth.

By pinching off even a tiny piece of the candle, you stimulate growth. Next year, a cluster of buds will form, creating a whorl. For example, say you have a mugo pine and there's a hole of dead branches. Find a nearby candle and snip off the end so in a couple years that dead space will fill in.

#3: Create density.

The shorter the candle the shorter the branch. If it is not candled it creates unusually long stiff branches. Remember once the candle flushes out to pine needles it becomes another branch, and the growing cycle will start all over again.

#4: Direct growth and shape.

This is where aesthetic pruning and tedious work create magic. Have a 5-year plan for the tree before you start pruning. What size, direction, shape do you want to achieve? Next you will examine every branch, and make decisions about which buds to keep, and which to remove to create your desired shape and direction; how long or short should you cut a candle for height and direc-

tion. If you don't get it all done in the spring, you can structurally prune in the winter. And, remember to have fun!

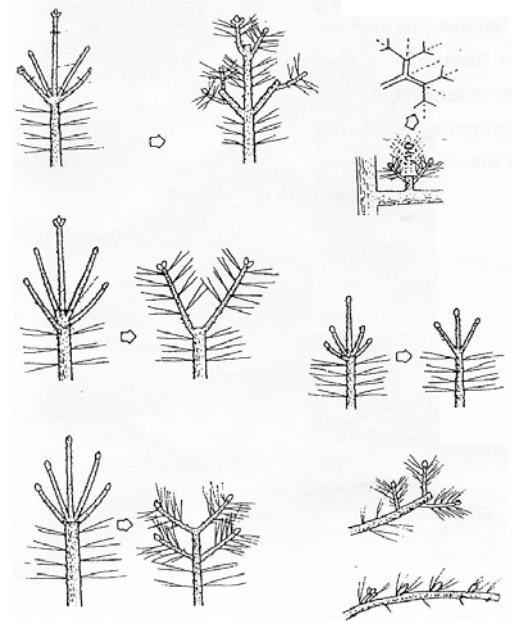


Figure 2: Direction of growth that occurs from your cuts

HOW-TO CANDLE VIDEO



俳句

HAIKU CORNER

spring
without anyone knowing
tree blossoms
-Steve Dalachinsky

五月雨や二階住居の草の花

samidare ya ni kai sumai no kusa no hana

June rain—
the second floor room
has wildflowers!

-Issa 1803

Introducing Zenbird



Zenbird is an online magazine focused on social good ideas and practices in Japan. They introduce sustainable lifestyle tips rooted in Japanese traditional culture. When you combine "Zen" and "Bird" you get goodness flying throughout the world! Look for Zenbird's articles on our website and in our newsletters in the coming months!

Students Graduate



It's bitter sweet to see our first group of students graduate from the Exploratory Program and the Adult Living Program. We've watched these students blossom in their plant knowledge throughout the three years with GJG. They are also the first group to earn internships with AI's Garden & Home. The teachers are feeling like mother birds watching them fly from their nests!

Volunteer Runs Plant Sale with Proficiency

by Mary Marrs

While attending a Portland conference in 2006, Pat Dillman found herself sitting in Tsuru Island among the maple trees, and thought it was such a peaceful place. Years later in 2023 while she and husband Jess Walls were house-hunting, she found herself drawn back there. That's when she saw the A-frame sign about volunteering at the Gresham Japanese Garden. "I liked the garden so much, I knew I wanted to try volunteering here."

The day she attended the volunteer orientation meeting, it was clear to Activities Director Sue Protz that Pat would be a great addition to the Garden's "flock of volunteers".

"Her interest form showed she is a Master Gardener," Protz said, and saw that Pat had checked 'plant sale' as one of her interests. Instantly, she knew Pat could be the point person for the fundraiser.

With Master Gardener certifications in California and Oregon, Pat definitely had the technical background. Having run her own retail garden store in Eureka, California for 15 years, she had great organizational skills. She volunteered with the OSU Extension Office in Medford, Oregon where she mentored some of the training labs. She volunteered in several Medford first-grade classes where she taught about plants and gardening through inventive hands-on games.

But when Protz asked Pat to take the lead in the Garden's May plant sale, it caught her off guard.

"It's possible I just didn't hear her right," Pat laughed, "because before I knew it, I was in charge of everything!" Everything included identifying numerous donated plants, creating an extensive plant inventory list, writing up descriptions for potential buyers, and researching current prices.

Having just moved to Gresham in December of 2023, Pat didn't hesitate to jump into the challenge with enthusiasm. "Even with my background, it was a crash course in plant identification!" Pat said it took a lot of

time to research species of trees, shrubs, grasses and flowers. And to determine prices, she said she "haunted" nurseries to survey stock. While it was a lot of work, Pat admits that it was really interesting and fascinating.

With preparations done, the first day of the plant sale went smoothly with lots of volunteers

helping customers all day. Pat liked the way volunteers assisted and supported each other. Even husband Jess pitched in to help volunteer Scott Evans deliver some of the larger potted plants to buyers' homes.

Protz credits a lot of the sale's success to Pat's comprehensive plant knowledge and skills in organizing so much information. "She created spreadsheets of the plants by botanical names with detailed descriptions." Those lists involved over one hundred different names and descriptions that covered about 500 individually-potted plants. Protz added that no one else could have done what Pat did with the same thoroughness.

"Pat went well beyond what I had originally expected when I asked her to take this on."

Pat's energy and expertise weren't the only things that exceeded expectations. The plant sale brought in over \$5000, way more than Protz had envisioned. And working closely with Pat, Protz said she had a wonderful revelation. "With our individual plant knowledge and organizational skills," Protz had told Pat, "we complemented each other very



Pat prepping the plants for the plant sale.

well!"

Garden volunteer Deb Peters echoes that sentiment. She worked with Pat in the shade house, greenhouse, at the plant sale, and was also impressed.

"She is very calm, easy-going, easy to talk to," Peters said. She saw Pat spending time with customers and other volunteers, patiently explaining about the plants. "Her knowledge of plants and compassion for people is wonderful."

Pat also appreciates the other volunteers, and said that the plant sale was certainly a group effort. She likes seeing people doing things that they are good at and like to do, whether it's potting plants, pulling weeds, or greeting people.

"... volunteers here are valued for their strengths and personal interests, and I feel lucky to be part of it."

"This is an amazing group," Pat said. She sees that volunteers here are valued for their strengths and personal interests, and she feels lucky to be part of it.

Spring Pruning Classes

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

Many people care for lace leaf maples, often the popular *Acer palmatum* var. *dissectum* 'Crimson Queen.' In this pruning course, Lincoln Proud will focus on the fundamentals of pruning lace leaf maples. The class will begin with a short lecture in the Kyoudou Center on basic botany and growth habits of lace leaf maples. The lecture will continue on Tsuru Island where you'll learn how pruning fundamentals are applied to various types of lace leaf maples, and how to apply this information to your own trees.



LINCOLN PROUD, INSTRUCTOR:

Lincoln has a wide background in horticultural and garden experience that spans many styles and climates. His formal training took place at Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania where he completed the Professional Gardener training program. Since then he has studied in Japan and worked at many gardens including the Portland Japanese Garden, a private estate in Texas, as well as the Boyce Thompson Southwest Arboretum and Wallace Desert Garden in Arizona. Lincoln works full time at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden and now is a Gresham Japanese Garden pruning instructor.

Hands-on Pruning Workshop on a Mature Lace Leaf Maple, June 29th, 1:00pm-2:30pm – \$50

For the intermediate pruner. You will have the opportunity to prune beside one of the best pruners in Oregon, Francheska Snyder. On the property of Bateman Carroll in Gresham sits an overgrown, unattended mature *Acer palmatum* weeping lace leaf maple. Limited to six students for an optimal pruning experience you will prune with Francheska to transform this lace leaf back to a beautiful focal point on Powell Blvd.

GJG RECOMMENDS: Participate in Lincoln Proud's instructional class on pruning lace leaf maples on June 22nd at Tsuru Island.



FRANCHESKA SNYDER, INSTRUCTOR:

Originally from Pennsylvania, Francheska Snyder is the current owner/operator of Niwa Method, a landscape contracting business specializing in Japanese gardens in the Portland area. She has previously worked in public non-profit gardens such as the Portland Japanese Garden, Shofuso Japanese House and Garden, and Wyck Historic House and Garden. She has participated in work-study opportunities assisting Japanese garden builds across the United States, in Italy, in France, and in various regions of Japan. Francheska earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry from Rochester Institute of Technology in 2009. She holds a certificate in Ornamental Horticulture from Longwood Gardens, a 3rd

Term Master Level certificate from the Ohara School of Ikebana and is a recognized Chanticleer Scholar. She also uses her time and talent on the board of Leach Botanical Garden, and consulting and teaching for the Gresham Japanese Garden.

Pruning Flowering Shrubs, July 14th, 1:00pm-3:00pm – \$45

Find out the perfect time of year to prune the different flowering shrubs. Some flowering shrubs flower on old wood, while others flower on new wood. It gets confusing, but Jonathan will explain what shrubs like to be pruned in the spring to produce flowers, and what shrubs need to be pruned in the winter to produce flowers. Jonathan will also demonstrate how to prune for flower production: roses, rhododendrons, hydrangeas, and more. Fertilizing will also be discussed in the class.



NEW INSTRUCTOR: JONATHAN FAITH. Jonathan comes from a deep history of being around a copious array of plants. When he was very young he helped his grandmother prune her roses. Growing up he spent time in the wilderness identifying wildflowers and all the other plant life around him. And then as an adult, he's helped manage his in-laws 55 acres of gardens. Jonathan is the store manager at Al's Garden & Home in Gresham.

More class offerings added soon. [REGISTER ON WEBSITE](#)