

# Tsuru 鶴 Soars

Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden Newsletter



## Ebetsu Plaza Under Scrutiny

**W**ith Yozakura right around the corner, preparing Ebetsu Plaza is top of mind during "Garden Saturdays," volunteer work day.

More than a hundred people attended last year's Yozakura event, finding a spot amongst the shrubs, or lining their chair along the pathway of Ebetsu Plaza to gaze up at the twelve stars of the show, the 'Akebono' cherry trees illuminated, and to listen to Oregon Koto Kai perform.



*Jim Buck pruning the cherry trees.*

Yes, the cherry trees need to shine, but the entire garden has to look its best. This mentality is consistent with how we operate. When you prune a shrub, you make sure to rake all the debris *and* pull

*kyoudou center  
gray sky and flakes of snow  
come inside with me...*

— Bill Peterson

the weeds around the shrub.

To prep for Yozakura, in addition to pruning the cherry trees, the list includes: prune all the conifers, dig out the rocks embedded in the dirt around the dry stream bed, plant flowers in the flower beds, trim the grasses, trim the dead fronds of the ferns, clean the spot lights, and more.

The list is long and sometimes daunting, but we'll be ready, and we're excited to show off the gardens during the Yozakura festival.

# The Impact of Healing Gardens

by Sue Protz

In our [Dec 2023 newsletter publication](#), the article speaks to the goodwill of Tom and Laura Dufala, Bentwood Tree Farm, for their donation of two dozen pine trees to a healing garden being built inside the Oregon State Penitentiary (OSP), a maximum security prison.

Adults in custody and members of the Asian Pacific Family Club in OSP living out long sentences wanted to know what would happen if they put a healing garden inside the walls of the prison. For five years, members worked faithfully to create a Japanese-style healing garden on the grounds.

They connected with the outside community, wrote grants, and raised \$400,000 in money, materials and in-kind support. Their mission caught the attention of Hoichi Kurisu, a well-known garden designer. He designed the Portland Japanese Garden and many healing gardens in Oregon and around the world. He firmly believes that nature heals.

Once Kurisu embraced the project to design OSP's healing garden, he contacted the Dufalas for pine trees.

As the trees were planted one by one, the healing began. Living trees and plants are potent medicine. According to

some indigenous and ancient wisdom—plants have a dynamic intelligence and play an important role in treating the soul and illnesses. Certainly, they inspire peace, resilience and health.

I've had the honor to prune inside the healing garden where I witnessed the healing power of the garden. I've attended Asian Pacific Family Club's social events where I listened to the adults in custody talk about the transformative power of nature.

Their stories are so powerful they

*Their stories are so powerful they almost knock me over...*

almost knock me over and so deep in introspection, I'm coerced to reexamine the healing qualities of Tsuru Island.

In my research, I visited Kurisu's website and read: "While the specific elements of restorative gardens vary widely depending on the populations they are intended to serve, the intent of a healing garden is to promote rejuvenation through immersion in nature. Healing gardens provide positive distraction and sensory engineering that stimulates a full range of senses including hearing, touch, taste, smell and memory through



From left: Francheska Snyder, Bill Proppe, Tom Dufala, Eldie DeCou, Jim Card, and me.

exposure to natural elements. What defines their success is, ultimately, the experience of the people who use them."

In next month's newsletter, Randy Guzek, OSP Healing Garden director will speak to how adults in custody, who are living out long sentences inside the concrete walls of prison bloom, and grow under the immersion in nature from their healing garden.

## Ikebana Arrangement



Peach, Camellia, and Chrysanthemum  
Peach blossoms are graceful and serene and often used in arrangements for Girls Days in March.

## Business Paver Installed



Kohler Meyers O'Halloran large paver joins Ebetsu Plaza's path of honored business supporters.

The Touchstone Paver campaign is available to everyone. The community pavers are 7.5" in size and cost \$125. [Order online.](#)

All proceeds from your purchase are deposited into an endowment fund so Tsuru Island stays the "Gem of the City".

## Hina Doll Exhibition



**Open House - March 2**  
**10am - 4pm**

**IN CELEBRATION OF**  
**HINA MATSURI**

**KYODOU CENTER, 219 S MAIN AVE**  
**INSIDE MAIN CITY PARK**

# New Bonsai Instructor, Bobby Curtright

The Gresham Japanese Garden is excited to introduce Bobby Curtright as our new bonsai instructor. Bobby will be teaching the 'Art of Bonsai' workshops on Saturdays and Thursdays.

After reading a beginner book on bonsai and keeping two trees alive and well for a year, Bobby began a more serious pursuit of the art form, in the shape of a full-time Japanese style apprenticeship, with Bonsai Master Michael Hagedorn. Alongside his three-year apprenticeship, on occasion he was very fortunate to travel to Japan for weeks at a time to also study under Mr. Hagedorn's sensei, the famous Mr. Shinji Suzuki and take in as much as possible from his amazing garden in Obuse. Bobby completed his apprenticeship in 2016 with the blessings of both Mr Hagedorn and Mr Suzuki who have an affinity for creating top class trees, displays, and bonsai gardens.

Bobby and his family now live in Gresham, where he has built and operated Cascadia Bonsai. The home garden is mostly comprised of local and Japanese species. His style would be akin to a natural, older style of Japanese bonsai to really let the tree tell its own story. Bobby enjoys working on whatever tree he has in front of him and encourages everyone to strive to create trees that will be appreciated long after we have passed them on to other generations.



## 2025 Pruning Program Classes

[REGISTER AT GRESHAMJAPANESEGARDEN.ORG](https://www.greshamjapanesegarden.org)



### **Introduction to the Aesthetic Pruning Approach: On Zoom, Thursday, March 6, 2025, 6-8pm - \$30**

**MARYANN LEWIS, INSTRUCTOR:** Aesthetics are integral to the stewardship of trees in our gardens. In this online course learn to apply the aesthetic pruning approach to trees and shrubs, including how to assess your plant materials, identify the role they play in your garden, and develop a pruning plan to achieve your goals. Aesthetic pruning works in any garden style. *Zoom courses are recorded and available for two weeks.*



### **Spring Candling of Pines: Onsite, Saturday, May 3, 2025 - \$45**

**LAURA DUFALA, INSTRUCTOR:** Learn all about the whys and hows of pruning and candling pines. Laura will candle, needle, and prune a few pines at the Gresham Japanese Garden. This workshop is in person. Bring your gloves. Laura may turn the class into a collaborative session.



## Free Community Seminars

[REGISTER AT GRESHAMJAPANESEGARDEN.ORG](https://www.greshamjapanesegarden.org)

### **INTRODUCTION TO RESIDENTIAL BEEKEEPING: Wednesday, March 5, 6:30-8pm**

Learn about residential honey beekeeping. What are the differences between beekeeping in a rural vs urban setting. What equipment and tools do you need. The different types of bees, workers, drones and queen and what their responsibilities are in the hive. Co-instructor Jim Buck will discuss flow hives.

### **GROWING AND CARING FOR BLUEBERRIES: Tuesday, March 25, 6-7:30pm**

This seminar will review the main parts of a blueberry plant, what soil conditions the plants favor, how and when to fertilize blueberries, and harvest times. Lyla Hunt co-manager of Al's Garden & Home Gresham will talk about the different variety of blueberry plants, and their responses to common diseases that may occur.

### **CREATING POLLINATOR HABITAT FOR YOUR GARDEN AND HOME: Saturday, May 17, 10-11:30am**

Learn how to preserve and protect native butterflies such as the Western Monarch, and the best ways to provide valuable nectar to all pollinators including bees, moths and hummingbirds. Find out how and where to plant pollinator friendly plants and how to avoid the use of pesticides. Instructors GJG volunteer Deb Peters in collaboration with Judy Alleruzzo of Al's Garden & Home, Gresham.

### **PRUNING FLOWERING SHRUBS: Saturday, May 31, 1-2:30pm**

Learn the basic cuts of pruning through a hands-on demonstration of pruning rhododendrons and azaleas. Jim Card, Garden Director, will speak specifically about flowering shrubs; when to prune and how to prune.

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# Yozakura Cherry Blossom Festival



*Viewing Cherry Blossoms at Night  
March 22 – April 5  
Lights on: 7-11pm*

**Join us for this magical festival!** The Gresham Japanese Garden will illuminate 12 mature 'Akebono' cherry trees, during their peak blooming time, in Ebetsu Plaza. The illuminated flowers give off an ethereal glow, that we call Yozakura—cherry blossoms at night.

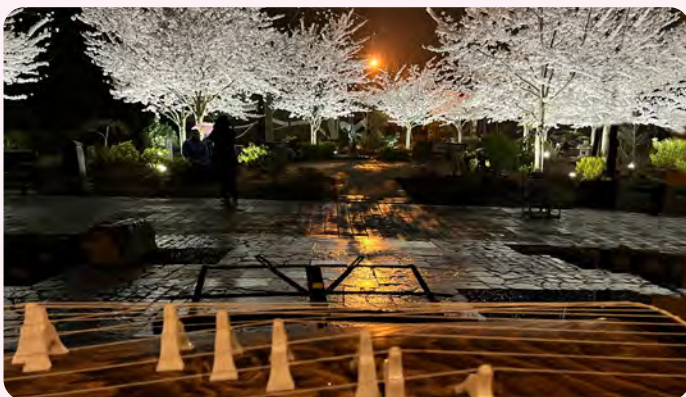
The cherry blossoms are predicted to be at the height of their bloom between March 22–April 5. Listen to Oregon Koto Kai while they perform from the patio of the Kyoudou Center.

**This is a free event.**



**TWO OF THESE SATURDAYS**  
MARCH 22, MARCH 29,  
OR APRIL 5

**THE MOST UP-TO-DATE SCHEDULE OF OREGON KOTO KAI'S WILL BE POSTED ON THE WEBSITE.**



### LOCATION

South end of Main City Park  
219 S. Main Avenue

### SCHEDULE

[GreshamJapaneseGarden.org](http://GreshamJapaneseGarden.org)