

Tsuru 鶴 Soars

Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden Newsletter



Interested in Volunteering?

Spring weather, we hope, is just around the corner, and that always creates extra work keeping the gardens looking beautiful for visitors.

GJG maintains nine garden spaces throughout Main City Park, so people with all types of skills are needed. Most volunteers come during Garden Saturday from 9am to noon every Saturday. We average 700 hours per month, and currently have 35 active volunteers.

As much as we love our volunteer gardeners, we love people with a variety of skills to help with the garden and all of our programs.

What is your interest:

- Garden Saturdays
- Teaching horticulture
- Pollinator garden
- Guest writer for the newsletter
- Odd jobs during the week
- Building projects
- Shadehouse
- Greenhouse
- Rental liaison
- Cultural events
- And more...



Maryann Buck raking up pine needles on Tsuru Island.

*early spring morning
a garden bridge
footsteps passing by*

— Bill Peterson

Please consider attending a Volunteer Orientation meeting to learn more.

Volunteer Orientation Dates

Wed. April 2 - 6-7pm

Wed. April 30 - 1-2pm

RSVP

Sue@

GreshamJapaneseGarden.com

Professional Gardeners Work Their Magic

Sometimes it only takes one person to come up with a good idea to get a great event in the works. At an Aesthetic Pruners Association (APA) workshop in Oakland, California, October 2024, Sue Protz was approached by a professional pruner Scott Holland, who ironically lives in Tigard, Oregon with an idea to organize an event where aesthetic pruners join forces to help the Gresham Japanese Garden with pruning.

On March 8th, the Gresham Japanese Garden and the Aesthetic Pruners Association hosted twenty skilled pruners led by Maryann Lewis, GJG pruning instructor and CAP #19 aesthetic pruner. The project: prune the 40 year-old junipers overpowering the west bank of Tsuru Island.

The workshop commenced in the Kyoudou Center with Maryann Lewis explaining the project. She then moved the group to the spot considered the "front", or the angle that is most viewed, explaining the pruning style and the reasoning behind her decisions.

The junipers were meticulously pruned branch by branch forming a soft finish and rounded profile. The pruners kept mature trunks hidden, and as they

Often pruning is a solitary endeavor so it was wonderful to spend the day with fellow pruners and I'm happy we were able to get so much done!

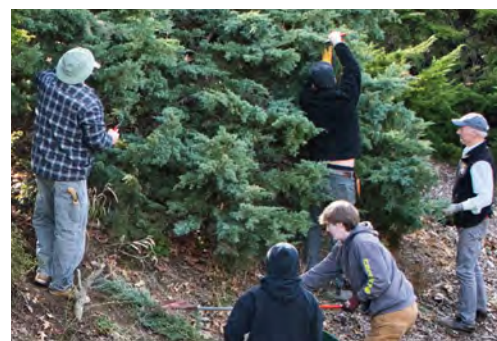
– Maryann Lewis, instructor

moved towards the top, more branches were exposed. They were so efficient that by lunch time, the junipers were done.

After a lunch, Maryann took the group onto Tsuru Island and talked about different trees and how they could be pruned to the space.

The workshop held an electric buzz of knowledge being transferred all around. It's really a testament to gardeners that they are passionate about their craft and are continuously learning.

The member-based Aesthetic Pruners Association was developed at Merritt College in Oakland, California. Their mission is to promote and develop the art and science of aesthetic pruning and support professional pruners through certification and educational opportunities. Their purpose is to advance a high standard of craftsmanship, sound horticultural



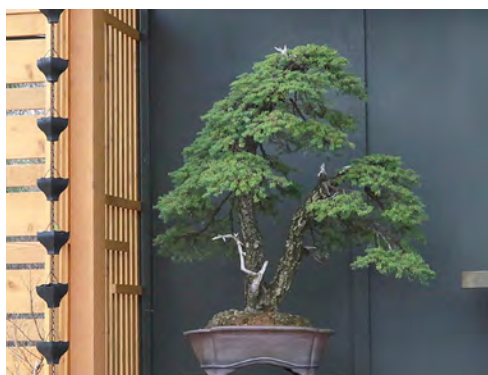
Top photo: Hillside Landscape Maintenance on clean up crew. Bottom photo: Maryann Lewis giving directions.

practices and artistic expression.

The workshop attracted pruners from as far as the Brooklyn Botanic Garden in NY, the Wellfield Botanic Garden in IN, Seattle, WA, and all around the Portland area.

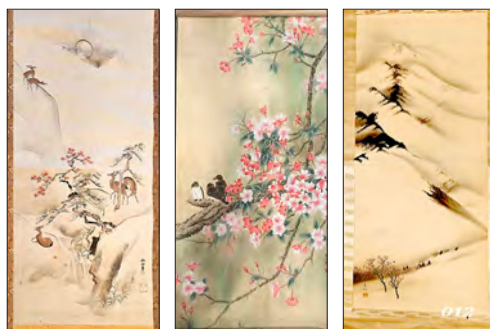
Please admire the junipers the next time you walk through Main City Park and look over to Tsuru Island.

Bonsai Tree



This Yamadori Western Hemlock was collected by Bobby Curttright, GJG bonsai instructor from the Mt Hood area. It has been in training since 2016 and is planted in an exquisite 'bridge pot' made by Japanese master potter Nakano Gyozan-san.

Scrolls



To the Japanese, displaying scrolls represents a rich tapestry of art, culture, and tradition. We are fortunate to receive, on loan, over fifty scrolls. Some are very old, some more contemporary. All will be hung throughout the year in the Kyoudou Center's tokonoma and at City Hall. We look forward to sharing with you.

Calling for Hina Dolls



If you are looking to donate your hina doll collection, please consider the Gresham Japanese Garden as its new home. We would like to expand our collection for GJG's annual hina matsuri exhibition.

We're in search of unusual, unique dolls that we currently don't own. Please send a photo to sue@greshamjapanesegarden.com.

The Impact of a Healing Garden

by Sue Protz

In March's newsletter I talked about the healing power of nature and its affect on people, specifically adults in custody at the Oregon State Penitentiary's Healing Garden where I have the honor of pruning.

The OSP Healing Garden is the first of its kind in a maximum security prison. Its goals include reducing altercations, creating a space that can make a difference in people's lives, and creating "nice neighbors instead of angry neighbors". 85% of inmates at OSP return to society.

Below is an excerpt from an adult in custody's experience in the Healing Garden.

"When I entered the Japanese-style Memorial Healing Garden for the first time, tears filled my eyes, I experienced an awakening within me I had not felt in decades. As time went by I experienced the natural symbiotic flow between this garden sanctuary and me. While in the Garden, I feel a rejuvenation of my spirit, I feel the restoration of my physical, cognitive, and emotional balance. This morning, before I entered the Garden, I took pause to reflect upon the two Japanese kanji near the top of

the security gate. The kanji represent the words "love" (ai) and "harmony" (wa). As I walked through the Humbling Door, a symphony of bird chirps filled the air, and I became conscious of the exquisite beauty of spring unfolding before my very eyes. There are bloom buds upon the plants, and the leaves are filling in the once bare branches of the trees. Below the Majestic Waterfall and past the Bridge of Inspiration, our annual resident ducks are swimming in the pond in harmony with the koi, and a lovely green-shaded Anna's hummingbird we call Niji is bathing in the bamboo flume above the tsukubai. There is a butterfly hovering over a blooming azalea and a ladybug has just landed on a bonsai we call "Grandpa."

The divine synchronization of it all makes my heart skip a beat and I become conscious of the smile on my face.

It is, indeed, humbling and rejuvenating to be afforded the opportunity to be immersed in nature and subject to its innate ability to heal despite being confined within a 25-foot wall of a maximum-security prison. Thich Nhat

Han wrote, 'Most people are afraid of suffering. But suffering is a kind of mud to help the lotus flower of happiness grow. There can be no lotus flower without the mud.'

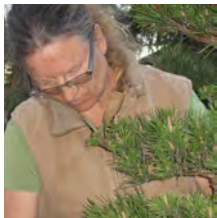
The Garden has taught me, and others, that if we are properly nurtured and cultivated, we, too, can begin to heal by using the humiliating events and suffering in our lives to create the fertile soil in which the lotus flowers of love, harmony, and healing can grow and flourish.

I will forever be in awe of nature's intelligence, and our beloved Garden's innate ability to heal."

Of course I always bring my thoughts back to the Gresham Japanese Garden. How can Tsuru Island evoke more healing? And then, I reflect back on a statement of Hoichi Kurisu's, the healing garden designer of OSP, and many others. "Healing gardens provide positive distraction and sensory engineering that stimulates a full range of senses including hearing, touch, taste, smell and memory through exposure to natural elements. What defines their success is, ultimately, the experience of the people who use them."

2025 Pruning Program Classes

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



Spring Candling of Pines: On Tsuru Island, 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.



Propagating Broadleaf Shrubs: In the Kyoudou Center, Saturday, June 7, 2025 1-3pm - \$55

NORM JACOBS, INSTRUCTOR: In this class learn how to successfully propagate deciduous and evergreen plants such as Rhododendron, Ribes and other suitable woody plants from cuttings. Instructor Norm Jacobs will explain plant physiology as it pertains to successful propagation, explain the selection of containers, soil mixes, and the role of rooting compounds. Next Norm will demonstrate and you will prepare stick

cuttings from harvested branches. Last Norm will share experience about aftercare and future transplanting of your cuttings. Class includes all the propagation class materials: pots, soil, rooting compound, and plant tags.



Free Community Happenings



TAI CHI CLASSES: Saturday, April 26, in honor of World Tai Chi and Qigong Day

Four level of classes offered: Balance at 1pm inside the Kyoudou Center, Health at 2pm, Flow at 3pm, and Qigong at 4pm. Weather permitting these three classes will take place outside in Ebetsu Plaza. [Register here.](#)



PLANT SALE: Every Saturday in May, 9:30am-noon in the rear of the Kyoudou Center

Drop in on a Saturday and choose from an array of bulbs, decorative grasses, and many small and large shrubs and specimen trees that will make an immediate impact in your yard. Cash and checks only.



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

Learn how to preserve and protect native butterflies, and the best ways to provide valuable nectar to all pollinators including. Learn how and where to plant pollinators and how to avoid the use of pesticides. Instructors: GJG volunteer Deb Peters and Judy Alleruzzo of Al's Garden & Home, Gresham. [Register here.](#)

Co-hosted by



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

Learn 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 and how to prune. [Register here.](#)



KOI EXPO AND AUCTION: Saturday, June 21, all day

Hosted by Northwest Koi & Goldfish Club, mark your calendars for a family-friendly day all about koi.

Cultural Events



YOZAKURA (VIEWING CHERRY BLOSSOMS AT NIGHTTIME): OREGON KOTO KAI PERFORMS: April 5, 7:45pm & 8:30pm

Set up a chair or blanket and join us for a night listening to koto harps under the ethereal cherry blossoms in Ebetsu Plaza. Enjoy some tea and treats served by GJG volunteers.



KODOMO NO HI (CHILDREN'S DAY): Sunday, May 4, 10am-2pm

Join us for a family-filled free event of games, crafts, and story telling, organized by the students in the Japanese Club at Mount Hood Community College. Make a koinobori, fish for koi and discover what makes them so unique, make an origami fish and listen to traditional Japanese tales. This all takes place in Ebetsu Plaza and inside the Kyoudou Center. Come on by!

GJG Workshops



THE ART OF BONSAI: Every third Thursday 6-8pm, and third Saturday 1-3pm - \$45

The Art of Bonsai workshops are expanding. GJG instructor Bobby Curtright is offering workshops for beginners and intermediate enthusiasts, including a variety of skills training, from wiring, to potting, to soil recommendations, overall care, and more. Workshops are offered in-person at GJG's Kyoudou Center, and capped at 16 participants. All materials are provided. Check website for updates. The Bonsai Critique below is an example of an expansion class. [Register here.](#)



BONSAI CRITIQUE: May 3, morning session 10am-noon, afternoon session 1-3pm - \$20

Do you have a bonsai that you're not quite sure of your next steps? Bobby Curtright, a skilled bonsai enthusiast, will talk with each person about their tree. You will not only learn what to do with yours, but you can gain knowledge by hearing other students' questions. Choose a morning or afternoon session. Each session is limited to 16 students. [Register here.](#)



INTRODUCTION TO IKEBANA: Second Tuesday of each month, 1-3pm - \$50

Instructor Nana Bellerud covers the basic concepts, techniques, tools and equipment, and plant care for ikebana. She has been studying the Sogetsu School of Ikebana since 2005. A kenzan and container are available for use, and the plant material is yours to take home. Supplies are available to purchase. Class is held in GJG's Kyoudou Center. [Register here.](#)