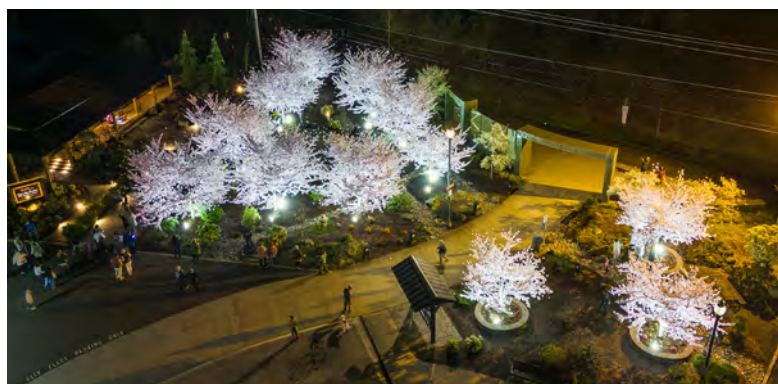


# Tsuru 鶴 Soars

Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden Newsletter



## Another Magical Event



Images by [Josh Kulla Photography](#)

The second annual Yozakura Festival brought double the attendance from its first year. Both Saturdays, March 29th and April 5th, produced perfect weather for the koto musicians to perform into the

night under a relaxing, ethereal ambiance.

It is definitely a favorite of the Friends of Gresham Japanese Garden. Volunteers really enjoyed serving tea and

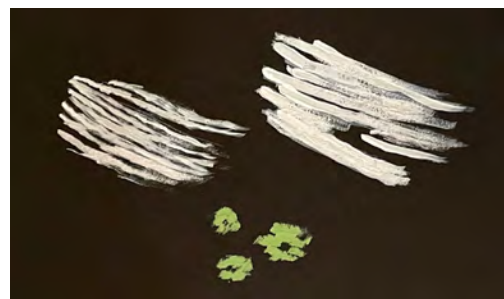
*a red azalea  
and a stone lantern  
spring friends*

— Bill Peterson

interacting with the community. Thank you for accepting our invitation.

*Performing koto surrounded by the beauty of cherry blossoms and singing frogs is one of the highlights of my year.*

— Amy Shoemaker, Koto musician



A young lady who sees colors listening to music (sound-color synesthesia) painted this picture for our koto musicians. The white and silver are the kotos and the green are the frogs.

# Don't Forget About Your Pine Tree

**T**he gardening terminology for new growth on pines is called candles. Candles develop from fall through winter until spring. Just before the needles unfold is the time to spring prune or "candle", typically around Mother's Day. For two and three needle pines, candle work is done over a two- to three-week window before the candles harden off.

Candles should be easy to pinch by hand. You candle by pinching with your finger and thumb and then snapping the candle off in a downward motion, careful not to rip the cambium layer. Pruning scissors can be used, but hand candling is preferable.

## THE PURPOSE OF CANDLING

1. Control the growth of the tree.
2. Control the shape of the pads.
3. Create more density in the pads.

### 1. Control the growth of the tree.

To control the growth and size of a pine tree, you reduce the size of the candles, because once these candles harden off they turn into branches. You can also completely remove the candles too which is called de-candling. It's a bit more extreme and not recommended to decandle two years in a row.

Make sure you can reach the top of the tree, and candle the entire tree.

FIG 1: By removing the apical candle, it slows the growth of the branch and height of the tree.

### 2. Control the shape of the "cloud" or pad.

To refine the shape of the tree and control the direction of your branches it is imperative to meticulously touch each branch. Depending on the species of pine, candles are formed in whorls of 4-8 budding candles. Removing or pinching the candles forces the energy, or auxin, towards the buds and remaining candles.

FIG 2: An example showing the desired results from selective candling.

### 3. Create more density in the pads.

Many two and three needle pines will produce a second flush of candles. These candles won't be as large because their growth time is shorter.

FIG 3: The goal of the second candling is to control density, pinching to twos.

Through proper pruning, you can direct the energy flow and achieve your goal for shape, density, and form. You can direct where new development is likely to take place and create optimum opportunities for future growth.



FIG 1: The easiest way to control the growth is to pinch off the apical candle.

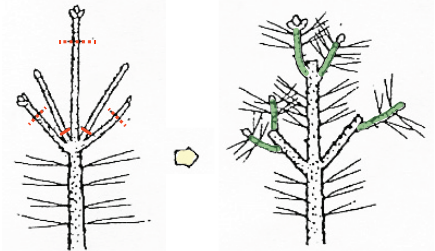


FIG 2: To continue developing the branch, pinch the apical candle. Outward growth is encouraged over inward growth, so completely pinch the inner candles.

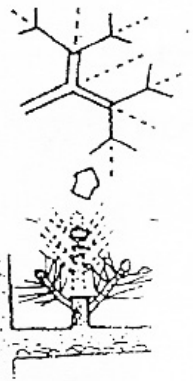


FIG 3: This drawing illustrates the continuous branching of reducing to twos.

## Haiku Corner

May 2025

俳句

Pink petals flutter  
Softly kiss the spring air now  
Beauty fades too soon  
- John Smith

さすが花ちるにみれんはなかりけり  
sasuga hana chiru ni miren wa nakari keru  
when cherry blossoms  
scatter...  
no regrets

- Issa

## Sprucing Up Main City Park



The Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden are extremely fortunate to have a good relationship with the City of Gresham Park's employees.

This past month we worked together to spruce up a prominent area in Main City Park's parking lot.

## Gresham City Hall Display



GJG has the pleasure of setting up a display in the City of Gresham City Hall.

We're excited to show off our scroll collection, while keeping the public informed.

# The Evolution of Tsuru Island

by Jim Card

The ultimate goal of a Japanese garden is to bring the beauty of nature into our everyday lives. In Japan, over centuries this is cultivated by a naturalistic setting with elements that are formed by nature in patterns and textures. One of the most distinguishing aspects of Japanese gardens is the basic idea of how the garden is viewed and from where. In Japan, the view from inside your home into the garden is an essential element. Sometimes the view may be from a specific spot, or it can be a strolling garden where you interact from a path. The second most important aspect of a garden is that it has borders, this could be a fence, wall, or natural plantings.

A goal in defining a Japanese garden is to determine the type of garden that you are going to develop, then match the features that you include to that type. Basic elements to consider could be water, stone, and plants. Then ask yourself what other elements would harmonize, like a stone lantern. Consider the surrounding landscape. Use natural elements such as unique boulders to unusually shaped trees to create a living work of art.

We are extremely fortunate to live in the Pacific Northwest where our climate mimics the climate of Japan. We have access to many of the same plants as are found in Japan, such as pines and maples. So how do these principles relate to Tsuru Island, and what is its relevance?

When I came to Tsuru Island in 2011, our priority was to clean the garden. We studied old photographs, determined what key elements were part of the original design such as the tsukubai, turtle, azaleas and pine trees. I did research on Japanese garden design, and formulated a master plan, placing five benches that offer a distinct view from different angles of the garden.

A rule of thumb in design is that every five years a garden should be reviewed.



*View of the pond from the bridge.*

*"A rule of thumb in design is that every five years a garden should be reviewed."*

– Jim Card garden director

Tsuru Island is going on 13 years since its rebirth. Minor changes have been made over these years, and now Tsuru Island has opportunities for major changes.

We invited Francheska Snyder, a trained Japanese garden designer, to engage her skills to create a fresh vision of Tsuru Island. We are fortunate that Francheska has an interest in the organization as a whole, and I am so pleased that she will be directing us.

We first hired Francheska to design the Kyoudou Center entrance garden and nobedan. She also gives her expertise to the pruning of our pines and maples on Tsuru Island and is an instructor for GJG's pruning program. Her knowledge and time investment are priceless.

Out of her assessment of Tsuru Island, we are starting to make changes to the overall composition of the Japanese garden. Last month while the night time temperatures were still cool and the ground soft, we removed 22 shrubs and trees. Some plant material had outgrown the area. Removing others like a 20 foot tall weeping Alaskan Cedar opened up

the sight line to view other parts of the garden.

By reducing the number of plants we opened spaces to make room for other plants to flourish. This also allowed us to focus this early spring on adding ground cover to areas where bark chips were used. We've planted over 3500 plugs of mondo grass, and over time, the bark dust will be replaced with other types of mondo grass, moss and low-growing plants.

A key element that Francheska has helped us with is composition. While walking over the bridge into the garden, you see the pond and the weeping maple tree. We moved a rhododendron back five feet to create a screen, and planted a new specimen pine, *Pinus parviflora 'glauca'*, donated by Bentwood Tree Farm. We then added more river rock around the pond and planted dwarf mondo grass to complete the new view.

As to more evolutionary changes to Tsuru Island, we are anxiously awaiting to see if we receive a \$130,000 Tourism Oregon grant. We will receive the news in mid-June.

## Cultural Event - Kodomo No Hi (Children's Day)



### **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 Mount Hood Community College Japanese Club students. Make a koinobori, fish for koi and discover what makes them so unique, make a koi origami and listen to traditional Japanese tales. This all takes place in Ebetsu Plaza and inside the Kyoudou Center at GJG. Come on by!

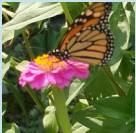


## Free Community Happenings



### **PLANT SALE: Every Saturday in May, 9:30am-noon behind the Kyoudou Center**

Drop in on a Saturday and choose from an array of tubers, decorative grasses, and many small and large shrubs and specimen trees that can make an immediate impact in your yard.



### **CREATING A POLLINATOR HABITAT: Saturday, May 17, 10-11:30am in the Kyoudou Center**

Learn how to 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 in the Kyoudou Center**

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, 10am-3pm in Main City Park**

Hosted by Northwest Koi & Goldfish Club, mark your calendars for a family-friendly day all about koi, including a live auctioning of koi that starts at 1pm.

## Pruning Classes

### **Spring Pruning Hands-on Workshop: Saturday, May 10th, 10am-4pm – \$100 at Vanport International in Boring**

**FRANCESKA SNYDER, INSTRUCTOR:** Designed for the intermediate pruners looking to advance their knowledge through experiential learning. Students will prune a variety of plants and trees appropriate for the time of year. The location is Vanport International Japanese garden in Boring, Oregon originally designed by Hoichi Kurisu. [Register here.](#)

### **Propagating Broadleaf Shrubs: Saturday, June 7, 2025 1-3pm – \$55 in the Kyoudou Center,**

**NORM JACOBS, INSTRUCTOR:** Learn how to successfully propagate deciduous and evergreen plants such as rhododendron, ribes and other cuttings of woody plants. Jacobs will explain plant physiology, soil mix, and rooting compounds. You will prepare stick cuttings from harvested branches. Class includes all the propagation class materials: pots, soil, rooting compound, and plant tags. [Register here.](#)

## GJG Workshops



### **THE ART OF BONSAI: Every third Thurs. 6-8pm, and third Sat., 1-3pm - \$45 in the Kyoudou Center**

The Art of Bonsai workshops with Bobby Curttright are designed for beginners and intermediate enthusiasts. You complete a project and also learn about caring for the tree. Workshops are offered in GJG's Kyoudou Center, and capped at 16 participants. All materials are provided. [Register here.](#)



### **BONSAI CRITIQUE: Saturday, May 3, 1-3pm - \$20 in the Kyoudou Center**

Do you have a bonsai that you're not quite sure about? Bobby Curttright 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. [Register here.](#)



### **INTRODUCTION TO IKEBANA: Second Tuesday of each month, 1-3pm - \$50 In the Kyoudou Center**

Instructor Nana Bellerud covers the basic concepts, techniques, tools and equipment, and plant care for ikebana. 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.](#)