

Tsuru 鶴 Soars

Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden Newsletter



Continuing Education Hours



Left: Before pruning the azaleas and Japanese holly. Right: After pruning.

Three times a year, spring, fall, and winter, the GJG Pruning Program, offers an all-day pruning workshop, "Hands on Pruning a Japanese Garden," at a private Japanese garden, owned by Vanport Manufacturing in Boring, OR.

The workshop, taught by Gresham Japanese Garden pruning instructor

advance their knowledge through experiential pruning. Snyder discusses the health, size, and pruning expectations of each tree that will be worked on during the session and the relationship with the surrounding plants and landscape. She spends time with each participant offering personalized

and owner of Niwa Method, Francheska Snyder, is designed for the intermediate gardener

looking to

*quiet reflections
in a small pond
blue iris in bloom*

— Bill Peterson

instruction. With her expertise in pruning and designing Japanese gardens, Snyder brings a unique perspective to each workshop.

We are extremely pleased this is GJG's first workshop certified by the Oregon Landscape Contractors Board. Licensed landscape construction professionals receive five Continuing Education Hours (CEH).

[Sign up on the GJG website for the summer September 6th workshop.](#)



The Dedication of the Exhibition Plaza



Garden volunteers and the White family.

"meaningful", like a project. That's all Card needed to hear for him to strategize re-purposing the workspace behind the Kyoudou Center into a bonsai exhibition plaza. Sue Ellen was excited as well. Hal loved trees. He loved shepherding trail

hikes, and he loved volunteering.

The exhibition spaces consists of 13 removable round posts with platforms, and a bench sheltered under the four foot overhang of the Center. And, connecting the Kyoudou Center to GJG's greenhouse and shade house is 1000 square feet of concrete with inlays of decorative rocks and decomposed granite.

The last blessing that came to us was our new bonsai instructor, Bobby Curttright. He joined our team in March and has adopted the exhibition space for his personal bonsai collection.

White concludes: "My family is deeply grateful for the opportunity to have a permanent memorial at the Garden where my brother volunteered for years.

The Gresham Japanese Garden is gifted with a team of management



Drawing of exhibition plaza

and volunteers who are professional in every way, from initial contact to follow through and regular updates. The large project that we helped fund, an outdoor bonsai exhibition space, went from initial talks to completion in just seven months. And, it was more than initially imagined. This is because the Garden leveraged our donation with partners, adding value and greatly enhancing the project.

"When considering a gift, trust and implementation are two key factors."

– Sue Ellen White, repeat donor

"When considering a gift, trust and implementation are two key factors. The Gresham Japanese Garden is what donors hope for: outstanding resource stewardship; creative and thoughtful planning and professional implementation; and the satisfaction of giving back in a meaningful way for public enhancement."

On a rainy Saturday afternoon, almost a year after the family of the late Hal White provided a generous gift, we formally dedicated the bonsai exhibition space in memory of Hal (Skip) White. We can't thank the family enough for setting in motion a project we never dreamed would turn out so right.

You see, in 2022 when the Kyoudou Center's remodel was in its planning stages, garden director Jim Card really wanted to have a bonsai display in the front for the public to enjoy. Card tabled that vision due to security issues until he heard from Sue Ellen White. White is a frequent donor of the Garden and on this occasion, she re-purposed monies from her brother Hal's trust. She met with Card and Sue Protz and requested the money to go for something

Yamadori Ponderosa Pine



On display at the Exhibition Plaza is an exemplary Yamadori Ponderosa Pine in a deep mokko pot made by Japanese Master Gyozan.

This bonsai has been in training since 2013 and is approximately 300-500 years old.

Hanging Flower Pots



Ten hanging flower pots adorn Main City Park thanks to our Exploratory students and their teacher and volunteer extraordinaire Deb Peters who taught them seed germination.

Thanks to AI's Garden Center for supplementing our flower supply, and our Park's guys for hanging them. Now, we'll watch them blossom!

AAPI Heritage Event



Every year during Heritage Month, Mt. Hood Community College celebrates the Asian American Pacific Islanders with an evening of dinner and performances from a myriad of cultures.

GJG had the privilege of setting up a booth this year to bring awareness to our Garden.

The Thriller, the Filler, the Spiller

by Mary Marrs, Job Coach

In the second year of their partnership, the Gresham Japanese Garden's Exploratory Worksite Program and Al's Garden Center are teaching students a lot of skills about the garden and nursery business, and giving them valuable job experience.

Already adept at transplanting, a skill they practiced at the Gresham Japanese Garden, interns recently learned the reference to planting flower containers: the thriller, the filler, the spiller. The "thriller" is the tallest plant or the focal point, the "filler" is low ground cover between plants, and the "spiller" trails down the outside of a pot to create an attractive design.

That's the connection GJG builds for these special needs students—giving them horticultural skills and knowledge that they can apply to real work environments. And Al's has proven again to be a great place for this to happen.

"That's the beauty of our Exploratory Worksite Program. For the first two and a half years, students are with us at GJG learning all aspects of horticultural from seed germination to pruning," says Sue Protz, Program Coordinator. "We focus on the students' workplace readiness and address any communication or behavior issues before they start their internship," she added. "This includes the students wearing the appropriate clothing for the job, being punctual, practicing good listening skills, and asking questions pertaining to their tasks. We adapt the training to their abilities and needs. And then, for that last semester, they take all the knowledge with them, and apply it in the work environment at Al's."

Starting in late March, three students and a GJG job coach began interning at Al's twice a week for two-hour shifts. One student is from the Gresham-Barlow School District's Adult Learning Program and two from the Reynolds School District's Community Transition Program. Al's Store Manager, Jonathan Faith, said

Top left: Chit sorting the vegetable table with Kim, Al's staff. Top right: Richard using his height to hang flower baskets. Bottom: Rey restocking the plants on the floor.



that he and his staff really had a great time working with their interns last year, and his staff couldn't wait for the new interns to start. "It's been an exciting and positive experience for everyone here."

"One of the benefits for my employees is that it provides them with mentoring and leadership opportunities," Jonathan added. His staff is happy to be part of a program that has meaningful impact in the community. He also pointed out that part of Al's mission is building a community atmosphere within the team, and that extends to the student interns who also wear Al's "purple people" t-shirts.

In planning for the new interns, Assistant Store Manager, Lyla Hunt, said that their first step is to ensure that the interns are comfortable with staff, their surroundings and the workplace. This involves assigning one-on-one supervisors, providing clear instructions and demonstration of tasks, and building a genuine rapport with them. As the students build upon their familiarity with tasks, Lyla continued, the next step is to edge them a little out of their comfort zone by introducing different skills and giving them work that is challenging yet fun.

"By expanding and tailoring tasks to their learning styles, we can help them build their confidence and camaraderie among the staff," Lyla emphasized that they want to provide the students with real workplace experiences that they might find in future jobs.

When asked about what he liked

about the internship, one intern said that he really liked learning about all the different kinds of plants, and he especially liked the challenge of remembering the plant names. He also echoed the other two interns who said that everyone at Al's is the nicest people!

Since the internship program has been a success, Lyla said that they'd gotten a lot of positive feedback and interest from the other Al's stores. She's taking on the task of creating a handbook that will help other Al's stores start their own internships.

"We know we are contributing to these students' work experiences and making a difference in our community."

– Jonathan Faith, Al's Store Manager

"The whole staff at Al's has been so enthusiastic," said Jonathan. "We know we are contributing to these students' work experiences and making a difference in our community." Protz concludes, "together, we've achieved something really valuable."

2025 Koi Expo And Auction

June 21st

10am-3pm

Main City Park

Gresham Oregon



Gresham
Japanese Garden
—INSIDE MAIN CITY PARK

**Bonsai
Demonstration
10:30am-Noon**

Tailored to educate pond owners how to care for koi through healthy water and sound pond maintenance

Meet koi keepers from throughout the Pacific Northwest ready to share their knowledge and experience

Auction of outstanding Japanese Koi and Pond Related Goods

10:00am Managing The Water

11:30am Koi Identification

1:00pm LIVE AUCTION



Hosted by
The Northwest Koi and Goldfish Club
www.nwkg.org