

# Tsuru Soars

Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden Newsletter



## A Symbol of Longevity



The Chrysanthemum Festival is known as *Chōyō*. It is one of the five sacred events in Japan and is usually celebrated on September 9th.

The chrysanthemum is a symbol of longevity and immortality in Japan. Heian courtiers left silk out to collect the dawn dew from the flowers. They believed the dew helped prevent signs of aging!

In the Pacific Northwest, our chrysanthemums are just coming into bloom and to celebrate, bonsai instructor Mark Vossbrink is decorating the azumaya in the beginning of November in honor of *Chōyō*. Please visit Tsuru Island and view.

In Japan, the chrysanthemum is recognized as the national flower and is the Imperial Emblem of Japan.

*To pluck a stem  
I shall have to guess  
for I cannot tell apart  
white chrysanthemums  
from the first frost.*

- Hyakunin Isshu collection of poetry

Above is a beautiful waka about our autumn chrysanthemum flower. It suggests the ephemerality of things, and captures the beauty and pathos of the idea that nothing can last forever.



# Cascading Pine Branching

This may be considered an advanced pruning article, but I believe the more information we absorb, the more will stick.

Between November and February is pine pruning season. You can work on shaping the cascading effect of your pine's branches. There are several ways to create cascading branches, and all of them involve skillful pruning to produce a truly natural effect that will just get better each year.

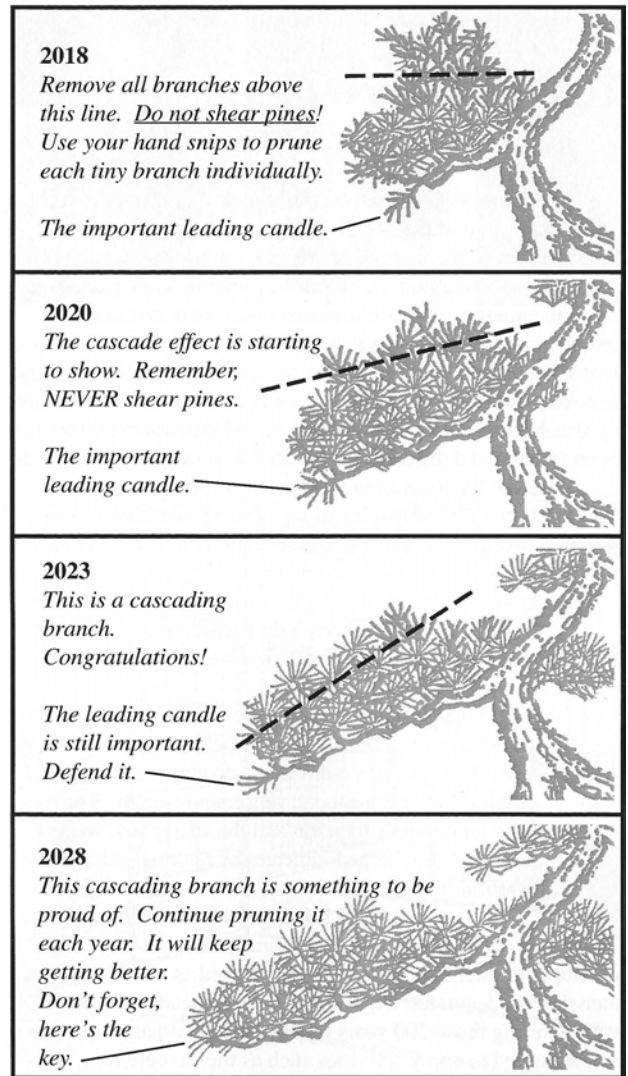
If any of you have taken Mark Vossbrink's bonsai workshop, this next thought will remind you of something he would teach in his class. When you're analyzing how to prune your tree, imagine an old weather-beaten shore pine on the Oregon Coast cascading over the rocky ledge. It's twisted, gnarled, wind swept, and looks like it's been surviving the elements for centuries. The limbs on mature trees are long, heavy and hanging downward, producing an effect we strive to achieve with the pines we prune in our yard.

The illustration shows the progression of how to achieve the weathered pine effect by pruning every year. It specifically

requires that you do NOT prune the leading candle. The leading candle is the growth at the end of the branch that is pointing outward and downward. Some branches will have more than one leading candle. Other pines will be aggressively growing upward and won't have any downward branch growth. This is especially true for younger pines. With such trees, just be patient. Keep pruning them each year and they will eventually cooperate.

As an aesthetic pruner, you always need to use your best judgment. It is not necessarily possible to achieve the perfect form, but you can try to keep moving in that direction.

It might seem like a lot of work. Fortunately, unlike weeding and lawn care, pruning takes patience as evidenced by the ten years it will take to shape this one branch.



Source: Sukiya Living - 2018



## GARDENER'S TIP

- You can still plant spring bulbs since we had a warm fall.
- Compost falling leaves and use them for mulch around cold sensitive plants.
- Prune fruit trees after leaves have fallen both to shape and to improve fruit production.
- Plant trees to increase canopy where that is suitable in your landscape.

— Jim Buck, Garden Volunteer and Organic Gardener

## Planting Pansies



It's that time of year again, students are back and it's pansy planting season.

The air was crisp and the sun was shining, which made for happy students.

Bring your lunch to Ambleside Annex, sit and eat at one of the picnic tables and soak up the array of colors pansies have to offer, and of course the nice job our school gardeners did planting.

## Bragging Rights



As mentioned last issue, each month, Riverview Bank chooses a non-profit to support and sets out donations boxes at each of the teller windows.

The Gresham Japanese Garden was the non-profit for September. We were the recipient of the most donations the Gresham branch has recorded.

Thank you!!

# “The Finishing Touch” Online Auction

Raising funds to update the Garden’s Resource Center

**Dec 4 – Dec 7, 2022**



## What you can bid on between Dec 4th at 8am and Dec 7th at 8pm:

- One week vacation at oceanfront studio in Port Orchard
- Aesthetic pruning of a specimen tree
- Wine tasting for 8 with Sommelier in the Garden
- A pre-packaged landscape
- Homemade desserts for a year
- Handcrafted birdhouse
- Two tickets to the Oregon Symphony in spectacular seats
- Japanese-inspired sycamore maple stool
- Desserts for a year
- Blazer tickets
- And many, many more!



**In-person event: Sunday, Dec 4, 3-5pm**

**Tickets go on sale Nov. 7th @ 8am**

Ticket: \$40

Join us for an in-person event to kick off the auction, held at the Resource Center at the Gresham Japanese Garden. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres, drinks and entertainment. Plus, view and bid on auction items. Purchase tickets through the Garden’s website or use the QR code below.

Enter auction through website

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



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# Meet Your Pruning Program Instructors

**G**JG's Pruning Program is taking shape. We're over-the-moon with joy to introduce our program instructors. They are local, professional pruners and leaders in aesthetic pruning and committed to keeping the craft alive. Look for class curriculum and registration in December's newsletter. Until then, imagine the possibilities.



## MARYANN LEWIS

Maryann Lewis is an APA Certified Aesthetic Pruner® and a co-founder and past president of the Aesthetic Pruners Association. She began teaching in 2005 as an adjunct instructor at the Academy of Art San Francisco and in 2012 began teaching various aesthetic pruning classes with the Marin Master Gardeners Pruning Guild. Maryann was a guest instructor for the Fresno Central High School Agriculture Department in 2015 and was a lead instructor for two North American Japanese Garden Association pruning workshops in 2014 and 2015. In 2022 she was one of three pruning instructors for the International Japanese Garden Training Center's Waza to Kokoro seminar. Maryann has taught workshops and given presentations for the Aesthetic Pruners Association, the American Conifer Society, The Hoffman Center for the Arts in Manzanita Oregon, the JM Winery in Woodinville Washington, and now the Gresham Japanese Garden.



## FRANCHESKA SNYDER

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, 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.



## LINCOLN PROUD

Lincoln has a wide background in horticultural and garden experience that spans many styles and climates. His formal training took place at Longwood Gardens 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. Most recently Lincoln is involved at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden and now the Gresham Japanese Garden.

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## Upcoming Workshops

### IKEBANA FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Tuesday, November 8, 1:00-3:00pm

**NANA BELLERUD, INSTRUCTOR**

Nana Bellerud will use plant material that resonates for the season. She will cover the basic concept, techniques, tools and equipment, and plant care. Participants will make 1 basic style and 1 freestyle with emphasis on the seasonal theme. The cost includes all material. Cost: \$55

<https://www.greshamjapanesegarden.org/happenings/ikebana-for-every-season/>

### THE ART OF BONSAI

Third Thursday and Saturday, 1-3:00pm

**MARK VOSSBRINK, INSTRUCTOR**

Learn bonsai techniques and concepts from instructor Mark Vossbrink. A different project is introduced each month. Bring pruners or snippers and pliers to class. The cost includes all material. Cost: \$35

<https://www.greshamjapanesegarden.org/product/art-of-bonsai/>