

Tsuru 鶴 Soars

Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden Newsletter



Finishing the Remodel

The Gresham Japanese Garden is finishing what we started last summer—the exterior of the Kyoudou Center.

Through a City of Gresham Neighborhood Association matching grant, the Gresham Butte Neighborhood Association was awarded \$1750 for the siding to finish the east and south sides of the building.

Each year Gresham City Council makes available grant funds to recognize active neighborhood associations on a 50/50 matching basis. They firmly believe that community participation in the neighborhood associations is mutually

beneficial to all Gresham residents. We believe we are a prime example of this philosophy.

If you look closely at the photo, you'll see a header board with brackets. After the siding is installed and painted, all by GJG volunteers and GBNA volunteers, GJG will build a 4' overhang on the east wall.

This will complete the remodel of the Kyoudou Center, but we're not done with the back area yet.

Stay tuned in the coming months for more exciting news!

*September foliage
thick shades of color
end of summer*

— Bill Peterson



Hardiplank siding going up, a heavy lifting and cumbersome job.

Weeding and the Control of Weeds is an Art

The GJG volunteers have been finger deep in pulling weeds these last few months. From one Garden Saturday to the next, you would think the spaces were never weeded!

Weeding truly is an art. First, you need to examine the root structure of the weed your pulling. Does it send out runner stems that creep and produce new "plants," like clover? Or, does it have a taproot like a dandelion.

Knowing the type of weed you're dealing with will make you a better artist.



Prostrate Knotweed

Clover, crab grass, prostrate knotweed, are all considered stolons. They creep and produce new roots along their stems. This type of weed needs a slow hand and methodical approach by gently pulling each mini cluster of

root systems until you reach the mother plant. It's best to first wet the area well to moisten the soil. Loosen all around the outside of the area with a spade and then gently pull the roots out with your hands. If you cut or yank out the plant, you will send out a million more spores and create an unpleasant piece of art.

To get rid of dandelions, thistle, etc. that have a taproot, or a hardy stem, use a tool with sharp points and a leverage axis. Go deep and concentrate on getting that main stem.



At the Gresham Japanese Garden, we do 99% of our weeding by hand, and 1% with an organic acetic herbicide.

The University of Maryland Extension has an in-depth article, [Vinegar: An Alternative to Glyphosate](#). Glyphosate is the chemical name used in the best-selling herbicides. In 1974 Monsanto patented glyphosate under the trade name 'Round Up.'

The EPA does not consider glyphosate

to be a human carcinogen, but it's not proven that the 46% of inert ingredients are safe. The issue with glyphosate for the Gresham Japanese Garden, and should be for everyone else, is that glyphosate is harmful to pollinators. It impairs the bee's ability to distinguish colors, weakens their immune system, and negatively impacts their reproduction system, to name a few.

Herbicidal vinegars, like Vinagreen, are 10-25% stronger than your household vinegar. GJG has found it's best used in between concrete cracks.

PROS OF ACETIC ACID

- Excellent for very small annual broad-leaf weeds.
- Rapid kill rate (over 90% within 24 hrs).
- Acetic acid products break down quickly in the environment.
- Most useful for managing weeds in gravel and on patios/sidewalks.
- Will quickly burn down the plant, especially in bright sunlight.

Luckily, the product will kill most broad-leaved plants, but it won't harm pollinators that are key players in the health of our ecosystem.

俳句

HAIKU CORNER

autumn leaves
one by one, another
silence
- Don Baird

.我植し松も老けり秋の暮
waga ueshi matsu mo oi keru aki no kure

even the pine tree
I planted grows old!
autumn dusk
- Issa 1803

Voices of Gresham



The Gresham Historical Society has done a nice job of documenting and telling the story of the forced internment of our Japanese-American neighbors. You can find on YouTube the first documentary from 2022, *Minidoka: 80 Years of Unspoken Memories*. And, most recently a Podcast series, *Voices of Gresham: Road to Minidoka*.

Bike Repair at MCP



The pop-up bike repair guys are back!! On Saturday September 7 and September 16, [BIKES for HUMANITY PDX](#) will be set up in Main City Park near the Coho Pavilion providing free maintenance and repairs, and an opportunity for people to donate underutilized bikes for re-homing.

Kiku Matsuri, Chrysanthemum Festival

by Mary Dickson

Fall brings a change in landscape beauty, from the soft colors of summer to the vibrant colors of fall. The many colors of chrysanthemums have inspired many festivals; this one called *kiku matsuri*, held on September 9. The Kasama Inari Shrine's festival dates back to 1890, the oldest festival honoring this flower. During this fall festival, which is one of Japan's five seasonal festivals, as many as 10,000 pots adorn the shrine's grounds, found in Ibaraki prefecture, northeast of Tokyo.



Kikuyuukai in Ebetsu, Japan

There are chrysanthemum festivals all over Japan, including in Gresham's sister city, Ebetsu. There is a group called *Kikuyuukai* in Ebetsu, a gathering of enthusiasts for cultivating chrysanthemums, established in 1951. The *kikuyuukai* is written in kanji like this 菊友会, 菊 means a chrysanthemum, 友 a friend and 会 a gathering. They exhibit their beautiful chrysanthemums in Ebetsu citizens' cultural festival every November. Also some members enter their chrysanthemums in Sapporo *Kiku Matsuri*.



Life-sized flower exhibition in Kasumigajo City.

A variation on the flower exhibition in Japan is Nihonmatsu Kiku Ningyo, a festival at the Kasumigajo Castle ground in Nihonmatsu City, where

life-sized figures are adorned with chrysanthemums.

Brought from China in the eighth century, chrysanthemums have a long and important history in Japan. The flower is one of the two national flowers of Japan, the other being the cherry blossom.

Chrysanthemums have become a symbol of longevity, and during the Kamakura period (1185-1333), became the official crest of the Japanese royal family when emperor Go-Toba chose it as his personal emblem.



Chrysanthemum throne symbolizing the Japanese head of state

The "Chrysanthemum Throne" refers symbolically to the Japanese head of state and the institutions of the Japanese monarchy as well as the actual throne upon which the Emperor sits.

The Gresham Japanese Garden's festival will feature a display of chrysanthemums in the azumaya in early September. Local ikebana instructor, Nana Bellerud, and bonsai instructor, Mark Vossbrink, will collaborate and create arrangements using the flower.



GJG's 2023 chrysanthemum display

Chrysanthemums are an extremely showy and versatile flower. They are featured in large exhibitions, as a single plant in a garden, or a central figure in art or literature.

Cultural Workshops



IKEBANA Second Tuesday of the month

<https://www.greshamjapanese-garden.org/ikebana-for-every-season/>



BONSAI Third Thursday and third Saturday of the month

<https://www.greshamjapanese-garden.org/bonsai-workshops/>



Community Spirit

GJG will have a float in this year's Teddy Bear parade, Saturday, September 28. Wave to us!

Upcoming Pruning Program Classes



All Day Hands-on Summer Pruning Workshop: Saturday, September 7, 2024, 10am-4pm – \$100

All Day Hands-on Winter Pruning Workshop: Saturday, January 11, 2025, 10am-4pm – \$100

FRANCHESKA SNYDER, INSTRUCTOR: For the intermediate pruners, a hands-on opportunity to prune a variety of plants at a Japanese garden in Boring, OR, learning alongside Francheska Snyder, a professional aesthetic pruner trained in Japan who owns her own business, Niwa Method. This will be the Gresham Japanese Garden's 5th opportunity to prune at Vanport International. There are still many plants that need restored to their size and brought back to the vision of the original garden designer, Hoichi Kurisu.



Structural Pruning Pines for Character: Saturday, October 5, 2024, 1-3pm - \$45

LAURA DUFALA, INSTRUCTOR: Watch Laura unlock the hidden character of pine trees. It's captivating to analyze her approach to cloud pruning in the niwaki style, and through her artistic eye make decisions regarding which branches to keep and which ones to remove. She has a tendency to turn the class into a hands-on practicum so bring gloves and your sanitized pruners. The class will take place at the Gresham Japanese Garden.



Assessing and Pruning an Overgrown Landscape: Saturday, November 23, 2024, 1-3pm - \$45

FRANCHESKA SNYDER, INSTRUCTOR: Knowing where to begin controlling an overgrown garden can be overwhelming. This workshop will take place at a residence (in the Gresham area, TBD) that speaks to the issues around this workshop. Instructor Francheska Snyder will walk you through how to prioritize the tasks, how to prune based on the space, plant material and hardscapes around. You will have the opportunity to observe while Francheska prunes a shrub and a specimen tree in this overgrown landscape. *As soon as the location is secured, registrants will receive an email.*



Propagating Conifers from Cuttings: Saturday, November 2, 2024, 1-3pm - \$55

NORM JACOBS, INSTRUCTOR: Learn how to successfully propagate Chamaecyparis, Cryptomeria, Tsuga, Thujaopsis and other suitable conifers by rooting cuttings. Instructor Norm Jacobs will decode plant physiology, explain the selection of containers, soil mixes, and the role of rooting compounds. Norm will demonstrate, and attendees will prepare cuttings from branches and sticks. Last, Norm will share experience about aftercare and future transplanting of your cuttings. Class includes all the propagation materials: pots, soil, rooting compound, and plant tags. You can take cuttings home with you.



Pruning Fruit Trees: Saturday, January 25, 2025, 1-3pm - \$45

JONATHAN FAITH, INSTRUCTOR: Late winter is a good time to prune fruit trees because the tree is dormant, and it is easy to see the structure to decide which cuts to make. You can be assured that spring is not far off and your tree will soon be able to heal any wounds from pruning. Instructor Jonathan Faith will demonstrate how to prune apple trees, cherry trees, and hopefully if Al's Garden & Home has them in stock, plum trees and Asian pear trees. In addition to demonstrating how to prune each variety of fruit tree, Jonathan will discuss cross pollination, fertilizers, and fungicide and insecticide sprays. *Don't miss out on a coupon for Al's Garden & Home when you attend the class!*

A complete list of pruning workshops, along with bios on these amazing instructors, is on the GJG website.

REGISTER AT: <https://www.greshamjapanesegarden.org/pruning-program/>