

Tsuru 鶴 Soars

Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden Newsletter



Exciting New Addition

It's hard to imagine that the Gresham Japanese Garden has any projects left after completing an extensive remodel on the Kyoudou Center.

We can't say our eyes were on a new project either. But when a donor comes to us with a request, we listen.

After much deliberation internally on a project that would fit the request of Hal 'Skip' White's family, we chose the construction of exhibition space.

When we were designing the entrance garden to the Kyoudou Center, the concept of displaying bonsai was kicked around a lot. But, it just wouldn't work, for the simple fact that bonsai need to

be displayed in a secure location.

We chose to construct an exhibition area behind the Kyoudou Center that is surrounded by fencing and gates. The actual exhibition area will encompass a 4 ft. x 50 ft. space under the overhang of the Kyoudou Center, protected from wind and rain. The challenge was addressing the other 900 sq. ft. of gravel that GJG considered its working space between the back side of the Kyoudou Center, shade house and greenhouse.

(continued inside)

*autumn rain
small pond reflections
stone lantern secrets*

— Bill Peterson



Ty Card donating his time leveling the new addition.

Japanese Gardens Around the World

by Mary Dickson

Since living in Japan more than 50 years ago, where I developed my interest in Japanese Gardens, I have sought them out in whatever state or country I find myself. I've visited Japanese gardens in Japan, the US, Canada, England, Brazil, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, and, last month, France and Spain.

Our first stop in Toulouse, France, was the Pierre-Baudis Japanese Garden, in the middle of a city park. It had an open feel, with a large pond in the middle, a teahouse, a karesansui dry landscape garden, and a walking path encircling the entire garden. The garden was built in 1981 by the city's mayor who had seen Japanese gardens in Kyoto and Ireland and wanted one in his city.

It was a lovely space, nicely maintained, and peaceful



The pond and teahouse.

Pamplona, Spain, is more known for the Running of the Bulls than a Japanese garden! In the 16th century, St. Javier Francisco went to Yamaguchi, Japan, which became Pamplona's Sister City in 1988! The garden was designed to represent the four seasons, with over a thousand different species of vegetation, and to honor the Sister City relationship.

Like the garden in Toulouse, the Pamplona garden is in a city park, surrounded by apartment buildings. The park also features a Galaxy Garden and a planetarium. It was well maintained and peaceful.

It's always interesting to visit other Japanese Gardens to see how they reflect understanding of Japanese culture.



There is a nice small waterfall.



The pond had lots of ducks.



The karesansui dry landscape garden.

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俳句

HAIKU CORNER

Cool wind whispers soft
Autumn rain begins to fall
Golden leaves descend
- Amy Lowell

ひよろ長き草四五本に秋の雨
hyoronagaki kusa shi go hon ni aki no ame

on four or five
slender blades of grass
autumn rain
- Issa 1803

Chrysanthemum Display



The chrysanthemum, a symbol of longevity and immortality, the national flower, and the Imperial Emblem of Japan.

Again, Barry Baertlein with [Oregon Chrysanthemums and Hostas](#) has adorned Tsuru Island's azumaya with unique varieties of chrysanthemums in honor of *Chōyō*, the chrysanthemum festival. Visit Tsuru Island to view.

Wreath Making Workshops



This holiday season you will have three options with GJG to create your own wreath while enjoying wine and snacks. Cost: \$50.

Dec. 2nd: Fundraiser for GJG and at GJG.

Dec. 5th: Co-sponsored with Burns Feed Store and at Burns Feed Store. All proceeds go to SnowCap.

Dec 8th: Fundraiser for GJG and at GJG.



Exciting New Addition cont'd from front page



The rendering of the backside of the Kyoudou Center.

The drawing above is the result of months of research and design. The white squares indicate the borders for the concrete squares. The smaller squares are a combination of cobbles, black dolomite and decomposed granite. These inserts will be installed after the concrete is poured.

The exhibition area will reside under the Kyoudou Center's overhang.

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the Kyoudou Center's overhang. The base will be compacted decomposed granite, and removable posts staggered at different heights along the back will hold the display pieces. The bench in the center is another option for displays, flanked by bamboo in containers.

The brown, kidney shaped area in the upper left will be our cutting garden. We'll have lots of annuals, dahlias, chrysanthemums, daffodils, etc. to support our ikebana teacher's

workshops and the flower arrangements we switch out weekly in the Kyoudou Center.

This newly developed, coordinated area will make the back side of the Gresham Japanese Garden so much more aesthetically pleasing from inside and outside the Kyoudou Center, and utilitarian by providing new cultural events options for the community.

Thank you to the White family for helping to make this possible.

Learning Pruning Techniques

by Sue Protz

The North America Japanese Garden Association (NAJGA) and the Aesthetic Pruners Association (APA) teamed up to present two days of demonstrations and hands-on pruning with Hiroaki Eto, a second generation Japanese garden builder from Kyushu, Japan. Avram Dalton, Eto-San's assistant for the past decade on his US garden building projects, and Bill Castellon, an accomplished pruner and garden builder in Oakland, CA, also taught.

The workshop had a profound impact on how I will lead future pruning tasks. Eto San

taught us how to leaf prune, needle prune, brace a pine branch using bamboo, and correct ways to tie knots. He taught us that the garden is the stage and that the plants evoke the play of morning, noon, and night—all differently.

Continuously throughout the workshop Dalton would translate so eloquently Eto San's Japanese into these profound dialogues around: Respecting the process; Finding the *shin*; The tree shapes the tree; Follow the techniques handed down to you, and do them over and over again until you are really, really fast and proficient.



Eto San shaping a *Pinus thunbergii* with bamboo and twine.

Upcoming Pruning Classes

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



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

Learn how to successfully propagate *Chamaecyparis*, *Cryptomeria*, *Tsuga*, *Thuja* and other 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 you will prepare the 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.



[Watch this video](#) taken at Norm's urban garden and Arbutus Garden Arts nursery in SE Portland. His specialties are vast, and cultivars extensive.



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

FRANCHESKA SNYDER, INSTRUCTOR: Knowing where to begin managing an overgrown garden can be overwhelming. This workshop will take place at a residential home in the Gresham area that speaks to the issues around this workshop. Instructor Francheska Snyder will walk you through how to prioritize tasks, how to prune the plants based on their space, the specimen, and hardscapes nearby. Francheska will prune at least one shrub and at least one specimen tree in the landscape.



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

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 to be restored to their size and brought back to the vision of the original garden designer, Hoichi Kurisu.



The History of Japanese Maple Cultivars: On Zoom, Thursday, January 23, 2025, 6:30-8pm – \$30

NORM JACOBS, INSTRUCTOR: Instructor Norm Jacob says that we are in a period of change in the world of Japanese maples and a "changing of the guard" in the world of Japanese maples with the future uncertain. That said, many select introductions of the last 30 years (the period of my most intense activity) are still rare or just making their way into propagation in numbers adequate to lower prices and improve availability. This class will focus on JMs introduced during 1980-2018. *Zoom course is recorded and available for two weeks.*



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

JONATHAN FAITH, INSTRUCTOR: Late winter is a good time to prune fruit trees because they are dormant and it is easy to see the tree's structure to decide which cuts to make. You can confidently know that your tree will heal pruning cuts during the upcoming spring. Faith will demonstrate how to prune apple trees, cherry trees, and hopefully if Al's Garden & Home has in stock, plum trees and Asian pear trees. In addition, Faith will discuss cross pollination, fertilizers, and fungicide and insecticide sprays. *Don't miss out to on the discount coupon to Al's Garden & Home when you attend the class!*



Fundamentals of Conifers, On Zoom: Thursday, February 6, 2025, 6-8pm – \$30

MARYANN LEWIS, INSTRUCTOR: In this online course, instructor Maryann Lewis will cover a variety of conifer basics, including identifying their cultivar, growth pattern, and pruning approach. Learn fundamental pruning techniques for your favorite conifers including pines, spruce, hinoki and others, and how to interpret each cultivar. This class will help you feel comfortable making pruning decisions so you can enjoy conifers even more. *Zoom courses are recorded and available for two weeks.*