

Tsuru 鶴 Soars

Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden Newsletter



Stretching the Curriculum

Volunteers are not the only helpers building the Exhibition Plaza. The adult learners in our Exploratory Worksite Program were tasked with two projects that stretched their learning from plants to hardscapes.

One group was instructed to make a path out of flat stones in the cutting garden. They learned to place the stones with the flat edge towards the outside, spacing the



Students working together to build a walkway.

stones evenly, and best of all, working together.

The other group was tasked with grouting the spacers of the concrete with decomposed granite (DG). They

*a stone lantern
near the garden path
shadows passing by*
— Bill Peterson



learned how to broom the DG into the cracks, compress into place, and then finish grouting with hand tools to get the DG exactly the right compression and height in the grooves.

Hosting Ebetsu Students

by Mary Marrs

Last month the Gresham Japanese Garden hosted six middle school students and two chaperones from Ebetsu, Japan. Maryann Buck and I gave them a tour of Tsuru Island, our other spaces, and finished in the Kyoudou Center where they were all given a goodie bag of items from Gresham and Oregon.

While it was a cool afternoon and their last day before flying home, they were enthusiastic and engaged. We showed them the kadomatsu tied on the bridge. We talked about all the work and contributions of our volunteers. We showed them the Peace Garden and the story of Hideko Tamura-Snider who started "One Sunny Day" initiative and lives in Oregon. We shared how we inspire for our spaces to be welcoming to everyone and be a place of peacefulness and comfort.

The most endearing moment for me was when their chaperone Mr. Fukada, an English teacher at Ebetsu Daini Junior High School and chosen by the Ebetsu City Board of Education to be the group leader for the junior high school student delegation, thanked us. Krystal Sato translated. He kept bringing his hand to his heart, telling how much he was

touched by us bringing the Japanese spirit. I later asked Krystal if Mr. Fukada could write up what he had shared with us because I felt we lost much of what he said while on the tour.

Mr. Fukada said, "Thank you for showing our middle school delegation around Tsuru Island in such cold weather.

"The essential elements of a Japanese garden, such as the azumaya, Japanese pine, holly bush, toro (stone lanterns), paving stones, and shishi odoshi (deer scarer), were all faithfully recreated, so it was a very peaceful and comfortable space.

"When we listened to our guide explaining the different aspects of the garden, we were able to reaffirm things that we as Japanese people had forgotten or don't know about.

In particular, I felt the Japanese spirit of 和 (wa, harmony and peace) and 共同 (kyoudou, cooperation and collaboration). These are values that we as Japanese people can continue to be proud of, no matter how much the world changes.



Above: Mr. Fukada-san, Mary Marrs, students, Krystal Sato, chaperone. Below: Goodie bag contents of Gresham memorabilia.

"We would like to do what we can in the future to continue building on the friendly relationship between Ebetsu and Gresham, and Japan and America. Thank you again for this wonderful opportunity." - Mr. Fukada-san

...I felt the Japanese spirit (in the Garden) of 和 (wa, harmony and peace) and 共同 (kyoudou, cooperation and collaboration)...



January Bonsai Project
Quince
Flowering quince trees can be propagated by rooting cuttings.

Newsletter Sparks Response



Thanks to GJG's [August 2024 newsletter](#), on OBON SOCIETY's efforts to repatriate Japanese Good Luck flags with their families, the OBON SOCIETY received a generous donation from a reader of our newsletter who realized that her father had brought home a flag from WWII.

The OBON SOCIETY now has the chance to return the flag to its rightful home.

Tourism Oregon Grant



The Gresham Japanese Garden has applied for a Tourism Oregon grant to enhance Tsuru Island.

The grant includes creating accessible paths and a covered accessible seating area, building an authentic Japanese entrance gate, and improving plants, water features, and fencing on the island.

Wish us luck!

In celebration of Hinamatsuri **FREE EVENT**

Hinamatsuri, also known as Doll Festival or Girl's Day is a Shinto and Japanese cultural holiday celebrated on March 3. It's a Japanese tradition to gift a daughter a hina doll collection.

A hina doll collection called a hinakazari, consist of 1- to 7-tiers, from folded paper to intricate carved dolls.

The Gresham Japanese Garden is celebrating Hinamatsuri in the Kyoudou Center on Sunday, March 2nd. Be awed by all the different hinakazaris displayed. Talk to the owners and learn the history of their dolls.

CALLING ALL HINA DOLL OWNERS

If you are interested in displaying your hinakarsari in the exhibition, contact

Sue Protz

503-502-7340

Sue@GreshamJapaneseGarden.com

**Gresham Japanese
Garden**

Hina Dolls Exhibition

March 2, 2025

10am - 4pm



**Gresham
Japanese Garden**
TSURU ISLAND

2025 Pruning Program Classes

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



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

MARYANN LEWIS, INSTRUCTOR: In this webinar on Zoom, instructor Maryann Lewis will cover a variety of conifer basics, from identifying their cultivar and growth patterns to pruning approach. Learn fundamental pruning techniques for your favorite conifers including pines, spruce, hinoki and others, and how to analyze 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.*

AND

Pruning Conifers in the Garden: Onsite, Sunday, February 9, 2025, 10:00am–Noon - \$45

MARYANN LEWIS, INSTRUCTOR

This class will build upon the knowledge gained in 'Pruning Fundamentals for Conifers' on the 6th of February. It will be beneficial to take the Zoom webinar. We will look at various small conifers in and around Tsuru Island and apply useful techniques and strategies that can be used in any garden style.



Introduction to the Aesthetic Pruning Approach: On Zoom, Thursday, March 6, 2025, 6-8pm - \$30

MARYANN LEWIS, INSTRUCTOR: Aesthetics are integral to the stewardship of trees in our gardens. In this online course learn to apply the aesthetic pruning approach to trees and shrubs, including how to assess your plant materials, identify the role they play in your garden, and develop a pruning plan to achieve your goals. Aesthetic pruning works in any garden style. *Zoom courses are recorded and available for two weeks.*



Spring Candling of Pines: Onsite, Saturday, May 3, 2025 - \$45

LAURA DUFALA, INSTRUCTOR: Learn all about the whys and hows of pruning and candling pines. Laura will candle, needle, and prune a few pines at the Gresham Japanese Garden. This workshop is in person. Bring your gloves. Laura may turn the class into a collaborative session.



Free Community Seminars

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

INTRODUCTION TO RESIDENTIAL BEEKEEPING: Wednesday, March 5, 6:30-8pm

Learn about residential honey beekeeping. What are the differences between beekeeping in a rural vs urban setting. What equipment and tools do you need. The different types of bees, workers, drones and queen and what their responsibilities are in the hive. Co-instructor Jim Buck will discuss flow hives.

GROWING AND CARING FOR BLUEBERRIES: Tuesday, March 25, 6-7:30pm

This seminar will review the main parts of a blueberry plant, what soil conditions the plants favor, how and when to fertilize blueberries, and harvest times. Lyla Hunt co-manager of Al's Garden & Home Gresham will talk about the different variety of blueberry plants, and their responses to common diseases that may occur.

CREATING POLLINATOR HABITAT FOR YOUR GARDEN AND HOME: Saturday, May 17, 10-11:30am

Become proficient in creating the perfect pollinator habitat at your own home and garden. Learn how to preserve and protect certain types of native butterflies such as the Western Monarch, and the best ways to provide valuable nectar to all pollinators including bees, moths and hummingbirds. Find out how and where to plant pollinator friendly plants and how to avoid the use of pesticides. Instructors GJG volunteer Deb Peters in collaboration with Judy Alleruzzo of Al's Garden & Home, Gresham.

PRUNING FLOWERING SHRUBS: Saturday, May 31, 1-2:30pm

Learn the 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 to prune and how to prune.

Co-hosted by

