



Tsuru Island

A New Face For The Newsletter

Tsuru Island belongs to the North American Japanese Garden Association (NAJGA). With some research, I learned that the format for the NAJGA newsletter is an electronic template provided by "Vertical Responds". The e-newsletters are sent as emails to the mailing list. There is no charge to non-profits such as ours. Visit the NAJGA website on greshamsistercity.org.

One reason we have chosen to utilize this tool is because of the time it takes to produce the existing newsletter. The current newsletter has to be re-formatted for every reader on the mailing lists to view. Keep a look out for the newest version in January.

An upcoming opportunity

The volunteers at Tsuru Island are invited to join a delegation from Gresham-Ebetsu Sister City Association (GESCA) to Ebetsu, Japan to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the sister city relationship. Departing on Oct 2nd and return on Oct 16th, 2017. The size will be limited to 20 persons. While in Ebetsu, a short home stay for those interested will be provided. Otherwise, hotel reservations will be made.

After six days in Ebetsu and nearby Sapporo, a group will spend another week exploring the Osaka/Kyoto area. Tad Tsuneyoshi is planning to lead a smaller group to Tokyo. Tad will need to know how many are planning this side trip ASAP.

The expenses will be approximately \$100 per day, including lodging, food, transportation, and miscellaneous. Airfare will run approx. \$1000 to \$1500. Totaling = \$2500 to \$3000 per person. A \$100 non-refundable deposit will be required by December 31st.

Any questions contact Ron Ture at 503-492-1339 (home) or ron.ture@gmail.com

SOME NEW PLANTINGS

Julie Larson, John Harold and others have been meeting to make changes that will detour some of the damage being done at the garden by accessibility of the garden from areas other than the bridge.

Creating barriers at certain points around the perimeter of the garden will prevent access up and down the slopes of the island. Most of the island is not accessible from the base because of the water or the terrain. An example of this would be the azalea planting that flank each side of the bridge as you step onto the island. And also the junipers that are planted along the west slope.

The decision was made to plant red twig dogwood along the upper edge of the island, which will provide a physical and visual barrier from the top and the bottom as one would approach from the east and west. The purchase was made from Beaverlake Nursery with funds provided through donations earlier this year. The plants have a brilliant red bark which will start to spread and thicken within a reasonable period of time. In the spring the red is still visible but will be masked by the mint green leaves. This planting will be completed the end of March 2017.

Some folks have lived in the area and had access to the island for years. Before the "Rebirth" of the garden took place, people may have taken advantage of many entry points. Some people may be offended by the changes and may clearly see it as an imposition. Be assured that as the material continues to grow and the bamboo fencing expands the attempts to enter at various areas will lessen.



Behind the Scenes

When the "Behind the Scenes" articles began the focus was on those individuals that are mostly never seen, but contribute to the garden and the programs of the garden. This month I realized that from the beginning this newsletter has been a partnership effort between my wife Katey and me. Every month she edits the information that I put out, sometimes telling me that it is too long and asking, what is the point I am trying to make. The newsletter started with 3 pages and it did not take long expand to 4 pages.

Katey has supported my efforts toward the garden since the beginning. Sometimes knowing that I might be staying longer than expected. As my friend and wife she keeps me in check by not allowing me to get overly immersed and troubled in projects and problems. She was also the secretary of the Gresham Ebetsu Sister City Association for over a year.

Having a career in nursing, she has spent most of her years in labor and delivery, working at many hospitals across the country and ending up in the Gresham area where we met. She has completed 23 years working at Legacy Emanuel and Mount Hood Medical Center.

Along with those 12 hour shifts at the Family Birth Center, she played a major part in our family landscape business and was a crucial part of our success story. After we were married in 1992, Katey became involved in the business overseeing finances, policy and administration. She actually wrote one of the first policy manuals totally dedicated to the landscape industry. After my retirement from the company, Katey became the sole owner of the company and continued to run it until the company was sold in 2012.

After the company business ended and reducing her hours at the Family Birth Center, Katey enjoys her time sewing and knitting. She has fun putting on classes to help her friends in those areas. If you have ever seen segments on TV after a tornado hits the mid-west; that is how our kitchen looks just before the holidays after Katey jumps into one of her favorite things, BAKING.

Volunteering is dear to her heart; most of her weekly hours are spent at Sheppard's Door, a division of Portland Rescue Mission. She has also traveled to several foreign countries with Medical Teams International to help with teaching Labor and Delivery and will soon be heading for Zambia, Africa.

I want to make it perfectly clear; this newsletter would not happen if Katey was not involved. I always let her know how I appreciate her efforts just after the final copy goes to Wendy for distribution. THANK YOU KATEY!



James and Katey Card



Strategic Partners

The City of Gresham
The Gresham Rotary
Historic Downtown Gresham
Resolutions - Inc.
Gresham High School
Johnson Creek Watershed Council
East Metro Soil and Water
Oregon Koto Kai
Edward Jones - Dino Rocha



HAPPY NEW YEAR

MOVING FORWARD WITH THE ENDOWMENT

The Tsuru Island Endowment has been in the planning stages for the last 2-3 months. 1) Use Agreement" with the City of Gresham allowing use of the Island and the Resource Center 2) the account setup with Edward Jones for the Endowment and 3) the guidelines to control funds with expectations of growth and distribution. All of these phases have been accomplished.

Tsuru Island Endowment is now set up to receive donations, including electronic transfers from donors' accounts as well as deferred 401K accounts. The 401K accounts can have direct transfer from the 401K to the "Endowment" tax free.

The Endowment has already had its first \$500 deposit to the program, which came from a person who read the last article in the Gresham Outlook about vandalism at the garden.

PLANT SEARCH

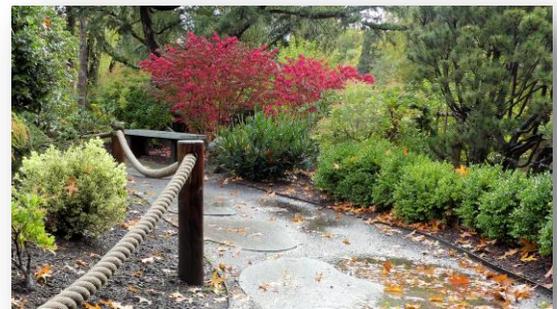
Each month some plants in and around the garden will be showcased. Clues will be provided in the description to be able to visit the website and identify the plant and then venture to the garden to find that particular plant.

Any questions or comments please send to Gresham.Japanese.Garden@gmail.com.

#13 — You might have seen these specific plants before but not at the Japanese Garden. Back in 2014 they were found at the skate park on the corner of Powell and Roberts. It is a euonymus.

#14 - Always near or in the water, this plant enjoys a natural environment. These plants came from two sources; the City of Gresham removed these from a construction site. Cardscapes donated the other group. They have an insignificant bloom in the spring and summer and are cut back each fall.

#15 — You saw this plant for the first time in the fall of 2016. It replaced a plant that had died. It will look about the same as when planted from a distance. If you look close you will see that it is now in training and has been pruned extensively to establish a new pattern to its growth.



Vandalism and Recycling

Due to the occasional vandalism, John Harold has been spent many hours of repairs on the Azumaya and some bamboo structures. A decision was made to line the bamboo with steel rods. The stolen azumaya bench is not as easy to replace. Most of the lateral material from the bridge railing system is available to use as recycled material. The original bench for the azumaya was made of 2 inch cedar that was part of the lumber package for the azumaya. The picture will show the assembly of materials for the new bench seat which is made of 2 ½-inches Douglas fir from the bridge lumber. To get the width two sections were found that had a similar grain pattern. The sections were planed at the edges to be joined and ½ inch dowels were added every 12 inches along the glue line. Then epoxy was used as a bonding agent.

Once the bench wood is cured, it can be routed with 1/8th inch round bit to finish the sharp edges that are exposed to visitors. Final assembly will include placing the legs into the ground with 10-inch coated screws and finally a coat of the Rosewood oil to top off its beauty.

KAZ KIDS Work Schedule

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January 20th, April 21st May 19th



Look At That Tree



Have you ever stopped to look at a larger mature tree and wondered how it got its shape? I recently was asked to prune a hardwood tree that was well over 20 years old. It had some issues starting with the forked trunk. The trunk and branching showed no scars, cuts or breaks in that area which means that it has remained unchanged since the tree was first cut as a whip. The trunk never grows higher, it just gets bigger.

A mistake can be made when purchasing a tree. Do not assume that all trees have been properly pruned before being delivered to the retail nursery. And certainly do not assume that the tree was cared for at the retail nursery or a big box store.

One of the better examples of a problem tree that I remember is a "Persian silk tree" or sometimes known as a "mimosa". This tree has many assets; including the feathery blooms in the summer and the graceful leaf structures that will provide shade. One negative aspect has to do with the weakness of the wood. Branches that fork off of the main trunk can be overburdened with weight. Many owners come into the yard and find 25% or more of the tree laying on the ground. The large tear-out might extend down the trunk and clear to the ground. Depending on the structure of the rest of the tree it might be trained to continue growth on the damaged/open side of the tree or it may have to be removed. (Refer to previous articles about Dr. Shigo.)

Many times a tree with small splits or stress points where the branches come off of the trunk of the tree can be seen. Assisting the support to the tree with a post brace between the branch(s) and the ground or a bracing system can be installed in the tree itself. A temporary use of wire and protective hose that can be loosened and repositioned periodically or a cable system connected with a single rod going through two branches to add support.

I have had the opportunity to do all of the above depending on the circumstances. In one case, a "silk tree" that was over ten years old was branching away from the trunk as a "Y". I chose to use a stainless steel threaded rod that was 1/2-

inch, along with two washers and two stainless steel 1/2-inch nuts. I left a couple of inches of rod beyond the nuts for future access if needed. I placed the nuts up to the washers to have the strength of the two branches working as one. The tree will continue to grow and in time it will encase the hardware which will hardly be noticeable.

Before choosing trees for its appearance considers these questions. This is not just a maple tree, what is its specific maple cultivar? How tall will this one get? How much sun does it need? What size are the leaves? What is the color of the leaf during the growing season? What color will they be in the fall? What habits does the root system have? What about water... too much or not enough? Does the tree need to be sheltered from the wind or does it need to grow in groves? All of these things and more can be taken into consideration regardless of a conifer or a deciduous tree.



Photos by Katey Card