



Tsuru Island

James Card: Editor

Fall at the Garden

When preparing the Garden design many plants were considered for the colors and textures provided, not just because of what they looked like at a certain time of year but for the changes they are making in that process.

When visiting the Garden, take note of the plant leaves. Some look leathery while others look very shiny as though wet. Other plants provide a special color to the leaves during the spring growth and yet some may not have leaves during the winter but produce a show of berries and bark.

The garden does not have many blooming perennials at this time. That is by design. Typically, Japanese style gardens do not have shows of color other than the blooming shrubs like azaleas. You might also realize that there are no blooming trees in the Garden such as the cherry trees, these are usually found outside a Japanese style garden. The reason for this is to NOT distract the visitor from intended images. The amount of clean up needed for perennials and blooming trees becomes an issue also. The only blooming perennial in Gresham's garden are hostas.

The leaf color on deciduous trees takes place each fall season. Their placement in the garden is done by design also. Starting in late September the show of color proceeds until the last of December. The biggest hit of color comes in November with the reds, yellows and oranges from the maple trees. The west end of Tsuru

Island is planted with specimens of palmatum maples that will reveal an explosion each season. Remember that we planted a new specimen maple called Yukon last spring that we are anxious to see that extra element of color. The design has achieved a deliberate balance of colors on that west end. The colors begin at the bottom of the slope and continue to the crest of the garden and then continue to the north side, moving to the back of the mature maple grove. Each of those mature maples on the north side provide a different color with the largest and last one in line remaining green until it is fully defoliated.

If you remember from past articles the reds in the garden during the winter can be spectacular. Several shrubs will produce and keep red leaves until spring; others will have red bark only in the winter and of course there are the red berries of the nandina and the holly bush.

Come and enjoy the fall in the Garden and take notice of the details appearing by the variety of plants that have been chosen to represent Tsuru Island.



Main City Saturday

Periodically updates will appear in this newsletter to provide general awareness and gain more volunteers. One of the programs that has taken off is *Main City Saturdays*. The program started in January of 2017. There has been a group every month except July and August.

The MCS volunteers come from groups seeking volunteer experiences. Many groups have come from Joe Walsh and his staff at the City.

Many groups have related a difficulty getting other locations to call back about volunteering for their function or area. The Tsuru Island garden makes an effort to respond the same day if possible.

These MCS folks sometimes cannot work on a Saturday volunteer day, especially during school hours. The KAZ KIDS come on a Friday each month to work in the park. Saturday is a good day because Jim Card is at the park specifically for the Garden day. Other days can be accommodated. More than one group per month is acceptable. One Saturday we had three groups totaling 50 people on the same day. Jim broke the volunteers into groups of 5 and gave each group an assigned area to work in.

Main City Saturday groups come from several different sources such as cub scouts, churches, companies, and non-profit

organizations. Thank you for the time and efforts that you have provided to Main City Park. Some of the groups are mentioned are mentioned below.

Cub Scout troop 456, Working Concepts, Portland Adventist Academy, Rotary Club of Gresham, East Hill Church, Gresham Senior Volunteers, Trinity Lutheran Church, Warner Pacific College, First Baptist Church of Gresham, Kaz Kids, LDS Volunteers



Where can I take that special picture?

The word is getting out that Tsuru Island is a great place for individuals to bring the camera and find an area to take those special family pictures. These pictures include the engagement, graduation, new born, special first birthday, and more.

The Garden provides an excellent place for those event photos. You are invite, especially during the spring and fall months when the colors are fabulous.

If you appreciate all the hard work it took to make this a special place, please think about providing the Garden with a donation. All the donations go directly to the purchase of supplies. This is a nonprofit organization run directly by volunteers.

Exercise for Your Mind



by James Card

I have always been a project oriented person and enjoy figuring out how to solve a problem, including the research and how to go about it. As I was getting ready to retire, I found myself thinking about what I wanted to do with my time and energy. A person has all kinds of choices from sitting on the couch and eating all day to climbing a mountain or sky diving. I would like to think that I chose something in-between.

Actually I found myself doing a number of the same things that I had done in my careers because I enjoyed certain aspects of the work. I still wanted to do them, just in a different way or mind set. Because I wanted to; not because I had to.

Then one day the Japanese Garden came along and I had a new project to keep my mind active. I was drawn in by things related to horticulture. I started in this industry because I loved plants and being creative and putting a smile on people's faces with the work completed.

Now at retirement I get to go back and learn some of the things that I missed out on during the busy career, practices that I can apply, subjects that I can learn in depth. I see the benefits that I get from working at the Garden. I try to make them available to the volunteers and the community by offering programs that will allow the opportunity to explore something new and exercise their body and mind.

Some people never learn how to enjoy being in the garden. Some of the volunteers have expressed their satisfaction at being at the garden than whatever they were doing otherwise.

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VANDALISM BY JAMES CARD

Over the past 6 years the garden has experienced a number of situations involving vandalism and other issues that result from disrespect for the area. I have written about these things several times and taken action and asked for others to provide assistance. I hear from visitors as well as volunteers, how much they are bothered by these acts and the damage they have created, not to speak of the time and cost of making the repairs needed. One person felt so troubled by this lack of respect, they decided to write a piece to temper their anger.

Vandals

*Why would you destroy the gift that
your neighbors have given you?*

*The beauty, the grace of this sacred
place*

*Their hearts, their hands, their love,
knowledge, money, sweat, tears
and joy have created this community
garden and public space.*

*It was created for all to enjoy, from the
one time visitor to the longtime
resident*

*who have seen it born, decayed and
reborn again*

to grace us with its beauty and peace.

*Who is it that is so lacking in their
soul that*

*they could even think to destroy this
gift given us.*

I am bothered and stressed by these issues. The stress comes from asking volunteers to do it over and over again, knowing that I cannot do anything about it. Some of these acts cost money to repair. Much of the product and material were donated. Examples include the lighting provided by

Kichler Lighting, wood was donated by Carl Diebold Lumber while other things were the result

of cash donations. We have even received donations as the result of articles in the OUTLOOK.

The hope is that these situations will get better because we will gain more respect. We will provide awareness to those visitors that come to the park. We hope to have more people present during the times that we believe these situations take place. In the meantime we need to be patient and be willing to make those repairs. Maybe other options can still be accomplished. New signage will be added to remind people to be on their best behavior while visiting the garden. The trick is to get them to read the sign.



Exercise for your mind cont.

At one point the thought of having the "Resource Center" closer to the garden for convenience; especially when going after a forgotten item. Actually that is not the case because the peaceful leisure walk enables us to enjoy our surrounds.

The garden is one way to benefit your body and mind and Tai Chi is another. Research shows that this slow going martial art is good for your balance, legs, back, muscles and your mind; the slow rhythmic movements are related to cognitive functioning. It is also low impact which is good for those that have not been active for a while and is easy on the joints.

The Garden is available to volunteers every Saturday from 9am until noon. Tai Chi is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 am- 10:30 am.

Proud Of the Volunteers

A story in the August issue featured the History Museum (shown above) / The old church refurbishment project that did not get completed on the 1st volunteer day. James estimated 10 volunteers, 8 wheel barrows and the Dingo, and could be finish in about 2 hours....John Clark did not believe it, the bark dust pile was too big.

The request for Garden volunteers was answered with 10 volunteers not including John and Jim. The plan was to load the bark into the wheel barrows using the Dingo, each volunteer wheeling the bark to the designated area that John would point out. (There were 8 wheel barrows). Back and forth the wheel barrows went dumping the bark dust in 1.5 hours. John and Jim remained to clean up the parking lot and to excavate some additional areas around the church. Thank you to the Garden volunteers hard work.

The following items are left to complete this project. Level the grass behind the church and overlay with bark. The bloodgood Maple at the corner of the old Church needs to be pruned in the fall when it does not cause stress on this senior tree. It has been a privilege for Jim Card and the Volunteers to be involved in restoring the look of the museum and old church.



It is necessary for us to learn from others' mistakes. You will not live long enough to make them all yourself.

Hyman George Rickover



One of the things I learned the hard way was that it doesn't pay to get discouraged. Keeping busy and making optimism a way of life can restore your faith in yourself.

Lucille Ball

Send Questions and/or Comments to:
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Keeping Plants Healthy by James Card

Once the questions around putting in a new plant is settled, such as locations, sun exposure and watering needs, the plant still needs to be placed in the ground. If it is not placed in the proper way it may see a decline in a few months.

If the plant deteriorates in a short period of time it may be the before mentioned topics. Some may assume the plant needs more water. This is a huge mistake. In my years of experience I have seen more trees and shrubs die from too much water than not enough. Thus the situation is compounded and instead of solving the problem this action makes it worse.

Older plants over time will begin to have a buildup of mulch around the base of the plant. With mulch more is not better. Over mulched plants can show yellowing leaves, early leaf drop and even crown die back. Heavy mulch around the base of the plant will cause extra moisture, causing a fungal rot. Once the rot sets in, it slowly girdles a plant by damaging the cambium layer of cells, which transports food and water up and down the plant. This rot also will draw insects that will tend to bore into the area. Excess mulch can also create a condition that allows the plant to sprout secondary roots. When these roots reach a dryer zone in the area beyond the heavy mulch, they begin to circle the main root system choking the original roots. The

secondary roots pressing up against the primary roots reduce food and water which causes destabilization. Another scenario with too much mulch is the soil under becomes too dry. If the mulch is too thick irrigation and rain will not penetrate through to the soil. Feeder roots will then venture to the upper mulch area looking for moisture. Later when the upper layer of mulch dries out those feeder roots dry out and become stressed. A fungus can build up in the deep layer of mulch and instead of the water getting to the roots it will simply be shed off to the sides of the plant. If the roots of the plant have not grown beyond the layer of mulch they will never get the food and water they need to survive.

Rules of planting:

- Always leave at least one third of the root ball above ground and bring a layer of mulch to the base of the plant.
- The weight of the plant, especially when wet, will make the overall plant sink into the planting hole over time, then it becomes too deep for the health of the plant.
- Never over fertilize new plants,
- Check the history of the plant and see if it even needs any fertilizer and check the root ball to see if the grower or nursery have already provided the nutrition that the plant needs for the season.
- Last but not least, when cleaning up the beds, clean out the base of the plants to minimize the amount of mulch built up around the plant.