



Tsuru Island

James Card: Editor

KAZ KIDS SCHEDULE

The Kaz Kids schedule for March 16th will continue as before unless there is inclement weather then they will meet in the "Resource Center". The construction of Bonsai moss balls will take place indoors with prepared lunch for the students. Wish to join us...Kaz Kids project begins at 9am until 2pm. Several volunteers are needed to assist with the student construction of the take home projects.

Help Us Out ... Main City Saturdays

by James Card

"Main City Saturdays" has been around for a year now and the garden has enjoyed hosting many groups and organizations to volunteer at Main City Park. In many articles I have said that more is not better, but in this case, we are in need of more, more, more volunteers.

Each year the landscaping along the Springwater Trail "Spur" becomes more established, additional maintenance is needed. The first group for 2018 came in mid-January; 50 plus students from four colleges; Portland State, Portland Community, George Fox and Warner Pacific. They were able to tackle some of the cleanup and pruning. Although we had a great day of volunteering, there is still an abundance of pruning and clean up still to be accomplished.

Do you have a group or organization that can volunteer on Saturdays? Everything is supervised, no special requirements for experience, and easy access to all the work areas. Contact Michael Gonzales at michael.gonzales@greshamoregon.gov or Jim at gresham.japanese.garden@gmail.com.



A New Face among Us

As the Garden programs, projects and opportunities grow there becomes an increase in administrative procedures.

Taylor Clements has joined the Garden staff in February. Taylor will be providing services on an administrative level and assisting with communication to volunteers and supporters, providing information to our webmaster, and will be a back-up to Katey Card for the newsletter.

Wendy Coffin manages the communication to the volunteers and collects and reports the volunteer hours. Taylor will begin managing this area in February. The volunteer hours and related documents are retained for use with acquiring grants for the needs of the Garden and a requirement for the City of Gresham. Taylor will also be representing Tsuru Island at events and/or meetings.

Taylor is the office manager at the Stamp-Connection. She has been with the company for about 2 years, overseeing a diverse number of duties. Taylor has volunteered at the Garden on occasions and has been a part of Main City Saturdays. You might also see Taylor at other functions around the City since she is involved in the Chamber of Commerce, the Historic Museum and the Historic Downtown Business Association.

On Saturdays, Taylor will be at the Resource Center in the mornings. If there is a clerical need of some sort let her know or leave a note and she will follow up. Welcome aboard Taylor



New Workshops Begin

"Pruning of Flowering Trees and Shrubs" is scheduled for April 21st starting at 1pm until 4:30pm and the cost will be \$40.00. sponsored by Tsuru Island and presented by Maryann Lewis a member of the Aesthetic Pruners Association located in Oakland CA.

A series of bonsai classes conducted by Mark Vossbrink who has displayed his bonsai plants at the "Skosh" events. Classes will take place on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Classes include all materials, will be 2 hours each beginning at 1pm, \$45.00 per class. Classes will continue through June 21st, 2018.

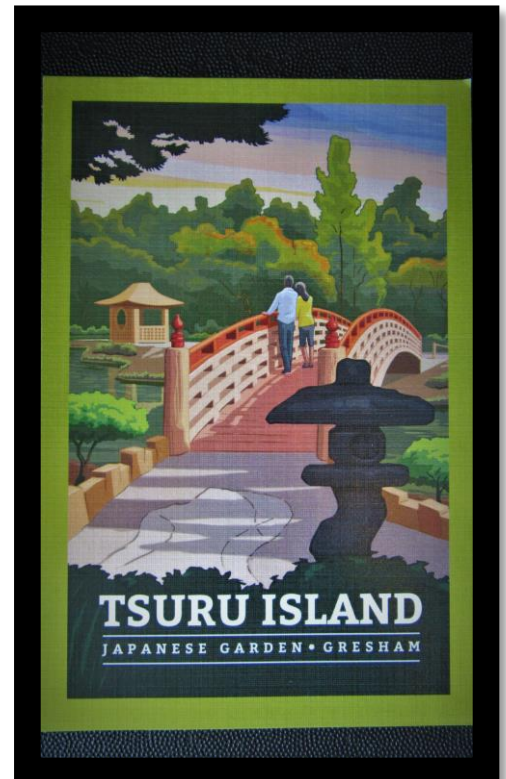
The City of Gresham honors the Japanese garden with a postcard

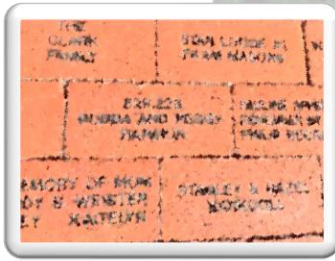
Planning the Plaza

As a part of the Ebetsu Plaza project there will be concrete pavers for the plaza entrance and the emergency lane that runs through that area. the potential that this project could fund the "Endowment" for the garden and provide maintenance funds for the Garden in the future is exciting.

A small committee including John Clark who is planning the engraving program with promotion of the product and engraving of the pre-sold pavers. He is awaiting delivery of the engraving equipment that he recently purchased and will begin prototypes in March. Sue Hughs will oversee the advertising and promotion aspect of the project and will provide promotional materials to outlets. She will also utilize social media to spread the word. Taylor Clements and Jim Card will oversee the construction of the plaza area and organize the installation of the "touch stones".

Watch for announcements and information in March 2018. The Garden will be partnering with other non-profit organizations to promote the sale of these engraved pieces of history.





2018, Full of Action and Progress

It has been a very fast and rewarding month of communication, meetings, planning and accomplishments. What is always on the agenda is the "endowment" to continue the maintenance and upkeep of Tsuru Island. Naturally that does not just include the Garden but also involves the Skosh and the Exchange Program that is constantly undergoing improvement.

The Plaza and the Endowment are networked together with the installation of the hardscape and fundraising program which is the engraving of the pavers called "Touch Stones". The promotion of this fundraiser will begin in April 2018 with the kick off of the revised "Green and Clean" volunteer program focusing in Main City Park on April 28, 2018.

Site preparation and grading started early February and by February 15th touch stones began being put in place. Many do not realize that this project has become an international event. The Garden is promoting the sale of engraved "touch stones" in Ebetsu by making presentations at the two Ebetsu Rotary Clubs, the International Exchange Association, and the City of Ebetsu.



Metal Art Tsuru by Jim Card

John Clark at the Stamp-Connection wanted something that the community could see and share in the name of his employees. He gave money to Gresham Outdoor Public Arts and asked them to find an item for the Gresham Japanese Garden in the name of his employees.

The result was a very large metal art piece that is a Tsuru (crane). I thought of the perfect spot at the Garden for the crane. Behind the Azumaya and visible through the moon window.

Judy Han and Leslie Radke found the crane and brought it to me, so I could make the installation arrangements. The next step will be sand blasting and powder coating. This process will take place in February with final details to enhance the likeness of the Red headed crane only found in Japan.

Once all of these processes are complete, a celebration will take place with the employees of Stamp-Connection, GOPA, Garden volunteers and the public to view this wonderful piece of art.

