



# Tsuru Island

## Garden Gifts and Funding

We have been very fortunate to have been gifted materials and funds for the use of building and maintaining the garden over the past few years. 2016 is becoming a year where major undertakings for the garden construction and maintenance are being realized.

A committee is being established to pursue a "garden endowment" program. The framework for an endowment account will be established with the help of Dino Rocha of Edward Jones. A dollar goal, timeline, and pathway to accomplish this will be put into effect.

As you have read and seen the original garden was not maintained and eventually over 35 years it became unkempt and overgrown. One thing for certain is that there was never a plan in place to assure the upkeep of the garden. With this in mind we realize that the people and volunteers who are here today will not be present for the care and upkeep over the many years to come.

Likewise the City of Gresham cannot be dependent upon to oversee the fostering of the garden, ie; budgets and

economic changes. There may not be the same commitment to the garden that our current city government has.

We are encouraged with the volunteers and hope to keep a strong program for the garden over the next years.

As part of the endowment, we hope to establish funds to support the employment of a knowledgeable individual/s that understand the care of the plants in and around the garden, water needs, nutrition, training of the growth, pruning and diseases. Included is the maintenance of the hard surfaces and structures. The need to see and understand the gardens future is of importance. We hope to document as much about the garden as we can that will establish a road map showing where we have been and what the goals are for the garden.

I would like invite our readers to consider offering their ideas and suggestions as we move forward. *James Card*



## Showcasing the Garden Plants

Each month we will be showcasing certain plants that grow in and around the garden. Three plants will be showcased in this issue and more plants to follow.

Clues will be provided for you to go to the website to look for the featured plant, what is the common name, scientific name, in depth details, and where it can be found in the garden. If you would like to know more, send an email to

[gresham.japanese.garden@gmail.com](mailto:gresham.japanese.garden@gmail.com) and a response will be sent to you and may be featured in the next newsletter for others who may have the same questions.

#4 - This plant provides a purple bloom each year. It was taken from a landscape that was being refurbished and was gently cared for over many years. The original plant was twice as large as it is seen now. In time, with careful pruning it will return to that size. It is planted in a partially shaded area with moderate moisture and soil that is naturally acidic. The plant is thriving in this environment.

#5 - Donated by a vendor for one of the plant sales, this plant's blooms lasts about two weeks during the spring. When it does bloom it provides a sense of royalty while balancing with the bloom of a close cousin nearby. This is a shade plant and will become three times larger in about 4 years. It is a slow grower in the medium growth category.



#6 - A big plant with a big story. This plant is about 30 years old and was originally purchased at a Fred Meyer in a gallon can for \$2.49. It was 25 years old and overgrown into the front doorway when the customer asked for it to be pruned. Doing so would be detrimental to the plant. The customer did not want to destroy the plant so they decided to donate it to the garden in the month of January when it had defoliated. It took 3 men 8.5 hours to remove the tree and move it to Main City Park. It was estimated to weigh between 900 and 1000 lbs. With the help of Campbell Crane the plant was moved.



For questions or comments please  
go to [gresham.japanese.garden@gmail.com](mailto:gresham.japanese.garden@gmail.com)

### **Wedding Committee**

*As many of you know there have been 3 or 4 weddings in the garden during the past few years. Even before the garden was completed. During 2016 one wedding took place and two inquiries for possible future events. We can use this opportunity to strike some attention and share the garden in this fashion more often. A committee is needed to establish a defined plan of action for these events, including availability of the garden, how to announce the schedule, a routine for preparing the garden for such events, and so on. If you are interested in joining this committee or have an interest in being a part of a wedding support committee, please contact Wendy by email.*

## Behind the Scenes

Those who attended the "Volunteer Appreciation Celebration" experienced many fun events and some that were out of the ordinary. One of those "out of the ordinary" experiences was Mitsuki Dazai and her koto presentation. If you missed it there are dates listed below for upcoming concerts. Mitsuki was born and raised in Tokyo, Japan. After high school she studied at the "Kunitachi College of Music" in Tokyo. Much of her exposure to music at home and at school centered around western classical, which she found uninspiring. While working in the library at the college she became acquainted with a record collection that featured Koto as an instrument of Japan for over 1000 years. This instrument has not changed from the original concept. She was 18 when she started studying the Koto. In her own words, "it was a late start". Usually students are much younger. She continued her career path in teaching both music and special education.

Mitsuki moved to the US in 2002 where she makes her home with her husband in Creswell, OR. She has traveled throughout the US, Canada and Europe organizing concerts of Japanese music, providing lectures and workshops. As a master instructor, she established the Oregon Koto-Kai non-profit organization which is made up of men and women that are passionate about the Koto instrument. Many of her students also perform as members of the organization at Oregon events, festivals and anniversary concerts. Mitsuki stated that the Appreciation Celebration on July 16th was a special performance for her at the garden because she could feel the accomplishment and pride that was shared by all the volunteers for the garden.

For several months during the spring a small group worked on the Azumaya structure. The "Volunteer Appreciation Day" was the first time the Azumaya was used to entertain. You can only imagine the feelings the construction group had to see the structure being used. This was not only "really good" or "even better" but was a privilege for the audience to celebrate with Grace, Mark, and Mitsuki.

### ***Upcoming events and performances include:***

**September** 15, 16 and 17 at 7pm; at the O-Tsukimi, Moon viewing at the Portland Japanese Garden

**October** 23rd at 3pm; Oregon Koto Kia 5th Anniversary Concert at the Lincoln Recital Hall (Room 75), Portland State University

**November** 2nd at 7pm; KSK Shakuhachi Trio Concert at Wiegand Chapel, Marylhurst University

**December** (TBA); Oregon Koto Kia Holiday Concert at Epworth United Methodist Church, Portland



### ***BANNERS ON DISPLAY***

This past month installing the banners was made a priority for the Saturday volunteers. The banners were made earlier in the summer. The brackets and hardware were provided by the City of Gresham. The banners were funded through a donation from Janet Lee. The fabric was sewn by Katey Card and the printing was done by Cygraphics.

As it turned out we were able to use all 9 of the banners. You can find them along the "spur", north and south of the garden.