

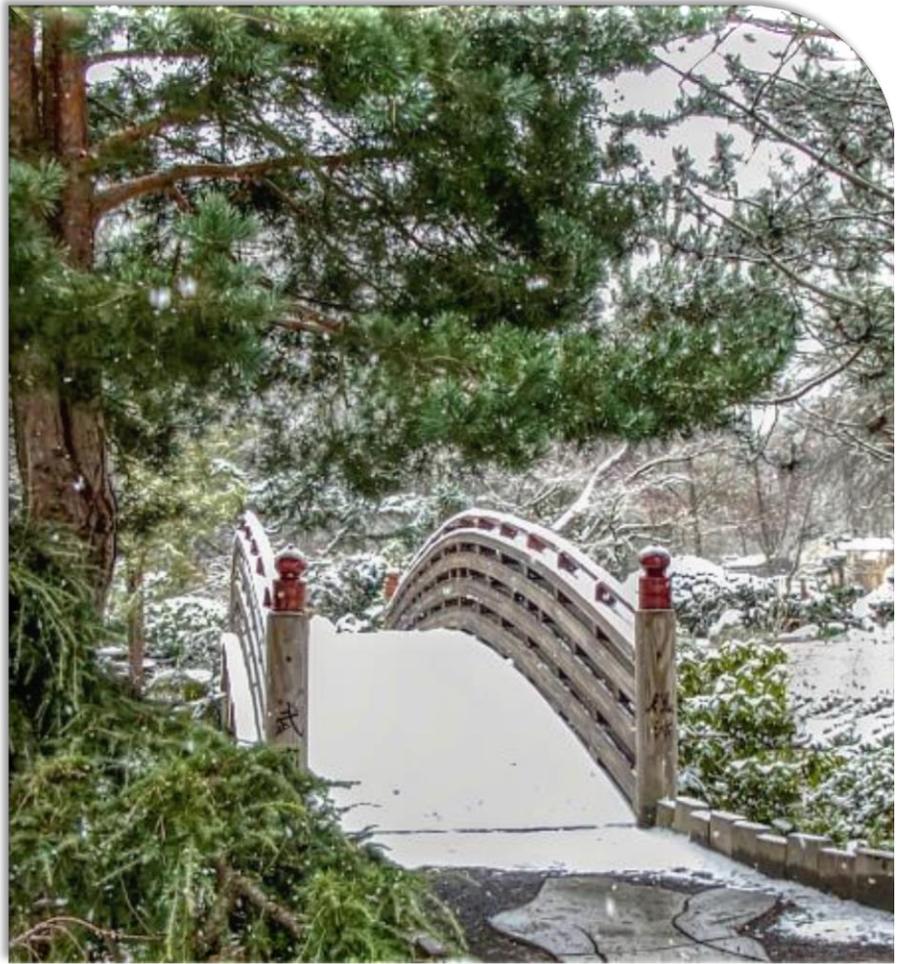
TSUKU

ISLSAND NEWSLETTER

Gresham Japanes Garden

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KAZ KIDS SCHEDULE CHANGE

From May 10 to May 7th

Lunch will be served at 11:30

for students, staff and volunteers

Made possible by Les Schwab Burnside

Thank you, Howard and crew,

Volunteers welcome at 9am for set-up

Where To Begin

Your favorite tree needs to be trimmed. Questions: Where do I begin? Will I do something wrong that will damage the tree? You most likely will not hurt the plant unless you act at the wrong time of year. Or introduce a disease from another plant due to improper cleaning of equipment. Make sure the tools are clean and sharp before starting. Begin by removing dead branches. The cuts should be close to the joint of the branches with no stubs. Remove any crossing branches or those that may be headed into the center of the plant. Take a few steps back and look at the plant from all sides. Is it beginning to open up? Take a look at the fullness and decide if a few more branches need to be thinned.

Consider sunlight and air flow. If the middle of the plant does not get sunlight, it will begin to die. The inner growth most likely will not come back with conifers.

If you really cannot take action to prune a certain branch or group of branches, leave them and come back at another time. Do not be in a hurry. If the plant is over grown and





New Year Celebration

Each year the Japanese American Citizens League of Gresham/Troutdale meets for its annual lunch. This year it was also a "New Year Celebration" (year of the boar}. Lunch was served at Kumi Buffet. Not only was the Japanese food out of this world, those in attendance were quite enjoyable too.

Guests included Consul General Takashi Teraoka and his wife, with President of Japanese American Citizens League, Terry Nishikawa hosting. Jim Card provided an overview of the Tsuru Island Japanese Garden and Ebetsu Plaza. The garden received several orders for "touchstones" at the Plaza.



A Plant Sale

A benefit plant sale

will be held in July for the "student exchange program" of Gresham-Ebetsu Sister City Association. Included are conifers, deciduous trees, bonsai and some florals.

Volunteers can contact

Alison Huntting at mandysmom1946@yahoo.com for more details.

BONSAI CLASSES

3rd Tuesday of each month @ 1:00pm

for details greshamjapanesegarden.com



Where to Begin cont.

dense, take out a few branches at a time as you circle the

plant and repeat 2-3 times until it looks the way you want it to.

If your cuts look ragged and/or choppy, the tools are not sharp or out of adjustment.

If you find that your plant has an unusual shape or growth in general as compared to those that you see elsewhere, you can try to train it and shape it to a more pleasing form. It may be due to sun, wind, etc. and may not be altered.

When you are done, don't forget to clean and sharpen the tools so they will be ready for the next time you have the urge for pruning.

By Jim Card





HELP NEEDED

Time To Fertilize

The time to apply a dose of plant food is in February / early March, using a product not high in nitrogen content. Often a plant will begin to show lighter green and/or yellow spots on the leaves, which is an indication that it needs nourishment. Iron (Fe) may do the trick so that when the growth cycle begins the leaves will be normal again. This is the case with the Camelia on the north side of Tsuru Island.

Look at the package content. Many times, one fertilizer is geared to specific plants but can be used for other plant products. Such as Rhododendron and Azalea products may also be used on Blue Berries and Andromeda.

Be cautious about fertilizing trees that are planted in lawn areas. The tree and lawn are competing for nutrition and water. The tree will most likely always win. If the tree is getting more than enough nutrition the roots are very shallow. An article by John Greenaway revealed that roots that are close to the surface do not have to descend downward for nutrients and water. It is getting what it needs from the lawn fertilizer and water. A soil test will determine what that particular tree would need.

A garden will grow and need care through the seasons, requiring maintenance and fostering with growth. The volunteers at Gresham Japanese Garden have done a fine job of this. There is no plan to hire employees for the non-profit organization.

There is yet another growth taking place; programs, community opportunities and additional projects related to the garden but not in the garden itself. Some of those include: this newsletter, grant writing or research, sending notices, attending community meetings, coordination of activities and programs, and networking in general. Most of these positions are for short periods of time.

Do you have a talent or expertise that could be useful to the Garden? If you try it and do not like it, that is okay. There is no pressure. Much of the work can be done at home or at the Recourse Center.



RECOVERING

On Feb 26, 2019, Jim Card suffered a mild heart attack and was taken to surgery to have stents placed in 2 heart vessel blockages. He spent one night in the hospital and is recovering very well. Thank you to all who sent well wishes, flowers and food to the house.

Jim is back to his activiteis at the Japanese Garden and planning summer activities.



FAREWELL

Tad Tsuneyoshi and his wife Toshi returned to their home in Japan in March. We are grateful for all their volunteer work in the garden. They will be missed.

