



Gresham Japanese Garden



# Tsuru Island



## Helpful hints:

Have you ever used Epsom Salt for your personal use like soaking your feet or for a bath? Before you put it down the drain, consider that this is made up of magnesium and sulfate. This product can be distributed as a solid or diluted in water around your plants and your lawn. Epsom Salt is not really a salt but rather is a pure mineral compound coming from England. It has an essential element from the chlorophyll molecule. Chlorophyll is what the plant is missing when leaves turn yellow on your plants. Epsom Salt also has the ability to allow the main three elements in you plant food to be absorbed by the plant.



## Behind the Scenes

### Volume 1

From my point of view the activities and people behind the scenes are some of most valuable resources for the garden. The networking that takes place is more than could be expected.

This month's person has been around since the beginning of the garden project, offering input, providing plant material, soils, pots, as well as equipment use and deliveries. For me there was no question who I wanted to install our "one of a kind" garden path. This month's focus is **Ty Card**. He has also provided a connection to more volunteers that have helped us along the way. Scores of starter and mature plant materials salvaged from refurbishments or left over from commercial projects have been brought to our nursery to be used in any way we would like. Some have been used in the garden and some have been sold at plant sales to support the ongoing projects of the garden. To be building a garden and have the availability of mature plants for the project is a huge gift, taking years off the development time to have the garden appear as though it has been there for a long period of time.

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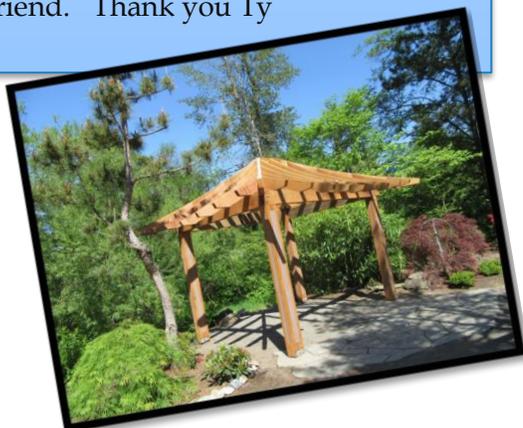
*Behind the Scenes cont.*

I and the volunteers do not take Ty's generosity for granted. He does not have to take the time to save the plant material from work sites. It takes extra time and handling to dig and prepare the material so that it can be re-planted.

While visualizing and designing the garden there are many elements that need to be taken into consideration. Most develop on paper and can be reviewed and changed with added input and consideration. The directions of the pathway system was solidified early on in the design process, however the patterns, layout and type of stone were still unknown. Complicating the situation was the fact that I had reviewed dozens of pictures and visited many Japanese Gardens in the USA to see what might fit our situation best. If I liked the pathway, I would think about duplicating it to our garden but adding a "special twist"

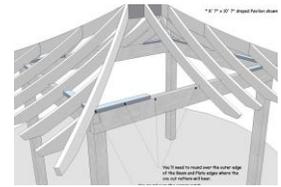
In the process of communicating with Ty, he understood exactly what we needed and applied his own artistic touch and views. We chose "variegated blue stone" and the process began. The position of each piece of stone was thought out considering the rock formations already in place and the settings in the environment. Each piece was hand cut and placed with the ultimate design in mind. The end result is an offering of art that stabilizes our garden and provides us with that "special twist".

To say that this project has been a very rewarding experience for me is certainly an understatement, especially when it involves my son and best friend. Thank you Ty



## AZUMAYA

You can see from a distance outside the garden the roof structure of the pavilion (azumaya).



The setting/location of the structure is intentional and was part of the original design.

As you journey along the path and come to the first foot bridge over the stream, one may be distracted by the plantings that put out different colors each season; reds during the fall and winter, fuchsia and purple in the spring and yellow in the summer. Once turning the corner to cross the bridge you get to see the full view of the new structure. The materials, "clear western red cedar", were donated by Carl Diebold Lumber in Troutdale and a building plan was purchased with garden donations.

With the plans in hand, the footings were set and post brackets in place. Blue stone was placed strategically under the posts. Each section of wood in the structure needed to be cut into a specific profile and be ready to assemble in the field. Over a period of weeks the materials were all machined and moved to the work site by our group of dedicated volunteers led by Kent Thompson assisted by John Harold, Big John, Tad, and Jim. Assembly started with posts and cross beams. we assembled these pieces, took a series of measurements and found we were within 1/4 of an inch from corner to corner on all four. The Roofing has been purchased and will begin soon. Once the main structure is complete there will be some details to take care of and some final touches to the interior.

There is not an assigned deadline for completion. This is a labor of love and needs to be enjoyable and worked around weather conditions. The hope is that the structure will be completed in early June. Look forward to next year in late April or early May when the pine and dogwood that the Azumaya is nestled between are pushing candles and showing off white blooms. Bring your camera or watch for Tad's weekly account of our volunteer work. It should be quite a picturesque scene.

## VOLUNTEER GROUPS

Most of our dedicated volunteers come on Saturdays from 9am until noon and you may be one of them. What



you may not know is that there are other groups that come to the garden/park for volunteer opportunities.

This past week a group of 50 people from the Portland Adventist Academy came to volunteer. They worked from 9:30 am until 2:30 pm organizing the City storage yard. This was the second year for this group. Last year they had 22 volunteers contribute to the garden.

We look forward to the Gresham National Guard coming again this July for 4 days. Last year they assisted with the bridge building and they bark dusted Main City Park.

About every other year we are offered by the East Hill Church in Gresham to come for a day. Their date is set for August 27th.

We are now in our 4th year of working with the Mormon Missionaries for a variety of projects that take place not only on Saturdays but during the week as well.

You may have realized that not all of our volunteer projects take place at the garden anymore. We have expanded to other areas of the park, Johnson Creek, the storage yard and the "Resource Center". We are privileged to partner with several departments of the City of Gresham. We are glad to assist however we can anywhere we can.

## SIGNS, SIGNS, AND MORE SIGNS

Last month the announcement was made about placing signs around the entrance of the garden. The sign closest to the bridge entrance identifies the 24/7 surveillance in the garden for everyone's safety. Another sign is for the behavior of dog owners while bringing their best friend to the garden. The volunteers should be able to weed and prune and not worry about what they may put their hand on or step into. There have been incidences where bikes owners have lost their balance and the bike falls into the prize lace leaf maple that we have been working with for 3 years. Or have caused damage to benches and/or other visitors as they pass along the path. Hopefully the signs will assist with these situations making it more enjoyable to visit and work in the garden.



## All those things to do:

Chain-link fabric for the fencing around the Resource Center. (Adopted by Gresham Little League)

- The existing hardware will be used and painted black
- Equipment is available
- A fence installer is needed

Replacing the lawn for the emergency path in-front of the Resource Center (May)

- Seed and soil provided

Prep labor is needed and a commitment to keep watch over the lawn during the HOT months and provide nutrients so that it will flourish.

Install an additional irrigation main line from the horseshoe area leading up to the Resource Center.

- The Dingo with a trencher is available.
- The pipe and glue for the installation are available.
- A team leader is needed.

Winter green installation for the "Turtle" on Tsuru Island.

- Many more are needed for this area and will be available to installed so that the area is filled in.

Tsuru Island banners to be placed on the light poles between Main/Powell and Tsuru Island.

- Coordinating the installation of the banners and installation of brackets that are provided by Parks and Recreation. This is a one day project.

A project has been started with Sue Hughes and Bill Peterson for the website for plant material identification and information.

### NEXT MONTH:

More details on the  
Garden Website

Questions / comments to:

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