



Tsuru Island

VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION

What a grand day we had on the 16th, a full house, lots to do and see and great food too; Tomiko, you did an outstanding job of putting the day together.

If you did not make it, there are pictures available on our web site, which are displayed normally on "One Drive", thanks to Tad. Tea ceremonies with Gracey Ishikawa and bonsai display with Mark Vossbeck headed up the first part of the day. At 3 pm we were treated to a Koto Program by Mitsuki Dazai of Oregon Koto-Kai.

This was the first scheduled event to take place in the Azumaya (pavilion). What a way to break it in. To see the Azumaya put to use in the best possible scenario, those of us who planned and built it can understand the joy and fulfillment that was experienced. to Kent, John, Tad and John the associates of the Gresham Japanese Garden would like to extend a standing Ovation for your efforts.

We cannot say thank you enough for the assistance that the volunteers provided with set-up and tear-down during the day. Many of you showed up at 8 am and did not leave until we were status quo. THANK YOU!



Winter Projects



Over the past two years we have been working on several projects, the bridge and the Azumaya, that are now complete. There is still most of the lumber from the old bridge available and some scrap sections of purple heart that was used on the bridge.

A list is being compiled of things that can be made from some of that lumber. The list includes small display stands for bonsai, larger pedestal stands for displaying bonsai in the garden, tables and benches and cutting boards, just to name a few.

For those of you who wish to participate there will be plans and drawings available for the items we are creating. The participant will learn how to plane the wood, choose profiles, assemble the wood and how to choose and apply the final finish. These projects will most likely begin in October or November. The Card's shop will be used, which is heated and spacious.

Behind the Scenes

Several months ago I got an email from Jim Buck telling me about a tree that was going to be removed on a commercial property on Kane. He wanted to know if I was interested in the wood for the garden. I contacted Tina Osterink with the COG who had the number for the owner. I got a call from the new owner of the property, Curt Hugo and he was willing to help out. After seeing the Sycamore Maple and it's size I was intimidated. If we as a group of volunteers were going to tackle this monster it was going to take months to cut down, cut up and move the usable sections. During our discussions, We all agreed that we could never be prepared with the time, tools, equipment and expertise to handle the project. After communicating with Curt, he decided to have a professional take the tree down at his cost. The limbs of the tree were cut into firewood and taken by a number of individuals and the main trunk of the tree was removed by Wood miser Inc. An agreement was made that Wood Miser would remove the trunk and do the hauling and the garden would receive 40% of the slabs. The trunk was massive. Not only did it fill the trailer but it took two trips and the floor of the trailer collapsed due to the tree retaining water as well as being a dense hardwood. Weeks went by and the tree was eventually run through the mill. I got a call that the slabs were ready for me to pick up.

Currently the slabs are in storage and are drying. At some point and the slabs can be sold as is, processed to make product that can be used by the garden or sold at auction. The largest section has a value of about \$1000.00 and if processed properly could yield 5 to 6 times that much.

one section of the slab, will be used to make a table for the new Dutch Bros. coffee shop on Kane, north of Division, who so generously donated the wood to the garden.



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

- Chain-link fabric for the fencing around the Resource Center.
- Replacing the lawn for the emergency path in-front of the Resource Center.
- Install an additional irrigation main line from the horseshoe area leading up to the Resource Center.
- "Tsuru Island" banners placed on light poles between Main/Powell and Tsuru Island.



Plant Identification

Over the last couple of years we have had many questions about the plant materials in the garden. Gresham Japanese garden is a Japanese style garden and not a Botanical garden where plants are usually identified. The plant material is not all that unusual to the Pacific Northwest or even Japan for that matter.

Over the last 5 years we have worked with all of the plants that were already on the island and planted by Kaz and the original volunteers. We have heard that some may have come from Japan and other may have come from local sources.

In order to accommodate this situation a committee was formed which includes Sue Hughes our web developer, Bill Peterson and Jim Card. Each plant in the

garden has its own story about where it came from, why it was chosen and placed in that particular spot.

Two or more plants will be featured. Bill has taken pictures which include a broad view, a close up, and placed it on a digital index card. A description, including the botanical name, the common name and the story of the plant is included, with the date, time and the position that the camera was held. Once these are presented in our newsletter, Sue will add them to the website. They will also be kept in a note book to be presented for onsite use. At this point a digital record of the original plants will be kept along with the changes in the next years. This record will tell us about the plant growth, how it was pruned, was it moved to a new location, how it is affected by other plants and its progress.



Update on the Bridge

In the fall newsletter some of the expectations for the bridge over the winter was discussed, as the wood moved and was effected by the weather over the first year. Hot and cold, wet and dry all have an effect on any wood and the purple heart is no exception.

Not all of what we experienced was negative and matter of fact for me most of the experience was positive. The part that gets most of the wear and tear is the deck and it has done very well with some minor movement of the boards that can be adjusted which will be done this winter.

Most of the negative was expected but some of the issues were not related to weather on the wood but rather the glue that we used to assemble the components. Only the hand rail, gaboshi and the top layer of the top beam were affected. Even after lengthy discussions with the manufacturer of the glue and assurances, we still had issues with the glue giving way to the stress and movement of the wood.

So what to do???? Tad and Toshi are credited for the handrail and the top beam. If you came by the garden on any given day you would see one or the both of them working with the railings. They first split the joints to the point that they were stable, cleaned the mating sections and dressed the parting lines. A two part epoxy was applied to both mating surfaces and then rejoined together. The sections were held together with clamps until they could be bound with zip ties and left to cure for a couple of days. After

the joints were again stable, Tad and Toshi decided to bring the wood to its original color by removal of the exposed surface with abrasives. The surfaces were coated with a finish base and a clear coat of UV protective, marine grade varnish.

The remaining unfinished areas will wait until the end of August when Tad and Toshi return from a trip to the Far East.

In the meantime we will continue to work with the gaboshi the same way the Tad worked with the hand rail. Each piece will be removed, the parting lines will be cleaned and dressed and the epoxy will be applied using a dye to color the epoxy to match the color of the gaboshi. This will be complete before the winter rains set in. To replace the wood versions of the finials funds must be raised to replace them with cast bronze pieces that will be produced by Rip Caswell. The costs will include a onetime mold fee and the production of four new units for a total of \$2170.00. A fundraiser to bring that project closer to reality will be coming in the fall.

Please join me in thanking Tad and Toshi for the beautiful job and all their efforts. It is so appreciated.



Questions or comments go to
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