

The Garden Path

Longevity

September/October 2017



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HAIKU

Round and round koi in the quiet pool below the falls

-Peter Kendall

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THE GARDEN PATH

FOR QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS Email marketing@japanesegarden.org Dear Members,

There are so many great things happening at the Portland Japanese Garden over these next two months! Sake tasting, a behind the scenes look at the movie *Kubo and The Two Strings*, our beloved Moonviewing, and an exhibition that delves into the fascinating world of Noh theater — just to name a few.

It has been my dream to bring these kinds of unique events to you. The Garden itself remains a remarkable place of beauty and peace. And yet, my vision was always that we use the Garden as a platform to share so much more of Japanese culture. When the Board of Directors brought me here 12 years ago, their task to me was to help the Garden truly fulfill its potential.

And here we are. On the other side of a \$33.5 million expansion that enables us to serve more than 500,000 visitors a year and some 14,000 members with ten times the amount of programming than we had when I arrived.

We did it together and I'm so proud to tell your story around the world.

My travels have taken on another responsibility lately. I'm still cultivating partnerships on behalf of the Garden. But now, it's also time to share what we've learned. Our Cultural Crossing expansion has gotten the attention of Japanese garden non-profits everywhere — from Japan to Australia, people want to know how we did what we did!

In Japan in particular there is keen interest to learn about what we have done. Their interest is not so much in the buildings and gardens. Instead, it's about the organizational capacity and philanthropy that sustains an organization and ensures its longevity.

Most countries outside the U.S. don't view philanthropy the same way we do. If this kind of cultural project were going to happen, it would require significant public funding from the government. Unfortunately, in many countries around the world, that type of funding has become less available. Meanwhile, here in the U.S., philanthropy has been woven into the fabric of our culture, whether it is giving of time, of skills, of personal belongings, or of dollars. We each look in the mirror every day and find ways to give of ourselves.

Each of you demonstrate the American culture of philanthropy when you sustain your membership here at the Garden, attend an event, or purchase a gift in the gift shop. Many of you have gone above that to donate to the Garden. You are what ensures this organization's legacy and longevity for generations to come.

So I am thrilled to be speaking on the importance of building community through philanthropy. If I can share what we've learned together, we can ensure that globally there are more Japanese gardens with more capacity. We are doing our part to ensure that this incredible art form can bring beauty and peace to many more around the world.

Sincerely,

Stephen D. Bloom Chief Executive Officer

September

Cultural Demonstration: Koto Harp O-Tsukimi, the Moonviewing Festival 5 Special Hours: Photographer Members 7 Photographer Members-Only Handmade Japanese **Bookbinding Workshop** 8 Cultural Demonstration: Koto Harp Cultural Demonstration: Ikebana 8 Sake Tasting with Joto Sake 11 Special Hours: Photographer Members Photographer Members-Only 10 Cultural Demonstration: Calligraphy 13 Cultural Demonstration: Koto Harp 15 Special Hours: Member Evening Hours Members-Only 14 Two Noh Performances Cultural Demonstration: 16 15 Noh Mask Carving Demonstration Handmade Japanese Bookbinding 14-Mirrors of the Mind: Third Angle Dress Rehearsal 12/3 The Noh Masks of Ohtsuki Kokun Members-Only 20 Cultural Demonstration: Koto Harp 19-Third Angle Concert: 21 Japanese Music Now Member Evening Hours Members-Only 20 Public Lecture: Takashi Miki "Bamboo in 21-Ikebana International Exhibition Japanese Gardens" 22 Members-Only 21 Cultural Demonstration: Koto Harp 22 Cultural Demonstration: Koto Harp 22 Kubo and the Two Strings with 27 Cultural Demonstration: Koto Harp Behind the Scenes Presentation by LAIKA 28 Member Tea and Tour: Noh Exhibition 23-Ohara Portland Ikebana Exhibition 28-Sogestu Ikebana Exhibition 24 29 23 Cultural Demonstration: Ikebana 28 Cultural Demonstration: Ikebana 30-Ryuseiha Ikebana Exhibition

October

For more information, please check japanesegarden.org/events or call 503-542-0280.

Cultural Demonstrations at the Cathy Rudd Cultural Corner

Tea Ceremony Presentation

Every Wednesday from 5:00 - 6:00pm (except 10/4)
Saturdays from 1:00 - 2:00pm (September 2, 9, 16 and October 21)
Sundays from 1:00 - 2:00pm (September 17 and October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29)

10/1



Bruce Forster

Member Tour: Japan — Land of Living Traditions

May 6-16, 2018 Kyoto & Tokyo, Japan

Members are invited to join the Garden's tour to Japan next spring. For nine days in May of 2018, our small group of 16, accompanied by an English-speaking Japanese guide, will explore sites and cities in Japan, with a focus on beautiful gardens, temples, and shrines of Kyoto.

Reservations open on September 18.

Find more details about the itinerary and registration instructions at www.membertourjapan.com

Sake Tasting with Joto Sake

September 8, 2017

Cultural Village

7:00 - 9:00pm *VIP: \$50*

Members: \$25 Public: \$35

Connect with the culture of Japan through its signature beverage. Explore the structure, history, and brewing of a selection of sakes from Japanese microbreweries presented by representatives of Joto Sake. *Otsumami* (snacks) to enhance the tasting experience will be provided by Biwa, a popular local Japanese *izakaya* (gastropub).

VIP ticketholders are invited to an exclusive hour of tasting including a presentation on the history and crafting of sake from 6-7pm.



Kubo and the Two Strings with Behind the Scenes Presentation by LAIKA

September 22, 2017

Join us in the Pavilion for a screening of the Academy Award-nominated *Kubo* and the Two Strings, a feature film by Portland's own LAIKA Productions. The movie will be followed by a behind-the-scenes presentation from one of the film's creators.

Presented by LAIKA, with ticket proceeds supporting the Garden's cultural and educational programming.

Special Hours for Photographer Members

September 5, 2017

October 11, 2017

7:00 - 9:00pm 6:30 - 8:00am

Photographer Members and their guests are invited to special after-hours access to the Garden. Capture familiar landscapes at their most serene: illuminated in quiet solitude by evening's warm light.

Stone lanterns will be lit throughout the Garden for the special evening hours on September 5.

Bonsai: the Art of Longevity

66 Bonsai can be almost anything that gets woody. I have a student that has a poison ivy bonsai but, no, I do not recommend that."

Sound advice from Michael Hagedorn, bonsai expert and consultant to the Portland Japanese Garden.

Hagedorn laughed as he answered light-hearted questions by curious onlookers — while trimming the spring shoots off a 500-year-old Rocky Mountain juniper tree.

(() That student wears gloves when he works on it; he's got a great sense of humor. But really, unusual things like grapevines can be made into bonsai, all sorts of deciduous trees are great, and there are many species of conifer trees, too," he said.

The number one question people ask whenever he's in the Garden?

66 How old are these trees?" he said with a laugh. "It's a legitimate question because honestly, these trees have longevity and they range in age from 35 to 500-years-old."

Bonsai came from China, originally known as *penjing*.

As with many art forms, the Japanese practice of Bonsai took a more subtle and quiet approach.

"Bonsai is an artfully designed tree meant to emulate a scene in nature," said Andrew Robson, one of Hagedorn's students.

Robson added that the size of a bonsai correlates less to age and more to the species used to create it. He quotes James Thurber from the *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* when he reminds us that "Beautiful things don't ask for attention."

Fashion, paintings, architecture, he said, these are things that ask to be noticed and admired.

"Bonsai are the opposite. Their beauty is in their subtlety. They follow the principle of *wabi sabi*, starting first with their chosen pot. The patina of a good, weathered pot tells the story of age and use, through the water, the fertilizer, and the dirt that has accumulated on it over the years," said Robson.

Bruce ForsterJulia Taylor

³ Julia Taylor





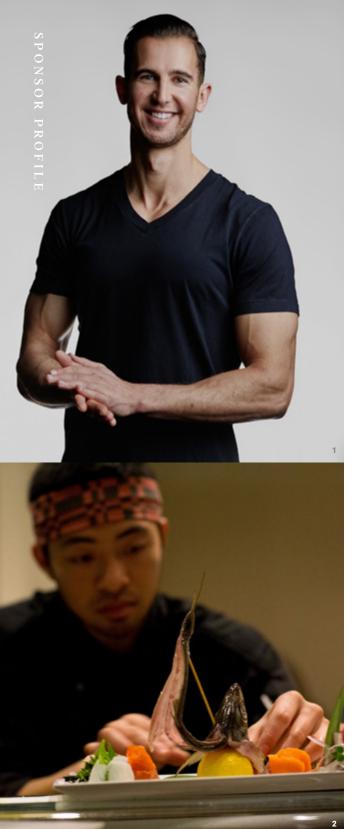


Hagedorn's apprentices like Robson repot a bonsai every few years to keep it looking youthful.

"Japanese people have a profound appreciation for the ephemeral, illustrated in their love of cherry blossoms. Ironically though, bonsai is their perfected art form that defies this. With their age and endurance, in many ways humans are ephemeral to bonsai," said Robson.

There are nine different bonsai lenders in the Ellie M. Hill Bonsai Terrace this year, and most are from the Portland area, Hagedorn said. The Garden will rotate a few species out occasionally, as some are seasonal. In the winter, the Portland Japanese Garden will be rotating in hardier specimen.

There are three additional bonsai located in the Jubitz Oregon Terrace with accent plants placed on shelves along the stucco wall to "give a hint of seasonality," Hagedorn said.



Bamboo Sushi

Kristofer Lofgren, founder and owner

The Portland Japanese Garden has a special place in the heart of Kristofor Lofgren, the founder and owner of Bamboo Sushi and its parent company Sustainable Restaurant Group. He was first introduced to the Garden in 2009, when his mother became a Member — right around the time of the opening of Bamboo Sushi, the world's first certified sustainable sushi restaurant. Kristofor's love of the Garden grew and he chose the Garden, during the quiet of morning Member Hours, to propose to his wife. He also was the motivating force of the ongoing partnership for *O-Tsukimi*, the Moonviewing Festival, that the Garden has enjoyed with Bamboo Sushi.

With praise for its mission promoting sustainable seafood practices and acclaim for its delicious food, Bamboo Sushi quickly became a favorite of Portland diners. It has now expanded to four locations in Portland and one in Denver, with plans for a second Denver location as well as a Seattle restaurant on the horizon. Sustainable Restaurant Group also added a poke bar, QuickFish, to its Portland family, with plans for expansions in Seattle, and Denver, and San Francisco.

A self-proclaimed Japanophile, Kristofor has visited numerous gardens across Japan, but still finds the Portland Japanese Garden is his favorite, not just for sentimental reasons, but also because he sees the Garden's mission to be so closely in line with his own. As Bamboo Sushi continues to grow, Lofgren hopes to foster and deepen the company's relationships to Japan, something that he's accomplishing, in part, through his own relationship to the Garden. "We're able to take the experiences that we learn from the Garden, through speakers and presentations" says Kristofor, "and amplify it out to the rest of the community and the country." The Garden's partnership with Bamboo Sushi will continue to grow as they take on an essential role in the presentation of the Garden's new Washoku Food Series beginning in November 2017.

Special for Garden Members

In addition to enjoying Bamboo Sushi's donated offerings at this year's Moonviewing Festival, remember also to take advantage of the generous discount Garden Members receive at Bamboo Sushi locations (20% off, up to \$20 per party).

- 1 Photo courtesy of Kristofor Lofgren
- 2 Photo courtesy of Bamboo Sushi





Third Angle Concert: Japanese Music Now

September 19-21, 2017 7:30pm - 9pm

Adult: \$40 Members receive 20% off Senior: \$35 tickets with code PJG

Student: \$10

In partnership with Third Angle New Music, explore the peace and tranquility of the Garden while you take a tour of contemporary Japanese music performed by musicians placed throughout the landscape. The evening culminates in the world premiere of a new composition by Dai Fujikara, commissioned by the Portland Japanese Garden to celebrate the grand opening of Kengo Kuma's awe-inspiring new Cultural Village.

Members, join us for an exclusive dress rehearsal preview of this event on September 18 from 7:30-9pm. Learn more at japanesegarden.org/events

A Fall Full of Ikebana

Lovers of the traditional Japanese garden art of *ikebana* will have plenty to celebrate this fall. In addition to Cultural Corner demonstrations of this elegant flower-arranging art form, the Portland Japanese Garden is honored to host four exhibitions of ikebana in September and October. Each weekend-long show is held in conjunction with a local Portland ikebana school or organization and will feature the work of that schools' students and instructors. Join us for a single exhibition, or come for all of them to compare and contrast the styles of the various schools.

Ohara Portland Chapter Ikebana Exhibition September 23 - 24

Ryuseiha School Ikebana Exhibition September 30 - October 1

Ikebana International Exhibition October 21 - 22

Sogetsu School Ikebana Exhibition

October 28 - 29



Romancing the Moon

O-Tsukimi, the Moonviewing Festival

Autumn is the season
Tonight is the night
A splendid full moon
in the perfect spot—
and you gazing upon it

- A N O N Y M O U S

Go-shui Wakashu, Later Collection of Poetic Gleanings, 11th Century They say the full moon in mid-autumn always seems to burn the brightest. Poets gather to catch its reflection in the garden pond. Musicians seek to capture its elusive beauty in a tranquil melody. As for lovers, they may just prefer to stroll together along the quiet Garden paths and reflect upon their own good fortune.

In Japan, the moon disappearing behind the clouds is a metaphor for the fleeting beauty of life. You may have seen Japanese paintings in which monkeys are depicted dipping their hands into the water to try to catch the reflection of the full moon. This, too, is a Zen Buddhist metaphor for always reaching for things that are not what they seem—material things that are illusions that keep us from grasping what is important in life.

The full moon at harvest time is celebrated in many agricultural cultures around the world. Around the time of the Autumnal Equinox, the moon comes up right around sunset which enables farmers to continue bringing in their harvests into the evening hours.





2

In celebration of the moon viewing festival, the raked gravel in the Flat Garden is designed in a special once-a-year checkerboard raking pattern; the alternating squares of white river gravel cast shadows in the moonlight and are said to resemble rice fields at harvest time.

It is said that the moon viewing custom was introduced to Japan from China during the Nara (710-794) and Heian periods (794-1185). Harvest moon viewing took place on August 15th in the lunar calendar, and it was called *jugoya*, which means the night of the 15th. Jugoya in the present calendar changes every year and usually falls in September or October. The moon on jugoya is not always full, but it's said that the moon on that night is the brightest and the most beautiful in the year.

From the Portland Japanese Garden's spectacular east-facing Overlook with a view of the city skyline below, watch breathlessly as the moon rises over the mountains and downtown Portland. Don't miss this most magical of all evenings in the Garden.

This event will be held rain or shine.

The Natural Garden will be closed.

Photographers: Flash photography and tripods are not allowed.

MOONVIEWING AT THE PORTLAND JAPANESE GARDEN

October 4, 5, and 6

6 - 9pm

\$35 members \$45 non-members

Space is limited each night. Reservations are required.



- Jonathan Ley
- Julia Taylor
- 3 Jonathan Ley



CHANGING EXPRESSIONS THROUGH MOVEMENTS OF A MASK

For our third exhibition of this year's Art in the Garden series, the Portland Japanese Garden is thrilled to feature the Noh masks of Ohtsuki Kokun. The exhibition begins on Saturday, October 14.

Mr. Ohtsuki has been carving otherworldly faces in wood since his childhood. Different than any other art form in Japan, a Noh mask is a kind of "window on the soul." It captivates its audience by becoming its own character on stage through the living presence of the actor and the imagination of the audience itself.

"They have *seishin-sei* (spiritual depth) which I think is beyond any other mask in the world."

Although inherently static in appearance, a Noh mask conveys a wide range of human emotions and feelings. For example, an actor can change the character's expression from happiness to one of deep sorrow, just by tilting the mask slightly while on stage. The play of light, the angle of the mask, the actor's skill and stage position, all contribute to portraying the character, as does the spirit imbued in a mask in the hands of a masterful carver like Ohtsuki Kokun.

HISTORY OF NOH MASKS AND ITS MAKERS

Noh masks have been an integral part of the Noh performing art tradition since the 14th century. Masks are worn by the *shite* and *tsure* actors, while the supporting actors, or *waki*, do not wear masks. There are approximately sixty types of Noh masks, and each Noh family uses its own style. Some masks as old as 400 years, are still being used in performances today and at one time, each Noh family had their own maskmaker.

ARTISTIC TRADITION CONTINUES TODAY

"I have become more and more fascinated by Noh masks as time passes. I realized *noh-men*, (the name given to Noh masks) and the simple and lean forms of modern sculpture had much in common. Noh-men are stripped of all garnishes and stand as a pure essence while still maintaining depth and spirituality," Mr. Ohtsuki said.

Ohtsuki Kokun is from Kurashiki City, Okayama Prefecture, and currently resides in Kyoto. After studying under Nagasawa Soshun, he formed 'Kokun Noh-men Kai' in 1989 and had his first solo exhibition in 1990 in Kyoto. He has made masks for many prominent Noh masters, including Hayashi Kiichiro, Umewaka Rokuro, and members of the Kanze family. He also teaches mask carving in Kyoto and Sagamihara.

Mr. Ohtsuki will be present during the opening weekend of the exhibition to demonstrate his fine craftsmanship. The Garden will also host a presentation by Living National Treasure Noh actor Kawamura Haruhisa of the Kawamura Noh Gakudo School of Noh in Kyoto.

ORINASU-KAN NOH COSTUMES

Accompanying the masks in this exhibition is a selection of Noh costumes of beautifully woven silk brocades in patterns that relate to a season or a Noh theme. Made exclusively for Noh performances for the samurai and upper classes, they are more subdued and refined than the exuberantly designed Kabuki costumes.

All Noh masks are courtesy of the artist, and all costumes are courtesy of Orinasu-kan of Kyoto.

NOH EVENTS

October 13	Golden Crane Opening Reception
October 14	Exhibition begins (ends December 3)
October 14	Two Noh Performances
October 15	Noh Mask carving demonstration by Ohtsuki Kokun





1-3 Noh masks by Ohtsuki Kokun Photo by Yamazaki Kenji

The Campaign for a Cultural Crossing

Contributions received through July 20, 2017

The new Cultural Village and gardens are open! The Cultural Crossing project enables the Garden to extend its legacy and purpose—providing a heightened sense of beauty and tranquility and more educational opportunities while preserving significant cultural traditions and art forms. We thank all of you for your generous support.

\$5,000,000 AND ABOVE

Arlene Schnitzer in honor of Jordan D. Schnitzer's 20-year service to the Portland Japanese Garden

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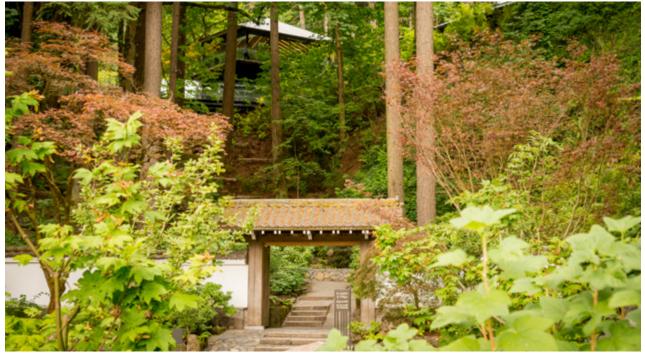
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Bruce Forster

Golden Crane Legacy Members have named the Garden as the ultimate beneficiary of a planned gift. We are grateful to the following people for letting us know of their plans to support the Garden in this thoughtful way. Legacy Members receive invitations to all Golden Crane special events and receptions.

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If you would like to include the Garden in your estate plans, or if you have already done so and would allow us to list you as a Legacy Member, please contact Chief Development Officer Tom Cirillo at (503) 595-5225 or tcirillo@japanesegarden.org

We are grateful to the following individuals and families for their generous estate/bequest gifts received by the Garden:

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Dedication of Time

Head Gardener Michael Kondo celebrates 40 years at the Garden

The theme of this September/October magazine is longevity and a dedication to time.

Perhaps no one knows more about time spent at the Garden than Head Gardener Michael Kondo.

This September, Kondo celebrates his 40th anniversary at the Portland Japanese Garden, a milestone that no one else has ever reached.

Kondo has seen and been a part of the growing Portland Japanese Garden since 1977. When he started working here, the trees were much smaller, and the Natural Garden didn't exist. In fact, Kondo helped put it in place. He has seen a lot of changes.

From bell-bottoms and wide-brimmed glasses, to a legacy of care with intension here at the Garden, we celebrate Michael Kondo.

The photo captions are in his own words, reacting to each picture – some of which he'd never seen before:

To read the extended story, please visit japanesegarden.org/news



- "This was a koi release. I can't remember if it was just after we'd put the new filter system in, but we got a bunch of new koi from Hawaii." Photo by Tyler Quinn
- "Masayuki Mizuno, the fifth Garden director, and I put in cobblestones. We didn't have any money then, so we had to work with was what we had." Photo by Robbie Robinson
- "This is recent. I was splitting rock for the Castle Wall. We pounded the spikes in, a little at a time and split the rocks. It was a great experience." Photo by Bruce Forster

- "Wow, I look very chic (laughs). I'm thinking that was right after we built the pavilion in 1980." Photo by Robbie Robinson
- "That's for O-Bon. People light candles for loved ones who've passed away; for remembrance. When everything's lit it looks amazing." Photo by Jonathan Ley
- "This was our 50th anniversary a few years ago at the Portland Art Museum. A lot of wonderful old faces." Photo by Jonathan Ley











DID YOU KNOW?

In Japan, the crane symbolizes longevity because of its fabled life span of a thousand years. The crane is a favorite subject of the tradition of origami.

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