

JAPANESE GARDEN COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

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Bunnie Aaze
Michael Chang
Elizabeth Hamilton
TJ Hara
Pat Kirsch
Kerry Muerhoff
Joe Poell
Joe Waldoch

In Memoriam: Yvonne Bublitz and Jack Carlson, both recently passed in 2016. We mourn the loss of these two seminal founders who gave so much.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

EMAIL: japanesegarden@normandale.edu
PHONE: 952-358-8145
DONATE: www.normandale.edu/japanesegarden

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normandale japanese garden
THE GARDEN PATH

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Greetings,

The Japanese Garden at Normandale is one of the special landmarks of the Normandale campus and the Bloomington community. As we prepare to celebrate Normandale's 50th Anniversary in 2018, we in turn acknowledge the faithful supporters of the Garden, who helped it grow right along with us. Join us at this year's Festival as we unveil a Japanese Donor Recognition installation, honoring 30+ years of donations and volunteering.

Joyce C. Ester, Ph.D.

President, Normandale Community College

Japanese Garden Festival

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2017 • 11 AM-5:30 PM

Join in the fun with your friends and family!

The Normandale Japanese Garden is hosting its annual Fall Festival. Don't miss this afternoon event filled with culture, food, music, and art for the whole family.

Set in Normandale Community College's two-acre Japanese Garden (as well as a few indoor spaces), the festival includes martial-arts demonstrations (judo, sword fighting, archery), Taiko drumming, dance, music and activities for children.

Bring your appetite, as there will be delicious snacks, and don't forget to enjoy the scenery.

The garden, for which ground was first broken in 1972, was designed by Tokyo-based Takao Watanabe.

Notable features are the idyllic architecture, and serene landscaping featuring rocks, water, and greenery. There are over 300 plants here, with a restrained use of flowers, as is traditional.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

ARTFUL PRUNING

Learn about the importance of aesthetic pruning which marries the science of horticulture and art.

THE GARDEN GLOVE

Current projects keeping the Garden beautiful and safe.

COLORFUL KOI

Meet Louise and find out more about the decorative, beautiful carp that call the Garden "home."



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Japanese Garden Festival

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2017 • 11 AM-5:30 PM

Please join us in celebrating our beautiful Garden!

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Flute & Drum Performances
- Gift Boutique
- Koi Feedings, Tours
- Japanese Martial Arts
- Dancers
- New Donor Recognition Installation Unveiling
- Meet Military Intelligence Service Veteran Bud Nakasone
- Origami and Ikebana Demonstrations
- Kids Activities

\$10 Suggested Donation





colorful koi

A FLICKER OF GOLD, A FLASH OF SILVER, A FLAME OF RED...

In Japanese culture, the koi pond offers an oasis of calm to aid in reflection and retreat from the frantic pace of life.

If you're not looking closely when visiting the Garden, you might miss our friendly and colorful koi as they swim lazily from lagoon to pool, under bridges and around rocks. The word "koi" means carp in Japanese. There are different meanings for the different colored koi. A white or platinum colored koi symbolizes success. A gold koi symbolizes wealth and prosperity. No matter the color of the koi, it always symbolizes something positive. Besides the color of the koi, Butterfly koi can be identified by their elongated finnage.

The Japanese Garden at Normandale Community College has seventeen koi fish in its pond. Some have been living in the pond for more than nine years,

whereas the newest koi were donated April 2017. The most common colored koi in the Japanese Garden are the white or platinum koi, but the Garden also has a blue, black, and golden colored koi.

The Japanese Garden is installing a Koi Feeder to encourage the community to be involved and connect with the Garden's most beloved residents, the koi.

KOI OF THE MONTH



Louise is a black, white, and orange koi fish. Catch her swimming from bridge to bridge and enjoying the shade on the hot summer days. She is a retired champion, now 8 years old.



Louise was donated by Joe Retterath, longtime member of the Upper Midwest Koi Club, in April 2017 and is one of the newest fish in the pond. Joe tells us he will be donating another new koi to the Japanese Garden soon. Thank you Joe!

Visit the pond for a chance to see the other newest editions. Naming opportunities are available through the Normandale Foundation.

To inquire, call 952-358-8143 or email jane.fenton@normandale.edu.

artful pruning

THE PURPOSEFUL CREATION OF A TRANQUIL SPACE

Visitors look at our beautiful Garden and wonder about the work done behind the scene. There is a prescribed art to a Japanese Garden. Japan's landscape is a combination of islands, coastline, cliffs, steep mountains and valleys. It also features waterfalls, lakes, rivers and streams interspersed among forests and rice paddies. This inspires a landscape designer's use and placement of stone, water and plants when creating an authentic Japanese Garden.

Unlike the other elements, the plants require constant attention. Initially, it is to start them on their way to the designer's intended shape; then to maintain the size and shape as well as the good health of the plant. This requires the vision of an artist, the knowledge of a horticulturist and the hands of a surgeon.

Normandale Community College provides the Garden with this master in the person of Sam Kaufman. Sam is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin River Falls. He learned how to care for plants by working for his father's lawn and landscape company. He started tending Normandale's Japanese Garden in

July of 2008. Sam has continued his education through membership in the North American Japanese Garden Association conferences and workshops.

Pruning is the practice of removing twigs or branches by cutting, shearing, clipping, pinching or stripping. It is done to control the growth of many of the trees in the garden, including 35 Austrian pines which naturally grow to 50-60 feet tall and 40 feet wide. After over forty years, ours are still between eight to twelve feet tall. It takes much care to make the tree look naturally mature with branches that maintain their gradation from thick to thin.

The careful choice of which branches are removed determines the shape, possibly that of a windswept old pine. Austrian pines are pruned and thinned in March. All needles on the bottom side of the branches are removed. In late May or early June, all of the new candle tips are pinched back: all but two or three on a branch are removed. Thirty-five Austrian pines with dozens of candles on each branch equals many, many pinches.

continued: artful pruning



Willow trees are aggressively pruned to maintain a size in scale with the rest of the Garden at 16 feet rather than their potential 75 feet. The willow trees are pruned at the end of July and into August. They are reduced in height by eight to ten feet and are drastically thinned out.

The flowering crabs get particular attention to maintain their unique weeping shape. Most of them are the old Red Splendor variety that are coaxed into an umbrella shape by removing anything

that wants to grow upward. As Sam prunes, he says that he "runs his hand along the branch and can feel what needs to go." In late June and early July the twelve crabapples are pruned and thinned. These trees are pruned to give them a weeping look. Every two weeks after these trees are trimmed, new growth is removed through October.

Monthly shearing is done to all Amur Maples, Viburnum, Spirea, Honeysuckle, Sand Cherries, Potentilla, Winged Euonymus and Dogwoods (Yellow and Red Twiggled). In the winter all shrubs are reduced and thinned out.

Weekly mowing, trimming, and weeding also take place. April is reserved for cleaning up all of the cuttings from winter as well as dethatching the lawn. The turf is fertilized three to four times a year. Two herbicides applications are also applied. May and late fall are reserved for special projects such as shoreline repair, path resurfacing and tree removal and/or replacement.

Pruning of the larger trees takes place in the winter. The Hackberries above the waterfall, five Honeylocusts, three Sugar Maples and six groups of Japanese Tree Lilacs are pruned during this time. This normally takes place from late November through March. Then the cycle begins again.

The careful and attentive devotion to the designer's vision makes the Garden a beautiful Japanese Garden. We are indebted to Sam for his expertise.

THE GARDEN GLOVE projects

This summer's projects focus on safety and guest experience in the Garden and include the following:

- The addition of a railing along the steps leading to the Round Shelter.
- Addressing security issues including setting hours that the Garden is open to the public. It will include looking at data that indicates usage and time, looking at how we can secure the gates and determining the need for Public Safety presence during open hours.
- The removal of the concrete bridge by the addition of a bridge that will not only be wider but have a load limit that allows for equipment to safely cross.
- A coin operated koi food dispenser
- An installation of educational panels inside the Square Shelter along with a new literature rack for supplemental brochures.



capture the moment...

WEDDINGS, EVENTS AND PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY SESSIONS IN THE GARDEN

Reserving the garden for fee-based events has been a very effective way for the committee to raise funds for the care and preservation of the garden.

Many weddings and other memorable events have taken place in the garden. Last October, for example, Normandale Garden Committee member TJ Hara and his bride

Kelly were wed in the garden a week before the Festival.

Members of the public can contact the committee at 952-358-8145 to reserve the garden. One-hour increments are available for \$200.

Annual professional photography permits will be available starting in 2018.