
●学生活動 Student Activities

緑と心を育む交流**Conversation That Cultures Greenery and the Heart****毛利胡桃****MOURI, Kurumi**

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私は訪問園芸活動を行って
いく中で、「人々の生活空間
に植物があれば良い」のでは
なく、「人と人とを結ぶツール
として植物が良い役割を果た
す」と考えるようになった。

訪問園芸活動は、HGC
(Human Green Coordinator)
という園芸学部のサークル活
動の一つとして行っている。
HGCではこの他に環境教育
活動も行っている。訪問園芸
活動とは、学生がお庭の手入
れが困難な高齢の方のお宅を
訪問し、庭の手入れを行い、
作業後にはお茶をしながら話
をするなどの交流をしている。
それぞれのお宅に担当の
学生がおり、連絡を取りなが
ら他のメンバーを誘い合わせ

て伺う。初めは緑地や植物について学んでいること
を活かし、庭の手入れができれば、ということを一
番に考えて作業を行っていた。しかし活動が続けて
いくうちに、人によって庭という空間に対する思い
が全く違い、植物に対する興味も人それぞれである
ことが分かった。そして私たちに庭の手入れをお願
いしてくださる高齢の方々は、庭が綺麗になること
を望んでいるのはもちろんだが、それ以上に若者との
交流を求めているということを実感した。

近年では高齢者と若者の接点が減り、年代間の隔
絶が問題となっている。しかしそれはもしかしたら、
交流の機会が見つからないだけなのかもしれない。
その点に気が付いてからは、家の方にも作業中に庭
に出て頂き、一緒に植物の状態を見るなど、コミュ
ニケーションを取りながら庭の手入れを行うように



Fig. 1 作業の様子 Working in the client's garden

もなっている。また気に入っている植物や庭での過
ごし方について積極的に話を伺うことで、共有でき
る話題も増えてきた。こうして会話の中でよりお互
いの笑顔が増え、以前よりも自然と打ち解けられて
きたように思う。

それぞれの訪問先のお庭は、個人の空間でありな
がら、プライベートには入り込みすぎず、学生と地域
の方を繋ぐ場として、ちょうど良い距離感が保てる
空間だと私は思う。これからも地道に、しかし着実
に活動を行っていくことで、地域との繋がり、学生と
高齢者の方々との貴重な交流を継続していきたい。



Fig. 2 会話 Talking in the garden

This article studies the idea that plants “are an excellent tool for connecting people”, rather than “plants are things in people’s immediate surroundings”. I made this unanticipated discovery during university club activities involving horticultural visits to people’s homes.

The HGC (Human Green Coordinator) Club carries out horticultural visits as one of their activities at the Chiba University Department of Horticulture. Besides this, the HGC also conducts environmental education activities. The horticultural visits include students visiting elderly people’s homes where the garden is difficult to care for, studying the garden, and after working, talking over tea and creating entertaining feedback letters for the client to remember them by. Each group has a student in charge, who upon taking responsibility for a garden, invites other HGC members to visit.

My personal experience was unexpected and wonderful. Initially, I thought that what I had learned in the university about green spaces and plants would be most important for home garden maintenance. However, as time progressed, I realized that people’s perceptions were completely different from mine, and that they were knowledgeable about plants as well. I also gradually discerned that, although the elderly people who asked us to clean their gardens were of course hoping to see the result of a more beautiful plot of land, they were perhaps more deeply interested in the possibility of exchanges with young people. In recent years, contact between the elderly and young people has decreased, the distance between them becoming a monumental problem. However, through this experience, I discovered that perhaps it is only because they cannot find the right opportunity to interact.

After noticing this, I began to go out to the garden for opportunities to work side-by-side and converse about the state of the plants together, working while communicating. In addition, by speaking optimistically about plants that I liked and what I enjoyed in the garden, people’s hearts opened and the number of topics for connecting increased. Thus, each time our smiles grew more frequent, and, as for myself, I feel that smiling comes more naturally to me now.

The gardens present a safe space for everyone to share. Although gardens in people’s homes are private, they present a safe space where a good sense of distance can be maintained; students and the community can connect because, although they are private, they are not exceedingly so. I look forward to steadily continuing these valuable connections and hope that these exchanges continue to grow between our students and the elderly in our community.

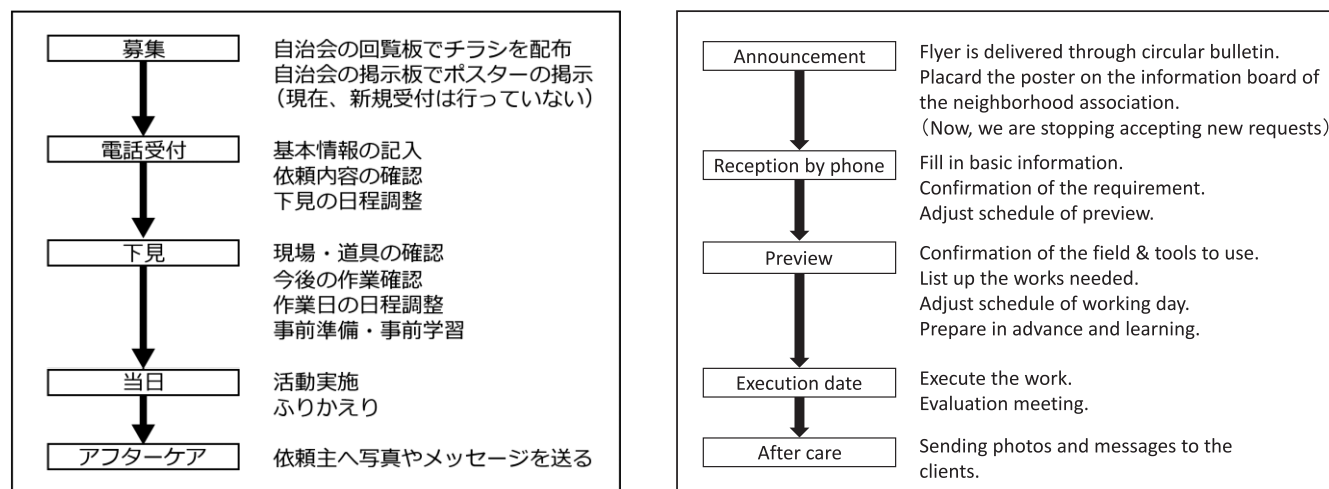


Fig. 3 訪問園芸の流れ Work Flow