

# What's New in Yokosuka

<http://www.city.yokosuka.kanagawa.jp/0140/english/welcome/documents/cultureinfo.pdf>

Inquiries in English: Yokosuka City, International Relations Division 046(822)8138

May 10, 2011 Vol. 13

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Hashirimizu Clam-Digging (走水海岸の潮干狩り)

Shortnecked-clam ("asari" in Japanese) digging at Hashirimizu Beach has already started! Enjoy the rocky scenery and salty sea air of Hashirimizu at low tide. Digging clams together then cooking and eating them is a delightful family activity, and the taste of freshly-dug clams is a totally new experience!

\* Please come by bus as parking is limited (Isemachi bus stop).

\* Low tide lasts about two hours; check the tide schedule in advance!

<http://members2.jcom.home.ne.jp/motoiya/siohigari.html> (Japanese)

\* Charge: ¥600/kg, with a 2kg minimum for junior high school students and older.

When: April 3<sup>rd</sup> - July 3<sup>rd</sup>

Where: Hashirimizu Beach [Asari Bukai (Asari Group) 090(2911)5419]



### Kurihama Hana-no-Kuni Poppy Festival

(くりはま花の国 ポピーまつり)

Poppies are already blooming at Kurihama Hana-no-Kuni Flower World, with their peak projected for mid-May! Come see a world bathed in the colors of one million Shirley poppies. Poppies will be free to pick on June 5<sup>th</sup> from 14:00-16:00 (to be cancelled in the event of rain), so bring a pair of scissors!

When: April 16<sup>th</sup> - June 5<sup>th</sup>

Where: Kurihama Hana-no-Kuni Flower World [046(833)8282]

### Spring Rose Festa (春のローズ・フェスタ)

Two thousand roses of 120 different species will be blooming in Verny Park! There will be a flea market, sale of rose seedlings, musical performances, and volunteer guides to tell you about the history of the park. What better way to spend a breezy spring weekend than surrounded by roses!

When: May 21<sup>st</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup>

Where: Verny Park [Mikasa Park Administration Office 046(824)6291]



### Iris Festival (花しょうぶまつり)

Shobu-en Iris Garden will be ablaze in 140,000 blooming irises! The irises, which include several varieties unique to Japan, will be at their peak from late May to late June. There is an entry fee of ¥300 every day except June 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:00-15:30, when entry will be free!

When: June 1<sup>st</sup> - June 30<sup>th</sup> 9:00-19:00

Where: Shobu-en Iris Garden [046(853)3688]

## Experience Japanese Culture (日本文化体験教室)

A day of fun with Japanese culture! You can try origami, flower arrangement, tea ceremony, and calligraphy; put on a kimono; or try playing traditional Japanese musical instruments. Entry is free, although some activities may require a small materials fee.

When: June 11<sup>th</sup> 13:00-17:00

Where: Yokosuka Sogo Fukushi Kaikan Hall 6F

[Yokosuka International Association 046(827)2166]



## Otsu Suwa Shrine Summer Festival (“Nagoshi-no-O-harae Chi-no-Wa Kuguri”)

(大津諏訪神社 夏越の大祓 茅の輪くぐり)

A twice-yearly festival traditionally meant to cleanse the soul of unconscious sins. The summer festival features a huge thatched wreath (“chi-no-wa”) through the center of which visitors walk to pray for health. The wreath ritual will occur twice, from 16:00-17:00 and again from 18:00-19:00. Come see this beautiful and unique local tradition!

When: June 30<sup>th</sup>

Where: Otsu Suwa Shrine [Otsu Suwa Shrine 046(836)3570]

## Hydrangea Info for June

Hydrangeas are a famous delight of the Japanese rainy season! Look for hydrangeas during the months of June and July. Spots particularly recommended for hydrangea viewing include **Chuo Park, Takatoriyama Park, and Kannonzaki Park.**



## Summer Barbecue Spots!

### Sarushima (Monkey Island・猿島)

Sarushima, the only natural island in Tokyo Bay, is a popular summer spot for sunbathing and barbecues. In addition to the beach, enjoy the shady trails through the woods to the fortress ruins in the center of the island. Sarushima is also a popular fishing spot!

You can rent barbecue equipment when you get to the island, but there are no grocery stores so you will need to bring your food with you.

### Umikaze Park (うみかぜ公園)

Umikaze Park is a very popular location for barbecues. There is a giant fountain in the park to cool the air—and in which kids love to play! This is a great spot for a family outing.

Note that barbecues are allowed in a specific area of the park, the lawn behind the mall LIVIN Yokosuka. Please keep your barbecues here! Umikaze Park is able to rent you a tent as well as barbecue equipment to make your planning extra-easy.

### Kannonzaki Park (観音崎公園)

At Kannonzaki Park, enjoy not only a barbecue on the beach but also a walk along one of the park's nature paths or a tour of Kannonzaki Lighthouse, Japan's first western-style lighthouse!



*When you have a barbecue in Japan...*

- BBQ spots are designated! There are many excellent sites around the city. Be sure that the spot you want to use is one of them!
- Be careful with your trash! Throw it away in designated receptacles if there are any, or take it home with you.

## Information Related to the March 11 Earthquake

### Donations

Donations to aid the disaster survivors are extremely welcome! You can donate at the city hall (Civic Life Division), local administration centers, or the Shimin Katsudo Support Center on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Yokosuka Arts Theatre. Many merchants around the city have also placed donation boxes near their cash registers; if there is no English label the Japanese label will probably say 義援金.

### Saving Electricity

You may have experienced the scheduled blackouts that occurred in March and early April due to insufficient power supply after the problems at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant. Tokyo Electric has announced that no more blackouts are scheduled immediately but could become necessary again later in the summer. To avoid the necessity of more blackouts, do your part to save electricity! Turn off lights you don't need; minimize use of heating and air conditioning; unplug appliances you are not using, especially the TV; and turn your refrigerator to a lower setting and keep it cleaned out.

### Registering for the Disaster Prevention Information Email Service

If you are not already registered with the Yokosuka Disaster Prevention Email Service, it's very quick and easy to do! First make sure your inbox settings allow you to receive mail from domain names [ktaiwork.jp](mailto:ktaiwork.jp) and [city.yokosuka.kanagawa.jp](mailto:city.yokosuka.kanagawa.jp). Then send a blank email to [bousai-yokosuka02-t@ktaiwork.jp](mailto:bousai-yokosuka02-t@ktaiwork.jp) (easy Japanese) or [di-yokosuka-t@ktaiwork.jp](mailto:di-yokosuka-t@ktaiwork.jp) (English). Then just wait for the confirmation email, at which time your registration will be complete. You can also use the barcodes on the right to register. Once you are registered with the Disaster Prevention Network, you will receive warnings on natural hazards such as tsunamis and floods, and other emergency-related information.



## May and June in Japanese Language and Literature

Classical haiku always included a word referencing the season. Here are a few late spring / early summer haiku by the great poet Matsuo Basho. These haiku come from his late work the *Saga Diary*:

*Cuckoo's cry—*

*moonlight seeps*

*through the thicket of bamboo.*

*Ripening barley—*

*does it get that color*

*from the skylark's tears?*

*Rape blossoms*

*scattering like dust*

*across the fields.*

In these poems the season-indicators are “cuckoo,” “ripening barley,” and “rape blossoms.”

The Saga Diary chronicles Basho's daily observations of nature for a few weeks in May and June. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century when Basho lived, Japan operated on the Chinese lunar calendar, so May and June were the fourth and fifth months. The rainy season starts in modern-day June, but it was called the “fifth-month rains” at that time. By the time Basho was packing up to end his spring stay in the mountains, the rains had started. The last poem in the *Saga Diary* reads,

*Fifth-month rain—*

*poems pasted to the wall, peeled off*

*leave traces.*

The Japanese language has many different words for rain. Seasonal words include words for “spring rain” and “autumn rain” as well as “fifth-month rain.” Words for different types of rain include words for “light rains,” “great rains,” “misty rains,” “heavy rains,” “long rains,” “brief rains,” and “sudden rains.” Several of these phenomena usually occur seasonally in Japan and thus also appear as seasonal words in haiku. *(Haiku translations by Etsuko Terasaki)*



## Bonnie's Corner

Early in June comes the beginning of Japan's fifth season: rainy season! In Japanese it's called *tsuyu*, which means "plum rains." The rainy season that occurs between spring and summer in Japan is also found in China, South Korea, and Taiwan. It's different from the monsoons that last about five months of the year in south and southeast Asia; Japanese rainy season is a temperate phenomenon that lasts about one month. It is caused by a stationary weather front, and its official beginning in early June and end in early July are announced by meteorologists tracking the progress of this front. So the official beginning and end may not correspond to the first and last rainy days of the general time period.



Rain during the rainy season is frequent but light, so equip yourself with an umbrella that's light and easy to carry with you at all times. If you hang your laundry out to dry you will need to diligently check the weather to find a safe time to do so. The humidity will permeate your house and could affect clothes and dry foods, and even cause mildew on the walls if you are not careful. Keep dry foods carefully sealed; visit the home center, supermarket, or 100-yen shop to find inexpensive dehumidifying products for your closet; and find the dehumidifier setting on your air-conditioner remote control. (Air conditioner = 冷房, heater = 暖房, dehumidifier = 除湿)

As long as you're aware of these basic tips, you can relax and enjoy the rainy season! I personally enjoy it quite a bit. Hydrangeas begin blooming in gardens everywhere; the sound and scent of the light rain are pleasant; and temperatures during the rainy season are the most moderate of the year. I like to nap with the windows open during rainy season and let the rain lull me to sleep.

*Bonnie McClure, a native of Georgia, U.S.A., is Yokosuka City's Coordinator for International Relations. Bonnie's Corner in every issue of What's New in Yokosuka features fun information useful for everyday life and cultural encounters in Japan.*

## Event Calendar

| MAY  |  |    |  | JULY |  |
|------|--|----|--|------|--|
| 14   | • Kanrin-maru Festival   | 11 | • Experience Japanese Culture  | 9    | • Ceremony of the Landing of Commodore Perry                             |
| 21   | • Spring Rose Festa<br>(until the 22 <sup>nd</sup> )                         | 12 | • Kinugasa Community Center<br>Marimba Concert (13:30~)  |      |  |
|      |  | 19 | • "Yokosuka City: Japan's Door to the World": Marching & Baton Festival 2011<br>(13:00~Yokosuka Arena) |      |  |
| JUNE |  | 30 | • Citizens Music Day<br>(12:00~Bunka Kaikan Cultural Hall)   |      | * <i>What's New in Yokosuka comes out again on July 10<sup>th</sup>!</i> |
| 1    | • Iris Festival (until the 30 <sup>th</sup> )                                |    | • Otsu Suwa Shrine Summer Festival   |      | * <i>The schedule posted may be subject to change.</i>                   |
| 4    | • Oppama Community Center Ikebana Exhibition<br>(until the 5 <sup>th</sup> ) |    |  |      |  |
| 5    | • Kurihama Hana-no-kuni Flower World: Poppy picking                          |    |  |      |  |

Yokosuka City, Policy Promotion Department, International Relations Division

11 Ogawa-cho, Yokosuka City 238-8550  
TEL : 046(822)8138 FAX : 046(827)8878 E-mail : ir-mo@city.yokosuka.kanagawa.jp

