

SHIBUKAWA CURRENT

Shibukawa International Association

368th edition, June 2023



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Hello Everyone!

Japan's rainy season usually begins at the start of June and lasts until mid-July for most of Japan. The temperature is rising, and the air is becoming humid. It is the season when flowers such as irises and hydrangeas are beautiful with their young, green leaves glistening in the rain.

The rainy season is called **Tsuyu** or **Baiu** because it starts around the time when plums are ripening. **Teru Teru Bozu** is a very simple doll, made of white tissue paper or white cloth. It is traditionally hung outside of windows or from the eaves to wish for sunny days.

June is also an exciting time for picking cherries and blueberries in the Akagi and Komochi areas.

There are also some small shops that sell delicious strawberry sherbet, cherries and blueberries.

Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy hiking and mountain courses along the Kanto Fureai Road visiting the Nakasuji relics, Yagisawa Shimizu relics and the Ikaho Ropeway which connects the Ikaho Hot Spring Resort with the peak of Mt. Monokiki. Bungalows and barbecue pits are available at the Komochi Maple Village and Akagi campsites.

In the northern hemisphere, summer solstice is the day of the year that has the longest daylight hours of the year and can occur between June 20 and June 22. Summer solstice, or **Geshi** as it's called in Japan, falls on Wednesday, June 21, this year.

Father's Day in Japan falls on the third Sunday of June (this year, June 18). This holiday gives people a chance to express their thanks for their father's love and hard work.

Hydrangea Festival (あじさいまつり)



Enjoy Hydrangea viewing at the Onoike Ajisai Koen Park!

There are about 8,000 Hydrangea plants, and 20 different varieties in wonderful colors such as silky white, blue, turquoise, pale red, and dark purple. The festival takes place from Saturday, June 17 through Sunday, July 2. During the day, you can enjoy not only the beauty of the brightly colored hydrangea but also the sound of the wind chimes that are placed around the park. In the evening (from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm), LED candles illuminate the lifelike blooms with a beautiful, bright glow and also a hand painted lanterns installation can be seen there. Booths are set up at the event on Saturday, June 17, Sunday, June 18, Saturday, June 24, and Sunday, June 25, offering festival food to enjoy and also free rental of Japanese umbrellas (from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm). You can park your car at the Onoike Hydrangea Park parking lot and also, the parking lots of Ryokoji and Shibukawa Hachimangu will be used as temporary parking lots. (The access to the park is free of charge.)

Firefly Viewing in Miyada Hotaru no Sato (宮田 螢 の 里 ホタル 鑑 賞)

The fireflies that rest in the shades of grass by day, fly about at night, glowing and creating a romantic spectacle. Watching the fantastic dancing lights of fireflies is a truly magical and hypnotic experience. They can be seen in June and July in the Akagi Machi, Miyada Oshima area (Hotaru no Sato) where you can spot two different types of fireflies: Genji firefly and Heike firefly. Genji firefly(Luciola cruciata)is larger and brighter)than Heike firefly (Luciola laterals). Entrance is free!

When: Starting June 4, from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm.

Tel: 0279-56-2950



Shinkoji Temple Hydrangea in Full Bloom (アジサイが見ごろ「真光寺」)

Shinkoji is a famous temple that is said to have been founded in the Heian Period by the monk Junichi Doshi. The temple was under the guardianship of Shingen Takeda (the nineteenth head of the Takeda clan), a samurai commander in the Warring States period (Sengoku). The temple was ranked among the Kanto region's five major temples of the Tendai sect. There are several cultural assets in the Shinkoji precincts such as the temple's large bell "Ogane"(prefecture designated important cultural property in the "Shoro" (bell tower). Shinkoji is known as Ajisaidera ("Hydrangea Temple") because hydrangea bloom all over the temple grounds during the rainy season. There are more than 3000 shrubs of hydrangea in the beautiful garden of the temple and from around mid-June to early July they will color the ground of Shinkoji temple. (Address: 748 Shibukawa, Shibukawa City)

Shibukawa Skyland Park (渋川スカイランドパーク)

The Shibukawa Skyland Park provides a lot of events during this month.

You can enjoy the panoramic view of Shibukawa from the Ferris Wheel, various attractions, and also Azalea view. About 5000 "White Lady" or Annabelle hydrangea shrubs are planted in the park and when they bloom they look great, like a carpet. The best time to see the Annabelle hydrangea flowers will be from mid-June to mid-July. The entrance ticket during the peak of the season is 300 yen for children and adults, allowing you to ride one time on the Ferris wheel for free.

In the case of bad weather the park will be closed.

Tel: 0279-20-1589



Ancient Rice Planting and Harvesting Class (古代米づくり体験教室)

In this class you will have a hands-on experience of producing ancient rice (red rice "Aka-mai", black rice "Kuro-mai", etc.), from rice planting to harvesting.

Where: Handa Hayao Jinja

When: Rice planting on Saturday, July 1, rice harvesting on Saturday, November 11.

Limit: 60 people (randomly selected if there are more applications)

Application: By phone until Friday, June 16

Tel: 0279-52-2102



Puppet Show Fushigi Dagashiya Zenitendo by Puppet Theater Hitomi-za

(人形劇団ひとみ座ふしぎ駄菓子屋銭天堂)

The Puppet Show will be held at Shibukawa Shimin Kaikan on Friday, August 11, from 2:00 pm.

Tickets will be on sale starting on Saturday, June 3 from 9:00 am. The Box Office is open Tuesday through Sunday, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

General admission ticket: 1500 yen (ticket at the door is 1800 yen)

Tel: 0279-24-2261 (Shibukawa Shimin Kaikan) for reservations and inquiry

Mallet Golf Lessons for Beginners (マレットゴルフ初心者体験講習会)

Shibukawa City Akagi Shikishima Mallet Golf Course offers a series of three lessons for new or beginner golfers. You will learn the basics of the game in a fun, comfortable, and relaxing environment.

When: 9:00 am to 11:00 am, Tuesday, June 6, July 4, and August 1

Where: Akagi Shikishima Mallet Golf Course

Target: People who live and work in the city

Participation fee: 400 yen (course fee and equipment rental fee) (Collect at the venue on the day)

How to apply: By phone (Please contact Mr. Tani from the City Sports Association Shibukawa Branch Mallet Golf Club)

Tel: 080-5042-6988

Shibukawa Utagoe Salon (しぶかわ うたごえサロン)

Let's get together and sing well-known songs with instrumental accompaniment of guitar and percussion.

Where: Chuo Kominkan

When: Sunday, June 18, from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Participation fee: It's free

Tel: 0279-22-2596



SOS Free Legal Consultation for Foreign Residents (がいこくじんむりようほうりつそうだん)

Where: One-Stop Consultation Center for Foreign Residents of Gunma (1st Floor, Showa Chosha Wing, 1-1-1 Ote-machi, Maebashi)

When: Sunday, June 18, 2022, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm (Doors close at 2:30 pm)

Consultants: Attorneys, Gyoseishoshi (Certified Administrative Procedures Legal Specialist), and Sharoushi (Certified Social Insurance and Labor Consultant), and Japan Pension Service Manager

Interpreters: English, Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Nepalese

Reservation & Inquiry: One-Stop Consultation Center for Foreign Residents of Gunma, weekdays from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. (Priority is given to those who have appointments.)

Tel: 027-289-8275

On-duty Clinics in June (6月の休日当番医)

Internal Medicine			Surgery	Dentistry
6/4 (Sun)	Kawashima-naika -clinic (川島内科クリニック) Tel: 23-2001	Sato-iin (佐藤医院) Tel: 52-3003	Tomaru-clinic (とまるクリニック) Tel: 26-7711	Aoba-shika-iin (あおば歯科医院) Tel: 25-8820
5/11 (Sun)	Saito-naika-geka -clinic (斎藤内科外科クリニック) Tel: 22-1678	Sekiguchi-iin (関口医院) Tel: 55-5122	Adachi-seikei -geka (あだち整形外科) Tel: 30-1170	Fukushima-shika-iin (ふくしま歯科医院) Tel: 22-0154
5/18 (Sun)	Otani-naika-clinic (大谷内科クリニック) Tel: 20-1881	Itamino-clinic -hasegawa-iin (痛みのクリニック長谷川医院) Tel: 30-5055	Shibukawa-iryo -center (渋川医療センター) Tel: 23-1010	Meiji-shika -shinryojo (明治歯科診療所) Tel: 25-8101
5/25 (Sun)	Nakano-iin (中野医院) Tel: 22-1219	Komayose-kodomo -shinryojo (駒寄こども診療所) Tel: 55-5252	Sekiguchi-byoin (関口病院) Tel: 22-2378	Smile-shika (スマイル歯科) Tel: 30-5033

★ Don't forget to take your Health Insurance Card and be sure that the doctor for ENT and Dentistry sections will be available only by noon.

Night Emergency Clinic (夜間急患診療所)

The Night Emergency Clinic provides medical services in cases of sudden illnesses or injuries between the hours of 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm daily, for conditions and issues related to internal medicine, surgery, and pediatrics, depending on the doctor in charge. The clinic will introduce patients to another medical institution that is more suitable if specialized treatment is necessary.

Address: 1760-1 Nagatsuka-cho, Shibukawa

Tel: 0279-23-8899 (Please contact the clinic before going if you are not sure if you can be treated.)

Free Counselling Service (外国人生活相談窓口の案内)

The Shibukawa International Association is providing a free counselling service for foreign residents at Shibukawa City Hall every Thursday, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Tel: 0279-22-2396



Information (お問い合わせ)

Shibukawa City Office DX & Administrative Management Division, 80 Ishihara, Shibukawa City

Tel: 0279-22-2396 Fax: 0279-24-6541 Email: sia-shibukawa@city.shibukawa.gunma.jp

URL: <http://www.city.shibukawa.lg.jp/kurashi/community/kokusaikouryukyoukai/p001414.html>