

# SHIBUKAWA CURRENT

Shibukawa International Association

391st edition, May 2025



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## Hello Everyone!

May in Japan is a month of fresh, green foliage and splendid weather, with bright and clear days called "Satsukibare", before the setting-in of the rainy season in June.

May 3 is Constitution Day, May 4 is Greenery Day (observed on May 6), and May 5 is Children's Day. These consecutive public holidays are known as Golden Week, and it is one of the country's busiest holiday periods.

Children's Day was formerly called "Tango no Sekku", a day to celebrate the growth of boys. Today, Children's Day is a day to celebrate the growth of both boys and girls. Even now families with boys raise Koi-nobori (carp-shaped streamers). This originated from a Chinese legend of strong carps that could fight their way up to the Yellow River to become dragons. Toward Boy's Day, ornaments such as Gogatsu Ningyo (warrior dolls) and Kabuto (warriors' helmets) are displayed at home, in the hope that the boys will grow as strong and healthy as warriors. Kashiwa-mochi and Chimaki are the traditional Japanese sweets are eaten on the day.

Mother's Day in Japan falls on the second Sunday of May (this year, it falls on Sunday, May 11).

May is the season for newly harvested tea. People especially prize green tea made from new tea leaves picked around Hachijuhachiya (the eighty-eighth day after Risshun, beginning of Spring). These are called "Ichiban-cha", first tea leaves and they have a wonderful flavor and fragrance.

## Azalea in Nagamine Park (ながみね こうえん (長峰公園のツツジ))

Nagamine Nature Park is located along the Prefectural Road Shibukawa-Matsuida Line connecting Ikaho Onsen, hot spring town and Lake Haruna, close to Tokutomi Roka Memorial Museum. The park, covering approximately 5 hectares, offers great views of the Ikaho Onsen, Mount Akagi, and of the Kanto Plain.

In the first half of May, about 12000 beautiful Mountain Azaleas growing in the park are in full bloom, creating a blaze of color in the park. There is an observation deck at 834 meters above sea level, that overlooks the park and visitors can enjoy the elegant contrast of red flowers and new green leaves of spring, against the backdrop of Mt. Akagi and the buildings of the hot spring town. With many Manyo Kahi (monument inscribed with a poem), this park lends itself to recreation.

**Peak season:** from early May to mid-May



## Hime-gifucho (ヒメギフチョウ)

Hime-gifucho (*Luehdorfia Puziloi*) is a butterfly of the swallowtail butterflies family, Papilionidae, found only in Japan. With black and yellow stripes on the entire wing and a purple band on the rear wing, this lovely creature adds to the color, joy and fascination of nature. Designated as a prefectural natural monument, Hime-gifucho is also known as the Spring Goddess, or the Princess of Akagi.

In April and May, the Hime-gifucho butterflies are plentiful around Mt. Akagi.



## The 21st Clear Stream Festival (第21回清流祭り)

The Festival will be held at Nakago Asada, Tone-gawa riverside on Sunday, May 18, from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm, offering various activities such as: young yamame (troutlet) stocking river; fishing tournament (20 elementary school students on a first come first served basis, application from 9:00 am); Taisho-koto (Japanese zither) performance; fishing and tsukamidori (grabbing with bare hands), for high school students and younger; masuyaki (grilled trout); river protection activities (all participants picking up driftwood and trash); panel displays and other exhibits.

(The program may be subject to change.) Parking is limited, so please carpool, or avoid coming by car, if possible. In case of bad weather, such as heavy rainfall either the day before or on the day of the festival, the venue cannot be used, and the festival will be canceled.

**Tel: 0279-22-2527** (Doboku, Civil Engineering Division)

## Nishiki-e Exhibition & Tokutomi Roka Memorial Tea Ceremony

(錦絵展と徳富蘆花追悼茶会)

The Tokutomi Roka Memorial Literature Museum will display its collection of Nishiki-e, multicolored woodblock prints, starting Monday, May 5 to Monday, June 30, 2025. Also, a Japanese tea ceremony will take place in memory of Tokutomi Roka on Monday, May 18, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

**Japanese tea ceremony cost:** 500 yen (for the Japanese confections)

**Museum hours:** 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, every day except for Fridays

**Admission fee:** Adults 350 yen, elementary, junior high school, and high school students 200 yen

## 1000 People ROCK FES. GUNMA 2025

### Live Music Performance KISHIDAN – One Night Carnival

(1000人ROCK FES.GUNMA2025 氣志團「One Night Carnival」)

Held at Ikaho Green Bokujo, the "1000 People ROCK FES. GUNMA" is a participatory live event that brings together musicians of all ages and skill levels. The festival is recruiting vocalists and musical instrument players as band members, and all of them will join forces in playing the same song at the same time. The song is announced in advance to allow for ample preparation time. This year's set song is "One Night Carnival" by KISHIDAN.

**Date & Time:** Saturday, May 31, 2025 (performance starts at 2:00 pm)

If it rains, the event will be postponed to the next day, and if it rains again on the next day, it will be canceled.

**Participation fee:** 3,000 yen (tax included) per person (elementary school students and above)

(There is no admission fee to Ikaho Green Ranch for event participants.)

Please check the event's official website for participation and the latest information at: <https://1000-rock.com>

## "Get Closer to Flowers" Workshop (花に親しむ体験教室)

This workshop is recommended to anyone who love flowers and plants, and wants to start Yoseue, Japanese container gardening. It will be held at Dainichosha, Momiji Terrace on Saturday, June 14, from 10:00 am to noon.

**Limit:** 25 people (randomly selected if more than 25 people apply).

**Fee:** 2000 yen (material costs such as flower seedlings and bowls.)

**Application:** until Friday, May 23, by phone (Tel: 0279-25-8307)



## 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 people who live, work or study in Shibukawa city. You will learn the basics of the game in a fun and relaxing environment.

**When:** 9:00 am to 11:00 am, Thursday, June 5, July 3, and August 7, September 4, October 2, and November 6

**Where:** Akagi Shikishima Mallet Golf Course

**Fee:** 400 yen each time, collected on the day at the venue (course fee and equipment rental fee)

**How to apply:** by phone, **Tel: 080-5042-6988** (Mr. Tani from the City Sports Association Shibukawa Branch Mallet Golf Club, or directly at the venue) / **Tel: 0279-22-2241** (Sport Div. for more information)

## Bamboo Crafts Workshop

たけこうげいきょうしつ  
(竹工芸教室)

The workshop will be held at Hokkitsu Rekishi Shiryoukan on Saturday, June 21 and Sunday, June 22, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Participants will learn how to weave bamboo strips in a traditional manner, and make their own bamboo item!

**Things to bring:** a Japanese Nata machete or a small knife, and your own lunch box

**Limit:** 7 people (high school students or older)

**Fee:** 500 yen (for materials)

**Application:** by phone, from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, every day except Mondays and Tuesdays, until Friday June 16

**Tel: 0279-52-2102**

## Kyudo Course Registration

きゆうどうきょうしつせいとほしゅう  
(弓道教室生徒募集)

Participants will learn the techniques of Japanese archery, including proper posture, handling the bow and arrow, and shooting at a target.

**When:** May 17 - June 21, every Tuesday and Saturday, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

**Where:** Miyata Shokai Budokan, Kyudo-jo

**Limit:** 10 people (elementary school students, grade 5 and older), on a first come, first served basis

**Cost:** 2,000 yen

**Application:** By phone, from May 7 to May 10

**Tel: 0279-22-0928** (Kyudo Club) or

**Tel: 0279-22-2241** (Sport Div.)



## Vehicle-related Taxes (自動車に関する税金)

Automobile Tax and Light Automobile Tax are due on June 2, 2025. Tax payment notification slips will be sent to all vehicle owners (registered before April 1st), during the beginning of May. Payments can be made at administrative service windows, banks, the post office, or convenience stores. Bank transfers are also possible.

If you have problems with paying your vehicle tax, contact the offices below for inquiries and consultation.

**Automobile Tax:** Gunma Prefectural Vehicle Tax Office (Gunma-ken Jidoshazei Jimusho) (**Tel: 027-263-4343**) or at the Shibukawa Administrative Prefectural Tax Office (**Tel: 0279-22-4050**)

**Light Automobile Tax:** Your local city, town, or village office

## SOS Free Legal Consultation for Foreign Residents (外国人無料法律相談)

**Where:** Gunma Kaikan, 3rd Floor (2-1-1 Ote-machi, Maebashi City, 〒 371-0026)

**When:** Sunday, May 18, 2025, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm (doors close at 2:30 pm)

**Consultants:** Lawyer, Gyoseishoshi (Immigration specialist), and Sharoushi (Labor Consultant)

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

**Reservation & Inquiry:** One-Stop Consultation for Foreign Residents of Gunma, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, weekdays

**Tel: 027-289-8275 / Tel: 090-1215-6113** (only during counselling hours)

(Priority is given to those who have appointments.)

## On-duty Clinics in May (5月の休日当番医)

	Internal Medicine		Surgery	Dentistry
5/3 (Sat)	Akagi-kaisei-clinic (赤城開成クリニック) Tel: 20-6500	Shinto-Saito-iin (榛東さいとう医院) Tel: 54-1055	Takano-geka-ichoka-iin (高野外科胃腸科医院) Tel: 24-2454	Saito-shika-iin (さいとう歯科医院) Tel: 53-5454
5/4 (Sun)	Saito-naika-geka-clinic (斎藤内科外科クリニック) Tel: 22-1678	Takeuchi-shonika (竹内小児科) Tel: 30-5151	Kato-seikeigeka-iin (加藤整形外科医院) Tel: 20-1007	Shimamura-shika-iin (しまむら歯科医院) Tel: 20-1182
5/5 (Mon)	Nakano-iin (中野医院) Tel: 22-1219	Oi-naika-clinic (大井内科クリニック) Tel: 30-5575	Arima-clinic (有馬クリニック) Tel: 24-8818	Yamakawa-shika-iin (山川歯科医院) Tel: 22-0260
5/6 (Tue)	Kamiyama-naika-iin (神山内科医院) Tel: 22-2181	Furumaki-naika-iin (ふるまき内科医院) Tel: 25-8881	Otaki-clinic (大滝クリニック) Tel: 30-5800	Komayose-shika-clinic (駒寄歯科クリニック) Tel: 30-5500
5/11 (Sun)	Kosei-iin (厚成医院) Tel: 22-1060	Shinto-Wakaba-clinic (榛東わかばクリニック) Tel: 20-5531	Sekiguchi-byoin (関口病院) Tel: 22-2378	Sakura-shika (さくら歯科) Tel: 30-6333
5/18 (Sun)	Otani-naika-clinic (大谷内科クリニック) Tel: 20-1881	Itamino-clinic -Hasegawa-iin (痛みクリニック長谷川医院) Tel: 30-5055	Tomaru-clinic (とまるクリニック) Tel: 26-7711	Hoshino-shika-clinic (星野歯科クリニック) Tel: 22-0232
5/25 (Sun)	Tsukagoshi-clinic (塚越クリニック) Tel: 60-7700	Sekiguchi-iin (関口医院) Tel: 55-5122	Shibukawa-iryō-center (渋川医療センター) Tel: 23-1010	Takizawa-shika-iin (たきざわ歯科医院) Tel: 55-6480

## Night Emergency Clinic (夜間急患診療所)

The clinic provides medical services daily, from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm, in cases of sudden illnesses or injuries. Patients will be introduced to another medical institution if specialized treatment is necessary.

**Tel: 0279-23-8899 (Address: 1760-1 Nagatsuka-cho, Shibukawa)**

To access the **SHIBUKAWA CURRENT** online, scan the code on the right or visit our website at:  
<https://www.city.shibukawa.lg.jp/kurashi/community/kokusaikouryukyukai/p000024.html>



## 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: 0279-22-2463)**



## Information (お問い合わせ)

Shibukawa City Office Shimin Kyodo Suishin Ka, 80 Ishihara, Shibukawa City

**Tel: 0279-22-2463 Fax: 0279-24-6541 Email: sia-shibukawa@city.shibukawa.gunma.jp**

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