

Chigasaki Wave



Chigasaki Wave Club

ウエーブ
茅ヶ崎 波 倶楽部

Sea breezes are like precious friends, easing your mind, and whispering encouragement to you.

Chigasaki Surfing Stories (2) Long-established surfboard manufacturer



The surfboard manufacturing industry is one of the major sectors of surfing business. Shonan Fiber Glass (SFG), located in Amanuma, is one of about ten local surfboard manufacturers. The nearly fifty-year-old company has been playing a substantial role in the industry since the dawn of the marine sport in Japan.

SFG mostly manufactures custom-made boards. Major specs of a surfboard include its dimensions (length/width/thickness), the board's shape, rocker (vending) and the quality of the material, and these are based on the customer's height, weight, ability and which waves they usually ride on.

A board blank made of polystyrene or polyurethane, imported from the US and Australia, is shaped to meet the customer's order. Then the blank is covered with a fiberglass cloth, and coated with

resin to fix the cloth to the blank. This process increases the strength of the board. After the resin cures at an ambient temperature, excess resin is removed, the surface is polished with sandpaper, and fins are attached. The whole process is done by hand. It takes about one week to make a board.

SFG was originally the manufacturing section of a surf shop, Goddess International, and SFG receives most of its orders through the shop. Besides this, orders are received directly from surfers from afar who know the reputation of the manufacturer. In addition, it contracts original equipment manufacturing. Tadashi Suzuki, founder and president of the surf shop, still shapes boards himself here.

According to plant manager Yasuhiko Akama, the busiest period is from May to September. He feels round-shaped boards in the '80s have come back into fashion among local surfers. Thorough work and reliable technique make it possible for SFG to be among long-established companies.



Renovation and construction of public facilities

Civic Center

The Civic Center has been closed for seismic retrofitting and repair work. Its renewal open is scheduled for October 2018.

Hands-on experience facility at Chigasaki park tennis courts

A new facility having the combined functions of the Welfare Center and the former Youth Center will be constructed at the site of tennis courts in Chigasaki park. A barrier-free building, which will be opened in January 2019, is planned to have one floor below ground and two floors above ground with a total floor space of 3,300 square meters.



Civic Hall under repair

Warning Hand, foot and mouth disease is going around

The number of hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) patients in Chigasaki surpassed the warning level in early July. There are no vaccines nor medicines which cure or prevent HFMD. Washing hands is of primary importance. One of its most common symptoms is blisters on the foot, hand and in the mouth, which usually occurs within three to five days after being infected. About one third of the patients develop a slight fever. When having these symptoms, go to a doctor without delay.

Volunteer groups in and around Chigasaki

Salon-dote (2)

Salon-dote provides a place of relaxation named Saito-san-chi for anyone who wants to come around, stay there to chat with each other and have lunch served by members of the group (See CW14). Their other activity is holding “Honson kids’ cafeteria” every other Thursday at Japan Holiness Chigasaki Church on Route One, about 10-minutes’ walk toward Fujisawa from the north entrance of Chigasaki Station. The kids’ cafeteria named ‘*Itadakimasu*’, or “Let’s eat!” in English, serves dinner from 17:00 to 19:00 to children with or without their parents. A group member said they usually start their work at 14:00, preparing about 60 meals. When we visited at around 17:00 on the third Thursday of July, there were some 30 people, children, their mothers and/or fathers, eating dry curry and four dishes, including salad and sautéed vegetables. The charge was 300 yen for an adult and 200 yen for a kid. No reservation is required. The cafeteria aims to protect mothers and fathers who have parenting problems from being isolated. The group hopes parents may alleviate their parenting burdens by eating together and talking with each other.



On that day, several students from Bunkyo University attended as volunteers. They said they were investigating how much vegetables children eat, while supporting the staff.

In addition, the group holds a gathering called “Pre-mamas and Babies’ Day” once a month for expectant women and mothers with babies younger than 12 months old. Attendants can learn how to bring up a baby, including how to lull a baby.

Furthermore, they hold lecture meetings called ‘Puberty Café’, in which attendants learn how to deal with children during puberty. The first meeting was on June 24. The lecturer was Takanori Doi, a child support expert. The second will be on August 26 (Sat) from 14:30 to 16:30. The speaker will be Junko Muneto, a child-rearing advisor.

URL: www.sarondote.com

Memories of War – Operation Coronet

Did you know the allied forces were going to make a big landing on Shonan beach at the final stage of WWII? The operation to invade the Japanese mainland was called Operation Downfall, which consisted of Operation Olympic scheduled for November 1, 1945, and Operation Coronet for March 1, 1946. The former operation aimed to occupy Southern Kyushyu to build an air base so that it became possible to make air raids on Kanto. The latter was to invade at Shonan beach and Kujukuri beach in Chiba simultaneously. Its purposes were: to occupy Tokyo and Yokohama, then the Kanto Plain to prepare for fighting in the middle and northern Japan, and finally to force Japan to surrender. Of the two beaches, a larger force was to be concentrated on Shonan. About 300,000 soldiers, together with bombardment by warships and planes, were to be mobilized.

Operation Downfall, however, was never carried out because Japan surrendered in August of 1945, following the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the Soviet declaration of war.

Today, only a few citizens may remember the scene on the right. Sagami Bay was filled with countless battleships of the allied forces in August 1945. WWII has become the thing in the distant past, and citizens enjoy peaceful everyday life. But, seventy years ago Chigasaki beach might have turned into a battlefield, where a fiercer battle than that of Normandy on June 6, 1944 might have been fought.

References: Text of the December 3, 2016 lecture by Hisaya Kurita, and History of Chigasaki (Contemporary Period II: US forces in the city). The photo, owned by the U.S. National Archives & Records Administration, was reprinted from the city history II by permission of the city. Reproduction forbidden.



Interested in Japanese proverbs?

(1) 堪忍袋の緒が切れる

KANNIN BUKURO NO O GA KIRERU

KANNIN means generosity, BUKURO a bag, O a string of a bag, GA is, and KIRERU to break.

KANNIN BUKURO figuratively means generosity, which is compared to a bag. People can put up with anger, hatred and other unpleasant sentiment by putting it in the bag. But if too many unpleasant feelings are put into it, the string of the bag will break, and their emotion will explode.

In the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly election held on July 2, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) suffered a stunning defeat, which indicated Tokyo citizens' KANNIN BUKURO had exploded as a result of the LDP government's selfish actions. The saying is in Horikawa Kyoka shyu, an anthology of comic tankas written in the early Edo Period.

Its English equivalents are:

- Patience provoked turns to fury.
- Long patience breaks into passion.
- Wronged patience often becomes furious.

(2) 貧すれば鈍する

HIN SUREBA DON SURU,

HIN means poverty, SUREBA if and DON SURU to become dull. Poverty dulls one's wisdom as they always have to think of how to make a living. In other words, food, clothing and shelter are necessary for people to make their brains work sharply. (But, food, clothing and shelter alone do not guarantee the brains' sharp work!) This proverb was in Yoshiwara boshi, a gay-quarter novelette in the Edo Period.

But, there is always some way out of a difficulty if you really look for one. And after night comes the day. It is always important to make an effort to break the vicious cycle you are caught in. Many great people did not let poverty get the better of them.

Its English equivalents are:

- There is no virtue which poverty destroys not.
- It is a hard task to be poor and real.
- He that loses his goods loses his sense.

History of Chigasaki Pathways in Kowada and Hishinuma (1)

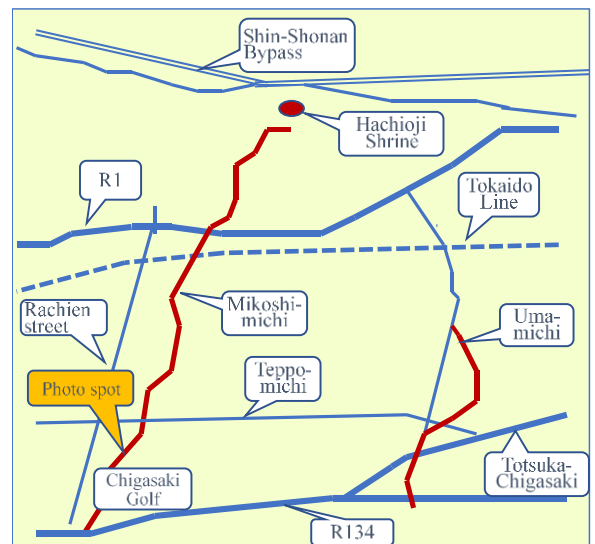
This and following issues introduce three historic pathways in the city's southeastern area.

Mikoshi-michi

Before World War II, the mikoshi of the Hishinuma village shrine, Hachioji Shrine, went along a pass on its way to the beach at Hamaori Festival. Starting at the shrine, the pathway went southward after passing by the south of Shorin ES, then crossed the Tokaido (Route One) at today's Shorin-1-chome, and finally reached the beach just east of Rachien-dori via Kozakura-cho, Hibari-ga-oka, Asahi-ga-oka, the western district of Hamasuka JHS and Hishinuma Kaigan. Immediately after WWII, no houses were seen along the pass to the south of the Tokaido. Either side of the gravel pathway farmland spread. Barley was planted in spring and sweet potatoes in the season of Hamaori Festival. As the number of the mikoshi bearers was smaller than today, they had to take rests several times until they reached the festival site.

Uma-michi

A pathway, which started at Hamatake-4-chome, passed through Tokiwa-cho, and crossed Totsuka-Chigasaki prefectural road before reaching the beach, was called *Uma-michi*, or a Horse path in English. In the Edo Period, either side of the path the Edo Shogunate's pine groves called *Namiyama-ohayashi* spread. It is said pine logs from the groves were used to repair Edo Castle. The logs were carried to Yanagishima by horse through *Uma-michi*, tied together into rafts and pulled to Edo. (Source: Chigasaki City Museum of Heritage booklet 1)



Skilled surfer, instructor and chairman of SUPU – Takashi Hosoi

One day a fourth-grade elementary school boy followed a junior high student who went surfing at the nearby beach in Chigasaki. That was Takashi Hosoi's first experience of surfing. It was the beginning of the 1970s and only a few surfers were seen there. To his delight, he succeeded in catching a wave and standing on the board on his first try. Normally, it takes quite a bit of practice until beginners become able to stand, and this experience raised his interest in the marine sport.

He has since enjoyed surfing with a few friends of his age, and was gradually attracted by competitive surfing. He won the All Japan Student Surfing Championship in 1980, ten years after his first try. In that year, he won third place in the All Japan Surfing Championship, and several years later won first place in the competition. While in university, he moved to Gold Coast in Australia for training, became the first Japanese surfer to obtain a membership of a prestigious local surfing club and engaged in life-guarding among other activities. After he returned home he instructed young surfers as an official coach of the Nippon Surfing Association.

Today, he is the owner of a surf shop on Yuzo-dori, and an instructor of his surf school as well as a skilled surfer and judge. He is also the chairman of an association of stand up paddle boarders called, the Stand UP Paddle Union (SUPU), and is making an effort to increase the number of paddle boarders and to make Chigasaki a Mecca for the new marine sport. Unlike traditional surfing, where surfers sit on their boards until a wave comes, stand up paddle boarders stand on their boards to move on the water using a pad. He first saw stand up paddling in Hawaii in 2006, and won several races in Japan in the 2010s. Hosoi says stand up paddling is easier for beginners to learn than traditional surfing.

The SUPU has held the SUP JAPAN CUP, the first world level competition in Asia, at Chigasaki beach since 2014. The new sport will be adopted in the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris.

URL: <http://www.hosoi.com/>

<http://www.supu.co.jp/race/index.php>



Hamaori Festival

A traditional mid-summer festival was held on the morning of July 17, Marine Day. Around 40 mikoshi gathered on Nishihama beach. After a one-hour Shinto ritual praying for the peace and security of the nation, a bumper crop and a rich haul, many mikoshi paraded on the beach and some of them went into the sea. The shouting of the bearers, the sounds of the bearers beating on wooden poles of mikoshi with metal rings, the tinkling of bells and the cheering of the crowd filled the air with a festive mood. Many of the spectators also got wet while they tried to take good pictures. One of them exclaimed, 'It is really fun!' You can see a video in the responsive Chigasaki Wave.



Nature in Chigasaki

Cryptotympana facialis, or *Kumazemi*

Cryptotympana facialis, or *Kumazemi* in Japanese, inhabit in western Japan, Tokai and southern Kanto. In Kanagawa Prefecture, it was thought that *Kumazemi* lived to the south of the line connecting Jyogashima and Oiso, but since around the year 2000 an increasing number of its habitats have been found to the east and north of the line. Chuo Koen and Hamamidaira district in the city are among those places.

Kumazemi are 60 to 70 mm long and have transparent wings. They are fond of chinaberries, fragrant olives, zelkovas and cherry trees, perching on these trees and buzzing from sunrise to noon from early July to early September, so many people have experiences of being awakened by loud buzzing of the cicadas on midsummer mornings.

According to Mr. Kishi of City Hall's Social Education Division, sixteen shells of *Kumazemi* were first found at Chuo Park in the summer of 2001. In the years that followed, the number of the shells collected has rapidly increased. From 2002 to 2006 hundreds of shells, and since 2007 thousands have been found. The figure jumped to 2,077 in 2008, to 4,225 in 2011, and to 5,210 in 2014. It reached more than 5,250 in 2016.

The northern limits of southern creatures have shifted farther north partly because of global warming.

According to Mr. Kishi's calculation using data on the website of the Meteorological Agency, average temperatures of the three months from December to February rose by one degree Celsius in many Japanese cities during the 1990s. In addition to global warming, *Kumazemi* like dry places, including urban areas, which accounts for the rapid increase in the number of this species of cicada in Chuo Park.

The species emerge from their nymphs at high places of trees. But they also emerge on house walls or concrete exterior walls so we can often see *Kumazemi* which have just come out of their shells perching on walls.

Source: Maruhaku text for October 2016, page 47

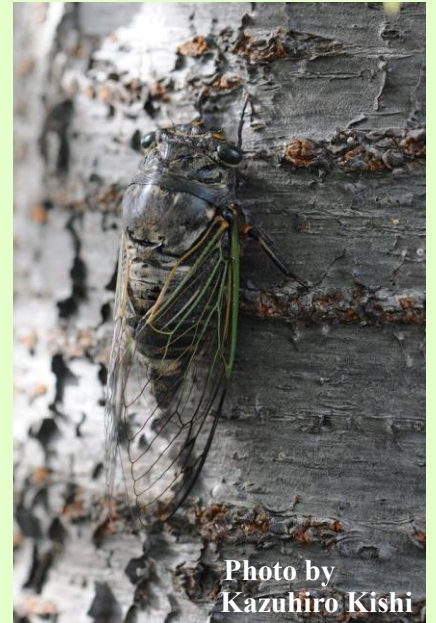


Photo by
Kazuhiro Kishi



Shells of *Kumazemi*
in Chuo park

Grandfather's magic hands

An exhibition of woodwork products was held on the 4th floor at Nespa Chigasaki from July 7 to 9. These products, consisting of families of mice, foxes, racoon dogs and more, were derived from picture books and children's stories.

Takehisa Saito started woodworking at the age of 90 after his wife passed away, at the suggestion of his family members. Part of the products he made until he departed in January were on display. The room was crowded with visitors, who were charmed by elaborate products having warmth characteristic of wood.

He used tree branches he collected himself during walks with his pet dog, or those presented from his acquaintances. His family said he took a great delight in wood-working and devoted himself to it every day.



Events in August and early September

Chigasaki City Library (☎ 0467-87-1001, URL: <https://www.lib.chigasaki.kanagawa.jp/index.html>)

- Film screening on Aug 5 (Sat) from 14:00 (opening) to 17:00: a movie entitled “3泊4日、5時の鐘”
- Exhibition of scenic pictures of location sites in the movie until Aug 5 (Sat)
- Exhibition of the remains excavated in the city until Aug 5 (Sat)

Chigasaki City Museum of Art (☎ 0467-88-1177, URL: <http://www.chigasaki-museum.jp>)

Exhibition of possessions, and paintings, woodcuts and figures representing or portraying animals, until Aug 31 (Thurs).



Admission fee (yen): Adult 300, Univ. student 200, HS student or younger and Chigasaki citizens aged 65 and older free.

Citizen Gallery (☎ 0467-87-8384) at the exhibition room on the 4th floor of Nespa Chigasaki

Admission free

- Painting exhibition (Shonan's wind sketch club): Aug 1 (Tue) to 6 (Sun)
- Chigasaki Chamber of Commerce & Industry Photo Exhibition (Chigasaki CCI Photo class): Aug 9 (Tue) to 13 (Sun)
- The 35th Shonan Ink Painting Exhibition (Shonan Ink Painting Club): Aug 17 (Thu) to 21 (Mon)
- The 9th Chigasaki light-colored sketch exhibition (Tansai Chigasaki): Aug 22 (Tue) to 27 (Sun)
- The 12th Yuki-kai Exhibition (Yuki-kai): Aug 28 (Mon) to Sept 2 (Sat)

The 43rd Southern Beach Fireworks Display on August 5 (Sat) from 19:30 to 20:20 off Southern Beach Chigasaki

About 3,000 fireworks will be launched from near the tip of the eastern breakwater of Chigasaki Fishing Port. Spectators will enjoy various fireworks, including rapid successive launching, underwater fireworks, and many original rocket fireworks. There will be no parking lots. Shuttle buses between Chigasaki Station South Entrance and the beach will operate. You will be able to enjoy fireworks in a relaxed atmosphere at spots a little apart from Southern Beach. Chigasaki has a long beach line, and you will have a good view of fireworks anywhere along the line.



Photo by Keiichi Kojima

Nandemo-yoichi at Chuo Park on August 6 (Sun) from 16:00 to 20:00



The 30th Nandemo-yoichi, one of the city's largest flea markets, will be held at Chuo Park on August 6 (Sun). In addition to food stalls, there will be corners for used clothes, sundries and handicrafts. From 17:50 to 19:50, a Bon Festival Dance to the sound of the Japanese drum will be performed. Around 18:45, three short films for children will be put on. On the stage, musical accompaniments will be performed. As usual, children can expect the free cricket present. (A numbered ticket will be provided at 16:00.) A special event for the 30th anniversary, planetarium shows, will be held on the 1st floor of City Hall from 16:30 to 20:00. Twenty-minutes or so shows will be held seven times with fifty spectators each time. Numbered tickets will be distributed at the management office tent at 16:00.

Fruit farms in the city

Grapes and pears are harvested between early August and early September, and blueberries until mid-August. During the period, visitors are able to shop for fresh fruits or pick them at fruit farms. How about having fresh fruits and being refreshed? Locations of these farms are:

http://www.city.chigasaki.kanagawa.jp/_res/projects/default_project/page/001/006/622/pdf/kanosuysdb.pdf

and each farm's address, phone number, fruits and other information are:

http://www.city.chigasaki.kanagawa.jp/_res/projects/default_project/page/001/006/622/chisantisyu/seikamatsuri/bsdiuaydgia.pdf



Thanks for reading our stories. See you soon!