

# 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.*

## Kanagawa Prefectural Institute of Public Health (1)

Many citizens probably still remember that atmospheric radioactivity over Chigasaki was often reported in newspapers after the incident at TEPCO's Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant, following the devastating 2011 earthquake. Those data were collected as routine measurements by the Kanagawa Prefectural Institute of Public Health, located in Shimo-machiya.

A pestilence inspection facility, the forerunner of the institute, was established at Naka Ward in Yokohama in 1902. Even since, the public organization has played a significant role in raising individual and public health levels in Kanagawa Prefecture. This century-old institute came to Chigasaki in 2003. With nearly 80 staff members, the institute's scope of activity covers, along with the routine monitoring, research, testing and instruction as well as public health surveillance, including data collection, data analysis and the provision of the results of these analyses. In addition, the institute, in cooperation with administrative organs and other research and testing institutes, has also been contributing to the enhancement of health risk management. Starting with radioactivity measurements, what it has been doing will be described below in more detail.

The institution was the nation's first research organization to detect radioactive substances which had been emitted into the air as a result of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident. More recently, North Korea has been conducting underground nuclear test. Four times over the past seven years, when these tests have taken place, staff have carried out emergency measurements, but no harmful levels of radiation have been detected so far. They also measure the radiation level of the seawater surrounding nuclear-powered ships, cooperating with the Science and Technology Agency and the City of Yokosuka, when such vessels drop in the U.S. Naval installation in Yokosuka. Since the nuclear plant incident in Fukushima, radioactivity in farm, livestock and marine products manufactured in Kanagawa and processed foods sold in the prefecture have also been checked.

Furthermore, the institute has been conducting basic research on various infectious diseases, from influenza and tuberculosis to Aids to West Nile fever. Drug-resistant bacteria are also subjects of investigations. To be continued.

URL <http://www.eiken.pref.kanagawa.jp/>



## New Sports Park opens on March 25

After years of construction, Yanagishima Sports Park has almost been completed, and will be open to the public on March 25 (Sun). The sports park consists of a main stadium, tennis courts, a club house, parking lots and multipurpose squares, and will be open from 06:30 to 22:00. See the last page for the opening ceremony.

- Main stadium (23,300 m<sup>2</sup>): 400 m x 8 course track, soccer / rugby field ●
- Tennis area (2,800 m<sup>2</sup>): four tennis courts
- Club house (1,400 m<sup>2</sup>): shower room, restaurant, dressing room
- Multipurpose area: 4,200 m<sup>2</sup> and 4,000 m<sup>2</sup> squares, jogging course
- Parking lots: 246 cars and 136 bicycles

<http://chigasakiwave.sakura.ne.jp>

## Environmental Protection Seminar – Red data species of animals, plants and insects

A lecture on the Red Data Book was given by Hiroshi Seno of the Kanagawa Prefectural Museum of Natural History (KPMNH) on February 5 at City Hall.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) published the world's first Red Data Book (RDB) in 1966, in which wild creatures on the brink of extinction were listed, and their distributions and populations, and how natural conditions have affected these figures are described in full detail. These creatures are classified into four categories (nine categories since 2001) based on the urgency of the need for protection.

The environmental ministry and prefectural organizations have since issued their own RDBs, and the KPMNH issued a Kanagawa Prefecture Red Data report in 1995, which was placed on its website. In 2006 the research organization published the 2006 edition. The number of extinct species increased from 195 in 1995 to 254 in 2006, and that of endangered species also increased from 420 in 1995 to 688 in 2006. Seno attributed the increasing numbers of extinct and endangered species to the repair works of rivers, deteriorating water quality and the propagation of non-native creatures.

Surf fish and horn-tails are among the extinct species, and black bean weevils (See Nature in Chigasaki) are classified as endangered species. In order to protect nature, he says, it is important to intensify the sense that nature is a precious gift to the people of the future.

For reference, *Rotundifolia* (*Hamagou* in Japanese), the photo on the right, is classified as one of the endangered species of Chigasaki, according to the environmental evaluation results published in 2006.



## Volunteer groups in and around Chigasaki

## Group to record the history of Yanagishima

Two years ago, a group of eleven residents in Yanagishima published a book entitled *Yanagishima-Ima-Mukashi*, or *Past and present of Yanagishima* in English (the blue book in the right picture), trying to revise the book *Yanagishima Utsurikawari* (the brown one), or the *History of Yanagishima* in English, which was edited by the previous generation of the neighborhood association in 1977. As nearly 35 years had passed since the publication of the original book, several people who were interested in local history felt that the book needed to be renewed, and established the group *Yanagishima Present and Past* in 2013 to embark on the project, according to the secretary of the group, Tamotsu Sugiyama.

In revising, they wanted to change the style of the book; every page is filled with handwritten words, and they decided to use many photos and drawings. They asked residents to offer old pictures to the group and requested the City to allow them to use documents in the City office. The newly-completed history book contains a lot of photos, including those taken in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and pictures, which were drawn by a group member, Mr. Kurita, who tried to reflect every scenery and situation described in the book.

The head of the group, Shozo Aoki, said in a nostalgic way that Yanagishima was an inconvenient place. Chigasaki Station was far from their homes and it took about 50 minutes for children to go to the elementary school.



Storms often washed the district's low-lying arable land with seawater, causing residents painful ordeals repeatedly. In addition, on July 16, 1945, just one month before the end of World War II, most of their belongings burned down in an air raid on Hiratsuka and south-western Chigasaki. Despite these geographical handicaps and tragic experiences, Yanagishima has gradually turned into a convenient place due to land-improvement and development projects. For example, the prefecture's largest housing complex, Hamamidaira-danchi, was completed in 1964, and a bus stop was placed there. Furthermore, "Yanagishima" appeared in *Sagami-fudoki* compiled in the Kamakura Era. They want local children to study Yanagishima's history and take pride in it, so they annually have a class, using the book, at Yanagishima Primary School and Nakajima Junior High School.



## Interested in Japanese proverbs?

### (1) 後悔先に立たず

(KOKAI SAKI NI TATAZU)

KOKAI means regret, SAKI NI beforehand, and TATAZU to come.

Even if you regret something you have done, or you should have done, there is no way to turn back time. But, as it is impossible for ordinary people to lead their lives without repentance, don't you think it is better to feel sorry for what you have done rather than for what you haven't done? If you fail in spite of sufficient preparation, you will still gain something valuable from the experience. This proverb was in Konjyaku Monogatari published in the late Heian Period.

Its English equivalents are:

- Repentance comes too late.
- Things past cannot be recalled.
- A bird cries too late when it is taken.

### (2) 住めば都

(SUMEBA MIYAKO)

SUMEBA means if you live and MIYAKO means the capital.

If a person lives in a place for a long time, no matter how rural the place is, it becomes as comfortable as a big city. You will make friends with local people and learn about the place. You will become a member of the community and have your own network. If you have a sincere desire to integrate with local people, any place will become comfortable to live. This proverb was in Sewa-jyoruri, which dealt with stories about the customs of ordinary people's society in the Edo Period.

Its English equivalents are:

- To every bird his own nest is best.
- There is no place like home.
- They that be in hell think there is no other heaven.

## History of Chigasaki

## Shichiri Office along the Tokaido (2)

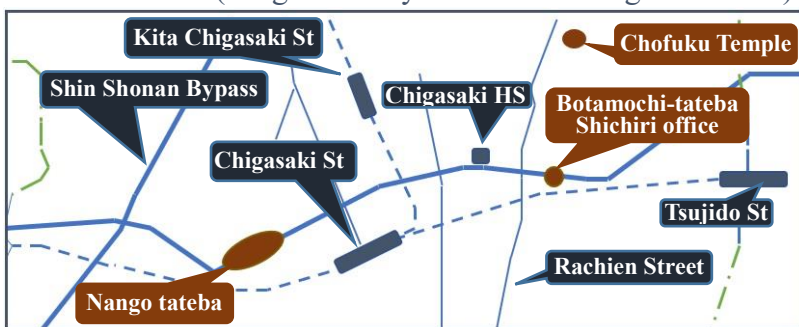
In CW21, we have finished the first half of this two-part article noting that Kii Domain had its Edo office at Yotsuya, had set up its first shichiri office (or official resting place for the domain's express messengers) in Kanagawa post town, and its second at Botamochi-tateba.

Its third was in Yorozu-cho in Odawara post town, 27.5 km west of Botamochi-tateba, and its fourth was three doors away from the gate to Kyoto of the Hakone Barrier. On the site of the Odawara shichiri office, there is a stone plate with an explanation about Hakone shichiri office.

Burial markers of the officials who worked at Botamochi-tateba were kept in the garden of a household which ran a teahouse at the tateba, but the markers were moved to Chofuku Temple in Shorin 3-chome when Route One was expanded around 1935 (See the picture at the lower right). They are placed near a large stone pagoda called Houkyointo in front of the main building. The descendants of the teahouse still take care of the markers.

When the water in the Sagami River rose, crossing of the river was forbidden. Official documents carried by express messengers such as shichiri bikyaku and Tsugi bikyaku were reportedly kept in a building called Jyo-beya in Nakajima village, and villagers guarded the building. The Jyo-beya was located near the Nakajima bus stop.

When the water receded, these messengers were the first to cross the river. (Chigasaki City Museum Heritage booklet 1)



## Advertisement TIME Circle

### Would you like to read TIME magazine?

TIME Circle has three two-hour lessons a month at Kinro Shimin Kaikan or Nespa Chigasaki. In each lesson, one story from the previous week's TIME magazine is used as the text. Members study the story at home beforehand, then read aloud and discuss the article in class. If the meaning of words, phrases and sentences is unclear, we can ask our tutor (a native British English speaker) during the lesson. To understand what is happening now around the world helps us to view our own nation objectively.

Lesson date and time: Monday from 10:00 to 12:00

If you are interested in our circle, please visit the class any time, or contact us at this address: [timekaichigasaki@gmail.com](mailto:timekaichigasaki@gmail.com)



## Nature in Chigasaki

## Black bean weevil

The black bean weevil is a small insect whose body is 3 to 4 mm long. The insect used to be seen along the coastal areas of Yokosuka, Hiratsuka and Chigasaki in Kanagawa. It eats beach pea, a herbaceous perennial native to the coastal areas of Asia, Europe, and North and South America. However, the habitat of the perennial plant along the Shonan coast has been shrinking as a consequence of beach erosion and coastal revetment work. In addition, in some locations where the plant continues to grow, the insect seems to have disappeared. Black bean weevil was designated as an endangered species in the 2006 Red Data Book of Kanagawa Prefecture.



(photo by Kazuhiro Kishi)

## La Lausanne, a comfortable French restaurant and cake shop on Ichu street

Toshifumi Ishiwatari, the owner of La Lausanne, a cozy French restaurant and cake shop on Ichu Street, enjoyed surfing at Chigasaki beach when he was a university student, and this was the major reason why he later set up his shop in Tsujido and then in Chigasaki, though he was born and raised in Tokyo.

His father and his father's father before him were executive chefs at one of the nation's exclusive hotels. Nevertheless, to become a chef was not an option at first. After much ruminating, though, he started training as a pastry cook at a cake shop in Kanda, Tokyo. He worked there for three years and then continued to develop his



skills in baking cakes at a hotel in Lausanne, Switzerland, for a year. While there, he also learned the basic techniques required for becoming a chef, and this unexpected training made it possible for him to run a French restaurant later. He opened his first shop in Tsujido in 1980, six years after he returned to Japan. Seeking to expand his business, he opened his second shop in 1986 in Higashi-kaigan-minami, which he had been familiar with since the days he was an enthusiastic surfer. At one time, the two shops together employed 14 workers, but both are now run by his family.

Over the last 32 years, cake shops in the coastal district have disappeared one by one, and La Lausanne has become a long-standing shop there. He says about 80% of his customers visit regularly, and one of them was an elementary school student when he opened the shop.

As most time-honored shops do, he persists with his own way of cooking, that is, to spend time and effort, and to use good-quality ingredients. He has been using, for example, the same brands of butter, fresh cream and flour since he started the business, which may make it sound like he is behind the times, but, actually, he believes that such old-fashioned ways have enabled his shop to withstand the test of time where others have not been so fortunate. He collects high-quality glasses, which also have scarcity value. (See the lower picture.)

La Lausanne is a good place to drop in. You will enjoy excellent cuisine in a relaxed atmosphere.

## Invitation to Kamakura (4) Anyo-in Temple

**(A bimonthly serial)**

Masako Hojo is one of the heroines in Japanese history. She deeply loved her husband, Yoritomo Minamoto. After his sudden death, she built Anyo-in Temple to pray for the repose of his soul. This temple is not a big one but seems to be filled with various emotions that she experienced in the turbulent era.

She fell in love with him when she was 21. Yoritomo was 31, and in exile at the time. The Hojo clan was dominant in the Izu region, so her father would not allow them to marry. But she was so strong-minded that she left home and kept running to meet him. Her father finally gave way to her and they married.

They looked happy from the first moment. Yoritomo climbed up the ladder to the top of the warriors, and she had two sons and two daughters. However, after her first daughter died young, her life started to fall apart. Yoritomo died in an accident. While she suffered grief, neither of her sons was dependable. But she found herself inspired when she faced tragedy. Then, she decided to administer the government on behalf of the sons.

This came at the moment when the ex-emperor schemed to overthrow the samurai government in the hope that nobles would rule the country again. Learning of the conspiracy, Masako courageously stood up for the warriors. She achieved a big victory and the samurai government continued for about 680 years after that.

★[Anyo-in Temple](#) is about 12 minutes' walk south-east from Kamakura Station.



## Bean throwing festival on Setsubun Day

On Setsubun, the day before the beginning of spring, February 3 (Sat) this year, traditional bean throwing festivals were held at several shrines and temples. In addition to Samukawa, Dairokuten and Hachioji Shrines and Enzoji Temple, we found Ichinomiya Hachiman Okami Shrine in Samukawa and Zenpukuji Temple in Yanagishima had also celebrated the festival. The annual festival is probably held at more places, so you may be able to enjoy the event in your neighborhood next year.



## Raw wakame festival

On the same day, Feb 3, the annual spring sale of raw wakame was held at Chigasaki Fishing Port. When the writer arrived at the fish handling area at 08:50, ten minutes before the sale was to start, many lines had already been formed (picture on the right). As the Chigasaki fishing cooperative had prepared sufficient amounts of wakame, all the waiting customers were able to buy some. Many people bought three, four or even five bags. A long line was also formed in front of the counter selling *shabushabu* sets containing yellowtail and wakame. It was worth getting up early and rushing to the port. The early bird gets the fresh wakame?

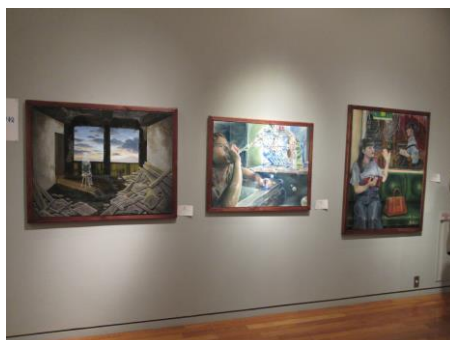


## Ume festival at Takasuna Ryokuchi

The traditional spring event, Ume festival, was held by a coastal district association on Feb 11 (Sun, National Foundation Day) in Takasuna Ryokuchi. Blessed with fine weather, the garden was crowded with young and old. Sweet sake was served for visitors as usual. Stalls sold food, Japanese sweets, trinkets and local-brand rice. Ohayashi, or musical accompaniment in English, by the local children filled the air with a festive mood and attracted a lot of spectators. In Shyorai-an, white Ume blossoms were nearly at full bloom, while those of pink seemed to need more days.

## The 20th Art All Stars, and exhibition of collected paintings at the Chigasaki City Museum of Art

The 20th Art All Stars, an exhibition of about 60 paintings, 14 objects and 2 photos by students of six high schools in Chigasaki and Samukawa, was held from February 11 to 25 at the city art museum. Many of them gave visitors a good impression, suggesting the students have fresh sensitivity and strong will. The event will be suspended after this. Another exhibition of 60 items among the museum's collection, entitled "Clothes Dyed with Dayflowers", also began on February 11. They are works by Toru Mabuchi, Toshiyasu Doi, Itoji Mitsuhasi and seven other artists. It will be held until March 18 (Sun).



## Shonan Flower Exhibition (and Flower Valentine)

Shonan Flower Exhibition took place on the second floor of [Shonan Mall Fill](#) on February 16 (Fri) from 10:00 to 21:00, and 17 (Sat) from 10:00 to 12:00. Visitors looked around cut and potted flowers raised by flower growers in Chigasaki, Samukawa and Fujisawa. Some visitors stood still to look at cymbidium, pansies and other colorful flowers.

On the first day, a Samukawa carnation grower gave a one-hour lesson on how to choose and decorate cut carnations. He said the entire process should be done without bacterial contamination. He told listeners about Flower Valentine; in Western countries men give women a bunch of flowers on February 14, Valentine's Day. How about doing that next year?



## Koide River Cherry Festival

The 12th Koide River Cherry Festival has started. As the cold weather prevailed, not many blossoms bloomed on Feb 24 (Sat) when the opening ceremony was held. The ceremony started with ohayashi performed by the local group. The leader of the *Group to live with flowers* said in his speech that it was 18 years ago that they planted the young cherry trees. After guest speakers, including Mayor Hattori, extended their congratulations, entertainments by music groups followed. On March 3 (Sat), the Yanagishima Kite Flying Club (See CW 19) will fly their kites.



## Events in March and early April

### The 12th Koide River Cherry Festival

On March 3 (Sat), the Yanagishima Kite Club will fly their kites on the Koide River bank.

### Southern Marche in Chigasaki

The market of local products, Southern Marche, will take place, rain or shine, at Chuo Koen on March 4 (Sun) from 10:00 to 15:00. Many food shops and craft shops in Chigasaki will set up their stalls. The community bus called Eboshi-go will be exhibited and visitors will be able to take photos of themselves in the driver's uniform.



Southern Marche last year

### Exhibition of collected paintings at the Chigasaki City Museum of Art

The exhibition of 60 items from the museum's collection, entitled "Clothes Dyed with Dayflowers", is now underway. There are works by Toru Mabuchi, Toshiyasu Doi, Itoji Mitsuhasi, Kan Irie and six other artists. Admission fee (yen): adult 200, Univ. student 100, and HS student and younger free. It will be held until March 18 (Sun).

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

- Photo exhibition by the photo group Eboshi:  
Mar 6 (Tues) 13:00 ~ 18:00, 7 (Wed) to 10 (Sat) 10:00 ~ 18:00, 11 (Sun) 10:00 ~ 16:00
- Photo exhibition - Each Eye 2018 - by the Kagawa Photo Club:  
Mar 13 (Tues) 13:00 ~ 17:00, 14 (Wed) to 17 (Sat) 10:00 ~ 17:00, 18 (Sun) 10:00 ~ 16:00
- Painting exhibition – Shosai ten - by Kawasaki Atelier:  
Mar 20 (Tues) 13:00 ~ 18:00, 21 (Wed) to 24 (Sat) 10:00 ~ 18:00, 25 (Sun) 10:00 ~ 16:00
- The 24th portrait exhibition by the Chigasaki Painting Association:  
Mar 27 (Tues) 14:00 ~ 18:00, 28 (Wed) to 31 (Sat) 10:00 ~ 18:00, Apr 1 (Sun) 10:00 ~ 17:00



Photo: Chigasaki City Tourism Association

### Yurui Chara Party at Lusca Chigasaki

The 6th Yurui Chara Party in Shonan Chigasaki will be held on March 25 (Sat) and 26 (Sun) from 10:00 to 17:00 at Lusca Chigasaki. On the two days, many characters will take part in the event. There will be, for example, Funyashi, Sanomaru, Ebinya and Ayukoro-chan as well as Eboshimaro. Of course, visitors can take their pictures with them.

There will be live stages of artists on the first day from 13:30 to 14:00 and on the second day from 11:15 to 12:00.

### Opening ceremony of Yanagishima sports park

The opening ceremony will be held on March 25 (Sun) from 9:30 to 11:00. After speeches by guests, the portable shrine of Yanagishima will be carried by local children, the cheerleading club of Chigasaki High School will show skilled dancing, and the brass band club of Nakajima High School will perform. After the ceremony is over, various events will take place for ordinary participants. About 400 people are thought to be taking part.

### Camellia in Himuro garden

More than 200 varieties of camellias in Himuro garden, 2800 m<sup>2</sup>, will be at their best from late March to early April.



### Cherry blossoms in the city

Cherry trees in Chuo Koen and other parks, in the precincts of shrines, and those near JR stations will bloom all together in early April. Spring is just around the corner.

Thanks for reading our stories. See you soon!