



OGATA KAI RETURN

Japanese Landscape Architects to Again Volunteer Services

We are very fortunate to have received word from Dr. Donuma that the Ogata Kai, a group of Japanese landscape architects trained under the late Kenzo Ogata, will come back to Hakone this year. Twelve members of this elite Japanese landscape artist group visited Hakone in



February 2009, reconstructing the steps to the upper pond and upgrading the Tsukubai area leading to the Tea House. Everyone was impressed with their experience, discipline and efficiency. This year we are looking forward to their assistance in improving the entrance to Hakone and the Mon area. Once again we thank our Hakone volunteers who will take care of lodging and food during their stay.

Japanese Foreign Ministry Honors Hakone

The Hakone Foundation was honored to receive a Certificate of Commendation on December 6 from the Japanese Foreign Ministry. The award recognizes the many years of support for Japanese culture and heritage service by Hakone Estate and Gardens. In part the award reads: "The Hakone Foundation is hereby recognized for its extensive contributions to mutual understanding between Japan and the United States by preserving, protecting and maintaining Hakone's historic Japanese estate and gardens as well as hosting a wide variety of cultural events for the public.



Receiving the award were Lon Saavedra, CEO of Hakone, Howard Miller, Mayor of Saratoga, Chuck Page, Vice Mayor of Saratoga, and members of the Board of Trustee. Renowned Japanese builder, architect and friend of Hakone Paul Discoe accompanied the group. Board Chair Dr. Marty Matsu was absent due to a business trip.

Winter in the Gardens

Winter time, though not ideal for many activities, is a great time to prune trees. Winter pruning encourages vigorous spring growth. Here's why: after their leaves fall, deciduous trees enter their dormancy period, and as the temperature drops evergreens follow suit. During this time the majority of their sugars are stored in the root system, trees are less susceptible to pests and disease, and the cuts have time to seal before spring. For best results, do not cut too much in one year, sterilize tools before using on the next tree, and remember that even if the results don't look great immediately, trees will look different when their leaves come in.

New Website Coming!

We're not quite ready to unveil it, but for months we have been working on a new website for Hakone. The look preserves the timeless beauty and elegance of Hakone while bringing an exciting new look and easy navigation. We expect to launch it in the next few weeks. Thanks to all the volunteers who spent time working on this project for the benefit of all members, visitors and friends.

Upcoming Events

Third Annual Lunar New Year Celebration – the Year of the Rabbit AND the Golden Anniversary of the Time when the Chinese Saved Hakone

Join us on Saturday March 5 from noon to 4 pm as we celebrate our third Lunar New Year. An array of interesting programs will include story-telling, Chinese music, lion dancing, Chinese opera, Tai Chi, cooking demonstrations, flower arrangement and much more.

East Meets West: the Stillpoint Paintings of John Diamond, MD

Come see this exciting exhibition, which will run from May 1 – June 30. View the graceful brushwork and exquisite balance of yin and yang on canvas, silk scroll, ceramics and other media. To inaugurate the exhibition, a reception will be held the week of May 2 (TBD). Visit <http://www.drjohndiamond.com/> for more information on Dr. Diamond and his works.

Memoirs of a Geisha Academy Awards – Five Years Later

Five years ago the film *Memoirs of a Geisha* won three Academy Awards: Best Cinematography, Best Art Direction and Best Costume Design. Join us for a walking tour that showcases all the places where filming took place. Note: this event was originally scheduled for early April but due to weather and scheduling concerns it has been moved to May, and will precede the 12th annual Matsuri Festival.

Hakone's 12th Annual Japan Festival, May 15, 2011

It has become a Hakone tradition, bringing people from far and wide. Mark your calendar for this year's Matsuri, where every year the crowds are bigger, the entertainment is more exciting and the food is unbelievable. Transportation will be provided.

New Classes at Hakone

See our new schedule of classes ([click here](#))

An Introduction to Noh Theatre – Sunday February 13, 1-5 pm

Noh is a form of classical Japanese musical drama dating back to the 14th century, in which the main characters perform dances wearing masks. Taught by Jubilith Moore, a practitioner of Noh since 1993 who studied under Yuriko Doi, Richard Emmert, Akira Miatsui, Shiro Nomura and Mitsuo Kama. She is the Artistic Director for the Theatre of Yugen in San Francisco. For details, see the class flier (link to page on website).

Tae Kwon Do – Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 am – 10:34 am

Tae Kwon Do is a Korean martial art that teaches ways of enhancing the spirit and life through training the body and mind. It combines self-defense techniques, flexibility, strength, meditation and philosophy with discipline and respect. Taught by Master Charles Edmonds, a 6th degree black belt, and Master Shawn Edmonds, a 4th degree black belt, who own Academy of Martial Arts in Los Gatos (www.edmondsacademy.com) For details see the class flier.