

















Planting Ceremony 2002



Revive Time • Kaki Tree Project

INDEX

Updated in 2020

17 Feb		The Museum of Art, Kochi Kochi-shi, Kochi, Japan	.....	1
23 Feb		Maruyama Park, Takamori-cho Shimo-ina-gun, Nagano, Japan	.....	2
25 Feb		Northwest High School Maryland, U.S.A	.....	3
27 Feb		W. Haywood Burns Environmental Education Center New York, U.S.A.	.....	4
28 Feb		Draper Middle School New York, U.S.A.	.....	5
13 Mar		Botanic Gardens, Glasgow Glasgow, UK	.....	6
15 Mar		Nature in Art Gloucester, UK	.....	7
Mar		Brick Township Memorial High School New Jersey, U.S.A.	.....	8
		Kita Elementary School Ogaki-shi, Gifu, Japan		
		Aohaka Elementary School Ogaki-shi, Gifu, Japan		
		Nakagawa Elementary School Ogaki-shi, Gifu, Japan		
		Kawanami Elementary School Ogaki-shi, Gifu, Japan		
		Kita Junior High School Ogaki-shi, Gifu, Japan		
		Seiwa Junior High School Ogaki-shi, Gifu, Japan		
		Pacific Industrial Co., Ltd. Ogaki-shi, Gifu, Japan		
		Seino Transportation Co., Ltd. Ogaki-shi, Gifu, Japan		

The Museum of Art, Kochi



Japan



Kochi City, Kochi Prefecture



17 Feb 2002



At the Museum of Art, Kochi, the exhibition “Revive Time” Kaki Tree Project in Kochi was held from the 20th of July through the 16th of September, 2001, which was followed by several related

events such as the exhibition “From Dappan (Escape from the Domain) Road to Kaki Tree” and “Hand-made Musical Instruments Workshop” until the tree planting ceremony.

The tree planting ceremony was held at the entrance hall due to drizzling rain. Approximately 30 people including children and their parents attended. After the speech given by Mr. Ebinuma, “Kaki Tree Musical Band”, which consisted of workshop participants, played music. The musical instruments such as flute, drums, Kakimba and Hyoukin that were made at the “Hand-made Musical Instruments Workshop” held in December 2001 and January 2002 were used in the performance. The sound of the hand-made instruments such as Kalimba made of persimmon tree echoed around the hall and the persimmon tree was planted in green space on the grounds of the museum.

The plate for the tree was made by the artist, Mr. Seigo, who conducted the workshop.



Maruyama Park, Takamori-cho

 Japan

 Shimoina District, Nagano Prefecture

 23 Feb 2002

Takamori-cho is famous for its fruit. “Persimmon Tree” is the town tree. It is the birthplace of “Ichitagaki”, the well-known breed for hoshigaki (dried persimmons) and every house has persimmon trees and hangs dried persimmons. Persimmons with which the children of the town are familiar are now connected to peace. The people of the town have increased awareness of peace and they dispatch peace buses to Hiroshima every year. Participants are elementary school children, junior high school and high school students as well as the general public. In Maruyama Park, where the departing ceremony of peace buses is held, a sapling from a seed of the bombed flame tree (*Firmiana simplex*) in Hiroshima was planted by the peace promotion committee, in 1995. As the town has been taking an active approach to peace, the mayor of Takamori-cho, Mr. Mitsugu Yoshikawa, wanted to plant persimmon trees so that the trees would serve the purpose of peace education for children.

The tree planting ceremony was coordinated by the education board and the local community center. Mr. Ebinuma was also



invited from Nagasaki and other related parties from the town and about 90 children of Minami Elementary School, Kita Elementary School and Takamori Junior High School attended the ceremony. At the ceremony, children sang Takamori-cho’s peace song “My Hometown” and 2 persimmon trees were planted by elementary school pupils and junior high school students.

“The departing ceremony of peace buses between the home of persimmon trees, Takamori and Hiroshima – wishing peace” was held at Maruyama Park in Takamori-cho on the 5th of August. After the kocarina performance near the persimmon trees, the peace buses carrying the local people and children departed for Hiroshima. 5 years after the planting, in 2007, the tree borne 3 pieces of fruit and had further grown to yield more fruit, in fact of 200 pieces, in the following year, 2008.

Northwest High School

 USA

 Maryland

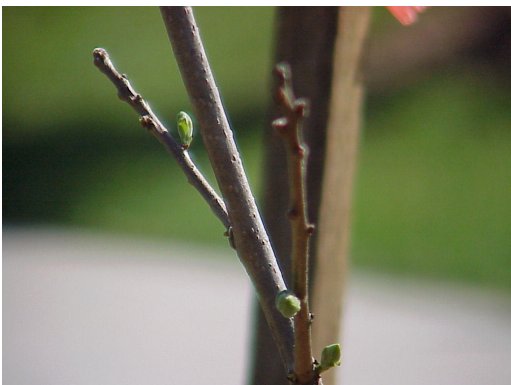
 25 Feb 2002

Northwest High School is located in Germantown, which is 45 minutes by car from Washington D.C. The persimmon tree was planted in the front yard of the media center of the school. The school is still quite new, this is their 3rd year. Peace club, one of the school's extracurricular activities, is very unique compared to other club activities in the world. This time the project was realized because the club advisor was very keen on it but the planning of the project was run voluntarily, lead by the peace club students and PTA.



At the ceremony, the students orchestra played Symphony No.1 (In Memoriam, Dresden, 1945) by an American composer, Daniel Bukvich. The symphony is about the fierce bombing attacks on Dresden, Germany at the end of the Second World War. It is considered to be a very difficult piece for high school students, however, they chose this piece because they understood the background of the project. They also sang Kimigayo, Japan's national anthem, in chorus and there was the Color Guard parade as well.


As they planted the tree, Annie Albagli's mother recited a message. Participants all held hands with each other in the moonlight, surrounded the persimmon tree and appealed that "We are one." It was just like a beautiful painting. A very pure and heavenly ceremony.



W. Haywood Burns Environmental Education Center

 USA

 New York

 27 Feb 2002



W. Haywood Burns Environmental Education Center is a NPO organization located in Albany, the capital of the state of New York. The center is actively conducting various projects to educate and improve the lives of impoverished people. It is also promoting partnership with companies and the government to enhance safety of children by upgrading and improving the facilities and environment of the Tivoli Lake Nature Preserve after they had learned that Tivoli Lake was polluted. They are going to make the peace garden in the preserve after 2 years and plant a persimmon tree there. By planting the persimmon tree, they hope to provide spiritual support to the impoverished people in the community.

Tree planting was led by Mr. Peter Sheeham of W. Haywood Burns Environmental Education Center. He was introduced to the Kaki Tree Project by Ms. Maryam Mair, a teacher at Draper Middle School and applied for tree planting. Ms. Mair is also a volunteer member of W. Haywood Burns Environmental Education Center. Those two institutions, Draper Middle School and W. Haywood Burns Environmental Education Center worked together and prepared for tree planting.

Prior to the tree planting ceremony, an Origami workshop was held and 50 local children participated in. A huge banner was also made by the children. The ceremony started off with Erhu performance by Mr. Tang followed by a talk on the Holocaust in Germany by Mr. Anton Segole (a Holocaust survivor).

Since plants imported from other countries have to be planted in a pot for the period of 2 years before they can be planted in the ground in the USA, only a presentation ceremony of the tree was held. They told us that they would continue to proactively engage in activities with the persimmon tree to convey peace to children in this community who are less-educated.



Draper Middle School

 USA

 New York

 28 Feb 2002



Draper Middle School is located in Scenectoday, a town 20 minutes' drive north from the state capital, Albany, and is a big school with an adjacent public high school. Ms.

Maryam Mair, a teacher of Draper Middle School, proposed implementation of the Kaki Tree Project to the school and her colleagues, 3 teachers applied for the project on behalf of the school.

On the day before the ceremony, 30 students of "Peers of Peace" club, whose advisor was Ms. Maryam Mair, participated the Origami workshop. They also made a banner.

The ceremony held at the auditorium of the adjacent high school was spectacular. It started with music performance followed by a talk on the atomic bomb, an introduction of the Kaki Tree Project (made with computer-generated images), jazz performance by the students, dance performance by the high school's dance club and a speech by the

project's executive committee member. The persimmon tree was planted with its pot and the members of the "Peers of Peace" club covered it with soil.

The ceremony was a great success with over one thousand students participants and a passionate support from the three teachers. Especially, an introduction of the persimmon tree made with computer-generated images by Ms. Maryam and her child was remarkable. The introduction was very easy for children to understand by telling "the Sadako Story" and using the photos from the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum. Some children were moved to tears and many of them went up on stage to see the persimmon tree and offer to shake hands after the ceremony. It seems that after the 9.11 attacks, children too now understand the horror and pain of the atomic bomb victims. The message sent to the school by the project's executive committee after the 9.11 attacks was on display at the entrance of the school and it seemed to indicate the change in atmosphere since the incident.

We were all impressed by the 3 teachers and their ability to take action to promote the project to the school principal because it was quite unusual to have such a ceremony spending the entire morning with the participation of all the students.

Botanic Gardens

🇬🇧 *Scotland, UK*

📍 *Glasgow*

🌱 *13 Mar 2002*

Glasgow Botanic Gardens is located in the city's West End. This is a place where people can relax. Mr. Gerry Loose, who led the project, is a poet and organizes various events as the "Poet in Residence" in the gardens. He visited the the Kaki Tree Project secretariat when he visited Japan in the spring of 2001.

It was a beautiful sunny day without the cloud in the sky on the day of the tree planting ceremony. The participants ranged from children to the elderly. They started to gather around when the time came and those with dogs and in a wheelchair also casually joined. A variety of performances that involved several schools in Glasgow was held through the efforts of Mr. Loose.

The song they sang along with guitar immediately after the speech together with handicapped people was particularly beautiful because everyone could join in a very natural

way. There were also performances of dance, Taiko and Tai Chi and the ceremony which lasted an hour quickly came to an end. Those performances were very rich in content and the Tai Chi performance by Mr. Larry Butler was especially impressive since it gave us a feeling of connection between human beings and the earth. The recitation reflected ethnic problems that are non-existent in Japan.

The planting site was a sunny and prominent place, on top of a small rise of land where you can get a view of the entire gardens. When we taught how to make Origami persimmon after the tree planting ceremony, they told us that they wanted to try at the workshop in June. The ceremony was attended by pupils and students of East Park School, Glasgow College of Nautical, Hillhead High School and a number of organizations from the local community such as Rising Dragon Tai-Chi, Psycho Taiko, and the refugee support group of Cleveden Secondary School.



Nature in Art

 UK

 Gloucestershire

 15 Mar 2002



Nature in Art is an art center which specializes in art with a theme of nature. Mr. Bruce Allan, an artist, has heard the story about the seedlings from the bomb survived persimmon tree from Ms. Chantal Rusell Le Roux who joined the project in Bordeaux and realized the project after two years of effort together with the children of Churcham Primary School.

The executive committee visited Churcham Primary School prior to the tree planting ceremony and received a warm welcome. Children were full of curiosity about the visitors from a far country. Then they moved to the planting site by bus. The bus was filled with cheery voices of them having fun on the way.

The ceremony started with “Musical Sculpture”, in which Mr. Ian Richardson, a viola player, and children performed with hand-made musical instruments. When paper stencils were placed on the grass during

the performance titled “Kaki Impression”, beautiful persimmon trees emerged with different tones of green of the grass. It was followed by a fire performance of a circus and recitation of messages by children, and then the tree was planted. Lastly, they released balloons into the sky wishing for peace.

In 2003, the tree was planted in Georgia where a friend of Mr. Allan lives. Through the seedlings from the bombed persimmon tree, new cross-border connections are being created.



Brick Township Memorial High School

 USA

 New Jersey

 Mar 2002

Brick Township Memorial High School is a public high school with students from 14 to 18 years of age and a big school with the number of students ranging from 1,800 to 2,000. Mr. David Seegert, a teacher who is the local office representative, is young and an energetic person, who is a counselor for the high school students on mental and physical aspects. He applied for the project after reading an article on the Kaki Tree Project in an education magazine by Ms. Dee Mayes, a teacher who participated in the project in Dallas.

The trees will be planted in the public park near the high school (in March). It is a well managed and safe place. The students often visit there and the trees also can be seen by the locals any time.

Because of the size of the school, it took time to convey information about the project and gain a consensus, and therefore the tree planting ceremony fell behind schedule. Miyajima handed Mr. David Seegert the persimmon trees in New York.

Mr. Seegert informed us later that the students are taking care of the trees. One of them died after a few months due to change in environment but the other one is growing strongly with new leaves and branches sprouted. A board was placed at the foot of the tree so that the neighbors can enjoy.