



EVENTS

■ Peony Festival

Time: April 15th-
May 8th (Open
8:30-16:00)
Place: Peony
Garden (or
"Botan-en" in
Japanese)
Cost: 200 or 500
yen, depending
on your age.

■ Calanthe Discolor Garden

The garden opens
only for 2 weeks
every year. The
calanthe discolor
is a kind of
orchid, and there
will be many
other kinds of
flowers at the
garden. Entrance
fee is 300 yen.

■ Mahoro Ekimae Tada Benriken

The movie shoot
took place in
Machida, the
backdrop of the
original story.
Released on
April 23rd.

Machida Tourist Gallery

The City's official
visitor's center is
located in the Poppo
Machida Bldg.

Nature in Bloom Despite Disaster

Nature brought agony and lament with the mega-quake and tsunami, but sometimes, it rewards us with something beautiful, such as cherry blossom or *sakura*.



Sakura trees at Yakushi-ike park (These photos were taken in April last year.)

On March 11th, disaster struck Japan. We lost countless lives from both the earthquake and tsunami. Moreover, this country is now facing another crisis because of the nuclear plants. Since then, people have been trying to cut back electricity to save power, cancelling festivals and events.

In Machida City, the annual Sakura Festival was cancelled for the first time in 20 years. Machida City was planning to celebrate the "coming-of-age" ceremony for the

Sakura Festival. People visiting the Machida Tourist Gallery were disappointed to see the poster on the bulletin board that says "CANCELLED".

However, cherry blossoms had no intention of holding back their blossoming.

Some say it is inappropriate to admire sakura in a time like this. However, maybe we should admire the beauty of nature for the same reason. It will lift up your heart.

Although many festivals were cancelled, the Machida Tourist Gallery at the Poppo Machida still handed out the "Sakura Guide", a booklet that has maps of cherry blossom spots in Machida, for people

to be able to visit cherry blossoms on their own.

It may be unseemly to party, but you can still admire nature with your family and friends. Sticking to the TV 24-7 will not do you any good. Sometimes we need some relief, or we will make ourselves sick.

Maybe the blooming of *sakura* was a sign from the trees that all the people in Japan can still flourish like them, even after this sequence of devastating events. We must do what we can, no matter how little help it may be for the entire country, for the revival of Japan, the country of cherry blossoms.

Peony Festival Returns to Machida City



(Top) The Peony Garden
(Bottom) Beautiful flowers can be seen near the Peony Garden.

In Machida, there is a unique place called the Peony Garden, which is one of the most visited tourist spots at this time of year.

The garden will hold the Peony Festival from April 15th to May 8th. However, the schedule may alter, depending on the status of the flowers. The people at the garden expect the peak bloom of the peony flowers to be around the end of April this year.

During the season, the entrance fee is 200 yen for enrolled high schoolers and below, and 500 yen for everybody else.

The easy access to the park is to catch a bus from stop #21 near the "Pop" building. It takes only about 20 minutes from Machida Station by bus.

The update on the flower status is posted on the notice board at the Machida Tourist Gallery.

Bulletin Board

We apologize for skipping the March Issue of the Machida Tourist Times due to the earthquake.

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Love You, Tohoku!

REVIVE JAPAN!

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