



WakamatsuFest150

HOSTED BY THE AMERICAN RIVER CONSERVANCY



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ABOUT THE EVENT

American River Conservancy invites the public to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the first Japanese colony in America at the historic location of their 1869 tea and silk farm in Placerville, California, USA.



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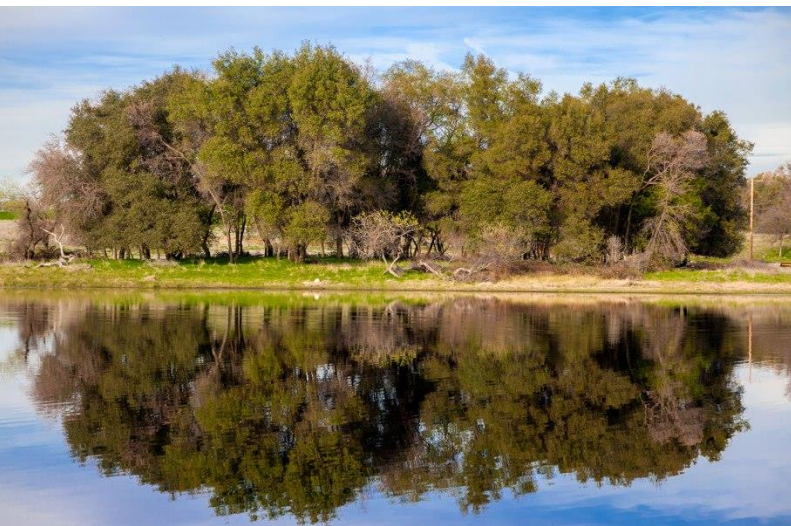
Overview



WakamatsuFest150 is a celebration of 150 years of Japanese American heritage, arts, and cuisine. The festival will feature Japanese and Japanese American food, art, music, performances, demonstrations, discussions, and more. Booths will offer Japanese and other foods, information, and merchandise. Entertainment will showcase traditional and modern Japanese American culture. Tour guides will tell stories about the first Japanese colonists who established their tea and silk farm on the property 150 years ago. On all four festival days, visitors will be treated to a world premiere live action play of the historic Wakamatsu Colony story. Locals, farmers, historians, and naturalists will share knowledge and experience honoring the past, present, and future of Wakamatsu Farm and surrounding El Dorado County.

The festival location is Wakamatsu Farm, site of the first Japanese Colony in America. Located in Placerville, California, Wakamatsu Farm is also the birth place of the first Japanese American and the resting place of the first Japanese woman and immigrant who died and is buried on American soil. Wakamatsu Farm is the historic site of the *Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Farm Colony*, which is a California Registered State Historic Landmark #815 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places at a level of "National Significance."

Happening on June 6 through 9, 2019, the festival dates coincide with the exact historic date of the colonists' arrival on June 8, 1869. Don't miss your chance to enjoy this one-and-only sesquicentennial celebration and become part of history!





Site History

In June of 1869, John Henry Schnell purchased approximately 200 acres, a farmhouse, and farm outbuildings from Charles Graner, who had settled on the Gold Hill Ranch during the early 1850's. Graner had become prosperous by making wine and brandy to sell to the miners. Applying their Japanese farming skills, the new colonists quickly went to work planting mulberry trees, tea plants, and other Japanese crops. Schnell successfully displayed silk cocoons, tea, and other plants at the 1869 California State Agricultural Fair in Sacramento then also the 1870 Horticultural Fair in San Francisco.

Unfortunately, the Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Farm was destined to be short-lived. Soon after their initial success, there was a serious drought. The colony purchased water from a mining ditch to irrigate their thirsty crops. But the water was contaminated with iron sulfate, which coated and strangled their plants. In addition, the financial support ended from their clan lord leader in Aizu Wakamatsu, Japan. Lacking crops and financial support, the colony disbanded by 1871.

The fate of only a few Wakamatsu colonists is currently known. In Coloma during 1877, Colonist Kuninosuke Masumizu married Carrie Wilson, who was African American and Native American. Kuninosuke died in 1915, and his family still lives in Northern California. Colonist Matsunosuke Sakurai, believed to be a samurai, worked for the remainder of his long life for the Francis Veerkamp family, who acquired the land in the 1870's. The Schnell's nursemaid, Colonist Okei Ito, also remained with the Veerkamps until her untimely death at the age of 19 in 1871. Okei-san is recognized as the first Japanese woman and immigrant buried on American soil where she still rests in peace today at Wakamatsu Farm.

Festival Facts



What

[WakamatsuFest150](#) is a sesquicentennial celebration of Japanese-American heritage, arts, and cuisine to honor the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the first Japanese Colony in America at Wakamatsu Farm.

One-Day Ticket Prices

\$15 adults or \$7 kids (6 to 16 yrs) - Thursday or Friday

\$20 adults or \$10 kids (6 to 16 yrs) - Saturday or Sunday

\$40 after-hours VIP event (also available to the public) - Saturday, June 8 only, 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Festival Pass Prices

\$30 adults or \$15 kids for any two days

\$60 adults or \$25 kids for all four days

- All days are free for kids ages 5 and under.
- Online sales include optional ARC membership (additional cost).
- \$5 discount for advance sales of festival passes only when purchased online prior to festival (coupon code goldhillsamurai2019).

Where

The festival location is [Wakamatsu Farm](#) located at [941 Cold Springs Road, Placerville, California, USA](#). The [American River Conservancy](#) owns this private property. See page 8 and 9 for maps and directions.

When

Festival Dates: Four Days on June 6, 7, 8, 9 of 2019

Festival Times: 10:00am to 4:00pm

VIP Event: Saturday, June 8 from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm

How

WakamatsuFest150 is a one-time-only celebration to recognize the many cultural contributions made by Japanese American people over the past 150 years. Only one place and time is fitting for WakamatsuFest150, an historical celebration that will never be repeated in world history.

Each festival day centers on the following topics with some overlap each day:

- Thursday, June 6 - Kids Explore Japanese Culture
- Friday, June 7 - Tea and Japanese Tea Culture
- Saturday, June 8 - Wakamatsu History
- Sunday, June 9 - Wakamatsu Authors and Japanese American Farmers

Kids' activities, tea, history, authors, food, and vendors will be available each festival day.

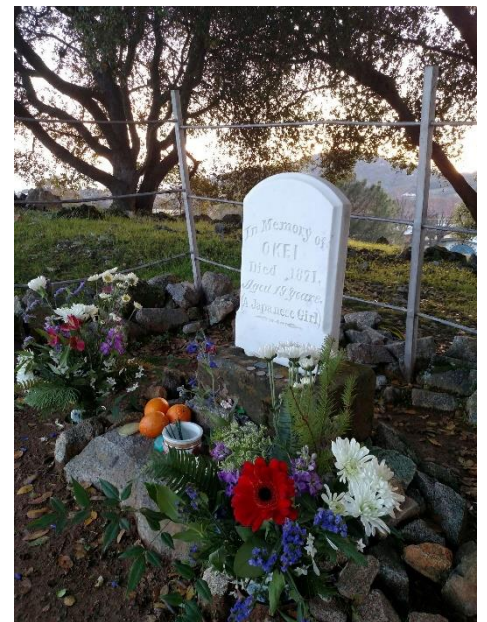


Festival Business Sponsors





Logos and Images



Hosted by
**AMERICAN RIVER
CONSERVANCY**



Preserving Rivers and Land for Life

Visitor Info

WakamatsuFest150 will broaden awareness about Wakamatsu Farm, Japanese American culture, and the abundant agricultural, natural, historical, and cultural resources of California and El Dorado County. Local, state, national, and international visitors along with distinguished guests will join the event.

The site is an historic farm. Dress and plan for rugged outdoor leisure enjoying unpaved trails and straw bale seating. You can bring your own chair. No weapons, intoxicating substances, or outside food are permitted. The event is family friendly. No pets are allowed. All parking is offsite approximately 2 miles North with free shuttle transportation.

The American River Conservancy owns Wakamatsu Farm, which is private property. Unscheduled drop-ins are not appropriate. The public is welcome during year-round tours and events found at www.ARConservancy.org/events. Private Wakamatsu Farm tours can be scheduled by contacting 530-621-1224 or wakamatsu@ARConservancy.org.

The festival website at www.ARConservancy.org/wakafest150 provides more information to help visitors enjoy their festival experience.



Maps & Directions

[Driving Directions \(online link\)](#)

[Visitors' Map \(online link\)](#)

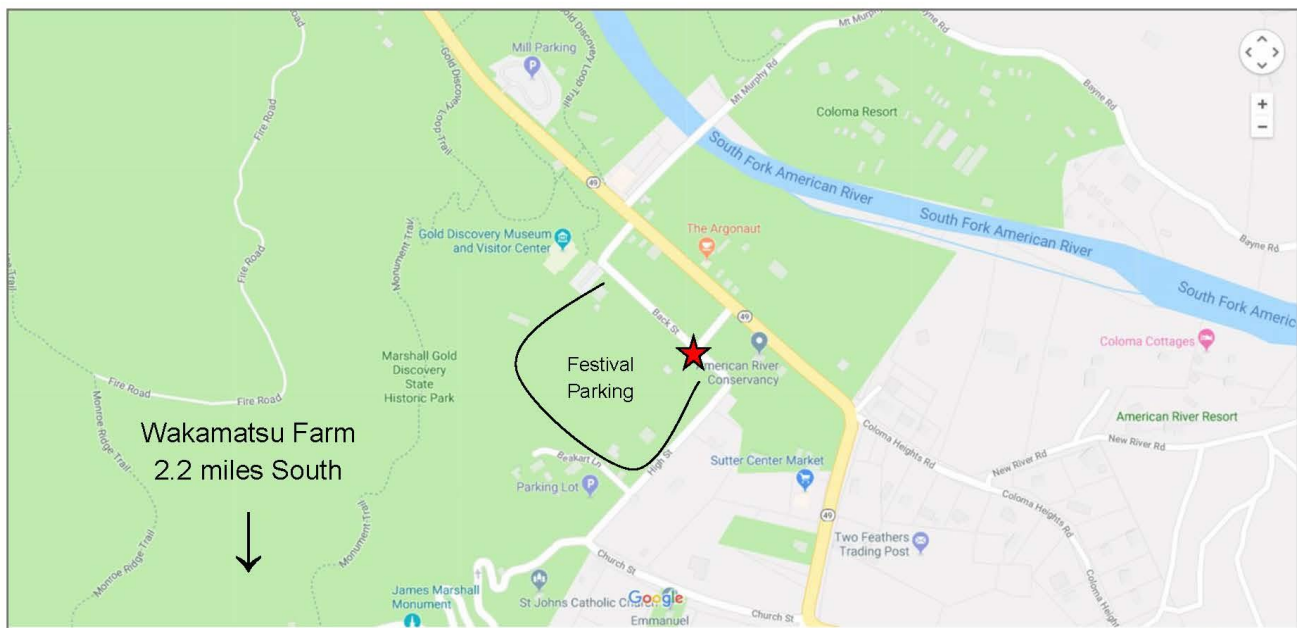
[Lodging Map \(online link\)](#)

[Festival Parking Map \(page 9\)](#)

Festival Parking

All visitor parking during WakamatsuFest150 is offsite
approximately 2 miles north at
[Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park](#)
310 Back St, Coloma, CA 95613

Parking for WakamatsuFest150 – June 6, 7, 8, 9, 2019



Welcome to WakamatsuFest150! Please plan your festival parking in advance.

Parking for festival guests is available only at the [Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park](#) in Coloma, located 2.2 miles North of Wakamatsu Farm. The parking fee is \$5. Free shuttles to/from Wakamatsu Farm are provided during festival hours.

Onsite parking at Wakamatsu Farm during WakamatsuFest150 is for disabled drivers only. Vehicle access during festival hours is limited to parking shuttles, guest drop off, and emergency services. We hope you enjoy your festival experience.

★ **Parking shuttle pickup and drop off**