

Late afternoon sun

Slants through the rabbit's pink ears

As he chews the grass

April 30, 2024

Hidden Creek

Four crows on the path

Scatter at my approach

Autumn leaves and sun

October 9, 2024

Sammy's Path

Following the frost

The kale leaves become violet

In the setting sun

November 20, 2024

Hidden Creek

First trace of winter

Snow greets my daughter's return

Heart's longing now stilled

December 20, 2024

Hidden Creek

Crows, high in the trees

Announce my presence to all

First snow of winter

December 20, 2024

Hidden Creek Trail

Nine deer look my way

As I walk the narrow path

New Year's afternoon

January 1, 2025

Hidden Creek Trail

Bluebirds' silhouette

Bare branches, grey clouds, white snow

Longing for spring green

January 16, 2025

Hidden Creek Trail

'Setsubun' today

Brings sudden warmth and sunshine

Next day cold once more

February 3, 2025

Hidden Creek Trail

Setsubun 節分 is the traditional Japanese New Year, falling in early February.

*Clouds and sky and wind
Hurrying to the ballet
Together with friends*

March 8, 2025

*Locust Street (when Batta-sensei
challenged me to compose a haiku in the 50
yards between Alice restaurant and the
Academy of Music)*

*Paw print in sidewalk
Unnoticed through the winter
A fresh sign of spring*

March 10, 2025

Hidden Creek Trail

*Three cardinals fly
Will they soar to a conclave?
May the red one win!*

March 12, 2025

Hidden Creek Trail

*Old song on guitar
Fragrance of orange blossoms
Plaza San Andres*

March 18, 2025

Plaza de San Andres, Sevilla

Sevilla, alone

Suddenly, new friend appears
Golden afternoon

March 19, 2025

Las Setas, Sevilla

Just how can this be?

My daily walk a circle
Wind always in face!

March 26, 2025

Hidden Creek Trail

Chalk on the sidewalk

Another sure sign of Spring
Robins on the path

April 30, 2025

Hidden Creek Trail

Stumbling on the path

A crow caws in derision
Head down eyes forward!

July 4, 2025

Hidden Creek Trail

A brief memory

The small dog that once greeted us

Wherefore art thou now?

July 22, 2025

Hidden Creek Trail

Remembering 'Bridget'

Summer day on porch

Bamboo leaves quaking in breeze

Aspen memories

July 22, 2025

Creekview Drive

Time to cut the hay

No rain – low humidity

Baler roars all day

July 23, 2025

Hidden Creek Trail

Memories of Louie Sierzega

*roaring about local weatherman Phil Volker
failing to forecast the downpours that occurred*

Stroll across campus

Cicadas buzzing conjure

July memories

July 24, 2025

Ursinus College

Morning cicadas

No doubt a hot day ahead

August approaches

July 25, 2025

Hidden Creek Trail

山の下

藤花 茶色です

今日は秋です

July 25, 2025

Creekview Drive

Roughly translated, this states:

Below the mountain / Wisteria turning brown / First day of autumn

Interesting that both my rough translation and the original adhere to the 5-7-5 rule.

*I'm pleased with my effort here because the word for 'wisteria' in Japanese is 'fuji'.
So the mountain (山) in the first line might be Fuji, but does not have to be in the
context of this haiku.*

“Heat wave number five!”

*Walks confined to mornings with
My cicada choir!*

July 30, 2025

Hidden Creek Trail

*Another heat wave
Fireflies and cicada
Echoes of childhood*

July 30, 2025

Hidden Creek Trail

むし あつい

風がそよぐです

も はちがつ

August 3, 2025

Creekview Drive

Roughly translated, this states:

Still hot and muggy / Only a slight breeze wafts through / August lingers still

風がそよぐ (Kaze ga soyoku) means the wind is fluttering gently

Bachelor buttons

Appeared on the trail today

Sign of late summer

August 13, 2025

Hidden Creek Trail

Striding down the trail

Cricket keeping pace with me

Who will turn off first?

August 27, 2025

Hidden Creek Trail

This actually happened to me today. As I walked down the sidewalk, I saw a cricket hopping along, staying one step ahead of my feet. Luckily, and before I could think of changing my course, he jumped off into the adjacent grass.

Dandelion seed

Tangled in a spider's web

Twisting in the wind.

August 27, 2025

On the deck

蒲公英種

風が西から

海にまで？

August 28, 2025

Down the shore

Roughly translated, this states:

Dandelion seed / Wind is from the west today / Destined for the sea?

Four deer in greenway

On Wednesday mid-afternoon

Critters rule the 'hood!

September 3, 2025

Hidden Creek Trail

秋祭り

けん玉がたくさん

楽しかった

September 13, 2025

Schauffele Plaza, Ardmore, PA

Roughly translated, this states:

Autumn Festival / Played at Kendama all day / It was fun indeed

A Kendama ('sword & ball') is a Japanese wooden skill toy

秋分の日です

昼夜同

夜が長...

September 21, 2025

Hidden Creek Trail

Roughly translated, this states:

Autumn equinox /Day is now equal to night / From now nights grow long...

Four breaths in, four out

Haiku is 5 - 7 - 5

Feels like Dave Brubeck!

September 24, 2025

Hidden Creek Trail

When I walk, I always fall into breathing in for four steps and breathing out for four steps. Musically speaking, 4/4 time signature. I also attempt to compose haiku on my walks. But the 5 - 7 - 5 syllable requirements for haiku seem to clash with the 4/4 timing of my breathing. This can only be resolved by thinking of the Dave Brubeck Quartet and their 1959 classic, 'Take Five', which was written in 5/4 time!

Black walnuts on the trail

Blue jays challenge my passage

Autumn has arrived

September 25, 2025

Hidden Creek Trail

今日秋雨

道濡れ落ち葉

今涼しい

September 25, 2025

Hidden Creek Trail

Roughly translated, this states:

Autumn rain today / Many wet leaves on the trail / Days now seem cooler

*The phrase 'nure ochiba' (濡れ落ち葉) literally means 'wet leaf'.
But along with that, Japanese wives often use it to describe retired
husbands who get underfoot at home. If you've ever tried to sweep
a wet leaf off a wet sidewalk, you'll understand the imagery. And
so, I write haiku simply to avoid being labeled a 濡れ落ち葉 !!*

In dappled sunlight

On the gently curving path

This autumn morning

September 26, 2025

Hidden Creek Trail

月見間に

松風荘で

風がそよぐです

October 3, 2025

Shofuso Japanese House

Shofuso (松風荘) is the Japanese house and garden in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia. During last night's Moon Viewing celebration (お月見), there was gentle breeze moving through the pines 風がそよぐ (Kaze ga soyoku).

Focused on trip prep

Not even aware of trail

Sudden rain on face

October 13, 2025

Hidden Creek Trail

This was me today. I was totally immersed in planning my trip home to Japan and embarked on a walk still dominated by those thoughts. Only after fifteen minutes did I wake up and fully realize where I was.

Day Two jet lag blues...

Thank God big meeting Day One

Just survive today

October 29, 2025

Kumagaya

Ducks glimpsed through bamboo

Resting in the pavilion

And a crane takes flight!

October 29, 2025

Seikeian Garden, Kumagaya

Coos of mourning doves

Aromas from street vendors

In Nanjing back streets

October 31, 2025

Nanjing

Shaded street, Nanjing
Sycamores and some maples
Do ghosts seek the sun?

October 31, 2025

Nanjing

After visiting the Memorial Hall and realizing that it was All Hallows' Eve.

Above Narita
Hachiman Temple presides
Ruling below clouds

November 1, 2025

Narita, Japan

November sunlight
Filters through the dry oak leaves
In late afternoon

November 6, 2025

Hidden Creek Trail

Indian Summer

今,こはるびより

Both homelands sense this

November 7, 2025

Hidden Creek

こはるびより(Koharu nibori) is the Japanese expression for the warm and sunny days that appear between late autumn and early winter.

Solitary walk

Tomorrow to say goodbye

To family dog

November 9, 2025

Hidden Creek Trail

Farwell to Telsa

E'en with all the unfetched balls

We loved you truly...

November 10, 2025

Hidden Creek

First snow in the air

Accompanied by fierce wind

Turn, wheel of seasons

November 11, 2025

Hidden Creek Trail

For sixteen years now

Walking the pup morn and night

Leash now lies at rest

November 12, 2025

Hidden Creek

I look to her spot

Half expecting a raised head

But she has left us

November 12, 2025

Hidden Creek

First walk in the park

Without the family dog

Echoes of past trails

November 13, 2025

Heckler Plains Homestead

The charcoal ignites

Today at Robiraki

Final tea this year

November 15, 2025

松風荘 Shofuso Japanese House

Since Shofuso is essentially an outdoor venue, Robiraki is our last session for this year.

{Having waited until ritto (the first day of winter by lunar calendar) at the beginning of November, there is kairo, the opening of the hearth which is also called 'robiraki'. From November, the ro (hearth) is used for chanoyu for half a year. In Sen no Rikyu's time it was said that the hearth should be opened when the color of the yuzu (citron) deepens}.

All the leaves are down

Except the oaks, who cling to

Theirs through the winter

November 17, 2025

Hidden Creek Trail

Wind rattles oak leaves

Who will cling to their branches

Through the long winter

November 23, 2025

Heckler Plains Homestead, evening

A flock of starlings

Swirl through the houses and trees

Landing in the yard

A Tippi Hedren moment!

December 22, 2025

Hidden Creek Trail

Harsh wind shoving clouds

From behind it propels me

From front it's a wall

December 30, 2025

Hidden Creek Trail

Encountering my

Neighbor each day on my walk

Brief nods in the cold

January 3, 2026

Hidden Creek Trail

Now wind has shifted

Is this January thaw?

One can only hope!

January 5, 2026

Hidden Creek Trail

A cardinal flies

Then followed by a blue jay

Colors on grey day

January 11, 2026

Hidden Creek Trail

A glimpse of blue jay

Diving in arbor vitae

Nesting or hiding?

January 13, 2026

On the deck

Five inches of snow

Saturday, with five more on

Sunday – and now sun!

January 13, 2026

On the deck

Ten inches of snow

Two inches of ice on top

Reflecting the sun

January 30, 2026

Hidden Creek

Deep snow present still

Four deer crouched by the creek bed

Where do they find food?

February 12, 2026

Hidden Creek

First day trail open

After three weeks of deep snow

Birdsong in the air

February 21, 2026

Hidden Creek Trail

Since I retired

Now aware of sun angle

As seasons progress

February 24, 2026

Hidden Creek

When writing haiku

Admit I sometimes miscount

The damn syllables!

February 24, 2026

Hidden Creek

*Strange patches – brown and
Faded green emerged today
From beneath the snow!*

*February 26, 2026
Hidden Creek Trail*

*‘Mud luscious’ is what
e.e. called this time of year
To me it’s damn damp!*

*February 26, 2026
Hidden Creek Trail*

*A warm day in March
Stretching my legs on the trail
Unaccustomed warmth*

*March 9, 2026
Hidden Creek Trail*

... or perhaps

*A warm day in March
Late spring day in late winter
Unaccustomed warmth*

*March 9, 2026
Hidden Creek Trail*

*Sudden warm spring day
Followed many weeks of cold
Perchance I journeyed?*

March 10, 2026

Hidden Creek

*Shakespeare is made of
Iambic pentameter
By kilometer...*

March 12, 2026

Hidden Creek

*Old school calendars
Always showed a kite for March
If no wind, then breeze...*

March 18, 2026

Hidden Creek Trail

*My haiku journey
Like a dog chasing its tail
In dizzy circles*

March 20, 2026

Hidden Creek

Meandering stream

Greenery at its edges

All else brown in March

March 26, 2026

Hidden Creek Trail

Old 'TS' was right

April starts cruelly this year

The lion lingers

April 2, 2026

Hidden Creek Trail

Caught! Sudden shower

Spring leaves offer no shelter

Haiku in the rain

April 4, 2026

Hidden Creek Trail

Spring has arrived - all

Green except dandelions

Seasonal colors

April 20, 2026

Hidden Creek Trail

*Today I can both
See the bird and hear his song
Cardinal on branch*

*April 28, 2026
Hidden Creek Trail*

*Shady side of street
Already more attractive
And it's only May!*

*May 4, 2026
Hidden Creek Trail*

*Light rain this morning
Plenty of trees for shelter
Beijing on Sunday*

*May 17, 2026
Beijing*

*Mist on flagstone path
Willows bend to touch the stream
Park blocks in Dongcheng*

*May 17, 2026
Beijing*

After weekend rain

Old men sweep away puddles

With brooms of straw

May 18, 2026

Jiadaokou, Beijing

I left Beijing on

Plane ride so bumpy I cried

Not a masterpiece.

May 20, 2026

Enroute Beijing to Tokyo

(with all due apologies to Levon Helm)

Yamanote Line

All passengers in their phones

Bound for Omaha

May 21, 2026

Hamamatsu-cho to Shimbashi

(with 'limited' apologies to Carl Sandburg)

Climate change means that

We are never quite certain

Which season we're in

May 26, 2026

Hidden Creek Trail

Sunny and no wind

Three balers churn the hay field

Suddenly summer

June 3, 2026

Hidden Creek Trail

Plump critter on trail

June is our month for woodchucks

Scurries off to eat!

June 3, 2026

Hidden Creek Trail

Five crows land in tree

They all glide off as I pass

Solitary caw

June 3, 2026

Hidden Creek Trail

Reading book outside

On summer day mid-morning

A first since childhood

June 4, 2026

On the deck

“Pizza oven heat”

June less humid than July

Savor the moment

June 5, 2026

Hidden Creek Trail

A muggy wind today

Uncommon combination

In a strange summer

June 18, 2026

Hidden Creek Trail

Black and bright blue, the

The butterfly out today

One hundred degrees

July 3, 2026

Hidden Creek Trail

Heard sound of baler

In the field again, so soon?

Rain must make grass grow!

August 1, 2026

Hidden Creek

Hay bales in the field

Look like cubes of brown sugar

Melting in the sun

August 1, 2026

Hidden Creek

Day in deep summer

A blue butterfly wings by

While cicada cry

August 2, 2026

Hidden Creek

Bachelor Buttons

Share the field with Queen Anne's Lace

August entrances

August 4, 2026

Heckler Plains Park