

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 free

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 'Briget'*

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 'faji'. 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 a grey day

January 11, 2026

Hidden Creek Trail

A glimpse of blue jay

Diving into arbor vitae

Nesting or hiding?

January 13, 2026

On the deck