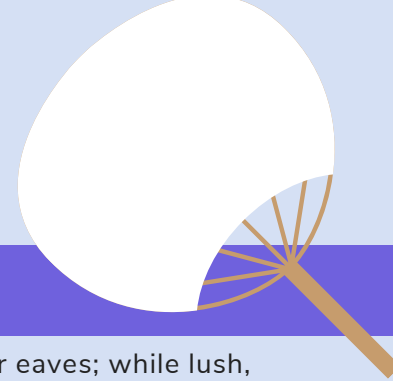


Rocky Mountain Chado

Japanese Way of Tea in the Rocky Mountains



SUMMER 2023

June has brought an abundance of cool & soothing rain pitter-pattering on our eaves; while lush, verdant landscapes grow around us, we reflect on the fruitful and continued development of the Tea community in Colorado.

We hope in the coming hot days you find shade and respite in the busy summer season.

A Summer of Tea and Joyful Connections

by Sara Robison

The Boulder Omotesenke keiko-ba led by DeZauche-sensei enjoyed two particularly memorable summer events that have helped to deepen our understanding of Tea.



In early June, members of the keiko-ba took a field trip at the invitation of Buddhist Monastic Hieu Le to the Compassionate Dharma Cloud Monastery, a Vietnamese temple near Morrison, CO, to celebrate Vesak, a sacred holiday commemorating the birth, enlightenment, and passing of the Buddha. After a stirring ceremony inspiring both joy and solemnity in congregants, the mountain air was cool and pleasant, with trees shading guests as they reflected on compassion, generosity, and tea practice while walking together along gently winding forest paths.

As the month comes to a close, anticipation builds for the group's first chaji being held to commemorate Nicole Colvett's entrance into the East Asian Studies graduate program at University of Southern California. Like a butterfly, Nicole's gentle light-heartedness lifts those around her, bringing a sense of joy and playfulness to our keiko-ba. As we consider the profound moments that lie ahead for Nicole, we extend the wish to all Rocky Mountain Chado members that amidst the twists and turns of life's journey, you have the good fortune to be able to honor your milestones with a spirit of reverence and gratitude, surrounded by enduring friendships.



Mizuya Workshop by Lindsey Higo

On the last Saturday in May, members from Urasenke and Omotesenke schools gathered at the historic Ella Mullen Weckbaugh teahouse for a day of focused mizuya training. This workshop was designed to give active students a hands-on confidence building approach to assist in summer programs for the public at the Denver Botanic Gardens. Working in pairs, students were guided through the fundamentals of preparing the space and utensils for use. Then everyone worked together to simulate a summer program.



This included a tour of the roji garden, using the tsukubai and a serving of tea. All students had the opportunity to experience being both on the host and guest side through the course of the day. As the afternoon clouds rolled in, the workshop ended with cleaning followed by an impromptu chabana discussion. Reflecting on the plants blooming around us and those brought into the teahouse for the day's arrangement could not have transpired at a more appropriate place.



Chaji in Mexico

by Aislynn Van Clief

In May, I concluded my extended stay in Mexico with a chaji. The gathering was held before the heat of the afternoon arrived, in a tropical casita overlooking the primavera and palm trees. Guests were greeted with a light suimono, followed by bento style cha-kaiseki and we enjoyed Tea through the presentation of the unohana chabako temae.

My main challenge for this event was to craft a cha kaiseki meal that sourced local, seasonal ingredients of the Pacific Mexican coast. This took me on a journey through the markets, homes and culture of Sayulita, Mexico. Learning about agriculture, medicinal herbs and fish populations truly enriched my time spent there in an enormous way. Seeking out congruences between traditional Japanese and Mexican ingredients was a delight. I discovered seasonal highlights like mahi mahi, cactus, epazote, and even sake produced in Mexico!

Having the chance to explore this unique menu deepened and reaffirmed my understanding of the elements that make up traditional kaiseki and gave me pause to further contemplate one of the Rikyu Hyakushu ;“Observe the standards and rules of form to the limit, and though you may break them or depart from them, never forget the principles.”
(#102)



Thank you for taking a little time out of your day for Tea. If you would like to share any “tea happenings” in your keiko-ba or your daily life with the rest of the RMC community or participate in the next newsletter email us at info@rmchado.org or join us on our [Discord server](#). You can also follow us on our Facebook Group (Rocky Mountain Chado) & Instagram (@rockymtnchado).

Submissions for our next update must be received by **September 25, 2023**.