Koshigaike Pond

The gourd-shaped Koshigaike Pond provides an idyllic setting for a stroll in the Nakayama Shichiri area of Gero. The pond is within the Hida Kisogawa Quasi-National Park and is popular for its seasonal scenes of cherry blossoms, hydrangeas, autumn leaves, and winter snow.

The literal translation of Koishigaike is “Pond of the Filial Son.” The name comes from a local folk tale about a poor man by the name of Sakon who traveled far north to Lake Biwa, near Kyoto, to fulfill his dying mother’s wish to drink some of its water. Sakon procured the lake water and stored it in a cylinder of bamboo. When he returned home, he discovered that his mother had already passed away, and he collapsed in grief. The water that spilled out of the bamboo cylinder at that moment, along with the tears he shed, became Koishigaike Pond. Sakon is venerated at Kadohara Shinmei Shrine, a 5-minute drive from the pond.