

*Dear Mary Ida:*

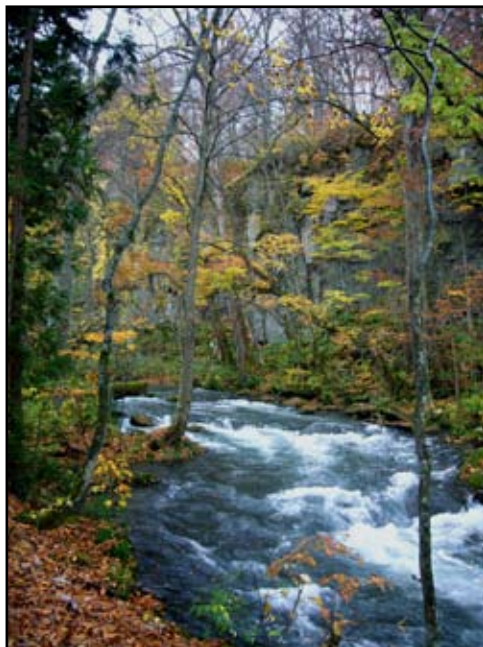
Very nice. You did a good job. Your painting is impressionistic, just as I expected it to be. Thank you. I'll get a frame for it and hang it in a prominent place in my workshop. As you know, Yoshi and I returned home from Japan in mid-April, but already she is planning the next trip, which will take place in October/November, only six months from now. Yes, we are going to Japan twice this year, and we will revisit the gorge through which the Oirase River rushes so gloriously. The next time I write about the Oirase, I'll probably use your painting as an illustration, properly credited, of course. You asked for the pronunciation of Oirase. It is Oh-ee-rah-say. I know you don't know much about Japan's geography, but the Oirase gorge and river are in the extreme north of Honshu, the main island. We will stay three days at a resort hotel on Towada Lake. The huge lake is the source of the Oirase River, although the river has contributing tributaries of its own. The exact location of your painting and my photo is several miles downstream from the lake. It occurs to me that you did all this artwork and you have nothing to show for it. Perhaps you photographed the painting before sending it to me, but if you didn't, I'll do so, and I'll mail an 8x10 glossy to you. Enclosed is a \$123.69 check as promised, covering your materials and shipping costs. Thanks, Cousin. I am very pleased.

*Love, Jack*

April 30, 2009



**"Oirase River" – 2009 Painting by Mary Ida Luck**



**2007 Photo by Jackson Sellers**