

Sangha Update  
July 12, 2008

Hello Sangha Friends:

Welcome to another Sangha Update from Crestone Mountain Zen Center. Here it goes:

### Practice Period

This winter we hosted the fifteenth three month Practice Period at Crestone Mountain Zen Center. Matt Zepelin, Brendan Watt, Ingrid Lietdke, and Nicole Baden all joined us for their second Practice Period. Erhard Kissel came for his fifth, and Anja Metzger and Ulli Waldeck for their first. Ottmar Engel, the Assistant Abbot of Johanneshof, also visited for the last month, and Russell Smith, a former Director, moved to CMZC at the halfway point. This Practice Period was based on the reading, practicing, discussing, and editing of Baker-roshi's forthcoming book, *Original Mind*. We all found the book insightful, and for many of us, it was a groundbreaking practice text. Certainly, it clarifies and advances the teaching Baker-roshi has been developing with all of us in the last decades. We look forward to its publication.

### Wedding

Christian Dillo and Sophie Dixon got married! Baker-roshi performed the ceremony on May 12th. About a hundred friends, family members, and Sangha from Germany and the U.S. joined the wedding. The reception, catered by a local restaurant, took place in the Dome, imaginatively and beautifully decorated for the occasion. An energized dance party followed. After brunch the next morning, most of the guests left and the center rested again in its monastic quietude. Baker-roshi left for his annual six months in Europe on May fifteenth. Marie Louise and Sophia joined him in Europe later in the week, while Sophie and Christian honeymooned in Maui.

### Work Intensive

The wedding was followed by our spring Work Intensive. First and most necessary, we replaced the skylight of the Dome. Many thanks for the dozens of contributions that made this essential renovation possible! The new skylight is an aesthetic and functional improvement over the twenty year-old "temporary" skylight that started to leak and cave in last autumn. It substantially improves the ventilation and lighting in the dome.

Other Work Intensive projects. With Sophie leading our efforts this year, the garden has never looked better. Lettuce, kale, chard, parsley, cilantro, squash, and over a dozen tomato plants are just some of the vegetables we'll be harvesting in the next months.

We've also reworked our compost system, planted two new blue spruce outside Hoto An, and revamped the Main House flower beds. We replaced four tattered flaps on the yurt and sanded and stained its deck. We pulled all the steel pipes out from the Log House path and landscaped the area. Dan installed new windows in the Side and Corner Rooms. We stained the Zendo deck, put bamboo over the fabric ceiling in the Studio, painted and reorganized the pantry, and added a porch to the studio entrance.

Brendan Watt and Frank Jones drove down from Boulder to remodel Young Pine Hut, which, as you may remember, flooded last year. They installed a new subfloor and insulation, hung dry wall, and built a new porch and stairs. Frank will return in late

July to furnish a custom bed and do some finishing work.

### Log House

One major undertaking that we need to hire out this summer is refinishing the outside of the Log House. The exterior log walls are splitting from exposure, sometimes letting rain into the living room and office. There are several ideas, ranging from a simple power wash and stain, all the way to a major insulation and stucco project.

### Trailer

We were lucky to receive a trailer as a gift from Ulrike Greenway in June. Dan and I placed it on the land halfway between the dormitory and the yurt. So far we've used it to sleep two work exchange students, which allows us to keep rooms open for our summer guests.

### And Away We Go

All in all, things are going well on the mountain. The atmosphere is positive. Our summer Guest Season is as busy and energetic as ever. Thank you for your continued support and participation.

Best Wishes,

Seisho Craig Hase  
and the Residents of Crestone Mountain Zen Center