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- 1. ANNUAL REPORT
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Jochi Korin Chicetsu Koun

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GATEKEEPERS' ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1979

The year of 1979 has brought many changes to Dai Bosatsu Zendo that perhaps many people are not fully aware of. I would like to take this opportunity to institute an annual gatekeeper's report to present an outline of the management of the property and physical plant during the past year and ideas, plans, and projections for the future year and beyond.

The highlight of the past year on the physical management level has been the establishment of a comprehensive, long range, forestry management plan provided by Mr. David T. Mance. Mr. Mance, a professional private forester, forestry engineer and surveyor was hired by Dai Bosatsu Zendo Staff this past summer to conduct an investigation of past practices and potential of our property in relation to providing Dai Bosatsu with an increased income from timber sales and a balanced approach to harvesting. The results of this work are presented in the "Forestry Management Plan for the Zen Studies Society". (attached with map)

This year's timber harvest has just been negotiated. Prospectus were sent ... to 24 individual mills and loggers in the area. We showed the harvest area on January 11, 1980 and received a total of 5 bids in response. Attached is a copy of the prospectus sent out and following is the resulting list of bids.

1.	Ed Skinner	\$15,200.00
2.	Fairburn	\$13,260.00
3.	Emerich	\$12,012.12
4.	Bowman G. Owen	\$11,000.00
5.	T.P. Sawmills	\$10,010.00

On the advice and recommendation of Mr. Mance, the sale of approximately 190,000 board feet of standing hardwood timber was awarded to Mr. Ed Skinner of Handcock, N.Y. for the sum of \$15,200.00.

This sale represents almost double the board feet volume of last year's sale. Unlike last year's sale, we are currently selling a large volume of second and lower grade material which is being removed as an improvement harvest to increase the volume and quality of timber to be harvested in the future. The past practice of selling unmarked lots of timber, cut at the logger's discretion, has resulted in "high grading", i.e., removing only the best material with no regard to the future growth of surrounding timber and the forest itself. This practice has been discontinued and we are now selling by sealed bid, tallied, and marked lots prepared in accordance with current scientific forestry management methods. Marking and tallying is being done by Mr. Mance who also sets up the prospectus, shows the sale, investigates loggers' past performances, negotiates the contract and supervises the logging operation in exchange for 10% of the harvest. (See copy of contract attached).

A comprehensive plan for increasing our maple syrup production has been implemented. We have recently acquired a 4' x 14' evaporator which will replace our old 3' x 8' evaporator and increase our production over three-fold. The old evaporator has been sold to our neighbor. The new evaporator required extensive rebuilding which was accomplished by an expenditure of \$400. Three holding tanks, 400 new collection buckets, and miscellaneous hardware were included in the purchase of the new unit. The forestry management plan includes improvement and expansion of the present sugar-bush which will increase sap production and simplify sap collection.

In 1979 we introduced Ginseng on an area of the Black Ash Ridge. (The Black Ash Ridge is the only area of our property that has the conditions necessary for supporting ginseng growth.) We have planted 2 lbs. of seed (approximately 16,000 seeds) covering ½ acre. The ginseng grown in New York's Catskill Mountains is known as the finest in the world and is purchased eagerly by Korean interests for export. Last year's prices yielded approximately \$40,000. per acre and are expected to increase in the future. Growth time from

planting to harvest is 7 years, with seeding occuring after three years and each following years. We hope to plant at least an acre of seed per year over the next 6 years; funds have been promised by a donor to cover the cost of seeds. This project can conceivably provide an income of \$40,000. per year after 7 years and up to \$200,000. per year after 20 years.

We have redesigned our property line posters to be more visible. The most readily accessable five miles of line have been posted. The new posters are placed within 200 feet of each other and are highly visible in the woods. The remaining three miles of remote line will be completed this spring. (Sample poster attached.)

A donation of \$2,500. has enabled us to begin a landscape program based on a proposal developed last summer. (Copy attached). We have purchased a gasoline powered brush cutter that will enable us to thin brush at a much higher rate with greater safety. An order for 2,000 conifer seedlings has been placed for spring delivery. The following species have been ordered:

Norway Spruce	1,250
White Spruce	500
Douglas Fir	250

These seedlings will be planted in an enclosed area near the garden. Funds provide for the construction of an enclosure to prevent deer damage until the trees are able to survive in the open. These trees will initially be used for landscape purposes. The excess will then be introduced into the forest to provide future soft wood lumber and create a scenic effect, particularly in the winter months.

A local property owner has also offered us a large number of White Birch, Dogwood, and Quaking Aspen saplings that can be introduced for scenic effect in various locations.

We have established an inventory system for firewood that enables us to tally the amount of wood available in any given two week period.

This winter we have been able to heat the main building by wood only. No oil is being used at present. The procedure of closing down 2/3 of the building has been greatly simplified. A permanent water by-pass line has been installed through the closed sections to the main water input. This line is electrically heated to prevent freezing, thermostatically and electronically controlled. This system was fabricated from primarily parts that were on hand. It eliminates the practice of installing and removing a by-pass line each year.

One of our three wood furnaces was sold this year since it was not required for heating and did not function properly as it was installed in our building. The Tibetan Buddhist community in Woodstock, N.Y. purchased this unit to heat their new building and are very pleased with it's performance. Removal of the furnace required demolition and reconstruction of one of the outside walls of the Zendo and was done by Dai Bosatsu Staff members.

The past summer saw the completion of the outside renovation work on Jorakuan. The only remaining work consists of repairing or "pointing" the chimneys. This work will require the services of a mason during the coming summer.

This spast fall, kessei students were able to complete the lining of drainage ditches along the hill approaching the monastery. This will help to stabilize the road edges in that area. The road itself is showing signs of wear in several places. Three sluice pipes will have to be removed and repaired or replaced. Frost heaves are creating many bumps and several holes. Poorly constructed and non-existent drainage systems have allowed undermining of the road in many areas. These problems <u>must</u> be corrected by a professional contractor this coming year.

Lack of supervision of prior logging and improper water control devices have resulted in extensive damage to several roads in lots 241 and 242. These roads should be stabilized immediately to prevent further erosion and inevitable

are in progress and have not been finalized.

The vehicle situation is as follows. We presently own seven vehicles:

1979 Jeep Cherokee 1979 Chevy Pick-up 1971 Chevy Carryall 1959 International Travelall 1972 Chevy Pick-up 1968 Ford tractor 1953 Walters Highway Snow Plow

The Jeep and '79 pick-up are both in excellent condition. The '71 Carryall is in <u>very poor condition, highly unsafe</u> and should be junked. Repairs on this vehicle are out of the question. The '59 International is in surprisingly sound shape. It needs break work, but other than that and a good compounding job, it's ok. It should be used as a garden and on-property vehicle. The '72 pick-up is used as a snow plow and should be used <u>only</u> for that purpose as it's condition is only fair, and we may be able to make it last for quite a few years longer if use is limited. It should be placed in storage during the summer. The Walters snow plow is in poor condition, requiring massive hydraulic work, clutch work, and parts are <u>very</u> difficult to obtain. I have had no experience with this machine and cannot comment with expertise. The Ford tractor is a disaster. The hydraulic pump has a bad leak, the transmission needs a massive overhaul, and new tires all 'round are needed. Since we have no use for this machine, it should be sold as soon as possible. We have had and are looking into inquiries in this direction.

This essentially concludes the examination of the past year's activity and brings us to recommendations for the coming year and future.

Our new forestry program calls for massive thinning operations over a large percentage of the property. It calls for the removal of 5,000 chords of wood over a ten year period. Since our present firewood requirement is about 175 chords per year, this necessary program will provide us with an enormous excess

of firewood which can be sold. The firewood market is booming and prices are increasing from 30 to 40 per cent per year. We can sell to a bulk contractor or develop our own transport and distribution system. The volume of wood to be removed is far greater than our capabilities at present. I have been investigating the availability of equipment to implement this program. We must be able to remove logs from the forest over rough terrain in remote locations. This means a machine capable of traversing such ground and equipped with a winch and plow black to move and haul material to logging trails. My first inclination was to go for a small 60 hp, 4 wd, PTO tractor, but consultation with several loggers, timber men and neighbors has made it obvious that the best Machine for the job is a small skidder. These machines sell from \$25,000. to \$38,000. new. A used machine may be obtained in the \$5,000. to \$15,000. range. A small skidder has versatility and may be fitted with a snow plow blade comparable in size to the Walters, which could enable us to sell that machine and contribute to the purchase of a skidder. The skidder can also be used in A limited way as a dozer for making and stabilizing roads, grading and construction.

When considering the long range objectives of the forestry management plan, the amortization of a skidder will be difficult to visualize since we are thinking of working now to improve harvests in 50 to 100 to 200 years in the tuture. Since beginning to work with the forest, I have received quite an bducation in point of view; most of the work I am now doing here will not fruit in my lifetime. It's an interesting practice!

The current practice of burning or abandoning thinned brush and limbs must he discontinued. These practices are unsightly and wasteful. The acquisition of a chipping machine will allow us to dispose of these by-products in an responsible manner. Wood chips may be used as fertilizer, fuel, a source of liquid fuel production (alcohol), and also to return organic material directly back into the woods. An investment of \$9,000. is required to purchase a gasoline

powered chipper. I am currently researching and experimenting with using wood chips to produce ethylalcohol which can be used as an extender with gasoline to produce gasohol. Vehicles can be modified easily to run on pure alcohol if necessary. I have received government documents on production and I have been assured by the Treasury Department that we can receive a license as an experimental fuel plant without red tape or legal problems. Alcohol can be used to fuel all our vehicles, emergency generators, pumps, machinery, and can be used in the heating systems. In short, we may be able to attain certain independence from outside energy sources, given the funds and time to do so. I cannot at this time estimate factors or even project feasibility of this project. More experimentation has to be done, yields established, equipment designed, and a pilot plant constructed. Hopefully, the answers will appear over this next year.

Recently, I have been investigating the practicality of purchasing a small saw mill. A mill on the property could be of enormous advantage to Dai Bosatsu. Our present practice of selling timber to a logger who in turn may sell various grades of timber to several different mills places us in the position of receiving only a small fraction of the total profit from the sale of our timber. A sawmill, skidder, and small logging truck could boost our timber revenue over 300% and provide several jobs for sangha members.

A small mill costs from \$5,000. to \$15,000. new and can often be located used for much less. Once installed and provided with a power source (the engine and transmission from the old carryall would be more than adequate), we could begin producing timber for construction of a cover shed for the mill, then a drying shed for sized lumber. We can then provide income from the sale of cabinet grade cherry, maple, birch, and dimensional second grade hardwoods. Ties can be cut from scrap and beech. In addition, lumber for the construction of buildings, bridges for access to remote areas, and the new sap house could be

constructed at extremely low cost.

Since our overhead and labor costs are miniscule, our products can be sold for extremely competitive prices and a very high profit would be insured from a small operation.

There is no reason why we cannot be able to pay our full tax assessment and contribute greatly to the operating expense of Dai Bosatsu Zendo as well as provide employment to Sangha members that may wish to settle at Dai Bosatsu as a support community.

The preceding ideas and plans are a personal view of the physical aspects of Dai Bosatsu Zendo. I have tried to incorporate a very long-range view in all of these proposals. I would enjoy and appreciate any creative feed-back from all sources. Thank you.

Sincerely, ta - Kevin C Malone Kobutsu

Kevin C. Malone, Gatekeeper/Zomu International Dai Bosatsu Zendo