

Stone Hut, Jizo Pond, and Sanskrit Pond

The summer climbing trail was completed in 1920. The following year, the stone hut was built by volunteers as an emergency shelter. Two ponds are located to the left behind the hut. The upper one is Jizogaike Pond, and the lower one Bonjigaike Pond or the Sanskrit Pond. In the past an annual ritual, known as *misenzenjo*, was performed here. Two senior monks and three guides climbed up to the ponds bringing copies of sutras in metal cylinders. They picked bunches of mugwort and Japanese dwarf yew, and collected water from the two ponds with *akaake*, special pails used for water offerings. The sacred water was brought down and offered to the Buddha, and the mugwort distributed to believers as a medicinal herb. In the late nineteenth century, the Buddhist name *misenzenjo* was changed to the Shinto name *mohitori-shinji*. The ceremony is still carried out from the evening of July 14th to the early morning of the 15th.