

The School of the Natural Order, Inc.
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RESONANCE

March / April 2009

AROUND THE PLACE

One very cold, clear Saturday in early February, some of us assembled around the dining room table, seed catalogs and pencils at the ready. After making an inventory of the older seeds still on hand, we opened our catalogs and started prioritizing. Although we found it difficult to make our way through all those wonderful full-color pictures and enticing product descriptions, at the end of the morning we had our seed orders ready for the coming garden season.

Like many others in these uncertain economic times, we decided to expand the scope of our garden this year. We ordered many varieties and types of seeds, enough to last us several seasons. And, once we sent our orders off, we could hardly wait until the seeds themselves arrived.

Last week, the seed orders arrived! Now we know that spring truly is on its way, and we can begin the countdown for starting indoor sets of tender plants like tomatoes and peppers, longer season varieties such as winter squash, and the flower and herb seeds that need special care to germinate.

Of course, there are other signs of spring, too. Many of our ornamental and fruit trees are beginning to show swollen

leaf buds, the apricot trees in the orchard look almost ready to bloom (we hope they will wait another few weeks, until our weather is more settled), the daffodils in sheltered places are full of yellow blossoms, tulip and snowdrop bulbs have sent up green leaves, and the grass is greening, too.

The orchard trees have received a good pruning in readiness for this growing season, and those prunings are now piled in the lower orchard, waiting to be shredded. The flower beds around the Main House have received a thick covering of compost from the pile that was started last summer.

And our bird populations, our faithful harbingers of spring, are once again increasing. In addition to our year-round residents, meadowlarks, killdeer, robins, and, once again, some Canada geese are returning. Perhaps as many as five or six Canada goose adults seem to be considering the pond for their nests.

Although we very much enjoyed watching our goose family hatch and raise its young last year, there are certain drawbacks to a sizeable flock of geese. They are very messy, not only in the fields and roads, but also around and in the pond itself. Several people have indicated an

interest in rehabbing our present pond, and the presence of the goose nests would certainly have an impact on those plans.

There is an upswing in human activity as well. Over the past five weeks, the Main House basement has been the recipient of three major clean-ups. The shelves and cupboards in all the basement storage areas have been cleaned and reorganized, and those items we have not used in many years have been taken to the thrift store. (This includes an entire case of Fels Naptha soap which dated from the 1960s.)

In addition, the mail room and bookkeeping office have also received a spring housecleaning, as well as the Centrum classroom. More inside areas are still to be organized and cleaned, at least until warm weather draws us outside.

In the orchard, a large crew worked on a long unused residence and storage shed at the north end of the orchard, sorting, cleaning, bagging, and recycling. In addition to some items which have been ruined by weather or rodents, the cleanup crew found many "treasures" which can be used for summer activities and art projects.

Up on the hill north of the main compound, both residential building projects are continuing on schedule. Once the weather is more settled, the Weeses are planning to move their mobile home from Utah onto the pad that has been prepared. Robert Cozzie has been working with paper-crete, investigating the best ways to mix and pour this material, and also trying to determine how long it will take paper-crete blocks to dry in our climate. This project, too, is limited by our cold spring

weather, and will be able to move forward much more quickly later on in the spring.

And now, may the peace and power of the infinite spirit which passes all understanding hold us and keep us in the love of the Christed consciousness while we are seemingly separated one from another.

Susan Wetmore
March, 2009