

The School of the Natural Order, Inc.  
P. O. Box 150  
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# RESONANCE

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July / August 2009

## AROUND THE PLACE

The past few months have been busy ones throughout Home Farm, with activities in many different areas of the property. Some of our comings and goings at the Main House have been overseen by the great horned owl that perches in the elm tree on the meditation center lawn or by the family of chukkars that busies itself in the vicinity of the front lawns.

People driving into Home Farm now see two additional residences up on the hills northwest of the main compound. The first to arrive was the home of Vic and Karyn Weese, followed one month later by Robert Cozzie's home. Since each site has also required much preparation, many days of work have occurred up on the hillside, accompanied by heavy equipment bringing loads of gravel and sand, grading the roads, etc.

This has delighted Charlie Sheppard, whose favorite word is "tractor" and who loves large vehicles of any sort (the noisier the better). He has spent countless contented hours watching trucks and graders working up on the two building sites.

Another focal point of the summer has been the pond, which, over the past fifteen years has become more and more overgrown with rushes and other tough shore weeds. The cattle used to munch on these and keep them under control, but since the cattle project ended, the reeds have expanded into the pond until over a third of the original area has become overgrown.

The School has purchased several tools designed to cut the reeds efficiently and then to rake the cut vegetation onto the pond banks. We had people standing on the banks, wading out into the water, and rafting out into the pond to cut and collect vegetation. The work was hard and the days got hot very quickly, but working together was fun, and we noticed many lovely surprises—among them dragonflies that glistened blue, red and green, butterflies, and birds.

On the hillside behind the carports, Dan Hathaway has built a wood-burning oven called a Mexican horno which has the capacity to bake two loaves of bread at a time. He used clay from the property to make the beehive-shaped oven, and he is now working on the door. We are looking forward to delicious baked bread and maybe even pizza sometime soon.

Now that the south library room in the Centrum has been redesigned to accommodate more books, work has begun on the north room. Although new shelves will not be built, existing shelves have been rearranged and anchored to the ceiling so that they can be 'freestanding yet stable'.

Since so many books were being moved from one place to another, Lynne Hoffman took this opportunity to do some culling as well, putting duplicate copies, paperback novels, etc., into boxes which we then transported down to Baker's main street for the School's used book sale at the Snake Valley Days water festival this past weekend.

This event was designed to raise funds to help defray expenses incurred in the attempt to prevent the building of the water pipeline from Snake Valley to Las Vegas. The proceeds from the School's book booth went to the Great Basin Water Network, as did the proceeds from the other events: the community yard sale, pancake breakfast, crafts booths, food stands, and silent auction. Snake Valley Days drew many participants from throughout the valley and from both sides of the state line. There was even a parade down Main Street, with fire engines, decorated golf carts, horses, tractors and front-end loaders, lights and sirens....the parade may have lacked length, but it did not lack community spirit and support!

Our summer has been windy, rainy and fairly cool, a great benefit to fields and lawns and weeds, but the cool June weather discouraged the corn and beans from germinating well, and prevented the tomatoes from their normal early summer growth spurt. However, the afternoon showers have resulted in an abundance of rainbows—sometimes even double rainbows—and the play of sunlight, shadow, rain, and clouds has given us spectacular views on many days. We live surrounded by much beauty.

July's hot weather has brought in a happy garden filled with huge green potato plants, corn, beans, tomatoes, summer and winter squash, cucumbers, green beans, beets, chard, garlic, onions...flowers, too, and all thriving despite the hungry grasshoppers.

Susan Wetmore  
July, 2009