

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

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November / December 2009

## Around the Place

It's easy to see why so many people consider fall to be their favorite season out here at Home Farm. The weather is generally clear, cool and mild, making outdoor work more pleasant than in the heat of the summer. Harvesting and processing the fruit and vegetables from our own gardens and orchard is always a rewarding process. And being able to literally watch the natural world around us change day by day keeps us attuned to the cycles of our energy world.

Our weather this fall has been unusually warm, with only a few nights dropping below freezing to date. While some trees have totally lost their leaves, others still have many leaves tenaciously clinging on. There are still patches of green grass and some of the hardy perennials are even putting out new green leaves. We still have a few ducks on the pond, and huge flocks of starlings whirl over our heads and raucously cover the trees. Their synchronized aerial acrobatics are fascinating to watch. The Farm continues to be a haven for quite a few deer and we have learned to recognize individuals and family groups. The

juncos, goldfinches and pine siskins have moved down from the higher elevations and are harvesting seeds left behind from our vegetable and flower gardens.

We enjoyed a truly bountiful harvest from our garden and orchard this year. Green beans, zucchini, winter squash and corn have been frozen. Surplus corn was placed in the drying shed for later use. Winter squash, onions and potatoes are stored in one of our root cellars. (One winter squash weighed in at 70 pounds!) Pears were canned, dried and made into sauce. It was wonderful to have additional help in the garden this summer. It enabled us to plant more varieties and quantities of vegetables, to keep up with the watering and weeding, and to help with harvesting and processing the produce. Large groups (by Home Farm standards) turned out to pick pears and apples which made the task less overwhelming and much more fun.

Now that harvesting is complete, we can turn our attention to other outdoor projects, at least until winter weather sets in. A crew is working on the tractor

shed renovation, starting with replacing the old metal roof which was losing a few pieces with each wind storm. New windows and a cement floor will then be installed. We are glad that this historic structure, dating from the late 1800's, can be restored and made functional again. In addition, residents are working on firewood, winterizing their homes, repairing roofs, etc. In preparation for winter, our trusty old snow plow has been taken to have a new exhaust system installed and other repair work done so it is safer and more road-worthy.

There is much activity in many other areas of the Farm as well. A new pump was installed in the Farm's water system, replacing a defective one. Work continues in the library where donated books are being shelved once they receive their library of congress number and card catalog pocket. After a good cleaning and fresh paint, the old dairy kitchen closet in the Centrum is now ready for its new purpose of storing art supplies. Many kitchen cupboards in the main house were cleaned out and covered with more washable surfaces. Items that have not been used in many years were packed up and taken to thrift stores. The housekeeping committee inventoried all the guest rooms to determine what furniture; linens, etc. are needed to improve their comfort and appearance.

In the last week or so we have turned more of our attention to preparations for this year's

Thanksgiving gathering and feast. It appears that this year we may have over 50 people in attendance, one of the largest groups we have had in a long time. Menus and shopping lists have been made, meal schedules planned, etc. For many of us the next several weeks will be largely devoted to cleaning, shopping, readying guest rooms, and planning and preparing dishes. Making this year's holiday even more festive will be the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party for one of our residents the day after Thanksgiving. We'll be ready for a good snowstorm after all this activity to allow us to stay home and rest!

We hope you enjoy your holiday season! Best wishes.

—Jane Murray and Susan Wetmore