

The School of the Natural Order, Inc.
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RESONANCE

May / June 2010

Around the Place

Home Farm has been abuzz with activity these past weeks. The early seminar start date, plus all the usual outdoor spring activities, have given us lots to do around the place.

April and May have been sprinkled with many cool, rainy (and snowy) days. Thanks to all the moisture, we have lovely green meadows and lawns, which make wonderful hang-out spots for deer, rabbits, and, for the first time, elk. We have seen three bull elk at the pond early in the morning recently. Although they look magnificent, they are extremely strong, and are able to jump over or simply walk through almost all fences with ease, so their presence here may be a mixed blessing. We gardeners are hoping this is only a stopping place on their way higher up into the mountains.

Our fruit trees have blossomed and filled the air with their fragrance. We enjoyed their beauty and rejoiced in their message that spring was here...and then the snows came. Many of the blossoms froze, but we are still hoping that some pears and apples have survived the freeze.

Our beautiful old apricot trees may not bear fruit this year, but they are witness to much activity in the art trailer under their boughs. A new sandbox, in the form of a

stock water tank donated by Baker Ranch, is now situated under the trees, and has been covered with mud and straw daubing to prevent the hot metal from burning the children on summer days. More of the interior woodwork has been sanded and primed, too. The prickly groundcover around the trailer has also been removed, and some of the exterior walls have been scraped in preparation for painting.

Our garden crew has been hard at work, too. The baby plants so tenderly raised indoors under the grow lights were transplanted into individual cups and placed in our greenhouse. Each shelf was filled with little tomatoes, peppers, herbs, flowers, cabbage, broccoli, and cauliflower. Imagine our dismay when we entered the greenhouse one morning, only to find that a packrat had snuck in during the night and completely eaten over sixty broccoli and cauliflower seedlings! We caught the little guy the next night in a live trap (and took him very far away for release), but the damage was already done.

We have had several garden parties, too. Work crews dug, weeded, tilled, and raked, getting the soil ready for planting. Finally, after much hard work, the day came when we could actually start direct seeding the

cold-resistant early spring vegetables such as lettuce, spinach, and carrots.

We will also plant several new fruit trees in the lower end of the garden, where the soil is good, the water accessible, and the trees protected from deer. Deer did not used to be such a factor in planting and landscaping here, but once the national park was established and hunting there was prohibited, the deer population in our area exploded and fenced garden areas became a necessity.

Several of us thoroughly cleaned out the garden shed this year, too. Every single item was removed from the shed, and the shelves and floor were hosed out. Decades of dust were removed, and we found some items that had long been buried in corners or under pails.

We solved one mystery during the cleaning. Each spring we take out our hoses and check them for leaks and needed repairs. For the past several years, the necessary repair items (hose ends and menders, washers, clamps) were not to be found, and each spring we purchased a new supply to be used that season. In the farthest, darkest corner of the garden shed, we disturbed a mother packrat and her youngsters, who all ran out of the shed, leaving their large nest behind. Inside the nest we found dozens of hose ends, menders, washers and clamps. Now we put all the small, shiny objects inside closed containers, just in case that family decides to try to rebuild its home.

Work on the buildings and guest facilities is also underway. The Main House porches will be repainted in the next few weeks, and the inside walls will be washed.

The linen cupboards have been reorganized, and new linens and blankets have been purchased for our guest rooms.

The Centrum has also been the scene of much recent activity. The downstairs Centrum carpet has been cleaned. The library will have a new look with the addition of track lighting to facilitate using the stacks.

Several work crews have focused on the upstairs Centrum. They washed and primed the hallways and stairwell, as well as the guest bedrooms. Each of these areas is also being painted. In addition to getting a lot of work done, this project has been an enjoyable group activity, with many people participating.

We have several new residents here at Home Farm. Jim Woolsey is once again living here, along with his friend Kathryn and her son Brandon. Brandon celebrated his second birthday last week (on the day his adoption by Kathryn was finalized), and he is a very busy and active toddler. He and Charlie Sheppard have great fun together, and they provide each other with built-in playgroup opportunities.

Our plans for our seminar are finalized and on our website at www.sno.org Please take a look at our website, which continues to be updated with information and photos regularly. We look forward to seeing many of you on June 21.

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, 2010