

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

March / April 2011

Around the Place

The weather forecaster's prediction was correct that the entire month of March would be like a lion. A few sunny days crept in, but most of the time March gave us icy cold winds, rain, snow, and gusts of wind approaching hurricane strength.

There have been some years when the apricot trees have burst into bloom by mid-March, but not this year. None of the trees have shown much inclination to leaf out, let alone blossom, but a few close-to-the-ground spring bulbs have bloomed, bringing welcome spots of color, and the forsythia and lilac bushes are beginning to swell with new life.

The pastures and meadows are greening, which attracts rabbits and deer, and the pond has several pairs of geese and mallard ducks checking out the possibilities of homebuilding there this season. We are once again enjoying the sounds of the meadowlarks and the songs of the robins and red-winged blackbirds, and we anticipate the return of some of the later spring birds as well as our hummingbirds.

The garden committee has had several meetings, both to discuss what

to plant and also how to organize the garden activity itself. Since some of our mainstay gardeners will be taking extended trips during the growing/harvest seasons this year, we thought we would try a variation on a community garden. Six of our Snake Valley neighbors have expressed interest in helping with the planting, weeding, cultivating, and harvesting this year, so we will be depending on their help to keep our gardens thriving and productive this season.

By mid-April the longer-season plants such as peppers and tomatoes will be started under the grow lights, and in the meantime, the lettuce and spinach growing in the green house are whetting our "spring vegetable appetite."

Another spring activity is the pruning of the orchard trees, along with spraying a dormant oil spray to kill the larvae of the fruit-eating insects. Both of these jobs have been started, and the shade trees on the main lawn have been divested of their hazardous limbs.

The south unit looks terrific, with its new bathroom, sparkling kitchen, clean walls, and energy-efficient windows.

We will move the furniture back into this guest space in a few days.

Our next big outside project will be to remove the weathered and chipped stucco from the north and west walls of the meditation center and re-side these walls with aluminum siding. This will be a summer activity.

There are several other ongoing inside projects that residents are working to complete. One is the digitizing of Vitvan's taped lessons courses, which will enable us to sell CDs, MP3s, etc., as well as providing a better quality product to sell. We are also using a computerized system to listen to Vitvan's lessons during Sunday class, which has given us a much better listening experience.

We are grateful to all our students who have sent their surveys back. Although these responses are now being tabulated, it's not too late if yours is still on your desk waiting to be returned! Please fill it out and send it off--we will be very happy to hear from you.

All this winter and into spring, small groups and committees have been meeting regularly to address aspects of the School's ongoing activities, such as prioritizing the buildings and grounds projects, studying and discussing one of the lesson courses, holding our weekly community meetings after Sunday class, and continuing to work on our retreat plans for this summer.

We hope to see many of you at the June retreat.

We look forward to continuing to participate in this dynamic process we

call life here at Home Farm as winter turns, finally, into spring.

And now may the peace and the 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, 2011