

The School of the Natural Order
PO Box 150
Baker NV 89311

RESONANCE

July – August 2011

Summer's long days and balmy nights have been pleasant ones here in Baker. Unlike much of the rest of the country, our temperatures haven't been extreme. We have also been fortunate to have had more humidity than normal. The results of this warmth and moisture can be seen almost everywhere, from the fields and meadows to the orchard and the garden.

Despite snow over Memorial Day, the small fruits on most of the orchard trees survived. We have already had several apricot picking parties, and many of us walk underneath the apricot trees hoping to find some good windfalls to pick up and munch as 'to-go' snacks. All the bare pits underneath the trees are evidence that the rabbits and deer are also enjoying this year's apricots.

The plum, apple, and pear trees are also loaded with fruit. We are looking forward to this fall and much delicious fruit to eat and put up for the winter.

Our community garden experiment has been quite successful. Not only are both gardens weeded and cultivated regularly, but the vegetables and flowers are bursting with good health and bounty. Our garden

crew numbers about 14 volunteers, and we've had many pleasant hours visiting together while we've worked.

Our gardeners have shared in the spring harvest of lettuce, radishes, spinach, and chard. The brassica patch is worthy of inclusion in one of Beatrix Potter's illustrations, with kohlrabis, cabbages, broccoli, and cauliflowers thriving this year. The beans, summer squash, peppers, and tomatoes are just beginning to produce. The corn and potatoes are growing with gusto, with much of the corn taller than most of the gardeners and the potatoes over waist-high.

Again this year, our elm trees have been assaulted by elm beetles, which eat the leaves voraciously and damage the ability of the trees to make sufficient food. Several passes at the trees with an organic spray have slowed the beetles down. Lawns and pastures have been regularly mowed, which not only adds visual appeal but has the extra benefit of keeping the grasshoppers at bay.

The metal shop building, which also houses the old wash house and electrical shop, has

undergone a complete transformation this summer. Its sides are painted white, and the trim is a bright green. There is a red new door on the wash house room, and the whole building looks clean and cheerful.

The wash house itself is being transformed into the plumbing shed, with the installation of new shelves and bins to hold all the plumbing parts and supplies. This process also necessitates sorting through the dusty cartons and bins (some of which probably date back almost fifty years) in the old rock plumbing shed, discarding those that are rusted or otherwise unusable and moving and organizing those that are still useful for plumbing projects around the place.

Another major project this summer has been the burying of the electrical and phone lines that lead from the main pole on the meditation center lawn into the main house. Due to an unfortunate meeting between a large tractor-trailer and the overhanging power lines, a new trench needed to be dug across the driveway, conduit for the lines to be laid, and the trench filled and driveway graded so that the area is once again usable.

Thanks to a lot of effort from several Home Farm residents, plus the crews from the telephone company and Mt. Wheeler Power (a new utility pole needed to be installed) and a backhoe from Baker Ranch, we will no longer need to worry about either low utility lines or, we hope, low areas of the driveway that in past winters

have filled with water and created an ice hazard.

The south unit received a new coat of exterior paint prior to retreat week. Its former somewhat dingy green exterior is now a clean desert tan that blends in nicely with our surroundings. Geraniums in colorful pots add a final decorative touch.

Another on-going project that was completed in time for retreat was the track lighting in the north and south library rooms. In the 'olden days', when our shelving ran along the walls, it was easy to use the shelves because the fluorescent lighting was adequate. However, once the library 'stack shelving' was built to handle the expanded collection, the center aisles were so dark it was difficult to see well enough to find books. The track lighting that has been installed illuminates every section of the stacks and makes a huge difference in the ability to see books on the shelves.

Our retreat week offered us many thoughtful and useful classes and activities. We tried to schedule a pace that allowed opportunity to participate in classes along with time for discussion with others, quiet reflection, and a chance to join in some of the work around the place, such as working in the gardens and cleaning the springs.

Our theme, "Living the Natural Order Process", lent itself to a variety of ways to more fully comprehend that "The I AM, which is my True Self, is the Power with which I am conscious of my world." Our

mid-morning classes, which we held on the front lawn, focused on the seven precepts given in Practice of the Way. Our evening classes were organized around the seven rules given in Self-Mastery Through Meditation.

Both during classes and at other times during the day, we had the opportunity to discuss these rules and precepts with each other, and to find a quiet place to sit and think on what we had been reading and hearing. Each of us had our own binders with lesson excerpts and paper to jot down notes and thoughts. We discovered many gems as we studied and discussed our readings.

The afternoons allowed for classes in general semantics, Vitvan's terminology, and fostering a greater awareness of the natural order to be found in science and nature. Lynne Hoffman pointed out the many correlations Vitvan made to nature and the natural order, and extended these connections to the writings of other teachers and scientists.

One morning we had a lesson in 'conscious showering' on the front lawn.

"Conscious showering" means focusing on the flow of water, and thus, the flow of energy on and in the 'body' to energize our whole system. [It] enlivens the active flow of energy in all twelve meridians.
(from Lynne Hoffman's handout)

Charlotte Tinker, who attended last year's seminar, channels Kwan Yin. This year, as she did last year, she gave a session in

which Kwan Yin answered questions that those present wished to ask her.

In addition to our retreat participants, we have enjoyed other visitors this summer. Many long-time friends and students, and members of extended families who have associations with Home Farm and the School (some dating back many decades) have stopped by during the summer to catch up on news and share memories of previous stays.

Another visitor, Michael Schneider, whose interest in sacred geometry led him to research and write his book A Beginner's Guide to Constructing the Universe as well as six sacred geometry workbooks, has given several talks during the past few weeks on the numbers one through twelve. Mike's many pictures and wide-ranging commentary point out the structure, function, and order of nature that surround us at every moment. Mike has been greatly influenced by Vitvan's teachings regarding patterns of energy as they configurate in nature. For more information, go to his website www.constructingtheuniverse.com

And now may the peace and power of the infinite spirit that 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

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