

RESONANCE

November - December 2011

October and November are traditionally harvest months, a time to gather food and prepare for the cold winter months ahead. Our rhythm here at Home Farm has followed this pattern since the first cold snap in early October.

The community garden crew harvested the last of the summer crops such as tomatoes, peppers, and squash. Green tomatoes were set in the food room to ripen, and red ones were canned or simply put into bowls in the kitchen for everyone to enjoy. All the tomato cages were collected and stacked for use next spring.

The potatoes in both gardens were harvested by an industrious crew that dug the potatoes in the morning, let them dry in the sun during the day, and then boxed them in the late afternoon for long-term storage in the root cellar. Several varieties of winter squash and dry beans were also picked before a hard frost could ruin them.

The fall garden produced lovely lettuce and greens well past Halloween, until several nights of deep cold ended its growing season as well.

Once the gardens were harvested, the remaining plant materials were collected and added to the compost heap, which now has enough volume to hold at a steady 130

degrees all winter long. This rich material will provide wonderful nutrition once it is spread in the gardens next spring.

The upper garden was tilled and a cover crop of rye and hairy vetch was planted and watered in. This crop will be tilled into the soil in the spring to act as a green manure.

The cold temperatures remind us that winter is not far away. We have checked out propane heaters, drained hoses and swamp coolers, winterized faucets and seasonal water lines, and put tools away until spring.

Chain saws can be heard from various parts of the property, as residents cut logs, split wood, and stack the firewood that will keep us warm this winter.

As the days shorten and dusk arrives earlier, we often see deer grazing on the front lawns and in the orchard. This year we have three 'resident' bucks—a two-point, a three-point, and a four point. They each seem to have their families with them, so there are often times when ten or more deer are peacefully grazing or relaxing around the place.

At night the deer like to rest in the meadow between the pond and the road. The deer's bodies blend into the background, but their

eyes are highly efficient reflectors. As we drive along this stretch of road after dark, there are often many shiny points of light reflecting somewhat disconcertingly back from the darkness.

Our Thanksgiving celebration this year was, as usual, a festive and convivial affair. The dining room looked lovely, decorated with pine boughs, dried flowers and leaves, and local pumpkins, too. The elegant china place

settings gleamed in the candlelight as family and friends gathered to celebrate the abundance and community we are especially appreciative of at this time of year. Vitvan used to say that one of the greatest blessings was to have companions as we make our way along life's path, and we are very fortunate indeed to enjoy the benefits of community, at Home Farm,

through the School, and in Snake Valley as well.

Our valley community boasts many fine cooks, so our meal was indeed delicious. Noteworthy this year was the fact that so much of the meal was grown locally. The potatoes, green beans, apples, and dried white "mortgage lifter" beans were all grown here on the foothills of Mt. Wheeler.

We have so much to be thankful for. We hope that you, too, have enjoyed Thanksgiving with those whom you love, and that the holiday season brings you much fulfillment.

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.

Jane Murray and Susan Wetmore

From Darkness into Light

In one of the benedictions used in the School of the Natural Order, we say "May the Blessed Ones lead us from Darkness into Light." This holiday season, we have chosen the theme "growth emerging from the darkness of winter" for our annual letter to everyone. The residents of Home Farm have shared some of their thoughts on this topic and others. I hope you will enjoy our gifts to you. Remember that the letter is also available on the website for the School of the Natural Order at <http://www.sno.org> so that you can share it with family, friends, and neighbors.

Vitvan on Christmas

The never-before published lessons accompanying this edition of *Resonance* are the Christmas Talks given by Vitvan in 1951, 1955, and 1960. In these lessons, Vitvan explains in great detail the meaning of the mythology and symbolism, the origin and the evolution of the Christian celebration of Christmas. He makes it clear that the truth of the Wisdom Teachings lying within the Christmas story is universal, applicable to those of all faiths around the world.

Lynne Hoffman, editor

GO GREEN! Send an email to sno@sno.org telling us that you would like to receive *Resonance* and the Vitvan Lessons by email. It's a win-win situation. Save paper – save postage!