

The transition from summer's heat to early fall has been very gradual this year. To date just one light frost has extended our Indian summer and only slightly slowed down the gardens' production. The mountain aspens are still glowing with orange and yellow and the one dusting of snow we have had has long since melted. The hummingbirds and swallows left weeks ago but the migrating robins have arrived and are enjoying the berries on the Russian olive trees. Hundreds of starlings gather on the power lines in the evenings conversing cheerfully. They are a wonderful example of group consciousness in action as they swoop and swirl as if one giant being. The rabbit brush is at its peak with its golden flowers and musty scent.

In the gardens Mother Nature has rewarded our patience, nurturing, and hard work with an abundance of beans, cucumbers, carrots, squash, peppers, herbs, cabbage, corn, broccoli, chard, and tomatoes. Beautiful zinnias, alyssum, coreopsis, hollyhocks, delphiniums, cosmos, and morning glories greet anyone who enters the garden. In addition our own use, we have been able to sell and give away many pounds of produce to our local friends and neighbors. We can now pay for next year's seeds and other garden supplies without tapping into the garden budget.

We had a good turn out from our community garden group for the potato and onion harvest last week. As we were digging up the potatoes we found many huge worms which is an indication of a healthy soil environment. The work we have put into improving the soil in the gardens is certainly paying off. The old root cellar where we have stored our winter keepers (potatoes, onions and winter squash) is no longer rodent proof, so this year we will store them in the basement of the main house where we can monitor them more closely for any damage and make access easier.

The corn stalks and potato foliage have been shredded to use in the compost pile and once the garden has stopped producing the soil will be tilled one more time and put to rest for the winter.

The apples on our orchard trees are not quite ripe but the pears have been falling and we have been trying to pick most of them up before the deer get them all. Our small peach tree produced a nice crop for us, too, which we carefully divided amongst us since the peaches are such a rare treat for us.

The foundation for the new garden shed is complete but the shed has not been moved to its final resting place due to other priorities with the tractor such as completing the large drainage ditch behind the main house and duplex unit. The bare dirt there has been reseeded and new green growth is appearing.

For those who wonder why the gardens and our natural surroundings are so important to us out here, they only need to refer to lessons found in *Six Days of the Creating Process* in which Vitvan encourages us to study the plant world in order to understand the natural order process. The gardens are a wonderful classroom to practice manifestation on the objective level of the structure, function, order of nature's formative energy forces.

As famous playwright Henry Miller once said "The world is not to be put in order. It is for us to put ourselves in unison with this order."

The seasonal transition from summer to fall also seems to be reflected in transitions on the human level. Several former long-term residents have moved away and several new people have moved in for long-term stays. Other residents are leaving for the winter and others are moving in for the winter. As a reminder, we always have accommodations available for short- or long-term stays here and we hope you are considering coming out for our annual Thanksgiving feast!

The buildings and grounds committee has been busy coordinating and evaluating two major renovations to rental houses in addition to planning and implementing the many projects that seem to be constantly needed to maintain and upgrade our infrastructure. The committee members have also started prioritizing future projects. Finishing the

organization of the library is one of the top priorities on the winter to-do list.

The SNO board of directors has added two new advisors, bringing the total number to nine; five voting members and four advisors. The board is quite varied with one member living in Reno, one in Denver, four living at Home Farm and three living locally but off the Farm. At the board meetings reports are heard from the committees and the

residents in charge of the many aspects of keeping the SNO headquarters in operation, i.e. food, housekeeping, gardens, buildings and grounds, vehicles, membership, donations and sales, accounting, publications, etc. We welcome new, group-oriented folks to join us in our efforts to maintain and "grow" this special place.

Jane Murray  
Sept/Oct. 2012

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## A NEW GIFT SET FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

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## Snake Valley Calendar for 2013

Snake Valley is still fighting to keep its own water out of the hands of Las Vegas. As a fund raiser for The Snake Valley Festival this year, residents of the valley brought together beautiful photos to create a stunning calendar. You can help support the legal battles by purchasing your own calendars through the school. Enjoy the vistas surrounding the school's headquarters year 'round. All proceeds will go to the Great Basin Water Network. Find out more at <http://www.greatbasinwater.net/>

Calendars are \$15 each or 2 for \$25 plus S&H

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