



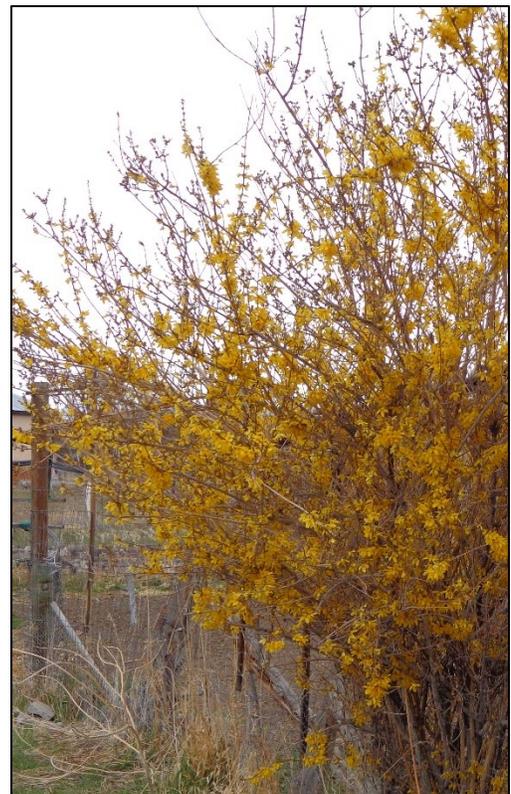
AROUND THE PLACE

April 2017

Spring's changeable nature has been in full view this past month. After several weeks of unseasonable warmth (think 'shorts, sandals, put those winter clothes away'), late winter reasserted itself with rain, snow, and freezing temperatures. As a result we have been treated to a dramatic visual display of bright green grass, yellow daffodils and branches of forsythia, and pink apricot blossoms peeking through several inches of snow.

Each year our apricots seem to bloom a little earlier in the spring. We welcome the lovely buds and their sweet fragrance, but our apricots are risk-takers; not only do they contend with low nighttime temperatures, but also with a lack of pollinators. Neither the native pollinators nor the honeybees are buzzing about this early, so there is not much opportunity for pollination to occur.

Nonetheless spring's early abundance has been delightful. Each grape hyacinth, windflower, daffodil and, yes, even each dandelion seem at this early stage to be wondrous gifts promising new life and vibrant colors after winter's monochromatic palette. Songbirds have returned, serenading us during the lengthening days, and butterflies appeared several weeks ago as well.



All these springtime tidings encouraged our community gardeners to get together to discuss plans for the coming year, review what worked and what did not last season, and to pour over seed catalogs to consider what we might need to order for the coming year. We are planning our first work party in the garden in early April to be ready to plant our onions right before Easter. The perennial beds are already showing green and responding to our longer days by showing new growth up from their roots. Truly this is a joyful time.

A new compost pile was formed on the vernal equinox. It is heating up nicely and will be transformed into soil and ready to use in the garden by early June.



We were pleased to welcome a new resident, Jay Sawicki, in early March. Jay has been living in Las Vegas and visiting the School regularly for the past three or four years. Now he is here full-time and eager to contribute his time, talents, and interest to the School and projects around the place.

Several months ago, a group of students met one afternoon to discuss the possibility of converting the old dairy barn, built about 40 years ago and presently used for storage, into a multi-purpose space that could be used for classes, meetings, yoga, dance, etc. Now that winter is (mostly) past, clean-up activity in the barn area has begun. Plans are being drawn up to construct a wooden floor under the roofed-in area as well as a deck extending out into the former pasture. We will keep you informed of the progress of this exciting project. If you would like to help support the “Pavilion,” you can donate online or send your check, specified for this project, to the School headquarters here in Baker.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your support, which arrives in so many ways – monetary donations, notes and cards, emails, time and focus given to School projects, and positive energy sent in our direction. We are grateful for each offering and appreciative of your support for Vitvan’s works and the mission of our School.

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
Late March, 2017

SCHOOL OF THE NATURAL ORDER

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