



AROUND THE PLACE

June 2017

The days are now passing toward the summer solstice, and we watch the sun ‘move northward’ as it rises above the rugged mountains on the east side of the valley. The silence and the gray light of each early morning seem almost magical, full of the promise of another glorious day.

Then we hear one bird song, then another, as more and more birds join the welcome chorus. Hummingbirds start to arrive at their feeders. Six or eight deer munch quietly in the meadow by the pond while a water bird or two makes its way across the still surface of the water. Our three cats make their final morning rounds before retiring to catch up on their sleep. And the rabbits (of course – always the rabbits!) graze and hop just about everywhere.



Summer truly seems to be here now, perhaps a little earlier than usual. In fact, although we had a few nights down near freezing in early May, we’ve been pretty much frost-free since Easter.

We have been treated to a wondrous display of flowers this spring – lilac bushes filled with fragrant clusters, lilies of the valley perfuming the air, columbines ranging in color from yellow to violet, stately irises, and the Main House snowball bush (aka viburnum) covered in white balls of blossoms for over a week. The native roses, which date from pioneer times, are flowering now, and if, accustomed to more “well-bred” roses available in florists’ shops, you may have forgotten what roses really smell like, we invite you to spend late spring here at Home Farm and visit the yellow roses flowering in several beds around the place.



Our garden is growing very happily. The garlic and onions are tall and strong, and the spring garden, where we direct-seeded lettuce, chard, beets, carrots, and arugula, is thriving (along with the weeds, of course.) The greenhouse has been full of transplants that had been started under grow-lights six weeks ago and transferred to individual cups. These included tomatoes, eggplant, basil, peppers, winter squash, cabbages, and many flowers. Our community gardeners have

had several recent planting parties, usually starting early in the morning before the heat becomes too oppressive. As of yesterday, the greenhouse was empty and almost all of the transplants have been set out in the garden.



During the early warm days of March, some of the fruit trees, particularly the apricot and plum trees, flowered before there were insects to pollinate them. As a result, we have small pears and apples on our orchard trees, but almost no plums or apricots.

As always, the pond continues to be a place of beauty and peace, its water sparkling in the sun and reflecting the day's changing light. Three willow trees have recently been planted along the west bank of the pond. Each tree is surrounded by a metal cage to protect it from becoming a snack for foraging deer. All three are covered with bright green leaves, and they seem to be adapting well to their new home.



Work has continued on the Pavilion, with most of the old barn walls removed, the floor leveled and additional work on the interior underway. Watching the disintegrating barn, built 40 years ago, being transformed into a new space with abundant promise is exciting.

Now we start to turn our attention to this year's seminar. We hope to see old friends and new students here, sharing in the joy and fun of studying and interacting with one another.

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.

Susan Wetmore
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