



AROUND THE PLACE

February 2018

We are deep into winter now, and even though the days are slowly lengthening, our days still seem short and the nights long. Winter's cold air is clear and provides spectacular moonrises above the mountain ranges to the east, while the still waters of the pond reflect the moon's glow beautifully.

Our Home Farm owls have made their presence known this winter by much owl chatter in the trees around the Main House and the Centrum. We enjoy this serenade of gentle hoots and calls especially at dawn and dusk. During the day we can look up into the pine tree in front of the Centrum and usually find large feathery shapes sitting quietly high up in the tree near the juncture of the branches and the trunk.

The rabbit brush which grows here in such abundance is another source of much wintertime bird activity, since its seeds provide food for many of the small birds which overwinter here. They twitter and fly

about as they feed, busy with the important task of finding food.

As in years past, we have a small herd of deer that spends time in the orchard and down around the pond. The herd consists of some does, some fawns, and occasionally a buck. They are lovely and elegant as they walk from the garden units down past the Main House and into the east pastures. And of course we have our rabbits – we never seem to be without a good number of rabbits. They, too, enjoy eating the rabbit brush. The snow hasn't slowed them down much. They pack down paths in the snow and keep to them since they are easier to travel along than the soft blankets of snow on either side.

Until recently, our winter has been extremely dry and fairly warm. Our lawns and meadows were parched and brown, and we had almost no precipitation since Thanksgiving. However, this past weekend a lovely snowstorm arrived and gave us

almost twelve inches of snow, which we hope will help to alleviate the drought. According to local weather forecasters, our area has less than 50% of its normal moisture, so we can use all the precipitation that storms bring to us.

Twelve inches of snow creates lovely tableaux of white and also makes interesting shapes of items like woodpiles, porch railings, and steps. The snow also gives us lots of opportunities for outdoor exercise like shoveling and trying to walk from one place to another through the snow. And, for the first time this year, our snow plow was put to use clearing our roads and driveways. The plow blade has been outfitted with a new 'float' welded to the bottom of the blade that allows it to move smoothly over our uneven gravel roads. Our snowplow operator reported that his job was much easier and more efficient thanks to this float.

Before the snow, when winter still seemed more like late autumn, several outside projects were accomplished. The floor of the pavilion was sealed to protect it from

moisture. Compost piles were turned. Pruning of the fruit trees and some of the plum thickets was completed.

Work on the log cabin continues as well. The plumbing is just about finished, and the electrical work is also well underway. We are grateful for the care and persistence that goes into this rehab project, which will result in the log cabin becoming once again a comfortable place to live.

As this new year begins and light returns to our world, we wish each of you health, happiness and fulfillment in 2018.

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,
Late January 2018



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SCHOOL OF THE NATURAL ORDER

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