

The School of the Natural Order, Inc.
P. O. Box 150
Baker, NV 89311

RESONANCE

March / April 2010

Around the Place

March is living up to its reputation as a time of weather unpredictability. This year, it came in like a lamb and is going out like a lion.

We have had ferocious wind, gentle breezes, bright sun, driving sleet and snow... sometimes all in one day! However, we know that the worst of winter's bitter cold is over now, and that our world is beginning to respond to longer hours of daylight and generally milder temperatures.

The elm trees and lilacs are filled with swelling buds, the tulips and daffodils are pushing up through their winter covering of mulch, the grass is beginning to green, shrubs are showing new growth, and we humans start to think about outside activities.

Although it may seem too early to start planting seeds indoors, a planting date has been set for the Easter weekend, and several careful workers will prepare the seedling trays and then plant seeds for vegetables such as tomatoes and peppers. These little plants will be started indoors underneath grow-lights until they are big enough to transplant, at which point

they will be gradually hardened off and set out in cold frames prior to being transplanted into the gardens in early June.

Many spring cleaning chores have begun outdoors. The flower bed in front of the meditation center has been cleaned out, so that the perennials which fill this bed can get a good early start. The Centrum flower beds, too, have received a spring cleaning, and the bulbs and perennials there are also responding to the arrival of spring.

Over the course of the past decade, the cattails and rushes have grown abundantly around the banks of our Home Farm pond, so abundantly that the overall size of the pond has diminished by about a third. Last summer's initial cattail control project has continued this spring. Much of the pond area has now been reclaimed by cutting these cattails using the school's pond-trimmer, which was bought especially to try to control the runaway growth along the shores. The cattails on the east side of the pond have been cut below the waterline, so that re-growth will be inhibited. On the west side, most of the cattails have been allowed to

remain so that the birds that live and nest in these areas will continue to have suitable habitat. The east face of the pond embankment has also been cleared of vegetation, since roots can weaken the integrity of the dam face.

Several of the trees on the front lawn of the Main House have been trimmed, so that potentially hazardous branches and tree limbs have been removed. Work has also been done to clean up several areas in the orchard, including improving drainage in some of the problem spots near the drying shed.

The large water tank that used to sit near the cemetery has been moved and fitted with a special agitator pump which is designed to make compost tea. The first batch is underway, and the resulting compost tea will be used on lawns and gardens to provide the microbial action needed for optimum growth.

As we move further into spring, our local wildlife becomes more active. The deer have rediscovered the pleasures of our front lawn, and usually make nightly visits to munch on the new spring grass. And the jack rabbits and cottontail rabbits are much in evidence as well.

All winter long we have watched the meadow and lower orchard fill with gopher mounds and runs. Now that spring is arriving, we will pay closer attention to the areas where 'Gopher City' is expanding, so that we can prevent damage to our gardens and landscaping.

Our summer projects include rebuilding the greenhouse, preparing the chicken house and yards for a new flock of layers, expanding the garden sites, and finishing the south unit remodel. We are looking forward to a busy and productive summer.

Planning for our June seminar continues, with weekly updates at our information meetings on Sundays. We have had a very good response to our seminar plans, and we are looking forward to welcoming both our guest students and our presenters. Please check out the website for more information.

And now, 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, 2010