



## *AROUND THE PLACE*

March-April/May 2109

Three months have passed since we last communicated with you. In that time we have moved from deep winter to early spring, back to winter, forward again tentatively to spring, until now, in early May, spring is truly and gloriously here.

Once we got through February and the days lengthened noticeably, we saw signs of returning life in so many places: the first yellow crocus, the first daffodil leaf, the first greening grass, the first apricot blossoms...and these were accompanied by returning songbirds, a small elk band making its way up the mountains, migrating geese honking on our pond, jackrabbits hopping around at dawn and dusk, and even some butterflies.

Last week marked the return of hummingbirds to Snake Valley, another anticipated sign of spring. We have sugar water feeders out for them, but they can also sip nectar from daffodils, plum, pear, and apple blossoms.

The garden has been tilled and beds prepared for the hardier spring vegetables. We've planted onions, potatoes, beets, carrots, lettuce, and radishes. Several tiers at the west end of the garden have been hand-tilled with a broadfork, and these will be planted when the nights are a little warmer. We can even harvest a few things already—volunteer parsley and cilantro, and our rhubarb, a perennial plant that thrives in the cool wet spring season.

Thanks to all our rain (“all” is relative, of course, but we've had over four inches of precipitation so far this year, half of what we normally receive in twelve months.) The fields and lawns around Home Farm are verdant, and both grass and weeds are growing enthusiastically. Our dedicated outside crew has mowed fields, roadsides, lawns, and around buildings. The place looks terrific.

For some time we have talked about giving our downstairs Centrum classroom a make-over. It was completed in the mid-1970's and was beginning to show its age after 45 years of service. Shortly before Easter, a work crew began to assemble—from California, Idaho, Colorado, and Nevada. They worked for almost two weeks. First they installed modern LED lighting. Then they removed old paneling and patched, spackled, and sanded sheetrock. Next they prepared all the wood (trim, windows, doors, and mantel) and walls for new paint, priming each surface. Finally, they painted the walls and ceiling. When they finished, the classroom was truly transformed—light, bright, and welcoming. Our thanks to the dedicated crew who coordinated this

project, bringing their skills and the necessary materials with them, and working long hours each day to get this job completed.

In mid-February, a very sad event occurred. Leo Weese died suddenly in his home here at the School. Shortly after Leo's passing, Marj Coffman wrote a personal remembrance of Leo which I would like to share with you. The anecdotes she tells are personal ones, but I think all of us could share similar stories of Leo, his open heart, and his dedication to the School.

*I want to honor our friend and resident student Leo Weese, who passed away suddenly on Saturday, February 16.*

*Leo was a long-time student of the School. He and his wife first came here in 1978 after learning about the School from a student who lived in Denver at that time. They lived at Home Farm for a while, then they bought land from the School and built a log cabin close to my house where they lived for several years. Then they returned to the Denver area where their daughter Megan was born. Life took them in different directions, but Leo continued to be associated with the School and was back and forth many times. Leo was part of the group who, with John Gozzi, formed the Colorado branch of the School of the Natural Order. From the time he first associated with the School he was probably one of the most dedicated students the School has ever had.*

*When Leo retired, he moved to Home Farm to be a part of the activities here. He and Bill Coffman were very good friends, and during football season we all spent many happy Sundays together cheering our Denver Broncos. When Bill was dying, Leo was great help taking care of him, and for the first year after Bill's passing Leo took care of anything I needed. He was an indispensable friend during my year of transition to living without Bill, and he has continued to be my very special friend and right-hand man until last week. We are all in a state of shock to realize that we no longer have him to call on for the many activities that are required to keep Home Farm (and me) going.*

*We honor his lifetime of dedication. He will be sorely missed.*

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  
Early May, 2019