

When I sat down to write this, I realized that the last "Around the Place" was written in late May. An entire summer has passed since then, filled with special events, visitors, 'routine' activities, seminar, and an abundance of rain... and rainbows!

Our booths for June's Snake Valley Water Festival netted over \$700 that was donated to the Great Basin Water Network. Unfortunately a sudden 'dust devil' wind gust caused our sunshade to become airborne (despite being anchored down) and it was carried into our other booths. Passersby helped us set everything back up until it was time to close up shop for the day. Books that did not sell have been donated to other fundraising book sales in Ely and Las Vegas.



During these summer weeks our community garden has received loving attention, and it has given us much joy and many vegetables in return. Each Saturday the garden crew meets to spend the morning weeding, harvesting, and replanting as needed. Gardeners also stop by on other days before and after work and on their days off to pick, thin, weed, and just enjoy being among the healthy plants and peaceful energy that the garden provides.

We have already had a terrific harvest of onions and garlic, beautiful big bulbs that would make a great cover photo of *Organic Gardening*. We've also enjoyed lots of lettuce, basil and dill, broccoli, cabbage, squash, and cucumbers. In the last week or

so the tomatoes and corn have started to mature. We had our first corn-on-the-cob dinner a few days ago.



Our fruit trees are loaded with apples, pears, and plums. Many of the varieties aren't ready to pick yet, but two types of plums and one of the heritage apple trees now have sweet and delicious fruit on them. An experimental batch of hard cider, pressed from some of the apples, is already underway in a five-gallon glass jar.

The strong winds that have accompanied many of our monsoon rainstorms (five inches of rain in the last three months!) have done an effective job of thinning the fruit on heavily-laden boughs, and with all this windfall, the deer are once again stopping by for evening meals. The recent orchard mowing has resulted in downed fruit that is easy to locate, and several families of deer are making the most of this opportunity.

This summer has brought many visitors to the School headquarters. Some, like Peter Ford's family, who gathered in late July to scatter his ashes, are old friends. Others, like the members of the Nevada Conservation Corps who have been working at the national park, are new acquaintances who have expressed an interest in the School and its activities.

We have also enjoyed several longer visits from new students who have made return visits to the School headquarters. These students bring new ideas, new energy, and wonderful enthusiasm with them. Especially heartening is the fact that many of them are younger than most of us residents now living here.



The meditation center siding project, which was begun in late May by a work crew of dedicated students from California and Colorado, is now completed. The crew spent a week before and three or four days after seminar to side the north, west, and south walls of the meditation center. The new vinyl siding is a sage green which looks wonderful contrasted with the new white framed windows and door that were also installed. This project involved a great deal of planning, logistics, and labor, and we are very grateful to those who worked on the project.

The former tape office in the Main House has a new look, too. It now houses “The Bookstore.” A display rack has been built and installed, and the School’s publications are easily visible and nicely displayed.



Our 2014 seminar was very successful. The classes balanced indoor and outdoor activities (the latter under a shade cloth stretch over the center of the front lawn), reading and discussing, movement, meditation, and a fascinating series of classes correlating Vitvan’s roadmap with the Osiris myth. Our participants included guests from Colorado, California, and southern Nevada, and altogether we made up a great mix for conversation, varying viewpoints, and so many opportunities for learning and reflection.

One outgrowth of our seminar has been several meetings regarding long-term planning for the School. This is an on-going process, and the addition of such dynamic and interested students is heartening and exciting.

Part of the impetus for our planning sessions has been the decision by Jane and Pat Murray to relocate to south Texas this fall. The Murrays have been an integral part of Home Farm and the School for almost 25 years, and we have come to depend on Jane and Pat for their knowledge, input, and expertise in so many areas—water, gardens, guest facilities, publications and so much more. Their departure will make a big change in our daily routines here at Home Farm and in School activities.

There are several other milestones to mark as well. Mary Ann Satriano departed this life on July 23. Mary Ann lived here in the 1970’s and remained a staunch supporter of the School in the years since then. Her love of gardening, beauty, and a sustainable lifestyle have made a lasting difference here at Home Farm, and we appreciate the love and support she gave the School over the past four decades. Our dear friend Tonia Harvey left us in early August. Tonia was a neighbor, friend, community supporter, and a lovely and caring soul who made life in our valley rich in so many ways. We will miss both of these exceptional women.

Susan Wetmore