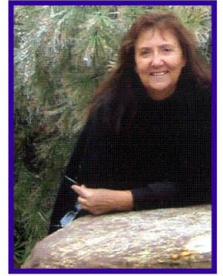




West Winds

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West Winds Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2009

Good Morning Dear Friends

AAAHHH yes, it is 6:47 AM and the dogs are barking wildly inside while the coyotes are yipping and howling down in the valley. I have woken up this way for the past 4 days and last night a lone coyote was out on the lower terrace singing its late night song to Grandmother Moon. Of course the dogs went nuts again.

Autumn is approaching. I can feel her cooler winds on my skin, and breath the crispness in the air. The roses are still blooming and my tomatoes are still ripening but the Great Wheel is turning. Soon the trees will display their colorful dancing clothes. The pumpkins, gourds and indian corn will appear at the local markets, and us wood stove people will have our winter supply of wood stacked and ready for the first cold night. Fall is my favorite time of the year. I have fond memories of living in PA. when the children were small. As the leaves on the plants began to wither in the fields, great orbs of orange would appear. We often would ride around looking for the perfect pumpkin patch. Several years after the twin grand babies were born we would go to the farmers roadside stands and let them each choose their very own pumpkin. I will do that trip again this year when I visit them in September. This will be a special trip to Austin. Amber and Ty have a new addition to their family. Ariana Annastasia was born on September 4, 2009. She weighed 8 lbs. 12 oz. and was 19 3/4 inches. The twins are so excited, as am I.

West Winds is still in recovery from the ice storm here in February. I thank all of you that assisted me financially, and held me in your prayers. I was able to purchase a large used (almost new) generator that Lynn found in SC. Your funds also helped pay for cleanup that continues even now. The money bought tarps to cover the roof, and to help fix the road that washed out. I am discussing with a local sawmill about which of the downed trees can be cut for lumber and which of them can be sawn into logs to complete the gables of the house. Last year I had stones put on the house up to the level of the first floor. They are rather large local rocks of a variety of colors and composition. The logs will need to be cut into 6"X6" or 6"X8" to match the depth of the stonework. Hopefully that job can be finished before winter sets in.

The heavy ice did a number on the flat roof part of the house. I caulked and patched and covered the roof with hugh tarps. Several places have managed to leak to the point that the ceiling in four rooms now have water damage. I am looking at a fiberglass roof .

I planted tomatoes in the wooden barrels along the east side of the house. Who would have imagined they would grow to 8 feet tall, staked to 8 foot stakes, and still need tying up about every 10 days. You guessed it, hordes of tomatoes. Yep, I'm making sauces and freezing them for winter soups, stews and spaghetti. I haven't dug the potatoes yet, but the one cuke plant gave me enough for several salads, got a few squash, the berries did fair and my fig tree actually had a couple I could eat. I had promise of lots of peaches. The trees were loaded, the fruit grew to full size, then blight hit. I lost all of them. I will do some research into peaches and hopefully next years crop will make it from the trees into pies, jams, jellies and tummies. My mind is already dancing around putting in my full size garden next year.

On August 14th my Dream Kitty passed into spirit. There is a story to tell about her and why she had that name. I will tell it later when I am not so sad. She is buried beside Wakalla and Blue. I miss them all very much. My 4 foots now are Woody, Lucy, YaYa and Orange Kitty. Woody and Orange are getting old.