

July 2010

As we mark the half way point in 2010, it is remarkable to notice the difference when I look out the window; exactly opposite of what it was just 6 months ago. Today I see lush lawn (that needs cutting AGAIN!) and purple and yellow and red and pink flowers. The boat is in the pond just waiting for someone to come along for a paddle as the leaves move ceaselessly in the gentle breeze. Ahhhh.....summer in Maine. We've had mornings with temps in the 40s and days in the 70s. Blue-blue skies with an occasional shower painting vivid rainbows across mountain tops. It is truly lovely.

There are many, many sugar maple trees on Star Barn property, but there are 3 in particular that hold title to land they sit on, unlike any other trees here. These 3 trees line the roadside next to the residence. They are the largest maple trees these eyes have ever seen. What makes these particular trees special is a guarantee in writing from the great state of Maine stating these trees cannot EVER be cut down should the road ever be widened or for any other road purpose. These are very special trees, and I daresay there are probably none other of such distinction!

The vegetable garden is doing well this year. We put in beans, beets, carrots, onions, garlic (planted last fall – how do they survive the frozen ground???), peppers, broccoli, tomatoes and potatoes. And for the most part, the garden is quite organized in straight rows. However, we compost, and by that I mean all the food trash (not including meats and breads) is thrown into the garden all winter long. Just sits there. Come the spring, it is pretty mushy and easily rototilled into the earth. From that, you never know what seeds might germinate! This year we have a fantastic section of the garden we are call the potato pumpkin patch. These are mostly German butterball potatoes and pumpkins growing from the seeds of those we decorate the house with in the fall. It will be interesting to see how they all fare.

Reeds Mill Church will be opening its doors for summer worship services on July 4. A different speaker leads the worship each Sunday afternoon at 2:00 PM. There are some beloved returnees to the pulpit this year as well as a few people who we hope will become beloved returnees. One is Kate Braestrup, author of “Here if You Need Me” and “Marriage and Other Acts of Charity.” She is the first Chaplin to the Maine Warden Services. And she has an article in the current Guideposts magazine. Please go to [www.reedsmillchurch.org](http://www.reedsmillchurch.org) to see the entire list of speakers and the dates they will be here.

Finally, we are pleased to announce we have obtained a food and lodging license, which allows more food preparation than the B&B license. We could, if we were so inclined, actually open a restaurant! We are NOT so inclined at the moment. But this will make it much easier to provide meals for our retreat guests. We would like to seriously market Star Barn as a great small retreat location. We've enjoyed several yoga retreats as well as quilting retreats and bible study retreats. We are happy to accommodate you and your group as well!

Ginni and David Robie