

SPRING EQUINOX TUESDAY

March 19, 2012

By Michael Erlewine (Michael@Erlewine.net)

Spring is officially here tomorrow, Tuesday March 20, 2012 at 1:14 AM, early in the morning. Tomorrow morning we have roughly an equal balance of night and day.

Although it has been a mild winter, it still seemed like a long haul to warmer weather. Well, here it is. These last days have been more like summer here than spring. Open windows during the day means air circulating through the house again. What a difference!

And out in the woods standing near the spring ponds, the chorus of frogs is deafening and wonderful. A sure sign of spring is the end of hibernation for so many critters. If I look carefully as I step through the woods, it is not hard to find snakes here and there in the warm sun. Some of them are so cold and weak from the long winter that they can only just move a little. I can only imagine the immense suffering imposed on so many animals by the cold of winter. It is hard to even think about.

Here is a photo of a garter snake, one of a pair I came across in woods by a stream, where they were courting in the leaves and sun. I feel a sense of peace and am reminded of this poem I wrote a while ago:

WATER AND THE WELL

The rare times,
When nothing moves me,
And I don't feel,
Like doing anything.

Perhaps this is some kind of,
Natural meditation,
An effortless detachment,
From my day-to-day world.

All that is missing,
From just being lazy,
Is this awareness,
Of my own condition.

I don't waste time,
Pretending to be busy,
But just sit there,
And for a long time.

Nothing is missing.

Watch a movie,
Read a book,
Sit, or not,

It makes no difference.

I am right here.

The mind is at rest,
The water back in the well.

Michael Erlewine
February 15, 2010,
New Moon,
New Year of the Iron Tiger