

# GAEA'S OWN

Fall 2014



# President's Letter

**Erin Marshall**



Before drafting this year's Post LBLD President's letter I went back and read the past few years' fall letters. Here is what I have discovered: 2 years ago, when we paid off the land, was our biggest year. There were almost 500 people on the property over the course of the event, nearly 500 people helped to raise 28K, just over 5K of which was at the Auction. Those were some serious records, I was ecstatic at those totals. I figured it would be hard to reach those numbers again, at least not for several years. Last year we had about the same amount of people and raised 27K. Well just in case you were not at LBLD this year, or haven't read our FB page right after the event. Those records were broken, smashed, shattered! Just OVER 500 people (new record) raised about 32K (new record), with 6.2K at the auction (new record). I am so proud of our community and it never ceases to amaze me to see what we can all do when we pull together.

I always have to thank everyone that comes to LBLD and helps us to raise so much in support of camp. Big thanks to all the people that do Work Exchange, without you we really would not have enough people to actually put on this event. Thank you to Sister Clara and the rest of the Sisters for helping to raise money by running the Auction each year! Thank you to all the groups and individuals that do parties and other fundraising events during LBLD. And lastly, but certainly not least, HUGE thanks to the rest of the ERI Board of Directors and the Committee Heads that are not on the BoD, without you working way more than the required hours this event really would not happen.

I really have to take a moment to give recognition to the Atmosphere crew. That stage was AMAZING!!! And the signs at Front Gate, Registration, and ERI Booth were all just stunning. So thank you so much for all the hard work, painting and designing all the artwork that helps make the themes come to life each year.

Speaking of themes, this year we did something a little different and let the audience at the Talent Show choose the theme for next year. If you are unaware of the theme that was chosen then read the following quote. Figure out *who* said these words, The theme is based on the books that they wrote.

**"I like nonsense, it wakes up the brain cells. Fantasy is a necessary ingredient in living."**

# Name a Carp Fundraiser for the second shipment of Grass Carp



We purchased grass carp and they were released into the lake in August. Curly Pond Weed is the main diet of grass carp. The plan is for the cycle of life to kick in and the problem to fix itself. We will be releasing the second phase in the spring. and it is quite expensive. It will be a slower fix and we won't notice a difference at first, but gradually the weed will be put in check, without having to use herbicides and dyes in the lake.

We raised \$200 for the first shipment ! Thank you so much to the people who named the carp by making a donation. Help purchase the second batch. You can name your carp with a donation to camp.

## List of Fish already named

Nameless,  
Frank,  
Gefilte,  
Dory,  
Wanda,  
Bob,  
Shanequa,  
Cthulu,  
Poseidon,  
Malbec,  
Al Tunnel,  
Carpaccio, Grassy Ass,  
Steve-a-palooza,  
Al Carpone.



Picture of the release of the first shipment of Grass Carp!

## Earth Rising, Inc. Intern Program

The Earth Rising, Inc. board has decided to implement a program that is designed to encourage active participation in the running of Camp Gaea.

The Earth Rising, Inc. board is committed to providing a clear and concise list of expectations which will allow a person who is interested in the intern program to understand what is expected of them, and how they might have the opportunity to become a voting member.

Being part of the intern program is not a guarantee of board membership, however, any future board member will be expected to have been an intern for a period not less than 6 months, or to have previously served on the Earth Rising, Inc. Board of Directors for a term not less than 6 months.

An intern should be willing to commit themselves to:

**Be a self starter.** Take on a project and stay with it. Identify areas that need help and develop a plan to improve it. Either create a project, or work with the board to identify what needs to be done.

**Attend all meetings.** While exceptions will occur, an intern needs to make ERI meetings a priority. Being part of the decision making process is one of the primary responsibilities associated with being a board member.

**Be the example and not the exception.** Setting an example is one of the most effective ways to communicate with people who are camping at Gaea.

**Show good faith** in resolving personal issues that might arise during the normal course of board business.

**Take the time** to connect with other board members and stay abreast of the issues at hand. It will be the responsibility of an intern to stay in the loop.

**Show** that consideration of the overall well being of the camp is your first concern when new policies are being debated. Working with Earth Rising, Inc. is not the same as being an advocate for a special event or one of the Exclusive Rental groups.

**Exhibit objectivity** when making decisions.

This outline is designed to assist an intern in their efforts to work with the board. It is not meant to discourage people from becoming involved if they aren't willing to donate as much time as would be required for an intern; rather it is meant to help a person understand the level of commitment that is required to sit on the board of Earth Rising.

After a period of 6 months as an intern, that individual may apply for a position on the board if an opening exists or they may continue on as an intern and apply when an opening becomes available if they so choose.

# Treasurer's Report

JD Besares



Wow! What a great Laid Back Labor day we had! I'd like to thank all of the volunteers who made it happen. You know who you are... The safety folks in your dashing high-vis ensemble, the guardians at the gate, ERI booth volunteers and the nimble registration crew accounting for each dollar and banding all the campers. Last but certainly not least, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence who guided us through a RECORD BREAKING AUCTION!

This was my first year sitting at the table with our president, tallying the auction items and processing all your loved-filled donations. I had THE best time. It was so awesome to meet you all. We raised about 55% more than last year's auction. Our official LBLD combined total is \$32,161, a sweet 18.5% increase over last year (about ½ of which is attributed to the auction)! How amazing is this community!!! Go ahead... give yourselves a little pat on the back.

As most of you know from our previous ramblings, there are quite a few projects lined up waiting for funding. I am anxiously awaiting our next budget meeting to put all of those donations to work.

Did you know you can use PayPal for re-occurring donations to camp? Check out our donation page for more info: <http://www.campgaea.org/forums/payments.php>. If you are interested in making a onetime donation, use the yellow *DONATE* button on the left side of the page.

***“May many hearts burn with the desire to see Gaea receive the care she needs and many blessings upon those who give to her in this spirit.”***

**As we go into the autumn & winter season please remember...**

The gate will close at dusk and re-open at 7 a.m.

If you will be arriving after the gate closes, please make arrangements with the caretakers.

The water will be turned off October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Potable water and a port-o-john are available. All other facilities are closed.

In the event of inclement weather traffic may be restricted to beach parking. If in doubt, give camp a call.

Remember, this autumn season, as vegetation dries out, that wildfire risk can go from low to high in a matter of hours. Please be mindful of any burn bans that might be in place when you visit. And always, you can call camp if you have any questions



## Park and Walk: Help keep Gaea beautiful

I'd like to take a moment to address the issue of driving and parking at camp. It is important that we try to keep driving to a minimum while on property. There are several reasons for this.

To begin with, it is in our mission statement that we support ecologically sound practices. It may be easier to drive down the hill to go to the shower or the lake, but is it better for the environment? Of course it is not. It is also mentioned in the respect agreement. "Please restrict driving-park, walk, exercise and enjoy the land."

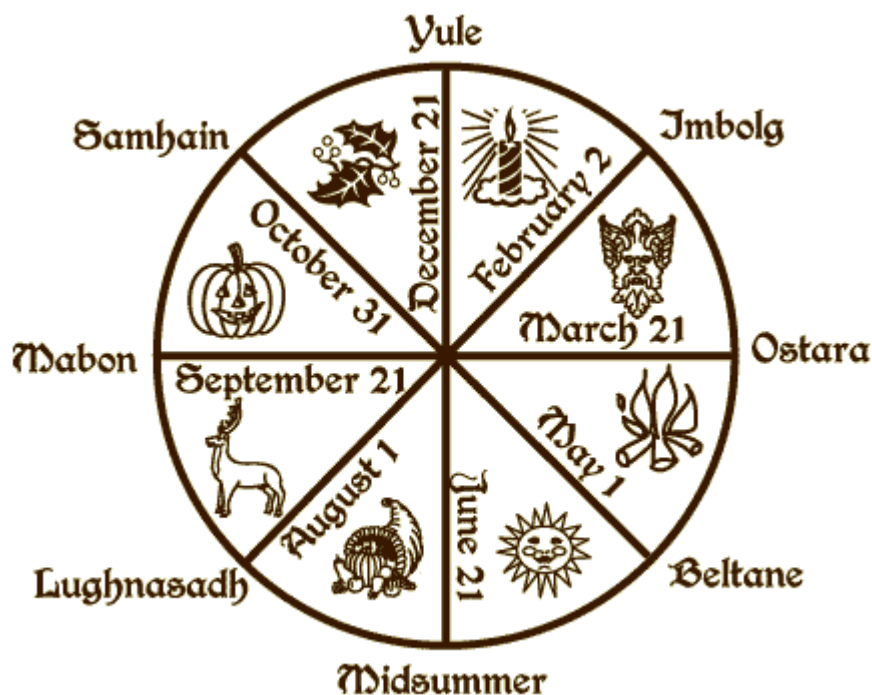
Excess driving also damages our roads. Every year, monies must be budgeted to care for the roads and repair damage that occurs throughout the season. The less we drive the less damage we cause. That leaves more money for other projects that we would all like to see accomplished.

Additionally, driving more than is really necessary creates traffic and parking difficulties. Besides the obvious difficulties resulting from the two way traffic on such a narrow road, our smaller parking areas become congested when people drive to shower or get ice. These areas are really only intended for limited and short term parking.

Of course there are exceptions for those with mobility issues. For the rest of us, being at camp is a wonderful opportunity to get some exercise and enjoy the natural surroundings. Let's leave the cars parked and help keep Gaea beautiful!



Our rituals are open to the public and celebrate the pagan wheel of the year. Rituals at Gaea are opportunity to bond as a community and perhaps learn something in the process. We welcome all pagan traditions to officiate. If you would be interested in facilitating a ritual, please call Rhi at camp (913-796-2141) to discuss putting you on the schedule. Currently we have openings in 2015 for Ostara, Beltane and Midsummer.



## Upcoming Rituals

Samhain-October 25

Yule-December 20



# **SAMHAIN 2014**

## **SATURDAY OCTOBER 25**

**Come, dance and feast with the energies of the Earth, the Fae, and the ancestors in celebration of Samhain.  
Bring a covered dish and a willing soul!**

### **Schedule of Events**

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>3:00 pm</b> | <b>Pumpkin Carving</b>  |
| <b>5:00 pm</b> | <b>Trick or Treating</b>  |
| <b>6:00 pm</b> | <b>Judging for Best Decorated Cabin</b>   |
| <b>7:00 pm</b> | <b>Ritual at Main Fire Circle</b>   |
| <b>7:30 pm</b> | <b>Potluck Feast – Please bring a covered side-dish that will feed at least four people.<br/>Roast pork with apples will be served.</b> |
| <b>8:00 pm</b> | <b>Adult and Child Costume Contest</b>  |
| <b>8:30 pm</b> | <b>Fire at Main Fire Circle<br/>Hayride starting at Pavilion (Bring a blanket!)</b>   |



I started going, to the place called Gaea, some 20 years ago. Somewhere along the way, a very peculiar lady and I started talking. She was intriguing, always offering free advice, and giving me guidance for the issues in my life. She was the kind of person who would give you her spoon, if you needed it and the shirt off of her back. She was always willing to lend a helping hand or lend some time to help you just put your puzzle pieces back together. She touched the lives of many people and many people were blessed to have known her during her journey on this planet.

I can vividly recall our own journey together and the guidance she shared with me. She was a person that instilled, in each of us, the knowledge of there being so much more, to the place many call 'Gaea', than the beach area we frequent, the fires we dance around, and much more to the purpose of the organizations that support this great place. Laugh if you must but, I learned there is a ridge area, and a pavilion, where great things happen. Not just a beach to enjoy but, a spiritual belief to enjoy. A spiritual freedom to enjoy and an opportunity to experience life naturally. I learned that a lot of volunteers put countless hours into ensuring the grass gets mowed and the shower house stays maintained. There are places where great fires occur and at which we celebrate great events. Most importantly, I learned about the community that came together to make such great things happen. I learned that there were many areas at this place, a sanctuary for many people, that had names such as Pixie Sticks, Sunset Ridge, Grover's Glen, Coyote Run, Davawood, Flora's, Elysium, Venus Sanctuary, Hermitage, Key Pass and I will simply stop here.

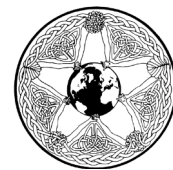
I learned that Gaea was much more of a spiritual retreat than any other place I had attended before. Carrie Moonstar opened my eyes to this place and its many wonders. I also learned, from her, Carrie and through her Gaea, about the sacrifices made which allow this great place to exist. I was very fortunate to encounter this peculiar lady who developed into a very dear friend. This lovely outspoken lady, who has now passed on and is on her next journey of and spiritual enlightenment.

The sign so artfully carved and crafted by our dear friend CY Fillmore, painted and wood burned, is simply recognition of an area of camp that has always had a name, but not many knew. Moonstar Meadow is officially recognized, thanks to CY Fillmore and the vision of many efforts this sign represents.

Season is almost at an end and I'm sure you have noticed that we have had some visitors this year in the form of a few canines. So we are taking this time to write everyone a PSA regarding animals at camp. Rules to remember:

- 1) All dogs **MUST** be on a leash, **AND** under your control. This means the leash is in your hand.
  - A. Although you believe your animal will never harm someone, you cannot predict every situation.
  - B. You don't know how another animal, or another person, may react to your animal running up to them.
  - C. Dogs are **NOT** allowed in the Dining Hall or Bath House.
  - D. You **MUST** clean up after your dog when it makes messes (i.e. poop).
- 2) Do **NOT** feed any animals that you do not own. This refers to wild, stray and domestic animals.
  - A. Feeding the wild animals encourages them to come into people's camps and steal food; this is dangerous as this can also provoke a wild animal to attack.
  - B. Feeding strays encourages them to come back to camp, and to enter people's camps and steal food. We do not want to encourage strays to stay on the land.
  - C. Feeding domestic animals that you don't own may cause problems with that animal. You do not know if that animal may have a food issue, or is food aggressive.





## Fall Events

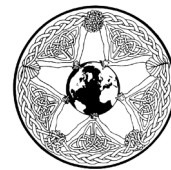
GGG	September 18-21	Exclusive Event
LATP	September 25-28	Exclusive Event
ERI Board meeting	October 5	Public Event
Samhain	October 25	Public Event
ERI Board meeting	November 2	Public Event
ERI Board meeting	December 7	Public Event
Yule Ritual	December 20	Public Event

Earth Rising Inc. Board Meetings begin at noon on the following dates:  
October 5, November 2, December 7

Most Cabin Sponsor meetings will be on the Sunday after the Public Ritual at Gaea.

Please visit <http://calendar.campgaea.org> to ensure there have  
not been changes to this list!

Work weekends are a good opportunity to give back to Gaea, and earn some Gaea  
Bucks too! Check our [Announcements forum](#) or our [facebook page](#) for more  
information on projects as it becomes available.



## *Mission of Earth Rising Inc*

The Mission of Earth Rising is to provide a recreational retreat center in a natural setting for the purpose of cultural and spiritual education.

This Mission will be met through the achievement of certain goals.

These goals are:

To encourage the free exchange of ideas, views and experiences.  
To promote greater understanding and respect between groups and individuals.

To support ecologically sound practices and land and wildlife conservation in the belief that the Earth and all life are interrelated and interdependent, and that respect for all life is a Universal Mandate.

To provide sanctuary to people who have experienced oppression or discrimination due to their cultural or spiritual practices.

### **For More Details:**

Earth Rising, Inc. –  
<http://eri.campgaea.org>

Cabin Sponsorship Program –  
<http://cs.campgaea.org>

Calendar –  
<http://calendar.campgaea.org>

Donations –  
<http://donations.campgaea.org>

Contact Us –  
<http://contact.campgaea.org>

