

GAEA'S OWN

Summer 2013





The festival season at Gaea is now underway and that means that Laid Back Labor Day will be here before we know it (GASP!). If you would like to be involved with the planning of Laid Back Labor Day we start our planning meetings after the June Board meeting. Following is the schedule for the meetings for anyone that would like to join in:

June 30th, 1pm;
Aug 11th, 2pm;
Aug 25th, 4pm.

At the first meeting we will be setting up committee heads and going over what is involved with being committee head as well as expectations and responsibilities of each committee. All meetings there after consist of status updates from committees and event planning.



Treasurer's Report

Jonnie Elliott



Two cents from the Treasurer

As we near the peak of the summer, I am continually asked when we are going to build the caretakers a house. I always cringe a little because I know the answer I'm about to give is not the one they are looking for. As we paid off the mortgage over the years money has been tight and many things that needed to be done had been put off. Now we are in real need to have those things completed so we have a safe usable campground.

So what could be more important than giving the caretakers better living conditions? Well safety first of all. We needed a better gate in a better location. We still have a few things to work on there, but I believe what we have is already 10 times better than what we had. We also need reliable water all the way up to the ridge. What will that take? All new underground pipes from the meter to everywhere else. The old pipes just can't take the increase in water pressure it takes to reliably get to the top of the ridge. So we are left with no water on top if too much is being used down below. Also on the list of hopes are solar cells. Now I would not consider this more important than many other things, but electric is one of our biggest expenses and as we all learned as a child a penny saved is a penny earned. This could net us about 10K more a year, never mind we would be making ourselves more green. Then we have several other projects that are need to be done soon. Like the cabins need repaired, update or just outright saved, to name one.

In general we are looking at things in a more of a way of what we need to have, to make Gaea a more safe and usable campground and then what will give us the best return on our investment. No one was excited about waiting any longer for the building of a caretaker house, but I think it was Clint that summed it up the best, "If we don't have a usable campground then we won't need a house."

ERI Treasurer
Jonnie Elliott

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."

If YOU are feeling the desire to contribute money right now, the best ways are:

campgaea.org - look for the PayPal donations button

send check/money order to:

Earth Rising

PO Box 300654

Kansas City, Mo 64130-0654

Caretakers' Corner

Rhi & Clint Koetting

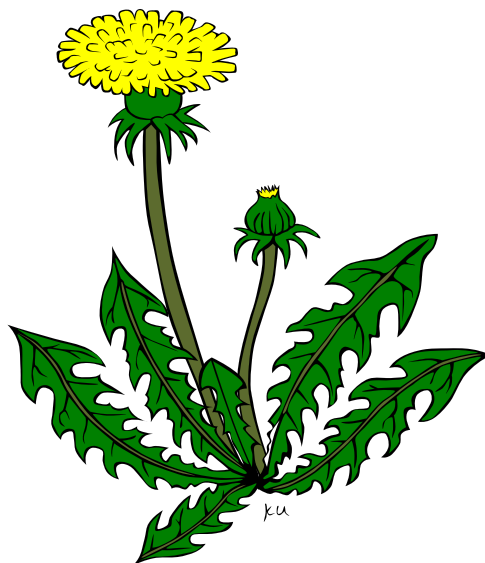
Midsummer 2013

Good news to report! The areas under repair in Pixie Sticks and Leather Lane are green and working on lush. We are confident that another seeding in both areas along with the rest it is getting this year will make it great camping for 2014. So in essence, the grass is growing and we are happy about it. Thank you for doing so well at staying off of it.

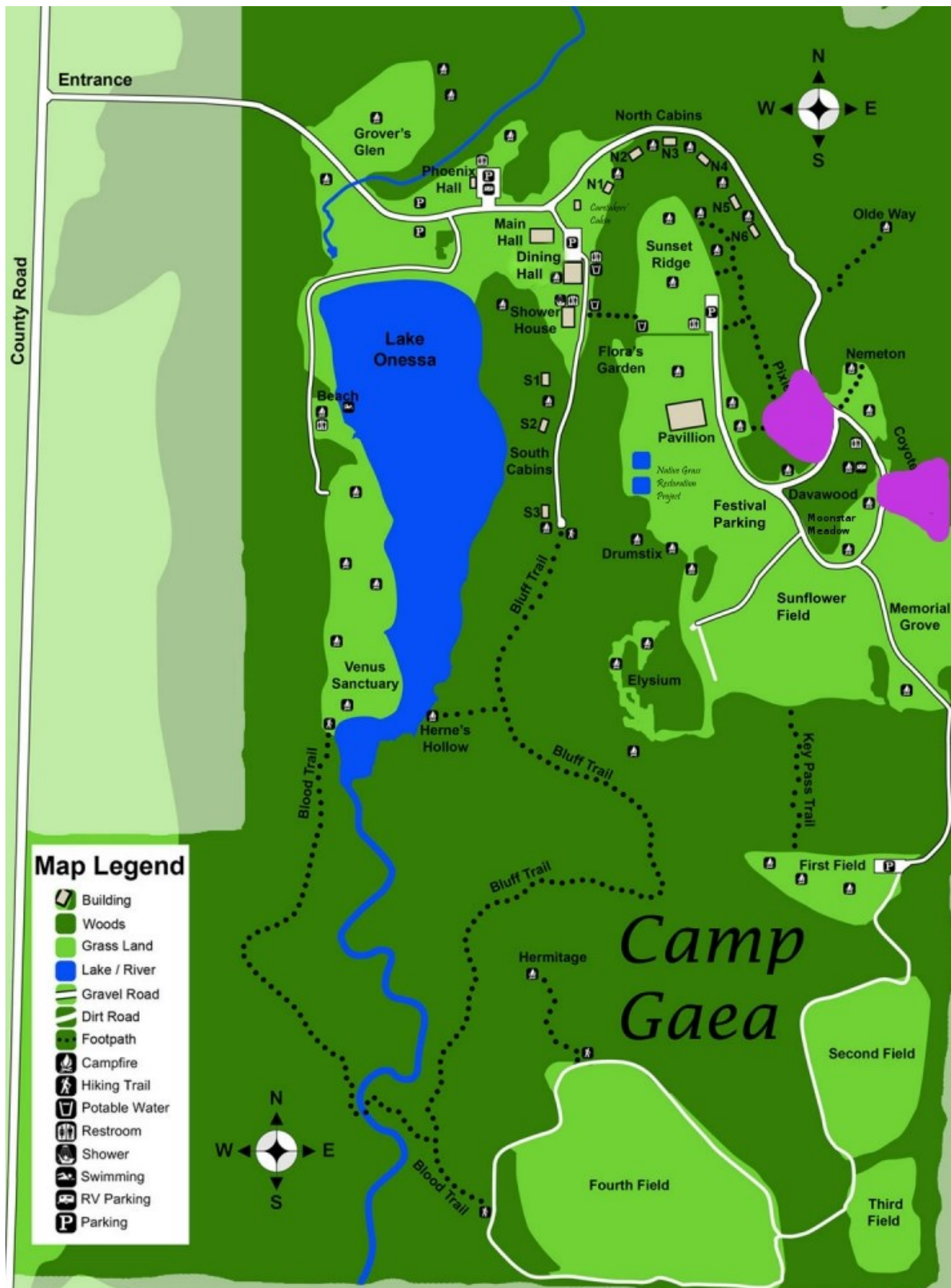
As a matter of fact, the grass is growing lush and green all over camp. It's a stark contrast to last year and the dormant and dead brown grass that covered everything. As always, if you have extra time and would like to donate some sweat to Gaea, she would appreciate the help. No need to wait for an official work weekend, just drop by and give her a hand.

We have been asked to remind everyone that there is a compost pile behind the dining hall and that scraps thrown around your campsite just isn't cool. Please remember, you will not be the last person to camp there this year, so compost your scraps or throw them away. Don't scatter them in the tree line or at the edges of your campsite.

We hope this summer season is a good one for you and that you will get to spend lots of time enjoying camp. Remember, the gate closes at dark. Please make arrangements with us if your will be arriving after the gate closes. Happy summer everyone! See you soon around the fire!



Heads up! Due to a mix of drought conditions and high traffic in both Leather Lane and Pixie Sticks, there are camping areas that will remain closed for the 2013 season to undergo turf repair. They are noted on the map below in hot pink. No camping or traffic is allowed in these areas. Provided everyone does their part, they will be lush and back open for the 2014 season. Thank you for respecting Gaea getting her green on!



At the beginning of April I was lucky enough to be out at Gaea on one of those nice warm evenings. I needed to get some community service hours in for my cabin sponsor requirement and so asked Clint and Rhi what I could do. Rhi, bless her heart, handed me a garbage bag and said, "Walk the land." I struggled up the "Pagan Steps of Doom" (the old staircase) thinking to start at the northern most end of Sunset Ridge and make my way by zigzagging back and forth to cover the ridge and the camping areas on its edges as well as Sunflower Field, Moonstar Meadow, Davawood and Coyote Run before walking back down the road to the cabins. I was amazed at what I was to find on my walk.

I love the people of Gaea. Our community is so dynamic and alive, spiritual and hedonistic. We come from all over the country, disparate ethnic communities, religious beliefs and cultures. Diverse lifestyles can be observed throughout the year. And yet...we all celebrate. In our own ways, in our own times, together or individually, we celebrate. It can just be a birthday. A hand-fasting. A holiday. A magical working. Good friends, great food, wonderful wine. Getting laid. Connecting with the earth or her denizens. And often, we want to commemorate a moment; stamp it on our memories, place it carefully in our hearts. Sometimes we do this by leaving a memento at Gaea. We ask her to hold space for the energy from the experience that we are grateful for. And here is where we have to take her part into account..

As I was walking through the trees and meadows, I came across the usual trash; cigarette butts, plastic containers, bottle tops, broken plastic bits of doo-dahs. I also came across items fraught with intention; bits of cloth tied together on a string, wind chimes, statuettes in the crotch of trees, a fairy house. And then there was the other stuff. What to make of a wine bottle hanging from a branch by string? Cheap plastic Mardi Gras beads draped hither, thither and yon? A ratchet strap wrapped around a young tree, bending it to the ground? A plaster head in a fire pit? Broken glass containers holding long ago melted candles? Lime green cord wrapped web-like between three sister trees? Were these in celebration also? Were these to commemorate some momentous occasion? Or were they just detritus left behind when an event ended? And how to know? So, I had to write this to my brothers and sisters in our beloved community.

Article by:
Cat Andrews



Continued on next page

Think twice about how you are decorating Gaea. Think about how the natives, the birds and animals, will be affected by what you leave behind. Think about how the rope, string, ribbon or ratchet strap will affect the branch of the tree it is wrapped around. Then think again about how absolutely necessary it is to leave it at Gaea. Perhaps, before you leave, you can remove it and take it home with you to hang on your tree where you will see it, be reminded of what it celebrates, with the essence of Gaea in it. Maybe instead of Mardi Gras beads, bring natural stone necklaces. Instead of glass candle holders, use metal or stone. Choose natural fiber yarns or ribbon that will break down easily and not strangle a young branch eventually. Or choose to express your gratitude by making a small donation in cash to Earth Rising, Inc. the organization that cares for Gaea. Celebrate WITH Gaea instead of just ON her.



One last word: We have several wonderful sacred sites within our 168 acres. Olde Way, Nemeton, Herne's Hollow, Venus Grove, Fairy Gate, Grover's Glen, Memorial Grove, Dragon Tree, Hermitage as well as many smaller informal sites. Please treat each of these with the respect they deserve when making an offering. If you don't have something as nice as you would like to leave, don't leave a cheap substitution. Our Gaea deserves the best we can give her. She only gives her best to us!

Laid Back Labor Day

August 30– September 2, 2013

LBLD 2013

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“I am so Laid Back, it’s out of this world.”

SYFI

GAEA

Midsummer Ritual

June 22, 2013

Midsummer Ritual will be at the beach,

7: 00 PM

Ritual feast to follow afterward at the beach.

Bring sides that go with hamburgers and hot dogs



Cabin Etiquette

Be respectful of your cabin mates. The Gaea community is varied and diverse. Be respectful of their beliefs and expect them to be respectful of yours.

Leave the cabin in better condition than you found it. Wipe down the beds, sweep the floor and take trash to the dumpster and recycling to the recycling corral by Registration.

Don't block the door or the path in front of the cabins. Others use the doors and path too.

Don't smoke in the cabin. Not only is it illegal, it's rude.

Turn the lights off. When you leave, turn off the interior and exterior lights. YOU have the power to save power.

Seasonal Celebrations

Gaea offers eight seasonal celebrations to the community throughout the year. They are open to the public and offer the chance to learn and participate in different spiritual paths.



If you are interested in performing a public ritual, contact Rhi at 913-796-2141.



Lammas Ritual

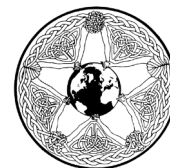
July 27th

Details will be available on the Gaea website on the calendar page

<http://www.campgaea.org/forums/calendar.php>



Summer Events



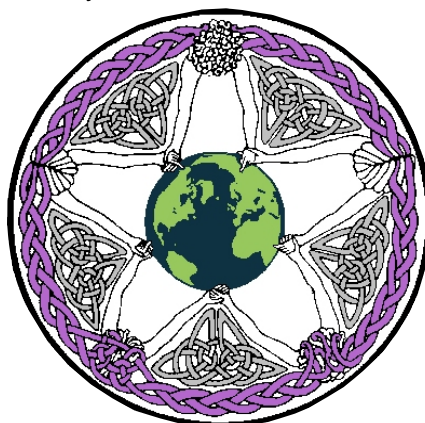
Midsummer Ritual	June 22	Public Event
ERI Board meeting	July 7	Public Event
Lamas Ritual	July 27	Public Event
Zen-Fest	August 1-4	Exclusive Event
ERI Board meeting	August , 11	Public Event
Laid Back Labor Day	August 30-Sept 2	Exclusive Event
ERI Board meeting	September 8	Public Event
Mabon Ritual	September 14	Public Event
GGG	September 19-22	Exclusive Event
Lightning Across The Plains	September 26-29	Exclusive Event

Earth Rising Inc. Board Meetings begin at noon on the following dates:
July 7, August 11, September 8

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>

