

# GAEA'S OWN

Summer 2014



# President's Letter

*Erin Marshall*



We are well into festival season at Gaea. Our first festival of the year, Earth Day, was wonderful. There were over 300 people on property for the weekend and final count of money raised was over \$5000! Thank you to everyone that attended, those that worked to make a successful fest, those that played to make a fun-filled fest, and those that did both!

We had several great classes this year, Tree Hugging 101, Backyard Chickens, and a Solar cooking display. I want to put it out to the community that anyone that would like to give a class at Earth Day next year please contact me at [erin.gaea.eri@gmail.com](mailto:erin.gaea.eri@gmail.com), with a proposal. Please keep to the family friendly atmosphere and the Earth Day theme.

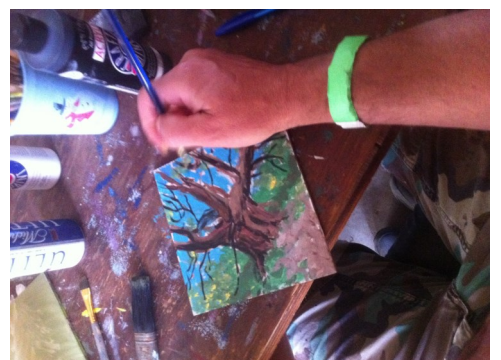
For the second year in a row, the Main Ritual on Saturday night was started off by the children of Gaea. They learned a heartbeat rhythm earlier in the day and used drums they created at the Children's Tent with recycled materials. Thank you to Dayna and her work exchange crew for teaching our children how to reuse and repurpose materials in such a fun way! This is a something I plan on making into a tradition at Earth Day.

The community meal on Friday night, Vegetarian Chili made by Barbara Walley, and the Potluck Dinner on Saturday, Spaghetti made by Rhi, were both yummy! If you didn't get a chance to enjoy either meal you sure missed out! Thank you to the kitchen crews for helping to feed so many people. And thank you to everyone that brought out food to help share at both meals.

Audrey Domskey ran the Annual Art Show & Community Art Project. If you did not get a chance to walk down to the main hall and peruse the art created by folks from our own community, be sure to next year. We have some very talented people in this community! If you visited the Hall you may have also participated in the Community Art Project and painted small tiles that were to be layed together to form a giant mosaic-like board to hang on the outside of the dining hall. You can see it hanging there now.

Again, I want to thank everyone involved in making another successful Earth Day, all the people that attended, the workers, the festival goers, and the planners. All of you are important and equally necessary to make this community what it is.







## 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*

What an amazing beginning to the season! Have you seen that beautiful art wall? The new paint on the caretaker's cabin, the new path, S2's new siding??? You guys are awesome! I'd like to send out a BIG thank you to all of you who participated and helped prepare the land.



Earth Day was a great success. We raised a little over \$5,000! Go Camp Gaea! It certainly has helped us begin work on our long list of projects and a few unexpected repairs. Your donations, camp fees and volunteer labor are hard at work realizing our goals to improve camp. Amazing! It is wonderful to see the community come together to keep our beautiful camp thriving. We still have plenty of projects to complete. There are fish to be purchased, cabins to repair, more work on the infrastructure, painting, replacing a foot bridge, a little more work with the hot water heater... whew! It's a busy season. Please consider donating Home Depot gift cards, cash, checks (see below), sweaty labor, lots of love and good juju.

Speaking of juju... This evening I was pondering the donations we've received both monetarily and otherwise. I just have to say... I am filled with gratitude for our good fortune. We have such a devoted community. You all never cease to amaze me with your awesome gifts. Let's set our intentions together, to continue to push forward with Gaea's much needed improvements.

JD

*"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*

The sun is hot, the lake is cool, and the shower house is open. It must be summer time at Gaea! We hope you are having a fun summer and are getting to spend some time at camp.

You may have noticed, if you have been out recently, that the caretakers' cabin has been painted a different color. We have gone to a lighter green and brighter trim for the cabins, hoping to get them to reflect sunlight and not absorb it like the old colors did. We are finding that the cabins are much cooler, which is a definite plus. This year, we are painting the south side cabins and next year we will be painting the north side cabins and dining hall. So bear with us during our mess, it will all be worth it in the end. You can see the colors on the cover of this newsletter.

In other news, you may have also noticed the massive quantity of weeds at the beach and in the lake in general. Curly Pond Weed is its name, and making it difficult to play is its game. Controlling it can be tricky, but we are working toward that goal. Some of it has been pulled by hand in the swimming area (thank you to those who pulled and raked – you know who you are). However the best solution is a biological one. We are purchasing grass carp to release into the lake. 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 in two phases as 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.

Thanks to the generous donations of individuals and estates, camp has gathered quite a few books on a range of topics. We are working to organize a camp lending library in the dining hall. We have the books, we have the space, we have a cataloging goddess. We will keep you posted on the progress.

A new flower garden is going in near the bell tower, and it features a wire sculpture from our own Uno Jones. Thank you Uno for your contribution to the project! This year the garden is mostly annuals, but we will be putting in culinary herbs for use in the kitchen. Of course there will still be flowers about, you know how we caretakers are about flowers.

Another thank you to send out – to all the individuals who worked on the north cabin path. It has been widened and sculpted and it has new drainage and new gravel. It took a large crew, but it got done. Check it out the next time you are here. We think you will be impressed.

Lastly, I am happy to convey that due to another generous donation, the lighting in the dining hall, main hall and stage/pavilion have been upgraded to LED bulbs. Camp is thrilled with this donation and the opportunity to reduce our carbon footprint. Thank you for the kind donation.

That's the news from our corner! We hope to see you soon.



Gaea Family Reunion is July 4th, 5th and 6th, 2014. This is a new informal event to celebrate the 4th of July and all the liberties are given by being here in America. We will also be celebrating our community in all its diversity by having an ice cream social on July 4th, old-fashioned games on Saturday the 5th (to include Watermelon Water Polo, 3-legged race, egg carry relay, watermelon seed spitting contest and a few more!). There might be fireworks but we can't guarantee them! Regular cabin and tent fees will apply.

A lot of these events will be held by the lake. Some of you may have noticed the extra foliage in the lake so far this year? The caretakers have noticed a decline the type of fish that eat those plants. The most ecological way to return balance to the lake is to re-introduce grass carp. Lake Onessa will be a non-stop buffet for them right now! BUT....each of these fish costs \$13 without shipping or delivery fees. So, for this season, we introduce Foster A Fish! For a minimum \$15 donation you can name a fish that will be purchased for Lake Onessa to help her return to her most lovely balance. For that \$15 donation, you will be given an small token of our appreciation to remind you of your generosity! Our goal is to raise enough money to foster sixty fish during Gaea Family Reunion.

If you have any questions about either of these, please feel free to contact Cat Andrews at [earthmamacat@yahoo.com](mailto:earthmamacat@yahoo.com) or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/touchforalltimes>.

# Upcoming Rituals

## **Midsummer Ritual**

June 21, 2014

7pm at Grover's Glen

Potluck feast to follow ritual, main dish provided.

## **Lammas**

August 2, 2014

7pm

Potluck feast to follow ritual, main dish provided.

Location to be announced.



# LBLD 2014

**August 29– September 1**



## **Super Heroes & Super Villains**

With Earth Day now over a month behind us, it is time to start the planning for Laid Back Labor Day. Anyone that would like to be involved in the planning of Laid Back should come to the planning meetings. The first was June 1<sup>st</sup>, we set the dates and times for the remainder of the meetings, set up committee heads, and went over what is involved with being committee heads as well as expectations and responsibilities of each committee. All meetings there after consist of status updates from committees and event planning. The next is July 13<sup>st</sup> at 11am before board meeting, then August 3rd and 24th, both at 2pm.

This year's theme is Superhero's/villains, "I'm so Laid Back, it's Super Natural!" Come dressed as your favorite Hero or Villain...or sidekick, or make your own up!

**Registration opens July 8th!**



## Summer Events

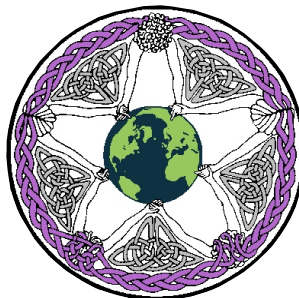
Midwest Men's Naturists	June 9-15	Exclusive Event
Midsummer Ritual	June 21	Public Event
Gaea Family Reunion	July 4-6	Public Event
ERI Board meeting	July 13	Public Event
Midwest Men's Festival	July 22-31	Exclusive Event
Lammas Ritual	August 2	Public Event
ERI Board meeting	August 3	Public Event
ZenFest	August 7-10	Exclusive Event
Laid Back Labor Day	August 29-Sept 1	Exclusive Event
ERI Board meeting	September 7	Public Event

Earth Rising Inc. Board Meetings begin at noon on the following dates:  
July 13, August 3, September 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.





*RESPECT YOURSELF*

*RESPECT OTHERS*

*RESPECT THE LAND*

## *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>

