

GAEA'S OWN

Summer 2015



Photograph by: Nicholas Maher



President's Letter

Erin Marshall

It's now a month after our first festival of the year and despite the weather that weekend we had about 300 people on property for Earth Day and raised about \$4600.00. As always, thank you to everyone that braved the weather to have a fun, but wet Earth Day 2015.

For 3 years now we have had the children start off ritual with drumming and this year one of them even got to help with lighting the fire. I love seeing the next generation taking such active roles in the community. And speaking of community, I do hope that everyone takes time each Earth Day to visit the Main Hall and look at all the wonderful art created by members of your own community. I know that plenty of you participated in the Community Art Project this year; Gelie Printing was the medium this year. If you didn't have the chance to see any of the artwork, I know that Paulie (Roberts) donated the painting he did of Dragon Tree and it is now hanging in the Dining Hall, so stop in and take a gander!

Big thanks to Barbara Walley for a delish Chili dinner on Friday night again! And I want to give special thanks to Elfie Eigenschenk for taking over the kitchen on short notice Saturday and making an amazing Spaghetti dinner! Thank you ladies for all your hard work!

Now I know the summer hasn't even started yet, but it is time to start thinking about LBLD 2015, so with that, the first planning meeting will be BEFORE the June Board Meeting, on June 7th @ 11am!



GAEA

10,000 B.C.E

LBLD

2015

SEPTEMBER

4-7

SO LAID BACK ...

A CAVEMAN COULD DO IT



Community Service: Why our little community works

by *Mike Stevens*

During the recent Earth Day event, I had a moment that really made me smile. It was one of those times when I was reminded of what really makes this community special. I was working safety for a few hours and was starting to get a bit tired. The rain was coming down and had not let up for quite a while. My raincoat and hat helped, but I was still pretty soggy at that point.



Making my rounds, I was heading down the stairs when something caught my attention. There was someone about halfway up the hill, but he was not on the stairs. He was next to the stairs and there was a bag next to him on the ground. Naturally, I had to stop and see what was up. Standing there in the pouring rain was my friend Two Feathers. Apparently, the lighting on the stairs had fallen into disrepair and he had decided to fix it. We talked for a few minutes and I moved on about my business.

I'm not sure how long he worked in the rain that day. Later in the evening I had the opportunity to see what he had done. Not only were the stairs well illuminated, but there was beautiful up lighting on some of the trees surrounding the stairs.

The next day, I was talking with our caretaker Clint about this. Turns out that Two Feathers had discussed wanting to do this project with him some time back, and over time had put aside the bits and pieces necessary to do it.

I've thought about this a lot over the past couple of weeks. So many of the things that we love about camp are things that someone thought up and decided to put their time and effort into. Big thing and little things, the thoughts and contributions of so many volunteers over so many years.

The image of my friend standing in the rain, patiently working on this project has stuck in my head over the past few weeks. It is a reminder to me that our efforts are what make this place go. So much love and hard work goes into our volunteer work. Whether it is planning and prep for events, maintaining the grounds and facilities, or dreaming up something new and great, it is our own community that makes this place so special to me.

Thank you to all of the people who have volunteered their time, thoughts, love, and hard work over the years. Everything that you have done and continue to do for camp, is why camp is so great.

Caretakers' Corner

Clint and Rhi Koetting

Hello! Happy Summer Solstice to you!! Things are buzzing at camp and much is being accomplished. All the cabins have been re-painted and look wonderful. A big thank you to the cabin sponsors who donated their time to get that project completed. We will be working on painting the dining hall and eventually the main hall. We have been asked many times if the mural on the front of the main hall will stay. The answer is, of course.



The side by side freezer died this spring, but no worries, it has been replaced with a new one that freezes like the Arctic. Bring on the ice cream for the Fourth of July! We also have the pleasure of announcing that an anonymous donor has donated a new ten burner Vulcan stove for the kitchen. It is exactly like the one we have, but NEW. The death-trap has been replaced. Look out people, camp suddenly has an updated, and well-functioning kitchen. Food should be really good at festivals this year. Thank you Anonymous Donor!! Since we are on the subject of the kitchen and dining hall, we hope you will take the time to view the new painting of Dragon Tree. It was donated at Earth Day by the artist, Paul Roberts. Thank you for this addition to the dining hall. It looks wonderful.

We have also been working on improving the Elysium and have added drainage at the back entrance to alleviate the flooding problem that has plagued that area for years. In other news, there is a new camping area near the Elysium called Amethyst Camp. It was developed over the spring and is a chem-free zone. Gaea asks that you respect that area and its intent. If you would like to bring an offering a piece of amethyst to place around the area, the energy would be appreciated.

As you know, we have been getting a lot of rain of late. Please be mindful of wet and muddy areas. Please keep your vehicle on the gravel or in designated parking fields. Poor drainage not only leads to muck you can get your car stuck in, but it also leads to wet, mosquito infested camp sites.

That's the news from the caretakers' corner. We hope you are having a fantastic summer and look forward to seeing you soon. Blessings!

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

Spring greetings to you all! Earth Day was a wonderful start to our season. We were just a little under last year's numbers but, considering the weather, it was awesome! Earth Day brought in \$4,618 from your generous donations. Thank you to all who attended. I don't know about you, but I had so much fun making gellie prints. It was so easy to be inspired with all the beautiful artwork surrounding us in the Main Hall. The art show was amazing as usual. We appreciate the effort and donations from our talented artists. Your love and support for Gaea is so appreciated.

Camp also recently received awesome techie donations from Microsoft and Intuit. Through a partnership with Tech Soup we were able to upgrade the treasurer's computer with the latest Microsoft Office and Quick Book products. Even more amazing, Quick Books has a new Nonprofit Edition for 2015. This accounting software helps us keep track of our donations and expenses. After closing out 2014 for taxes I reviewed a quick comparison to where we were last year this time. I'm cautiously optimistic. We will continue our conservative planning for upcoming projects but we have a nice cushion to complete some of the much needed maintenance around camp.



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.”

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."

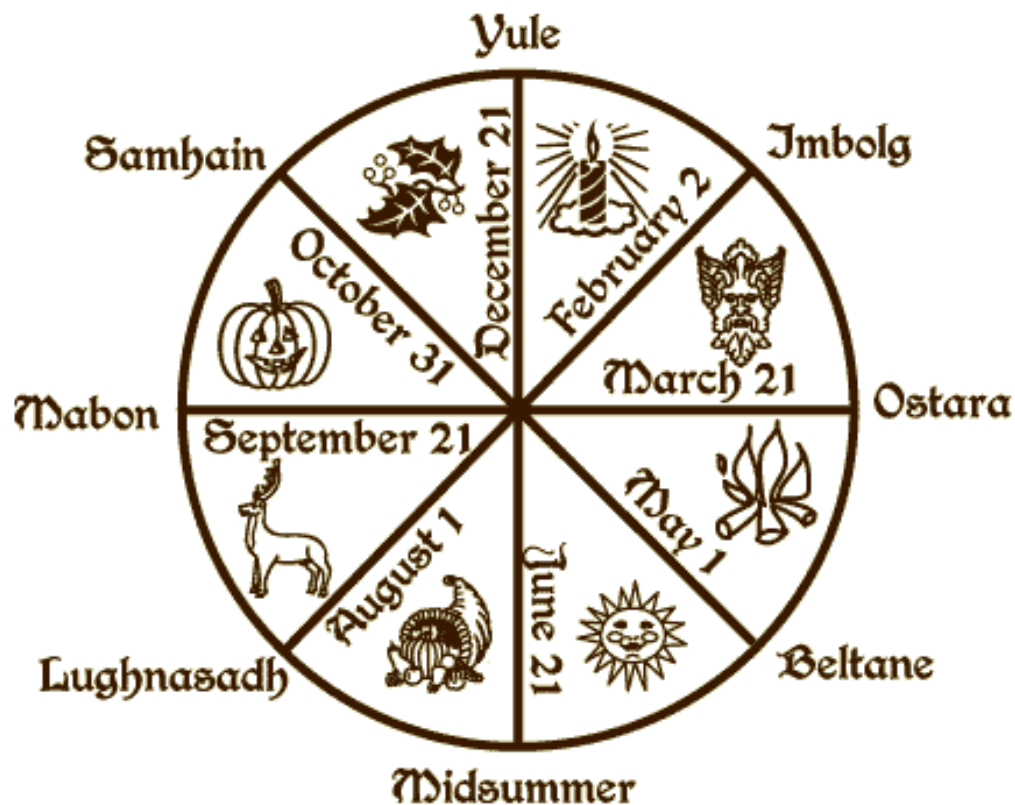
Excess driving also damages our roads. Every year, monies must be budgeted to care for the roads and repair damage that occurs throughout the season. The less we drive the less damage we cause. That leaves more money for other projects that we would all like to see accomplished.

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.



Upcoming Rituals

Midsummer –June 27

Lammas –August 1

"Just when you think you know something, you have to look at it in a different way."

This is my favorite line from one of my favorite movies, "Dead Poets Society." In the scene, the character played by Robin Williams invites his students to stand on his desk to look at the classroom from a different perspective, in order to gain a new understanding and experience of the same physical space.

My name is Aaron Smith. I am a contemporary artist and my work is about finding ways of seeing the world differently. I exhibit work in museums and select galleries and exhibition spaces throughout the United States. I recently finished my Master of Fine Arts degree and will enter my second year teaching art and photography at the University of Colorado this fall. Suffice it to say, art is my life.

That is why I am bursting with excitement over a new project that I will be doing at Camp Gaea over the next *year and a day*, and the best part is that the results will be shared with everyone who wants a copy.

I will be using a process known as solarography, to capture one single image of the sun, as it appears to create rings around the Earth, over the course of "A Year and a Day" (which serves as the current working title for the project).



As you can see from the example, this process captures the sun as it, quite literally, streaks across the sky each day. And, as the Earth tilts between the seasons, the Sun rises and falls in the sky, creating beautiful rings. I encourage you to do a Google search (especially an image search) at your earliest convenience. The resulting images consist of an often "ghostly" silhouette of the landscape, but highlighted by brilliant flashing lines throughout the sky.

For this project, I handmade 13 pinhole cameras. These are made from 35mm film canisters, Altoid tins, spice boxes and tea tins. There are no moving or electrical parts.

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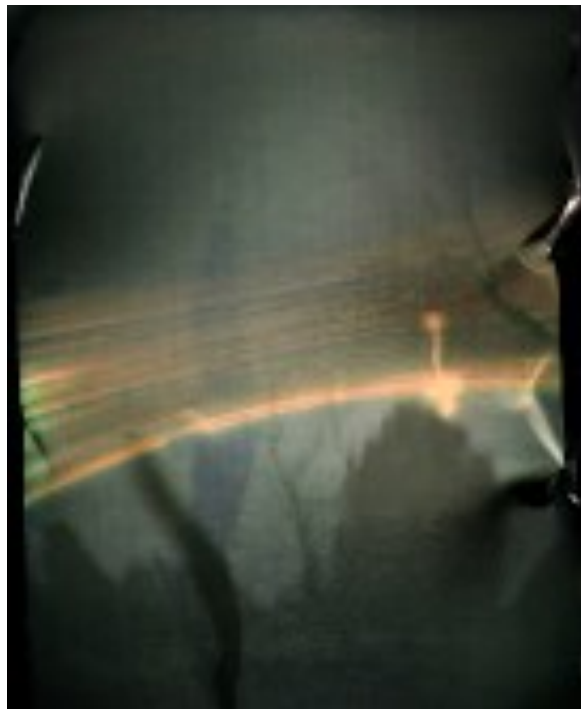
I have fitted these objects with a small piece of aluminum with a tiny hole drilled into it. By tiny, I mean less than 0.1mm. Opposite the hole is a small piece of photo paper. This is the same light sensitive paper that has been used in dark rooms for decades. Normally, this paper would go through a series of 'baths' in order to develop and fix them.

However, this process requires no development, since the images are removed from the object and scanned into a computer. I am proud to say that this is a zero footprint project and can be installed and removed with no impact to the land or ecology.

I first stepped into Gaea in 1999. I have proudly been a member of the local communities that have supported this special place for 15 years, even from Colorado. The land has always been sacred to me, as I know it has been for so many others. I am genuinely excited to be able to use my skills and talents to show people what "A Year and a Day" actually looks like, from the one place most of us consider "home."

Thank you, very much, to ERI, Clint Koetting, HSA and everyone involved in supporting this project. It is with special intent that this *year and a day* begin on Thursday, May 21, the opening ceremonies of Heartland Pagan Festival.

It is my wish that, in the coming year, we locate ourselves as much in the moment as in the place; and may all of you find happiness in the streaks of light ahead.



Aaron Smith

Rules for Pets at Camp:

- 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.



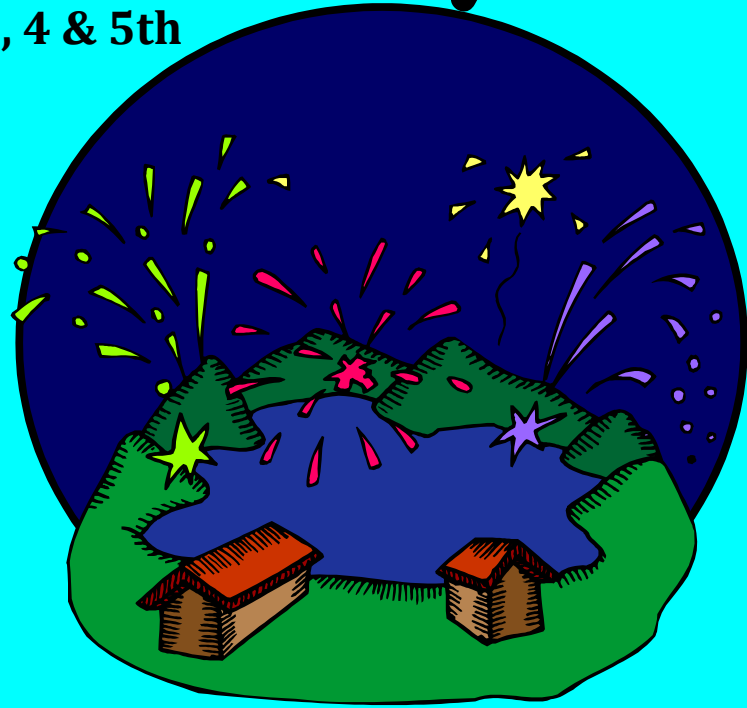
4th of July

Come to camp on the weekend of July 3, 4 & 5th

Normal Camp Fees Apply

**Ice cream Social
July 3rd Friday night**

**Fireworks off the dam
Saturday July 4th ONLY!**



Potluck supper with grilled hot dogs and burgers , Saturday July 4th .

Bring side dishes.

Come Hang out with the community and our families!



FIREWORKS ARE NOT ALLOWED UNLESS APPROVED BY A CARETAKER. There are **NO** exceptions to this. Anyone shooting off unapproved fireworks will be asked to leave.

***Must be fired from the dam – not at campsites**

***No aerials with plastic parts**

***No commercial grade pyrotechnics**

***No fireworks are to be shot into the water or trees, or at people**

***All trash must be picked up and taken to the dumpster by Phoenix Hall**

Fireworks on July 4th off the dam ONLY!



Summer Events



ERI Board Meeting	June 7	Public Event
MMNG	June 15-21	Exclusive Event
Midsummer Ritual	June 27	Public Event
Gaea Family Reunion	July 3-5	Public Event
ERI Board meeting	July 12	Public Event
Midwest Mens Festival	July 21-30	Exclusive Event
Lammas Ritual	August 1	Public Event
ERI Board meeting	August 2	Public Event
LBLD 2015	September 4-7	Public Event
GGG	September 17-20	Exclusive Event
LATP	September 24-27	Exclusive Event

Earth Rising Inc. Board Meetings begin at noon on the following dates:
June 7(LBLD meeting @11:00), July 12, August 2

Most Cabin Sponsor meetings will be on the Sunday after the Public Ritual at Gaea.
June 28 , August 2

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>

