

### Letter From the President

Summer Solstice is almost upon us and I hope everyone's summer is off to a great start. We recently had our first LBLD meeting. Woot!! In case you didn't know, this will be the 25th LBLD, the silver anniversary. So the theme will be Silver Spectacular. We celebrate 25 years of getting Laid Back! I will be creating the Facebook event soon, and I would love to have people post their favorite memories from LBLD's past. I may even read some of them on stage at the No-Talent Talent Show. Speaking of the Talent Show, we have some fun stuff that is still in the planning stages, so look for announcements to be coming out on both the Facebook and Gaea website event pages.

Since we are on the topic of LBLD, I want to remind everyone that we always need work exchange for our festivals. Earth Day and LBLD are not possible without the hard work of our volunteers. Seriously, there is no possible way to run either of these festivals without work exchange volunteers. If you went to Earth Day this year, you may have noticed that we raised the price slightly and we will be doing that with LBLD also. However, we will not be increasing the work exchange hours for either event now, or in the future. So work exchange is also a discounted price into the festival. We can work with anyone to find the committee that will be the best for you. If you are interested, feel free to contact us on our Facebook page or on our Contact Us page on our website.

I would like to finish up by introducing our newest board member who many of you may already know, Stephen Dillon! Stephen has been coming out to camp since 2004, when some friends brought him out to his first HPF. As I think all of our stories go with Gaea, it was love at first sight.

He has since become a Cabin Sponsor for N2 and his construction and general handyman skills have been a great asset to camp. Most recently, he has rebuilt the deck on N2. He also starting running the Weiner Hut at the pavilion during LBLD and Earth Day. So please give him a warm welcome and much love to Stephen in his new adventure as a valued member of the Earth Rising Board of Directors.

Erin Marshall



Stephen Dillon

### A Question From Us!

Tell us why you camp at Gaea.

Your answers will be shared in the next edition of Gaea's Own. Send your answers to gaeasownnewsletter@gmail.com with the name that you prefer to be published.

#### Inside this issue

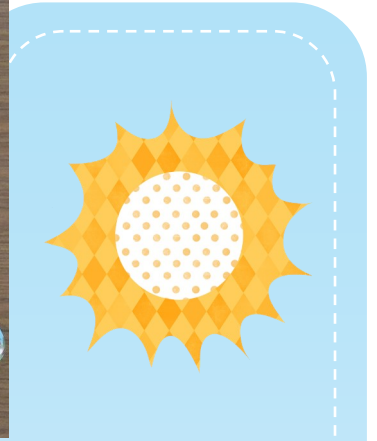
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*Earth Day Community Project*



## Art at Earth Day

What a great Art show and community art project. This was a great opportunity for artists to show their work to the community. To share our expressions and passions. We raised money for camp and had such a good time! Our community art project was such a success. You can see the painted rocks in front of the dining hall garden.

They are there for everyone to see and enjoy!

We are already planning and looking forward to next year!





## Call for Artists

This is an invitation to all the artists and writers in our Gaea community.

If you have an awesome photo, painting or drawing of camp, send it and maybe we can put it on the cover or in the Newsletter. Same for all the writers. If you have an article that you would like to contribute, a story, a memory or poem, we would love to include them.

We want to have an artist page in every news letter. If you are interested, send up to 5 of your pieces and a short statement and we will feature you!

Send your work to  
gaeasownnewsletter@gmail.com

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*"The outside is the only place we can truly be inside the world."*

— Daniel J. Rice

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## LAID BACK LABOR DAY - IT'S SOONER THAN YOU THINK

Of course, some of us would say its not soon enough!

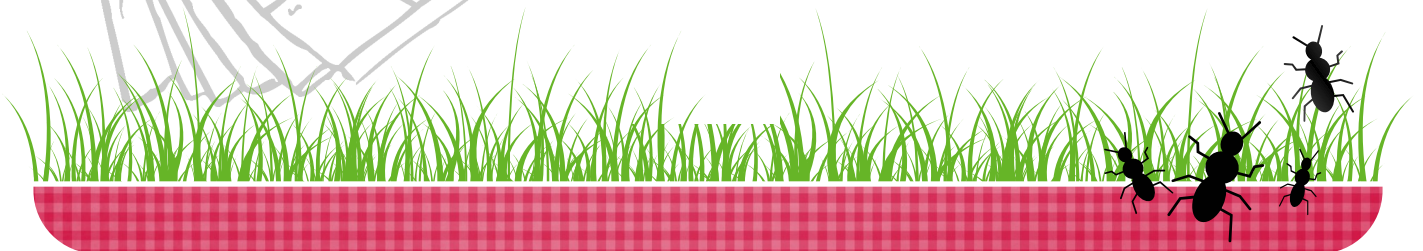
### SAVE THE DATE!

It's Laid Back's 25th anniversary and do we have some excitement planned for you! Celebrate getting laid back to 1992, our first Laid Back.

As always, pack in - pack out, cans are better than bottles (we do not have glass recycling,) park and walk, 18 and over - **ID IS REQUIRED!**

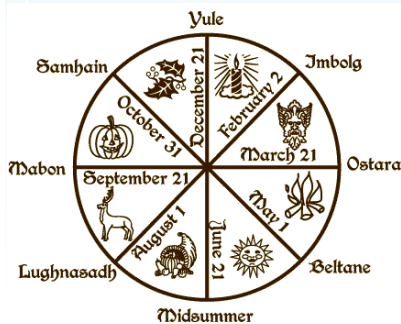


# Silver Jubilee!



## Our Rituals

Our rituals are open to the public and celebrate the pagan wheel of the year. Rituals at Gaea are opportunities 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.



## Gaea Family Reunion

July 1-2, 2017 at the Gaea Retreat Center

**True Community Dinner:** Bring a package of hot dogs or pre-made hamburgers and matching buns plus one side dish to share for Saturday night. Ice cream social to follow provided. Bring your favorite board game or yard game. Game set up around noon on Saturday the 1st.

Normal camp fees apply; be sure to call as soon as possible to reserve cabin space, if needed.

## Upcoming Rituals

**Midsummer Ritual**

June 24, 7pm-9pm

**Lammas Ritual**

July 29, 7pm-9pm

**Autumnal Equinox Ritual**

September 23, 7pm-9pm

**Rituals start at 7pm,  
and are followed by a  
potluck feast in the dining hall.**

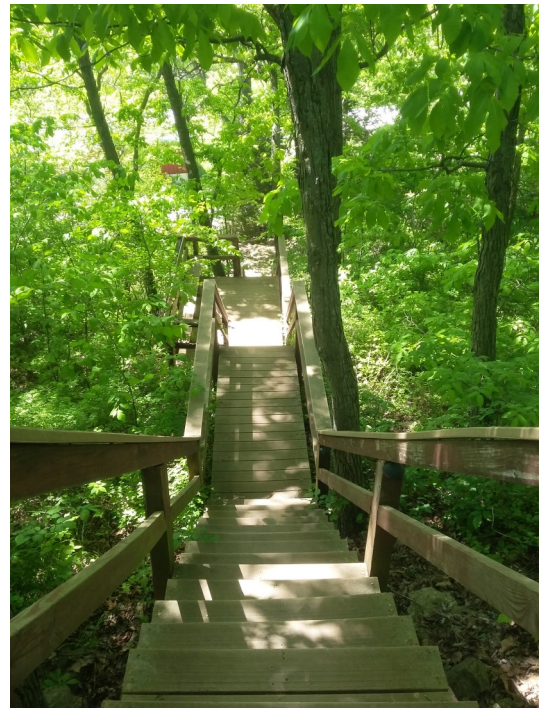


photo by: Sarah Wedel



## Attention Folks Attending LBLD

Attention, friends of Gaea who will be attending Laid Back Labor Day 2017!

We are looking for a person who is willing to eventually take over Traffic and Parking for Laid Back Labor Day and Earth Day events. These two events are staffed and run by Earth Rising, Inc. volunteers. Cat Andrews has been running these for a couple

years but is looking for a co-lead as we will be adding a shuttle van this year.

Contact her at [cat@gaearetreat.org](mailto:cat@gaearetreat.org) or go to the website and use the Contact Us function.

This is a great way to get involved and serve your community! Hope to hear from you soon.

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“the fire is the main comfort of the camp...” - Henry David Thoreau

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## Upcoming Events

June 12-18, MMNG - Gaea Retreat Center (entire camp)

June 29-July 2, CKC - Sunset Ridge and Pavilion

July 9, Board Meeting - 12-2pm, Main Hall

July 18-27, MWMF - Gaea Retreat Center (entire camp)

July 28-30, Heartland Naturist Festival - Sunset Ridge and Pavilion

August 6, Board Meeting - 12-2pm, Main Hall

August 18-20, Tribal Gathering - Sunset Ridge and Pavilion

September 1-4, Laid Back Labor Day - Gaea Retreat Center (entire camp)

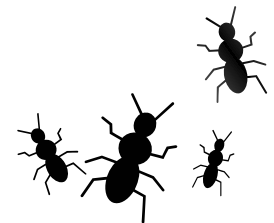
September 8-10, RSG - First Field

September 10, Board Meeting - Main Hall

September 14-17, GGG - Gaea Retreat Center (entire camp)

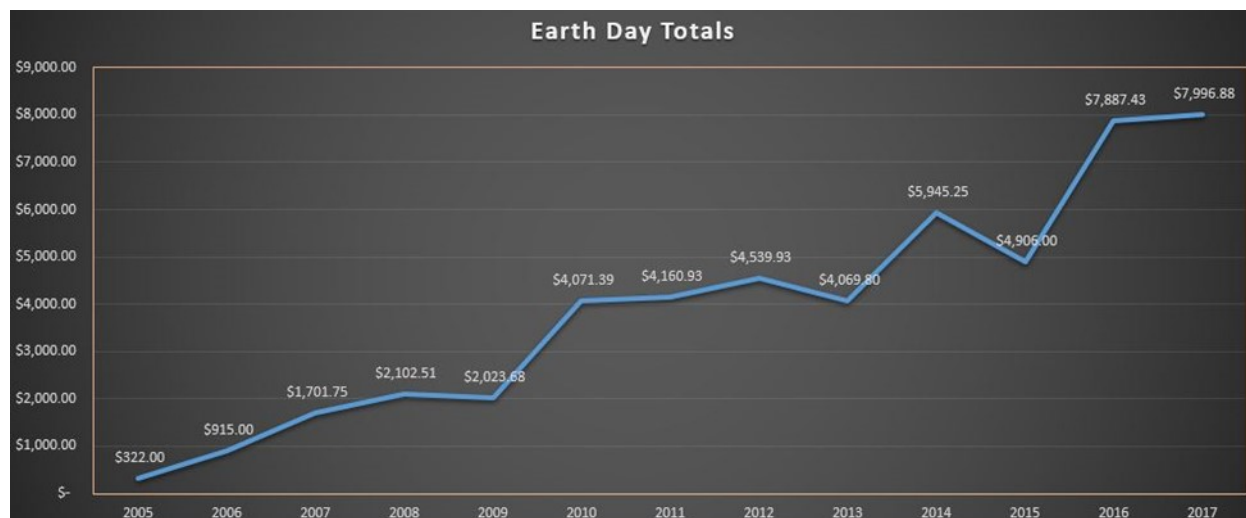
September 22-24, Heathen Intertribal Gathering - Sunset Ridge and Pavilion

October 1, Board Meeting - 12-2pm, Main Hall



## Treasurer's Report

Wait! Don't let the graph run you off! I promise no boring financial blah blah blah ahead. This is great stuff! We have another record-breaking event in the books! Earth Day this year was our best yet at \$7,997. Check out this year-to-year comparison!



It is great to see this family event grow so much. This year we had 45 kids, 18 teens and 316 adults attend. The rummage sale brought in \$414 and the art show over \$200. Thank you so much for your donations and beautiful art! We hope to continue to inspire many generations to come to protect our beautiful campground and our planet.

Financially, camp is under budget and on track for another great year. I am sure some of you have seen the new Scag mower that we purchased this spring. What a blessing that has been. For the remainder of the season, we will focus on putting your donations to work on various maintenance and infrastructure projects at camp.

Looking for other ways to give? Earth Rising is on Amazon Smile. <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/43-1589203>. Each time you shop, Amazon

will donate 0.5% to camp for your eligible purchases.

Now how easy is that? Save this link to your browser for quick access. They even have a handy little button you can install in Google Chrome, if that is your sort of thing. We have received over \$100 in donations this year so far from Amazon Smile :)

We are still working on several projects around camp. Perhaps you might consider picking up a Home Depot gift card for Gaea? Even with our careful budgeting and project management, we always need small supplies to supplement these jobs and random repairs around camp. If you would like to send a gift card to camp, please mail it directly to the caretakers at P.O. Box 696, Tonganoxie, KS 66086.

In her service,

JD Besares







## Park Your Car and Walk

Help Keep Gaea Beautiful

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? 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 Rules for Pets

All dogs must be on a leash, and under your control. This means the leash is in your hand.

Although you believe your animal will never harm someone, you cannot predict every situation.

You don't know how another animal, or another person, may react to your animal running up to them.

Dogs are NOT allowed in the Dining Hall or Bath House.

You must clean up after your dog when it makes messes (i.e. poop).

## Earth Rising, Inc. Intern Program

The Earth Rising, Inc. board has implemented 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.



## Keep Gaea Wild

Please do not feed any animals that you do not own. This refers to wild, stray and domestic animals. 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. Feeding strays also 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. 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.

Make sure that you are not leaving food out overnight that wild or domestic animals can get into. This will also save you from a mess the next day. We appreciate your cooperation and your help in keeping Gaea wild!

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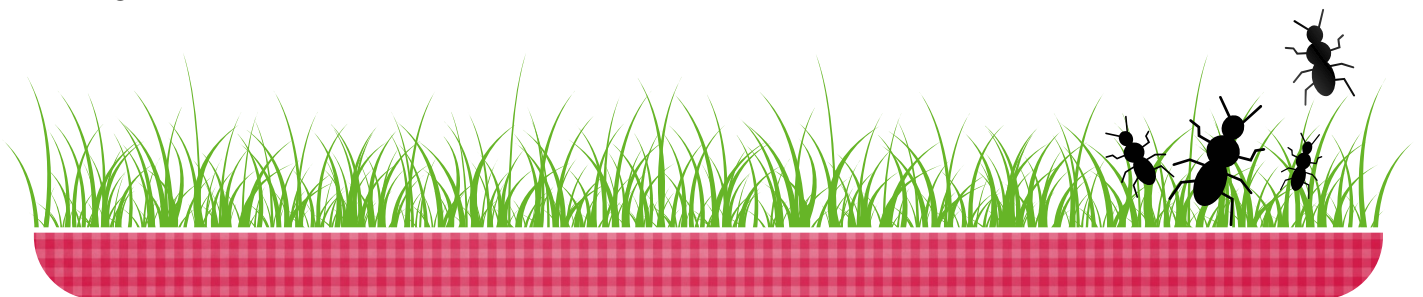
Work weekends are a good opportunity to give back to Gaea, and earn some Gaea Bucks too! Check our [facebook page](#) for more information on projects as it becomes available.

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Respect for the land is vital in the attempt to maintain "a natural setting". A great deal of thought has gone into the way that we treat the land. Rules like cleaning up campsites, not littering, walking as much as possible rather than driving all over camp, and parking only in designated areas may seem like an inconvenience at times. Nevertheless, these rules are in place to protect the land and keep it beautiful. Respect for the land is truly fundamental to preserving the beauty of this place.

Please read the Mission Statement, the Respect Agreement, and the Rules and Regulations of Camp Gaea before visiting. These are all available on the website at <http://gaearetreat.org/>. If there is a question as to the meaning of any part of these, please speak with the caretakers, or any member of the board of directors. They will be happy to help.

Any violation of the Respect Agreement should be immediately reported to a caretaker of Camp Gaea, or any member of the board of directors of Earth Rising Inc .



# A Note From Gaea Safety

Earth Rising Inc. (ERI) is the 501c3 non-profit organization that runs Gaea Retreat Center. We hold two annual festivals on the land., Earth Day and Laid Back Labor Day. These two events are organized and run by the Board of Directors of ERI, other events are organized by other groups and provide their own security and safety teams.

In the last few years, we have made several changes with the purpose of making us more effective at our job. That job is to help you.

Brightly colored shirts help us to be more visible. We WANT you to approach us when you need assistance. We are here to provide basic first aid, and to contact EMS if more care is needed. We are also here to help whenever people violate the rules or the respect agreement.

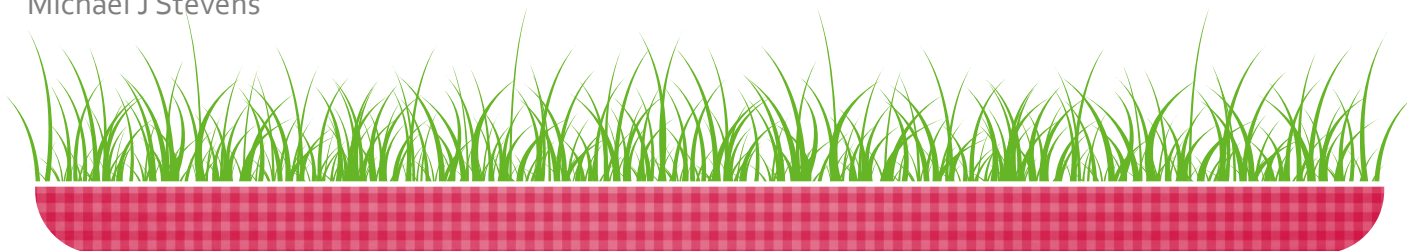
Each Safety shift is run by someone with emergency medical experience, security experience, or both. I renew my own certification for First Aid/CPR/ and AED with the American Red Cross every two years, and I encourage the rest of the team to do the same. We have added an AED (automated external defibrillator) to the safety equipment at Gaea. It can be accessed quickly if it is needed. Our crew is all volunteer, and we can always use more skilled people. If you have medical or security training, please consider doing a work exchange with our crew.

We have a dedicated Safety Tent now, at the top of the stairs. This was new for LBLD 2016. It is staffed continually throughout the festival. This is a meeting point for our volunteers, a place to provide first aid, and a well-lit place to find us anytime you need help. We distribute ice water and Gatorade from the Safety Tent as well. Remember to stay hydrated! At LBLD last year, we also set up a smaller Safety Tent at the beach. It has been difficult to provide assistance there in the past. We had two volunteers in place there throughout the festival. They were also asked to have a vehicle there in case someone needed immediate transport. We did not set this up for Earth Day 2017 due to chilly weather and a lack of beach activity, but we plan to staff the beach for LBLD.

A handbook has been created for our volunteers, first distributed at LBLD 2016. It is basic directions on what is expected of them as part of the Safety team, and information pertinent to doing the job.

Every year, every event, we are trying to improve the ability of our group to serve the community. The people who have come together to form the core of this group are deeply committed to keeping our events as safe as possible. Please do your part and ask for help when you need it. It all beings there. We are trying to be available and present as much as possible. When you need our help, please do not hesitate to ask! Whether it is a medical concern, or an issue involving the rules or respect agreement, we are here to help.

Michael J Stevens



## ***The Mission of Earth Rising Inc.***

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...

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

Earth Rising has partnered with Best Choice food brands to raise funds for camp. You give camp a Best Choice label and Best Choice buys it back from us for 3 cents. For every thousand we collect, camp raises \$30! Bring your labels to camp. instead of throwing those labels away. Recycle them for a good cause!



*For More Details:*

Our Website

<https://gaearetreat.org/>

Calendar

<http://gaearetreat.org/calendar>

Donations

<http://gaearetreat.org/donations>

Contact Us

<http://gaearetreat.org/contact>

***RESPECT YOURSELF***

***RESPECT OTHERS***

***RESPECT THE LAND***