

President's Letter

Erin Marshall

It is the time of year again where people are planning holiday parties, putting finishing touches on decorations, and frantically running around trying to get those last gifts for loved ones. Winter has barely started and, as of the writing of this, we haven't had a snowfall yet. Despite this, we are currently planning out our Earth Day celebration for this spring. We are really hoping to have a larger selection of classes, talks, demonstrations, etc, this year. Below you will find examples of some of what we have had on the schedule in past years.

Build your own Firestarter: making them out of materials you would usually throw away

<u>Pagan Chants</u>: teaching some of the older, more popular chants Solar Cooking: Bill Price has presented this for several years

Heartland Critters: Learning how to spot some of the critters you will encounter at camp

Beekeepers Beginner Workshop:

Fire Performers – Safety and the Environment:

<u>Scavenger Hunt</u>: designed to lead you around camp with questions centered on Earth Day themes

Yoga:

Plant Walk: learning about some of the flora around Gaea

Worm Farming: how to start your own worm farm

Backyard Chickens:

<u>Tree Hugging 101</u>: discussion on free energy and trees

If you have any ideas or want to give a presentation please email: president@campgaea.org











SAMHAIN HAYRIDE



3 FREE GAEA BUCKS
If you can guess how many
Bales of Hay.

All correct guesses will be put in Jar and the winning Entry pulled at Yule.

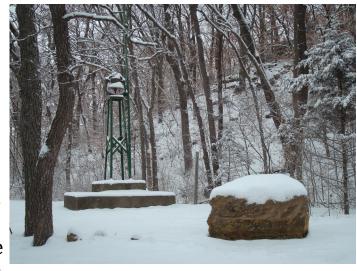
Send guesses to: gaeagame@campgaea.org

Caretakers' Corner

Clint and Rhi Koetting

Happy Winter!

It is a beautiful day at Gaea. The sun is shining and the sky is clear. The trees have lost their leaves and the land waits expectantly for its



first snow. The land is at rest and you can feel it. Still, She is up for company if you want to come out and enjoy Her. Please remember that the water has been shut off for the winter season, and the shower house and dining hall will re-open on April 1st. There are portable toilets available by Main Hall and close to N3. Potable water is available, just ask a caretaker and we will be happy to direct you to it.

We are already making plans for spring work projects. We are giving the kitchen a facelift and installing new stainless steel prep tables. Yes, the center island that has been there forever will be going away. It has held together for many years, but just won't make it another one. We will also be painting the dining hall interior. Last but not least, we will be painting cabins and the dining hall before the festival season starts. Keep an eye on our website and our Facebook page for details about work weekends. Remember, you can help Gaea and pay for your stay. You can earn Gaea Bucks and use them at the time, use them for Earth Day and Laid Back Labor Day, or give them to a friend. See a caretaker if you would like to participate.

That's the news from the caretakers' corner. We hope you have a blessed Yule and happy winter season. See you in Spring!

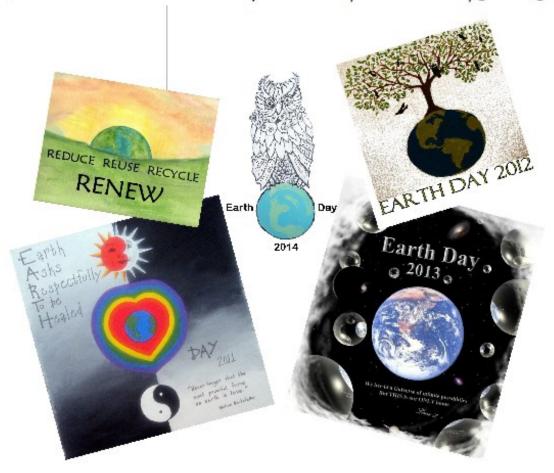
CALLFOR ARTISTS!!!

Earth Day 2015 planning is underway and we need art submissions for this years t-shirt design. Below are some of the designs from the past few years. The only theme is Earth Day, so let your imagination take over. We do ask that you try to stay with at most 5 colors.

Digital artwork is best, or a really good quality scan.

Deadline is January 31, 2015.

Please email all submissions or questions to: president@campgaea.org



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 then 6 months, or to have previously served on the Earth Rising, Inc. Board of Directors for a term not less then 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

Winter Greetings Campers!
Just about a month ago the board met to work on our
Winter Budget for camp. We are a blessed community! As many of you know, there are several projects that are



waiting in the wings for funding. We will go into the new camping season with funds to begin to work on some of those looming projects. The board will come together in January for our annual summit to hash out and prioritize those projects. Stay tuned for more updates on what's to come in 2015!

Every penny that you contribute either through donations or camping fees, goes directly back into camp in one form or another. Every roll of toilet paper, the envelopes you put your camp fees into, even the gravel you drive around camp are funded by donations and camp fees. Keeping that in mind, I encourage you this winter when you visit to contribute a little extra with your cabin fees if you are running a heater. Did you know, the heaters that we use in the cabins average about \$5 for a typical overnight cabin stay?

As we draw closer to the end of another year I would like to humbly ask each of you to consider Camp Gaea for your yearend donations. Donations to Earth Rising may be a tax deduction as we are an educational 501(c)(3) not for profit organization. Please see your tax professional for more information and save those receipts! If you would like to contribute via check or money order, please mail your donation to: P.O. Box 26788, Kansas City, MO 64196. You may contact us at donations@campgaea.org to obtain a receipt for mailed donations or include your email with the donation for a receipt.

"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 31st.

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."

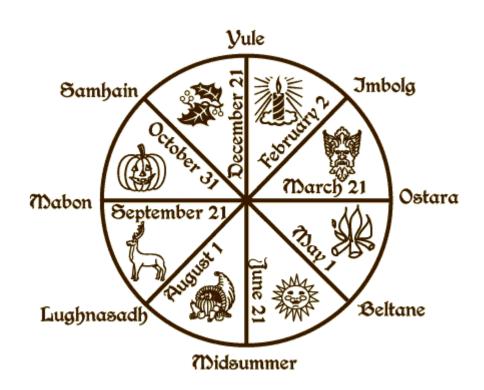
Excess driving also damages our roads. Every year, monies must be budgeted to care for the roads and repair damage that occurs throughout the season. The less we drive the less damage we cause. That leaves more money for other projects that we would all like to see accomplished.

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 Spring Ritual and Beltane.



Upcoming Rituals

Yule-December 20, 2014

Imbolc-January 31,2015



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 you 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.







Winter Events

Yule Ritual	December 20	Public Event
Cabin Sponsor Meeting	December 21	Public Event
ERI Board meeting	January 11	Public Event
Earth Day meeting	January 11	Public Event
Imbolc Ritual	January 31	Public Event
ERI Board meeting	February 1	public Event
Cabin Sponsor Meeting	February 1	Public Event
ERI Board meeting	March 1	Public Event
Spring Ritual	March 21	Public Event
Cabin sponsor meeting	March 22	Public event
Earth Day Celebration	March 17-19	Exclusive Event

Earth Rising Inc. Board Meetings begin at noon on the following dates: January 11, February 1, March 1

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 <u>Announcements forum</u> or our <u>facebook page</u> 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

