



Gathering News

Calendar of Events:

- **June 4, 2007**—Monday - Planning Meeting, 7pm
- **June 11, 2007**—Monday- Planning Meeting, 7pm
- **June 18, 2007** — Monday Planning Meeting, 7pm
- **June 21-24, 2007**—The Mother Earth Gathering
- **July 20-22, 2007**—Family and Friends Campout
- **September 20-23, 2007**—The Middle Earth Gathering
- **November 16, 2007**—Planning Events Potluck –7-10pm
- **December 14, 2007**—Holiday Party –7pm-1am

Planning Meetings and Holiday Party to be held at:

9598 SW Whitford Lane
Beaverton, OR 97008
Off of Scholl's Ferry across from McKay School, between Hall and Denny
Call (503) 502-1415 for additional directions

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Earth Gatherings

CREATING BALANCE BETWEEN CIVILIZATION AND WILDERNESS

Volume 1, Issue 2

A DIVISION OF DIVERSE GATHERINGS, INC.

Summer 2007

2007 Mother Earth Gathering- What Is It All About?

This is an eclectic spiritual community which means we pull the best from all spiritual paths and build bridges out of what others would think of as stumbling blocks! Receiving this newsletter is an indication that you are supposed receive this message at this time!

Diversity surrounds us throughout the natural world and Mother Nature shows us that diversity is essential for healthy growth. At the Mother Earth Gathering this principle is planted in love and it's fruit is harmony. Most participant notice immediately a sense of belonging and peace, "a feeling like

coming home". This is what our community is all about, and we'd like you to feel comfortable with your experience at the Mother Earth Gathering.

Additionally, We are working toward building our core group of "members" and buying private land on which to hold The Earth Gatherings. The direction of the organization is congruent with responsible Earth Stewardship, and we hope you will consider joining us to help plan, organize and grow this wonderful community so that we can have a positive influence on the world.



Silver Creek,
Silver Falls State Park

As you read this and attend The Earth Gatherings, I encourage you to be aware of the feelings and spirit of experience and consider becoming more involved in this eclectic community!

Blessings,
Bob La Du
Executive Director

Sacred Circle

"Summertime, time, time and the livin' is easy", I hear Janis belting out in that deep throated rasp that is Summer. The planting is done. The harvest is yet to be. Midsummer Solstice is the waiting. The hot, languid days of gestation, of being in the womb of the Mother. This is a time of Love, Nurturing, and Expectancy not only of ourselves and what we are becoming but also of our relationships with others and our Earth Mother.

Walking through the forests on an early summer evening I'm caught off guard by the sudden exotic, intoxicating fragrance of honeysuckle and wild rose. The fragrant combination holds memories deep in my being of

my time as a young girl left free to roam the forests of my childhood. The long summer days under the trees, laying down in the warm earth for an afternoon nap, full of dreams of fairies and other woodland nymphs. Those same dreams sustain my adulthood. They are what connect me to this wonderful Mother Earth we share. They are what keeps me asking: "What can I do to protect this Sacred Earth Mother of ours?"

There are many spiritual paths to choose from. I have chosen to walk my path because of the direct call it has for me to honor all Life. At the Earth Gatherings all spiritual walks are honored. The Rituals that I lead come from a Celtic background

with a mixture of many Earth-based practices. What first attracted me to The Earth Gatherings however, was the beautiful blend of spiritual practices from Wiccan to Christian and watching how Gathering goes stepped into a place of "All is Good". At each Gathering our alter becomes more and more eclectic, with the Pentagram hanging above, to a Christian cross placed next to a statue of Tara. I have a dear friend Jayna, who walks what she calls The Braided Way. This is what I see growing deeper and richer at each of the Earth Gatherings.

The Mother Earth Gathering is about this wonderful, rich, gestation period and the Middle

Sacred Circle (cont'd)



Honeysuckle



Wild Rose

Earth Gathering is in remembering our harvest and giving thanks for our abundance.

What is growing in you? What are you nurturing during these long languid days of Summer? Are you taking the time to notice what our Mother Earth has placed before you? Fire! Bright, brilliant, HOT, erotic. Fire! What are you on Fire with? Dream. Long summer days are for Dreaming. What is your Dream? Will Puck come to you this Midsummer? What Magick will he bring? I hope this thought leaves you grinning

from ear to ear with possibilities.

Bright Blessings,
Rev. Mary Moore
celtwomyn50@yahoo.com

“Maeve In Summer”
by Patricia Monaghan
Look at me:
white mountains
veined with gold

Listen to me:
wind on the sea
wind over grass
Wander in me:
bright meadows
in dark forests
Breathe me:
sweet herbs underfoot
and roses, roses
Taste me:
honey, salt, blood
salt, blood, honey
Touch me:
hold the world

“This
is our biggest
event of the
year, so bring
your family and
friends for a
great time!”



Partnership Pole
Middle Earth Gathering

Gathering Update

The Mother Earth Gathering is almost here. We are excited! June 21 – 24, 2007 is just around the corner. We have an exciting line-up of activities, workshops, and entertainment.

Live music / performances will include **Mars Retrieval Unit** with Chelsea Luker and Rob Sipsky, **Acoustic Minds** with Jenni and Amanda Price, **Sound Healing** with Tom Lange, and **Celtic Dancers**.

Workshops will include Drumming with **Peter Larkin**, Earth Gatherings 101, and Belly Dancing with **Angel B**.

Other Great Activities will include hiking, craft tables, Celtic ritual and Solstice celebrations, Traditional Lakota Sweat Lodge, local artisans, drum circles, and bardic circles.

Join the Fun, Relax, and Make New Friends!

We cant wait to see you!!

Next in line for our fantastic events this year is **The Middle Earth Gathering!** September 20 — 23, 2007 will be our celebration of the Autumnal Equinox, also held at beautiful Silver Falls State Park. We have reserved the Old and New Ranch so there's plenty of space. This is our biggest event of the year, so bring your family and friends for a great time!

Like the Mother Earth Gathering, the Middle Earth Gathering is a three day Earth Awareness Festival with live music and performances, workshops, and activities for the whole family. — All this plus lodging, park fees, and food included for only \$100 per person (children under 16 are free with accompanying adult). Remember, registrations are non-refundable, and there is a 50% discount for Mem-

bers of The Earth Gatherings.

We're excited to announce that so far we have scheduled workshops to include Balanced Living with Organic Lifestyles by Sandi Smith and Permaculture by Heather Coburn-Flores, author of Food Not Lawns. For live music we have scheduled Reggae/Jazz/Funk band **Sauce Policy**, Folk/Jazz group **Sea and Sky**, Acoustic guitarist **Chris Baron**, Psychedelic band **Aristeia**, and **Sacred Sound** with Tom Lange, Kristin Bowen, and Ryan Powell.

We'll have Belly Dancers, Drum Circles, Bardic Circles, Traditional Equinox Ritual, Crafts, Hiking, Local Artisans, and more.

Register now for this exciting event!!!

The Earth Gatherings
Creating Balance Between Civilization and Nature
PRESENTS

The
MIDDLE EARTH GATHERING

September 20-23, 2007



An Earth Awareness Festival
celebrating the Autumnal Equinox

at

Silver Falls State Park
(the Ranch Area)

A Magickal three day camp-out!

An Earth-friendly event honoring diversity and promoting Earth Harmony worldwide!

Live music with Reggae/Jazz Funk "Sauce Policy", Folk/Jazz "Sea and Sky", and Eugene's Chris Baron on Acoustic Guitar, plus Belly Dancers, Drum Circles, Tibetan Singing Bowls, Didjerido's, Bardic Circles, Workshops, Traditional Equinox Ritual, and more.

(No individual camp fires allowed!)

All Park and event fees covered with paid registration!

Space is limited so register Early! Approved artisans welcome!

NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION.

INFORMATION/REGISTRATION: Call Bob LaDu, 503-502-1415

(email) bladu@earthgatherings.org • (info) www.earthgatherings.org

Register for: **THE MIDDLE EARTH GATHERING, Autumnal Equinox Celebration**
\$100.00 per person/artisan (Children 16 and under free, with accompanying adult).

Discount for *The Earth Gatherings* members. **No Refunds**

NAME _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Additional Names of those in Party _____

Paid registration includes food,
educational and family activities,
park fees and concerts!

The Earth Gatherings
Creating Balance Between Civilization and Nature
PRESENTS

The
MIDDLE EARTH GATHERING

**“Venus,
Aphrodite, and
all the
goddesses of
beauty and
femininity
blessed me with
this gift and now
I go forth to
share it with my
sisters in spirit.”**



**Hiking Silver Falls
Mother Earth Gather-
ing, June 2006**

The Spirit Of The Dance

Twelve years ago when I began belly dancing I had only a small inkling of how powerful my transformation would be when I finally connected to the spirit of the dance.

It was never my intention to share this in a public venue....never would I let someone see my belly in a costume or performance...this was a gift I had given to myself and myself only. My entire concept of myself as a woman who was exactly as she should be was very different then. I had only recently come out of the broom closet, so to speak and began connecting with

sacred feminine energies in the last two years or so.

Then the magic happened. My small circle of women insisted I dance for a special anniversary for one of our dear sisters. Standing behind the small screen in that little room as the music started was by far one of the most anxiety ridden moments of my life and one of the first times that I truly connected to the divine feminine....blessed Goddess let me honor your beauty and spirit with grace and dignity.....and thru the door I danced.

My heart and body filled with a

sensuality and creativity that I hadn't known before. My lady allowed me a glimpse into the world of a woman that I could aspire to be. The spell was cast as I shimmied into the room and the entire performance was ritual. Energy built to the final chords of the music as I became her and she became me. Venus, Aphrodite, and all the goddesses of beauty and femininity blessed me with this gift and now I go forth to share it with my sisters in spirit.

Much Love.. .Many Blessings

Angel B.

Limited Time Offer

Each individual who is personally responsible for recruiting **7 adult** registrations, paid in full for the June 2007 Mother Earth Gathering or September 2007 Middle Earth Gather-

ing will receive their own individual adult registration free, in addition to an individual four-year membership in the Earth Gatherings organization. Please have each person recruited print your

name on their registration form.

Contact:
Bob La Du, Jr.
(503) 502-1415
P.O. Box 19655
Portland, OR 97280
bladu@earthgatherings.org

Miscellaneous Information

SUBMIT ARTICLES

We welcome the submitting of articles for upcoming quarterly newsletters. Subject matters include (but are not limited to): seasonal holidays, culture / traditions, environmentally friendly lifestyles, healthy living, and the like. E-mail ideas and/or submissions for consideration to Kathy Licitra at kathy@earthgatherings.org or Bob LaDu, Jr. at bladu@earthgatherings.org

COME HELP US PLAN FUTURE GATHERINGS

**Share your talents, skills, time, and ideas for creating wonderful memories and community spirit for all to

enjoy. **We are looking for individuals interested in volunteering as committee heads and as committee members.

**Committee areas include: Meal Planning/Kitchen Operation, Entertainment & Vendors, Workshops, Crafts & Activities, Newsletters, Photos & Memory Book.

**Contact Bob LaDu, Jr. at (503) 502-1415 or email at bladu@earthgatherings.org

WRITE LETTERS

As part of community service, The Earth Gatherings organization periodically receives requests for correspondence from individuals at the state correctional facilities. Most of these requests are from per-

sons looking for contact with the outside world. If you are interested in writing letters in response to these requests, contact Bob LaDu

SUBMIT DESIGN FOR GATHERING BUTTON

We're looking for designs for the September 2007 Middle Earth Gathering button. Submit your design in circle form on an 8 1/2 x 11 inch sheet of paper with your name and contact information to:

The Earth Gatherings
P.O.Box 19655
Portland, OR 97280

If your design is chosen you will receive 30% off your next Gathering registration!

Easy Eco Ideas

(from "Easy Ways to Go Green" by Leslie Billera)

Save money in the bathroom

Buy water-efficient showerheads. With low-flow models, a family of four can cut water usage by as much as 280 gallons a month-and yet not feel much difference in water pressure. Two we like: Kohler's Master Shower Eco (kohler.com) and Niagara Conservation's Earth Massage (niagaraconservation.com).

Bring home superhero plants

Certain greens can help remove indoor air pollutants like formaldehyde and benzene. Don't have the gardening gene? Golden pothos, English ivy, and

peace lilies are all easy-to-grow toxin fighters.

Recycle rechargeables

Cell phones, digital cameras, and camcorders have made these batteries more popular than ever, but in certain states-Florida, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Vermont-it's illegal to throw them away. Wherever you live, you can find a nearby store that will recycle them for you; just go to rbc.org and type in your zip code.

Adjust fridge and freezer temps

Refrigerators eat up the most

electricity in the household. Maximize efficiency by keeping the fridge at 37°F. and the freezer at 0°F.

Protect the earth while you picnic

At your next outdoor party, ask people to write their names on disposable cups so they'll use only one (to make it easy, put out markers). If you use disposable dinnerware, buy the kind that won't clog landfills or kill trees. To try: EarthShell plates and bowls (www.earthshell.com). They're made from corn, potatoes, and limestone-and cost less than 6 cents per plate.



It's up to us.

To Your Health

(excerpts from The Naturally Clean Home by Karyn Siegel-Maier, Storey Publishing)

Household Hazards

You're probably not very comfortable with thinking of your home as akin to a toxic dump site. But if you consider how hazardous wastes are defined, you'll get a different picture of the nature of the "ordinary" substances used every day in your home.

Basically, any substance that is poisonous, carcinogenic, corrosive, reactive, flammable, or in some other way injurious to animals or humans is considered hazardous. Just like industrial hazardous materials, household chemicals possess one or more of these charac-

teristics and require special handling. The difference is that too often the health risks of common household products are inadequately communicated or expressed in vague terms.

Would you believe that the bottle of dishwashing soap you probably keep on the corner of your sink contains harmful chemicals such as naphtha, phosphates, sodium nitrates, petroleum-based surfactants, diethanolamine, and chloro-ortho-phenylphenol? Naphtha is a neurotoxin and chloro-ortho-phenylphenol is highly toxic. Both are classified as hazardous wastes. In the environment, chloro-ortho-phenylphenol can form other compounds that are absorbed

and retained in the fatty tissue of living organisms, a process known as bioconcentration. Diethanolamine is a caustic substance suspected of being a liver poison. Petroleum products are nonrenewable resources that break down slowly in the environment and remain long-term pollutants, and phosphates promote the over growth of algae. Dishwashing liquid is a leading cause of accidental poisonings in small children.

***To learn more information on deciphering labels, step-by-step switching to buying or preparing nontoxic formulas of cleaners, check out this great book that includes over 100 safe and easy herbal formulas.

"Basically, any substance that is poisonous, carcinogenic, corrosive, reactive, flammable, or in some other way injurious to animals or humans is considered hazardous."

In the Garden Patch

(excerpts from "Maintain a Weedless Organic Garden" by Lee Reich, Mother Earth News June/July 2007)

A Safe, Natural Herbicide

For larger areas, such as my brick terrace and beneath fruit trees, I resort to herbicide—not the toxic stuff...but household strength (5 percent to 6 percent) vinegar. For maxi-

mum effectiveness, I spray vinegar on small plants because they have weaker root systems and fewer leaves to be "shaded" from the spray. Established weeds will re-sprout new leaves following a vinegar spray, but if you kill back the leaves several times, eventually the plant will starve to death.

The vinegar is most effective at temperatures above 70 degrees, and while it will burn just about any greenery, it's most effective against grasses. Early in the season, once the weather warms, spray weekly, then progress to a biweekly or monthly schedule, depending on the weather and weed growth.

THE EARTH GATHERINGS

A DIVISION OF DIVERSE
GATHERINGS, INC.

P.O. Box 19655
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Phone:
503-502-1415

E-mail:
info@earthgatherings.org

We're on the Web!
www.earthgatherings.org



Earth Gatherings

CREATING BALANCE BETWEEN CIVILIZATION
AND WILDERNESS

The Earth Gatherings Mission Statement

The Earth Gatherings is an eclectic spiritual community dedicated to creating a natural way of living in harmony with our environment, by learning, teaching, and preserving effective methods and techniques, both ancient and modern, to create balance within

our community and enhance our ability to live sustainably in harmony with Nature and each other.



The Earth Gatherings seeks to enrich our personal culture through exploring, learning, and honoring the diversity in all cultures while seeking, acknowledging, and celebrating the similarities we all share as human beings.