

# FEATHER RIVER GROVE, ADF

Volume 1, Issue 1

April 2010

## Upcoming Events

### Annual FRG Beltaine Retreat

*Mystic Valley Retreat Center in Pulga, CA*

Our Annual Grove Beltaine Retreat is coming up the last weekend of this month. During this time we will do some team building, have a few informal workshops, go on hikes, collective native plant foods, hold a Beltaine Ritual with a May Pole dance and possibly do a little strategic planning. A field trip to Table Mountain or Woody's Hot Spring is possible on Sunday.

All meals are potluck. Make sure to bring your camping gear, layered clothes, insect spray, sunscreen, a hat, and a warm jacket. A swim suit and towel are also recommended. Sturdy hiking boots or shoes for hiking are also a good idea. Camping gear may be available with an RSVP. Please let us know in advance if you need anything.

### Beltaine Ritual in Bidwell Park

*Council Fire Ring, Bidwell Park*

Our Beltaine ritual in Bidwell Park will take place on May 1st at 3pm. We will meet at the Council Fire Ring (behind Caper Acres) at 2:30pm for pre-ritual briefing and begin promptly at 3pm. Grove decorating committee members (and other interested volunteers) should plan to be at the park by 1:30pm to help set up the rite.

We will have a May Pole dance during the rite and a potluck meal will follow the ritual. Please bring a potluck item to share and offerings to give the Kindred during the Praise offerings.

## Previous Events

### Field Trips

*Table Mountain in Oroville, CA*

In March we went on a field trip to Table Mountain, one of the most picturesque places for viewing wild flowers in the area. We hiked out across the mountain and watched lots of families enjoying the warm sun and beautiful flowers. We discovered California Buckeye, needles, shelf mushrooms, red lichen, miner's lettuce, and California poppies. We even found a couple of beautiful seasonal waterfalls and even caught a few pictures of the elusive California Salamander. We had a great picnic at the base of one of the waterfalls and brought back lots of pictures to share with the Grove.

### Bay Area Mini-Retreat

*San Jose, CA*

Craig, Jessie and Bonnie Cyr, from Sierra Madrone Grove, attended the Bay Area Mini-Retreat early this month. On Friday they spent a day of cold, wet, rainy fun in the Castro district and Golden Gate Park in San Fran.

Michael Walker, a Druid from Berkeley, joined them at Golden Gate Park and they all headed over to Caitlin's place for a potluck dinner. There they met Caitlin's family and Lauren, an ADF-curious local from San Jose. They all enjoyed an evening of informal chat and getting to know one another.

The next day was spent learning about ADF liturgy and small group dynamics. They talked about all manner of ADF topics and learned a great deal from one another. Then a yummy pork roast with potatoes was enjoyed while they continued chatting late into the evening.

On Sunday morning everyone met up at Caitlin's house to go on a hike in the Redwoods in Muir Woods State Park. They took several pictures and got rained on a lot, then went to Stinson beach and Muir beach, finally ending the outing with fish and chips in Sausalito.

A great time was had by all and Lauren joined ADF! Future Bay Area mini-retreats are in the works; stay tuned

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## Kid's Korner

The ADF Druid Scouts program is rolling along. We have now secured the material for the Druid Scouts' sash. We are also reviewing our sample Druid Scouts Handbook for editing errors (it should be available to purchase soon). We have also designed several patches and are nearly done with the Troop Chief Handbook.

At our Beltaine Retreat this year the kids will have an opportunity to earn their gemology and mineralogy badge by learning about Pulga jade and California gold. Gold pans will be available for those who are interested and we will take a hike up to the Pulga jade tailings so we can all take a piece home with us. Make sure to bring something sturdy to carry all those heavy rocks home in.

### Grove Financial Report

Balance Forward	\$108.36
Donations	\$21.00
Dues Collected	\$46.08
ADF Dues Paid	-\$25.00
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>\$150.44</b>

## Priest's Praterings

The other day we were all discussing our vision for this Grove and I thought I might share mine with you. One day I can see our Grove having its own property, one with easy access to public transportation, plenty of parking, a well-tended outdoor ritual space and a nice indoor sanctuary. I'd like to see our Grove's children have a place to learn about the virtues of ADF and various Indo-European myths. I'd like to see our members have a safe haven where they can come to worship with other like-minded folks.

I can see this being a place not just for the Druids of our area but for all Neopagans and New Age spiritualists to use. We could rent this space out to other fellowships, Covens, Circles, and groups in the area. We could even use the space for weddings, memorial services, meditation classes, drum circles, spiritual retreat, and so much more.

Now this really isn't beyond the realm of possibility. Other Groves in ADF have managed to purchase their own property in the past and a few still have sanctuaries of their own. What it does take is dedication and money.

That means fundraising. Most UU churches with less than 100 members bring in between \$2000 and \$8000 a month from their congregations. The size of our Grove is 1/10 that right now but I bet we could manage to raise more

funds than we currently do.

In fact, I'm willing to put my own money where my mouth is. I've been donating \$20 a month to our Grove since its inception but, if our members donate \$50 this month I will match that. In fact, for every month this year that you all donate \$50 (that's all of you combined), I will match it.

Not only that, but if the Grove donations between now and December 31<sup>st</sup> of this year total at least \$1000, I'll donate another \$1000 of my own funds.

Now donating money is not the only way you can help the Grove financially. You can pay dues to the Grove to become a full voting member, purchase something from Café Press, donate goods for our yard sale, purchase items at the Grove yard sale or donate materials and equipment for rituals. You could also pre-purchase photocopies for our Grove printing account (ask Stella for details) or participate in fundraising committee meetings to offer suggestions or ideas.

There are lots of expenses associated with running a Grove. We have to pay fees to use the park, we have to purchase equipment and materials for High Days, we need to print fliers to advertise our events, and there are costs associated with maintaining the website. We'd also like to open a bank account and get another post office. All these have to be paid before we can set aside money for our future property.

### Birthdays, Anniversaries and Announcements

April 28<sup>th</sup>      Craig's Birthday  
May 22<sup>nd</sup>      Fawn's Birthday

### Grove Schedule

Tuesdays	Weekly	Online Study Group
		Beltaine Retreat for FRG
Saturday	April 24-25	members and friends
Saturday	May 1	Beltaine at Bidwell Park
Friday	May 7	NASH (New Age Social Hour)
Friday	May 7	FRG Fun Night
Friday	May 14	Study Group at Cozy Diner
		Work Party at Mystic Valley
Saturday	May 15	Retreat Center
Sunday	May 16	Blessing Rite
Sunday	May 16	Pagans in the Park
Sunday	May 16	Business Meeting