

FIREFLY GATHERING

SKILLS FOR LIVING WITH THE EARTH



JUNE 7-12, 2022

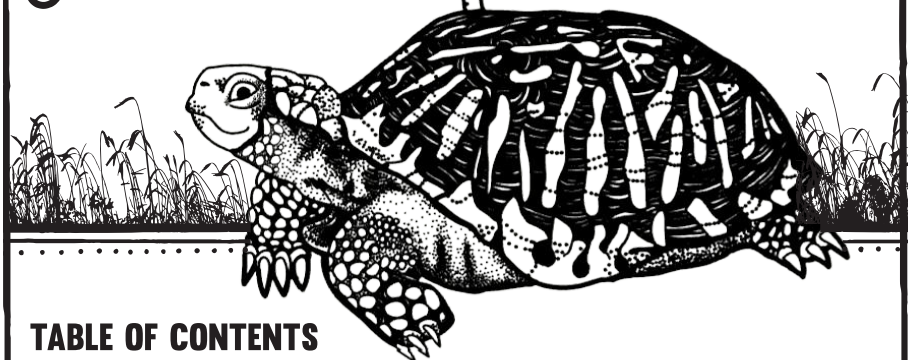


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WELCOME TO THE 2022 FIREFLY GATHERING!

Welcome, Fireflies!

We are so excited that you're here! We are so excited to be here! Firefly has grown so much since the last year we gathered in 2019 and we're excited to bask in the full glow of our community again!

Archeologists find that large gatherings are something we have been doing since prehistory. They are a time to engage and create, to inspire and connect. To learn and share skills and tools for life here with Earth. To embrace old friends and make new community. At The Firefly Gathering we work and play together to cultivate a peaceful, equitable, life-affirming, cooperative and resilient human culture. We gather to bring vision and balance to our relationship with Life, Earth and each other. What a blessing!

The amazing experiences we have here are made possible thanks to so many people:

Thanks to the amazing local and regional community of earth skills practitioners; all the people who live and keep these practices, who teach, share and show up for them. This includes teachers, all the folks working the gathering, work-traders, and even you, the attendees! Without all of us this gathering wouldn't be what it is.

None of this would be possible without all of the year-around work from Firefly's incredibly driven and dedicated staff who steward, envision and co-create not just this annual event but now Firefly's new perennial workshops and offerings. Thank you! We ask and invite you to please share your gratitude with Firefly's amazing year round staff for their truly incredible dedication and hard work.

And thank you to the volunteers who support Firefly, particularly past members of Firefly's Board of Directors who worked behind the scenes to support Firefly's staff in the transition to 501c3 nonprofit status (which was obtained in 2019).

Whether you've been to Firefly since its humble inception, gathering around a fire in these Appalachian hollers looking for a better way to live with Earth, or whether this is your first earthskills gathering and you're excited (or perhaps unsure) about what you'll learn and experience at this huge gathering out here in the woods:

Thank you for coming, participating and bringing your own light. Together, we pulse in harmony like fireflies in the night. With deepest gratitude, we're glad you came to share your own glow.

Sincerely,

The Firefly Board of Directors



REQUESTS FROM THE ORGANIZERS

In order to help make Firefly a place where everyone feels comfortable learning, growing and connecting, please consider how your actions may affect others.

PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE OF:

- **The Land:** We are gathering on the ancestral lands of the Aniyvwiya or An-igiduwagi (Cherokee) people. We acknowledge that these people were violently removed from their land against their will; that countless treaties were broken and that we gather on stolen land. We offer our condolences for the suffering that has been endured by both the original people and the land itself, in being separated from its beloved human tenders. These truths compel us to make relations with the Indigenous peoples who have persisted through colonisation and who are still with us today, including the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and the Catawba Nation, and to invite them into this gathering as our honored guests. We commit to working together to find the path of healing for all beings. We invite you to do so also; and to ask permission of the land to be here, and offer gratitude for the grace provided. Always leave everywhere more beautiful than it was when you arrived. Connect, listen and consider your impact.
- **Diversity:** Firefly Gathering participants come from a variety of backgrounds, perspectives, cultures, belief systems, etc; this is part of what makes our event so unique and impactful. We must all therefore practice tolerance of other people's opinions and points of view, *especially when they differ from our own*. Remember, there is strength in diversity.
- **Personal boundaries:** Violence or harassment of any sort will not be tolerated. Always ask for consent, and respect any and all expressions of boundaries.
- **Non-smokers, especially children:** If you smoke, please do so only at the designated smoking areas indicated on the map.
- **Pack it in, pack it out:** Everything you brought, even as it's transformed into recycling, compost or garbage, must leave with you. This is an opportunity to expand your awareness of what and how we consume Earth's gifts.
- **No-Dog Policy:** Service animals with service tags have a legal right to be here. They must be on leash at all times, and their humans must pick up after them. Failure to do so will result in us requiring that the dog be removed from the event.
- **Fire Policy:** Fires are allowed only in fire locations marked on the map or in well-established fire rings. All burning fires must be attended at all times and must have a fire extinguisher and/or bucket of water on hand at all times.

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REQUESTS FROM THE ORGANIZERS CONTINUED

- **Camping locations:** There is abundant space in the three camping fields and the woods. Please do not set up camp around the lakes, in class fields, or on ferns.
- **Families:** Show each child kindness, and model good behavior. Be discreet with language and smoking. Other than family or guardians, *no adult should be alone with any child, unless the child is clearly lost or hurt and in need of assistance.*
- **Alcohol:** We ask that alcohol consumption be at your own camp or discreet in common areas. We ask that consumption be maintained at levels that do not inhibit responsible decision making in a community setting. Disorderly conduct will not be tolerated.

CAMPER INFO

MORNING CIRCLE - 9:30 AM EACH MORNING!

We will set our intentions and partake in a bit of ceremony together each day at morning circle. The ritual of coming together, sharing songs and stories and moments of connection are an integral part to being in community. Morning circle sets the tone of the day. It's here that we also announce class changes and other relevant information. Please come and stand shoulder to shoulder with us!

SIGNING UP FOR CLASSES

You can find your class on the kiosk boards at **Firefly Central**. There are 2 class sessions each day (except Sunday, which is morning only).

- If there is a blank line with a number next to it for the class you want to take, add your name to attend the class.
- If there are no spaces left, the class is full.
- Please cross your name off the list if you decide to take a different class so someone else can enjoy your place.
- Some classes are multi-session and some even multi-day, and some have material fees. Read class descriptions carefully for details.
- Please be considerate by not signing up for multiple classes during the same session.

Class schedules for the following day will be posted by 7pm at Firefly Central. You can get an idea of what classes are being offered by looking at the printout, but please note that classes are subject to change. Check the **Changes & Cancellations** board at Firefly Central for the most up-to-date class offerings. Be sure to attend **Morning Circle**, where any last-minute changes will be announced for each day's schedule.

CAMPER INFO CONTINUED

SWIMMING

Swimming is **AT YOUR OWN RISK**. There are no lifeguards on duty. Parents and guardians are charged with the safety of your youth. A bathing suit or other clothing is required for the upper pond but optional for the lower pond.

RIDE-SHARE

There is a **Ride-Share Board** at Firefly Central for you to get home in style! Please consider reducing fossil-fuel use and pooling resources by posting your availability if you have space in your vehicle.

FIRST AID

The First Aid Tent is located below the pavilion, next to the lower pond. There are trained first-aid staff, available including herbalists, nurses and EMTs. They are available and glad to help with preventative maintenance and care, small accidents and emergencies. They will be staffing the tent during daylight hours and until around 11pm at night. For after-hour emergencies, look for the “after-hours” walkie-talkie with instructions at the First Aid Tent.

SPECIAL SCHEDULES

REGISTRATION TENT HOURS

TUESDAY

General Registration Opens

1:00 pm to 8pm

WEDNESDAY – FRIDAY

8:30 am to 8 pm

SATURDAY

8:30 am to 4 pm

SHUTTLE SCHEDULE

Shuttles will run in a loop regularly during the following times:

TUESDAY

10:30 am to 8:30 pm

WED – SAT

9 am to 8:30 pm

SUNDAY

9 am to 5 pm

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GENERAL SCHEDULE

	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
8:30AM				BREAKFAST TIME REGISTRATION OPENS		
9:30AM				MORNING CIRCLE		
10:30AM- 1PM				10:15 PARENT ORIENTATION		
				MORNING CLASSES KIDS PROGRAM CHILD CARE		
1-2PM	REGISTRATION OPENS FOR EARLY ARRIVAL		LUNCH BREAK			1 PM CLOSING CIRCLE
2:30- 5:30PM			AFTERNOON CLASSES KIDS PROGRAM CHILD CARE * SATURDAY AFTERNOON BIZARRE BAZAAR BEGINS AT 5 (SOME CLASSES WILL LET OUT EARLY)			2-5 PM DEPARTURE: WE ASK PARTICI- PANTS TO HEAD OUT BY 5PM TO ALLOW FOR CLEAN-UP. ANYONE WHO WANTS TO STAY AND HELP WITH BREAKDOWN FOR A FEW HOURS ON MONDAY IS WELCOME TO STAY OVERNIGHT SUNDAY.
6-7PM	7PM CLASS SIGN- UPS BEGIN 8 PM SOCIAL MIXER @ THE SUN FIRE		6 PM DINNER BREAK 7PM CLASS SIGN-UPS BEGIN, CONTINUE IN AM EVENING ACTIVITIES BEGIN			

EVENING ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE 2022

	SUN FIRE	PAVILLION	MOON FIRE
WEDNESDAY	Danu & Chelsea (7-8)		
		Acoustic folk set with Leah Song (830 on)	
			DIY Entertainment (9 on)
THURSDAY			Trade Blanket (5:30 - 8)
		Community Variety Show (8-10)	Bouzouki Brothers Traditional Irish Tunes (8 -10)
	DIY Entertainment (9 on)		
FRIDAY	Interactive Music & Puppet Show for Kids of all Ages! (5:30-7)	Rob Greenfield, Keynote speaker (7-8)	
		Doug Elliott Woodslore and Wildwoods Wisdom (8-9)	Harmony Singing Workshop with Yuri Woodstock (7-8:30)
		Old Time Square Dance with Michael Ismerio & Friends (9-10:30)	
	DIY Entertainment (10:30 on)		Drum Circle with Steven Townsend (10:30 on)
SATURDAY			Dress-Up Time & Parade from Youth Village! (4-5:30)
	Interactive Music & Puppet Show for Kids of all Ages! (5:30-7)		Bizarre Bazaar Barter Fair – Instructor Lane & Beyond (5:30-7:30)
			Hearth Songs with Charity Cimarron Original tunes and group songs (7-8)
		Raffle Drawing for Equity Fund (7:30-8)	
		Holy River Earth Folk Drone Pop (8-9)	Sound Medicine with Spencer Two Dogs (8-9)
		Ecstatic Dance with NataDas (9-10:30)	
	Courting the Myth Beings: Old Desert Stories with Frank Salzano (10:30 on)		Drum Circle with Steven Townsend (10:30 on)
EVERY DAY EVENTS		ANCESTOR FIRE	
Class sign-ups at 7pm		Story Telling with Nancy Basket, Thursday at 7	
Teen Camp Fire at 8pm		Shabbat Song Circle with Alinahh, Friday at 5:45	

EQUITY FUND PROGRAM

The **Firefly Gathering Equity Fund** was created to foster a strong and powerfully diverse community of Earth-centered people steeped in the knowledge and skills Firefly is known for. These funds welcome folks from underrepresented communities and the global majority who might otherwise not be able to attend our event. We believe that the skills and wisdom shared at Firefly are unifying skills that people from all around the world have been practicing throughout time.

Visit the Camp Store for our annual Raffle and Silent Auction (ending Saturday evening), all proceeds of which go to support our equity fund for next year. You can also contribute to this program by donating at the Camp Store or online when you return home. Strength and resilience depend upon diversity!

FUTURE FUN EVENTS & DATES

Please stay tuned, as we'll be hosting a **Fall Gala Fundraiser** in October that you won't want to miss (details TBA). Our tentative dates for Firefly Gathering next year are **June 20 through June 25, 2023** at Deerfields. Save the date! Details will be coming later this year.

LEARNING THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

The Firefly Gathering has long had an intention to make the life-changing skills that we offer at our Annual Gathering accessible to more people. We are incredibly excited and grateful to announce **Perennial Workshops**! This program serves to broaden our reach by offering workshops around the Asheville area into every season of the year. Whether you've been curious about our annual gathering but haven't yet made it, or if you've attended in the past but simply want more, this is a great opportunity to learn! Check out our website for dates and more information: fireflygathering.org. See you there!



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YOUTH VILLAGE

Thank you for bringing your children to The Firefly Gathering and entrusting us with their care and well-being. It is our heart's work to inspire your kids' innate wonder and love for the natural world. We strive to nurture and engage your children in safe and loving ways. We have programs for kids of all ages, and all kids classes will meet in the **Youth Village** (see map).

Please ask for one of our Youth Program inserts at registration for more details about age groups, programs and guidelines for Youth Village! All children ages 3-17 must be registered Firefly Gathering attendees to participate in Youth Program activities.

FOOD & KITCHENS

In addition to amazing food vendors, we provide two kitchens for anyone to use – the **Primitive Kitchen** with a fire for cooking during mealtimes and a **Community Kitchen** with propane stovetops and a sink. You are welcome to use your own camp stoves as well. Sharing and thanksgiving are welcomed and encouraged. We do not provide waste disposal or refrigeration. Nearby convenience stores have ice for your cooler if you need it. Please note, **open fires are only permitted at fire rings designated on the map.**

Folks often wonder why some get fed at Firefly and others don't? While we would love to feed everyone, we simply do not have the infrastructure to support that dream. So, we settle on feeding those folks who are working hard throughout the event to help make it all happen. This includes: staff, worktraders, instructors, performers, etc.

SPECIAL SCHEDULES

FIRST-TIMERS MEET-UP

Each morning just after morning circle near the pavilion by the Sun Fire.

CAMP STORE

Come on in whenever the doors are open!

RAFFLE & SILENT AUCTION

Located at the Camp Store during hours of operation. **All proceeds benefit the Firefly Equity Fund.**

Silent Auction: Begins at noon on Thursday, closes on Saturday at 7:00pm

Raffle Drawing: Saturday 7:30 PM (just before Holy River)

Any winners not present will be announced at Sunday's morning circle. All prizes will be available for pickup at the time of the raffle or at the camp store on Sunday morning.

PERENNIAL FIREFLY

JOIN US FOR OUR UPCOMING
WORKSHOPS THIS SUMMER AND FALL!



Preserving the Harvest:

Four Basic Vegetable Ferments
with Marissa Percoco



Blacksmithing

with Tod Kershaw



Kudzu Baskets

with Nancy Basket

CHECK OUT FIREFLYGATHERING.ORG/PERENNIAL

FOR MORE INFORMATION

REGISTRATION WILL OPEN IN JULY

THANKS TO OUR TEAM

The magic that is The Firefly Gathering happens thanks to an amazing community of humans filled with curiosity and adaptability, openness to growth and healing, and a dedication to working towards a better world for all living beings. We'd like to express our love and gratitude towards the following staff and board members for 2022:

CORE STAFF

Marissa Percoco: Executive Director

Bethany Fulghum: Administrative Director

Bonnie Lenneman: Class Coordinator

Chloe Tipton: Nonresident Wizard (former ed, ad & fm)

Emma Robinson: Marketing Coordinator

Eve Johnstone: Fundraising and Donations Coordinator

Isa Whitaker: Community Equity Advocate

Kim Dunn: Finance Manager & Community Equity Advocate

Nastassja Noell: Communicatrix & Registration Extraordinaire

EVENT MANAGERS

Chloe Jackson: Volunteer & Worktrade Coordinator

Kaleb Wallace: Firefly Co-founder & Kitchen Manager

Madison Moore: Site Coordinator & Cartographer

EVENT STAFF

Andrew Hufana & Erica Gunnison: Staff Caretakers

Chelsea Spitzer: Youth Programs Coordinator

Danu Macon: Elder Tender

Delaney Gatton: Security & First Aid Coordinator

Devin Morgan Crow: Evening Entertainment Engineer

April Lane & Abby Frye: Onsite Registration Coordinators

Jade Bird: Parking Coordinator

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THANKS TO OUR TEAM CONTINUED FROM P11

Jonathan Woodroot: Assistant Site Manager

Jeff Martyn: Water Wizard

Jeremy Diner: Firewood Lead

Lindsey Warf & Lily Harlin: Graphic Art & Design

Michael Ismerio: Teen Program Coordinator

Michael Ray: Materials Manager

Nadi Moon: Tarps Crew Coordinator

Trey Crispin: Pre/Post-Event Cook

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CJ O'Reilly: President & Treasurer

Carrie Hill: Secretary

Ben Varadi

Courtney Smith

Justina Prenatt

Priscilla Perlov

Shirin "Simply Sweet" Eshraghi

Spencer Two Dogs

Trey Montgomery

Want to be a part of our amazing team? We are often looking for folks to fill various positions; we don't get paid much, but we sure LOVE what we do. If interested, please talk with us, look for posted job opportunities in our newsletters and on Facebook, or email us after the event at info@fireflygathering.org!

