

~ ANNWFN NEWSLETTER ~

vol. 1 Issue 1



Greetings!

You are one of the recipients of this new Newsletter because you have been a part of the Circle and we welcome your participation. This has to be the sweetest Summer Annwfn has ever seen, with the best tree fruits, wonderful flowers, and most of all our five new Stewards.

In reflection, I began circling here in 1987. In those days Annwfn's future was somehow uncertain, no one was willing to trust another with both living here and executive authority. During Annwfn's coming of age, and Saturn Return, we were reminded of the many ideas Gwydion had when he lived here. We realized that he was actually in charge of the place. This was something we didn't exactly have at one point in the past (about 1995 and before). It was easy when Gwydion had owned Annwfn. Then when he gave it to the Church, he was in charge. Ever after he died, it's been a struggle, until now.

The Church has empowered the Stewards to govern themselves. To have the ability to look after Annwfn, to administrate, and to do all the things we have been doing anyway. Things are finally clear between the Land and the Church! For the Church of All Worlds as an organization to come to this mature move is simply wonderful. It is for us to Celebrate!!

2008 will be the 30th anniversary of the founding of Annwfn! To that end I declare 2008 to be a Jubilee Year!! A celebration of the actual anniversary will be held on Friday and Saturday, Feb 29 and March 1st, 2008, at Annwfn, weather be with us! Special guests already include Oberon and Morning Glory! More to be announced!

Back on March 1st, 1978, Gwydion, Oberon and Morning Glory, went to Sacramento to incorporate Church of All Worlds and the Elliptical Congregation in California. On this day Gwydion prepared a Deed of Gift granting Annwfn to the Churches.

Gwydion Passed away on November 9, 1982. His ashes and music remain. As well as the legacy known as Annwfn.

So come this year and celebrate the new and the old, come find out what we have accomplished, together. We invite you to step between the worlds and find yourself at Annwfn.

Peace,
Jack Crispin Cain

Events at Annwfn

Firewood Gathering Weekend

August 17 - August 19

Help prepare Annwfn for the winter months by collecting and cutting firewood. The caretakers have discovered a vast amount of firewood just waiting to be cut into the proper size. Come experience the excitement of working with a chainsaw (supervised, of course) and filling Annwfn's 3 wood sheds.

Fire Safety Weekend

August 24 - August 26

Help keep Annwfn safe of brush fires by clearing away the dead branches and underbrush.

Labor Day Weekend

August 31 - September 2

This weekend will be celebrated with a lot of hard work. We will clean up the Ancestral lower lot and the Lower Parking lot of dead vehicles (take them away to the dump and make more room for future plans) and debris. There are many plans in the making for the area called the Ancestral Lower Lot; this is the first step. BONUS: Pizza will be provided for all hearty workers. And, if we're really good, the ice cream faery might just visit.

**** Attending any of these working weekends will count towards a work-trade if arranged in advance. Please contact Annwfn (707) 468-4661 to set up a work-trade weekend. All work-trades must be arranged and completed prior to the Sabbath Weekend.**

The Turning of the Wheel

Lammas/Lughnasadh

Annwfn Celebration: August 10 – August 12

Lammas, also known as Lughnasadh, Cornucopia, Thingtide, Lammastide, Lughomass, Festival of Light, and Latha Lunasdal, is the first harvest of the year. It is a time for thanksgiving. Lughnasadh is named after the Celtic sun-god Lugh. This is the time in the Northern Hemisphere where you will start to notice the days growing shorter, and while temperatures may still be very high, the lows will be getting lower and lower.

Due to Lammas being the first harvest festival, Lammas celebrations typically has the largest feast of all the sabbats. This time of the year is great for starting to make jellies, preserves and canning. As you do this, focus on positive things you desire to keep in your life.

Is there anything passing from your life? Any people you are saying farewell to, or completed projects, relationships, or things? Make sure to honor those people/things. Do you have any regrets? Release those regrets so you have nothing holding you back in life



Autumn

Mabon – Autumn Equinox

Annwfn Celebration: September 28 – 30

*We praise the Earth who feeds us,
And raise the Harvest Home.
The stag with light step leads us
To dance the season come.
Ash links the worlds, entwining
Our realms with Gods and Elves.
The bonfire blesses, shining,
Our food, our drink, ourselves.*

-Leigh Ann Hussey

Mabon is named after a Welsh fertility God, and is typically celebrated on or around September 21st. Also known as Harvest Home, Mabon, is the second of the three harvest festivals, and for many Pagans is celebrated as their Thanksgiving.

Mabon is the autumnal equinox where night and day are once more equal. Wiccans celebrate the Crowning of the Goddess, when she passes from Mother to Crone, and the God as he begins preparations for his coming death and re-birth. Mabon's many names include: Feast of Avalon, Conucopia, Equinozio di Autunno (Strega), The Second Harvest Festival and Wine Harvest.

This is a time to pay respects for the coming darkness and also to give respects to the waning light. This is a celebration the Druids called Mea'n Fo'mahair and they honored The Green Man by offering libations to the trees. This is a time of life and death; and thus, the giving of life once more, the cycle of seasons. Mabon is the time of the year to stock up for the coming winter months and thus a time to take pleasure in the results of a year's hard labor. Mabon is a time for giving thanks.

Often the Fall/Autumnal Equinox is associated with the myth of Demeter and Persephone. When Hades abducted Persephone, Demeter full of misery casts winter over the Earth. Refusing to allow summer to come again until she had Persephone back. An agreement was reached between Hades and Demeter that they would share Persephone; Hades would have her for 6 months (winter) and Demeter would have her for the other 6 months (summer).

**** Mabon Work Parties ****
September 7 - September 9th
September 14 - September 16

Samhain

Annwfn Celebration: November 2 – November 4

Samhain is a Celtic word meaning "summer's end." The Celts were a pastoral people. As such this time of the year was very important to them, as the structure of their lives was about to change dramatically. This was/is the time when the cattle were brought in from the pasture and the beginning of long nights of crafting and story telling.

On the night of October 31, they believed that the veil between this world and the next was at it's thinnest, and thus the spirits of the dead returned to Earth. The Celts believed that the presence of these spirits made it easier for the Druids to make predictions about the future. Thus, there is a strong tradition of divination on Samhain.

The Celts would light large fires as a method of cleansing the old year and preparing for the new year. These massive bonfires were also used for sacrifices to the sun god. At these celebrations the Celts would wear costumes typically made of animal skins and bones as they attempted to tell each other's fortunes. When the celebration was over, they would re-light their home fires using a

Registration Info.

Lammas

Registration Deadline – August 9, 2007
Registration Donation – Adults (17+) \$40 each, Children \$20 each
Work-Trade Reg. Donation - \$25 per person

Mabon

Registration Deadline – September 24, 2007
Registration Donation – Adults (17+) \$40 each, Children \$20 each
Work-Trade Deadline – September 23, 2007 (*Work-Trade must be arranged by this date*)
Work-Trade Reg. Donation - \$25 per person (17+)

Samhain

Registration Deadline – October 19, 2007
Registration Donation – Adults (17+) \$100 each, Children \$50 each
Work-Trade Deadline – October 28, 2007 (*Work-Trade must be arranged by this date*)
Work-Trade Reg. Donation - \$25 per person (17+)

GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR SANCTUARY!

Many people have asked the question, how do I get involved? We would love to see people engaging Annwfn on many different levels. We are open to covens and solitary Witches /Pagans, utilizing the space for their Rituals. We look forward to more folks using the 5 out door Ritual spaces and our indoor temple space on a more regular basis. We are also encouraging folks to join one or more of the many committees being formed to assist the care and maintenance of Annwfn.

The Temple committee will help cleanse the building physically and spiritually as often as they like but at least once a month.

The out door ritual site committee will attend to keeping the altars shining and upright, 3 to 5 times a year.

The Garden committee can come as often as they desire, but at least once a month.

The fundraising committee will help gather funding for the many improvements that we all desire (like a bath house!), and yearly expenses like ranch assessments, propane, insurance, etc.

The bylaws committee will continue to advise the B.O.D. as to changes or additions to the Bylaws. Also to keep the quarterly meetings polite and in line with Robert rules of order.

We can and may add more committees as they become needed. We are creating these committees to give those who continue to wonder how they can plug in to Annwfn and actually help an avenue to walk the walk.

torch from the sacred bonfire.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** New Goat Lodge Steps**

July '07 - Our old stairs have become rickety and old, so new ones have been built. A couple of the new features of this new stair model include an additional step, for extra sitting pleasure, as well as having the hand rails moved in to help give support to those who need it. We invite everyone to come give them a test drive.

*** New Water Tanks Installed**

July '07 - We have moved the 600-gallon water tank that was sitting in the garden up to where it can now be made useful again. We now have 3,800 gallons of water. Though this is a great improvement on our way to our 5,000-gallon goal we still have far to go.

*** Trash Clean Up**

July '07 - Joe, Jeff, Tim and Jack packed up 5 55gal barrels of trash and 1 55gal barrel of recycling to the dump. Hurray!