

PCR 2023 Event Director Recap

We had another incredible year at Down2Earth Ecoshire for our 10th annual PCR Event from Friday April 19th thru 21st, 2023. The theme was Making Magic! The weekend was attended by 126 folks; what an amazing turnout we had! From the goats, chickens, and coyotes to the committee and campers, the Ecoshire was bursting with life and magic; and we cannot forget about those beautiful wild flowers and mountains in the background! There is much more room to grow too! The fee for regular adult registration for the weekend was \$60 (with a \$10 late fee after March 24th), adult single day visits were \$35 and kids (17 and under) were free making PCR one of the most affordable retreats in SoCal! Add the meals prepared by the Ecoshire and the close proximity to town and it is a great opportunity to spend some time in nature and with fellow pagans alike. Vendors are now available at PCR and we enjoyed their company next to our info booth near the garden adding to the magic of the event!

Friday was the start of this magical weekend and we opened the event with a simple ritual and magical working to set the intention of the weekend at High Noon. Fairy houses with Miccy Quinby, Crystal Balls with Allison Lovecraft, and Pocket Altars with myself-Chelsea O, followed and were a hit! Honestly, who doesn't love arts and crafts?! Krystal Rains presented a talk on Connecting Agroecology and Our Spiritual Practices after an exhausting journey to get to PCR. And Jeffrey Albaugh initiated the first in a series of three workshops involving masks in ritual practices, meditation and masks included. After a delightful spaghetti meal prepared by the Ecoshire, there was a rather large gathering for the Freyrblöt: Hail, Lord of the Alfar! This sacred rite was hosted by our very own Gordon Lewis and Hauk Heimdallsman, Chelsea Reyes, and Kelsey Sissons. We closed the evening with more arts and crafts and pagan Karaoke hosted by the Lovecrafts and Nikki, which will be an annual event after it's great success! Friday was jam packed with Making Magic and did not disappoint. In fact, the coyotes came and even left a little present for us in the middle of the tents in the food forest as tribute!

After breakfast, we kicked Saturday off with a Dance with Dandelion, working ourselves into a status of love. The second workshop on ritual masks with Jeffrey followed and we painted the masks we created in the first workshop. Next, a discussion on Druidry Today: A Living Breathing Path was presented from the perspective of Awen. // After Noon, Fred Lee (Flux) presented an informative discussion on Chaos Magic in the very warm hangar directly followed by our Annual Chaos Water Ritual hosted by Krystal Rains. Coincidence, I think not! Bringing us back to Earth, Nix and Tig performed a ritual and discussion about magic and mental health - an ever increasingly important topic. Our favorite herbalist Julie James presented a native plant hike and discussion. Julie is famous 'round these parts! Jeffrey concluded the three part workshop with discussion on ritual masks as we completed our creations. The Ecoshire provided us an opportunity to not cook again in the heat, thank the Gods, by cooking us burgers and fries! Yum! Saturday evening festivities began with a riveting concert by Elf Queen, followed by the Healing and Abundance Ritual performed by Lisa Gentry and friends. We ended the night with an impromptu drum circle after ritual and drummed and sang around the fire until midnight or so. Another annual activity we hope to add. We ended the day full of magical experiences and comradery of the pagan kind.

Sunday was here before we knew it! After breakfast we kicked off the day with our annual sweepstakes giveaway. Treasures donated from our sponsors, vendors, and community were available to view at our info booth all weekend. There was even a collection of occult books for free available this year. If you are interested in supporting our sponsors and vendors check them out here on our site. We ended the event with our traditional closing ceremony wishing-as always-that we had more time with each other, a nice cold drink, and maybe a shower. 😊

After reviewing the camper feedback from our survey, it is clear that most campers really enjoyed making magic with us - focusing on the comradery and community found in the desert. Half of the feedback called for less activities and the other half called for more. Of course the heat always plays a role at PCR, and even though we have moved our event from Summer Solstice to Earth Day weekend, the Sun decided to show up full force and keep us nice and toasty during the day while leaving us chilly in the night time. Our Programming Coordinator Karen Margaret did a great job of scheduling around meals and the heat. Every event gives us an opportunity to learn and grow.

Our committee of volunteers worked hard this year to make some magic. If you have some time, please check out their profiles below. (We will be updating to represent the current committee soon.) Committee members are volunteers who do not get paid and have to pay to camp just like you. We have gained several more people from our 2023 event who are interested in helping build our PCR community so I am hopeful that next year's committee will be even more prepared. Of course, this means that we will have to step up our game to outdo 2023, but I have no doubt they are up for the task!

I know this write up is a bit late and I do apologize. PCR 2023 was fantastic! The community did rally around the event and everyone made some magic happen in the desert. Wishing everyone luck in the future and thank you for everything you have done and will do to support the community through this event.

Brightest Blessings,

Chelsea Osbon
2023-24 Event Director