

Dragonfest Cancellation Fact Sheet for 7/20/2012

This meeting is to discuss the cancellation of our retreat. Other issues will be acknowledged, but priority will be given to items concerning the cancellation.

Why?

The safety and security of our membership, the landowner and the Mother are our first priorities before we can hold any sort of event. We heavily weighed the pros and cons and felt our final decision was the right one.

What are we doing?

Dragonfest Board, Ops, and Staff are taking this down time to work on our infrastructure, our land, our outreach and our website. Our hope is that Dragonfest Retreat for 2013 will be the rebirth of a new Dragonfest that honors our traditions and spirituality and still takes into consideration the changing needs of our members as well as future generations.

Why did we wait to share our concerns? How come we did not wait longer before making a decision?

We made the decision as quickly as we could. We needed to play a balancing act – knowledge of the impending rain season that might hydrate the land enough to mitigate the fire concerns but also realizing that if we were going to cancel, we needed to do it as early as possible so people could make other plans with hopefully minimal investment, contracts could be cancelled without severe penalties.

If on June 1st we could have known how dry it was going to get, we would have cancelled earlier, and if we knew for sure that the property would get enough rain, we would have held out... Unfortunately we just didn't have the ability to see the future in either case.

Refunds?

Thank you to all who could chose to donate anything back to Dragonfest and to those who chose to rollover their registration to 2013. We understand these options were not possible for everyone and checks will be going out in the next 10 days. Thank you all for your cooperation and understanding.

Facts:

- The fire danger is still extremely high regardless of the bans that have been lifted.
 - There are still many restrictions in place:
 - Any fire or campfire, not within a permanently constructed fire grate in a developed park, campground, private residence, or picnic area.
 - Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area of at least three feet diameter that is barren or cleared of all combustible material.
- Current Emergency Evacuation plan showed us that we were not prepared for a serious threat:
 - There is only one viable way out of the property currently as the optional emergency exit needs work to make it a good option.
 - We are currently working with the landowner to remedy this for next year.
 - Our evacuation plan has not been tested but we will be running drills on the property to ensure our plan is solid and so staff is fully prepared.
- The safety and security of our membership, the landowner and the Mother are our first priorities.
 - 3 Board members were on site last weekend and the land is still very dry causing great deal of concern
 - The Earth herself is showing signs of concern: wildflowers either didn't bloom or bloomed too soon, grass hasn't grown even though it did get some rain, pine cones are falling like Mabon is here already.
 - It would only take one spark from a camp stove or RV generator to ruin it for everyone.