Living Sustainably
The Billy 2016 Labor Day Gathering
At Groundswell

Thursday, September 1 – Monday, September 5
At Groundswell Institute, Mendocino County

Billy teachers, students, and healers coming together to explore new ways of ‘living sustainably’ in this complex world. Come join us for this fun and interesting new Billy experience at an exciting location for one of the most CREATIVE and AFFORDABLE Billy gatherings in many years!
“Living Sustainably” means working in cooperation with others to protect the Earth’s natural resources. It means creating our own art, making our own music, growing our own food – finding ways of expression that draw on our own unique talents and inspiration. It means a community working together to share knowledge, support, and vision that works towards achieving a natural balance.

“Living Sustainably” is a gathering where everyone will be invited to lead or attend workshops that teach us how to manifest our unique gifts. At registration everyone will receive a program that lists all of the workshops offered as well as a brief bio that tells the story of each presenter. All Billys who are artists, published authors, who can teach sustainable skills, or who have an expertise in specific topics related to “Living Sustainably” are invited to bring their experience forward to teach other Billys about their craft.

Who knows? During the gathering you may learn something new about...

- Food preserving
- Or woodworking basics
- Which end is up?
- Creating an original work of art.

Or maybe you may want to just hang at the amazing Groundswell pond.
First Billy Gathering at Groundswell!!

Billys venture to a new queer owned and operated retreat facility, education center, and ecovillage in Southern Mendocino County

Located in a beautiful valley of mixed oaks and redwoods and bisected by a year-round creek, the Groundswell Institute is a hub of queer-spirited gatherings and education. While a bit more rustic than Saratoga, Groundswell has a village of small cabins that can accommodate indoor sleeping for 80, a large industrial kitchen with an attached dining hall that seats 100, a huge swimmable pond, groves amongst the redwoods where one can pitch tents, and more additional features than can be described here.

Since its founding two years ago Groundswell has become a hub of queer-spirited education and community. In addition to annual Beltane, July 4, and Halloween gatherings, Groundswell has hosted a West Coast Communities Conference, MUSE, a gathering for queer artists, and in late July 2016 will host Xrysalis -- a gathering for Queer, Transgender, and Intersex People of Color.

Why Groundswell?

- Gives the Billys a chance to support and experience an exciting new queer-owned retreat center.
- Opens up chances for new relationships with a residential community that is building a model of “living sustainably”
- Since Groundswell is less expensive than other sites available to the Billys, 100% of the savings can be passed on to those attending the gathering. At $75/day, this is the least expensive Billy gathering in years.
- Continues the Billys’ longstanding quest to find gathering sites that meet our needs and are affordable.

Accommodations at Groundswell

Indoor Sleeping: Small cabins with 4 bunk beds in each, total indoors sleeping capacity of 80.
Outdoor Sleeping: Plenty of beautiful campsite amidst the redwoods
Showers/Bathroom: Central shower/bathroom facilities
Terrain: Some stairs and uneven terrain, not wheelchair accessible
Other Features: New hot tubs, swimmable pond, fire circle, creek to wade in
**HAPPENING AT “LIVING SUSTAINABLY”**

**ARTS & CRAFTS SALON**

Many Billys are artists, musicians, or gardeners. The purpose of the Arts and Crafts Salon is to give Billys, Billykin, and our friends a chance to support the Richard Locke Scholarship Fund by sharing their creations. An invitation will be sent out to our artists as well as to those who work with wood or ceramics. To our musicians, authors, and poets. To our gardeners, homesteaders, and food preservers. To Billys who have a creation they would like to share and donate on behalf of the Billy community.

Each artist, musician, or gardener will be asked to submit a photo of themselves creating their art, growing their food, or making their music. They will also be asked to tell the story behind their craft as well as their creation. The photo and story will be mounted and displayed next to their donated item as a way of telling their own personal story with this part of “Living Sustainably”.

The Arts and Crafts Salon will be located at an open-air building that is contiguous with the building where heart circles will be taking place. Items will be available for display for the entire gathering.

**FOOD WORKSHOPS**

Daily workshops are planned for those who would like to learn more about food preserving. Food made at these workshops, be it picked beets, goat cheese, or dehydrated veggies will be served the following afternoon during Afternoon Tea Time.

**WORKSHOP TOPICS**

“Living Sustainably” is a topic that describes more than environmental or ecological subjects. It doesn’t take a lot of imagination during a presidential election year to consider topics such as global warming, refugees/asylum seekers, or other issues that speak to our roles as global citizens. Contact co-coordinators Charlie Seltzer or Paul Mueller to talk about potential workshop topics.

**Coordinators:**
Charlie Seltzer  grandview.charlie@gmail.com
Paul Mueller   paulwmueller@hotmail.com
**Registration Fee Information**

The Billy Board works hard to keep registration fees to a minimum. Paying the low end of the sliding scale barely covers the out-of-pocket cost per person for the gathering. In fiscal year 2014-15 (May Day 2014 through Mid Winter 2015) we had $133,014 in total expenses and 1197 total registered nights. That comes to $111.12 per night. Paying more than the minimum helps us pay for the overall programs and administrative costs of the Billy Foundation such as telephone, staff and office expenses and our outreach activities. And it enables us to provide more scholarships for those who need assistance, by keeping prices generally low. Please help us keep our fees as low as possible by interpreting your place on the “sliding scale” as generously as you are able, or by making a tax-deductible donation to our General Fund. The Attendance Lottery will be held only in case we have reached maximum attendance. Thank you!

**Late Attendance Policy**

If a Billy wants to attend a gathering after the traditional registration has closed, he must contact either (1) a board member who will be attending the gathering or (2) one of the co-coordinators or (3) the portfolio holder for that gathering to request consideration to attend. The person approving the late arrival will take responsibility for briefing New Billys. **The said contact person will need to make the following determinations before the Billy's request is granted.**

1. Does the Billy agree to pay the full gathering fees that would be due at the time of the request? This would include the increased fees that are due after traditional registration has closed. (Scholarships will have closed by this time and will not be available for inclusion within this process.)
2. Does the cook have enough food to include this additional person at the gathering without reducing the experience of the other Billys?
3. Is there housing available for the Billy?

If all the answers are yes, then the Billy can be granted attendance at the gathering. The person contacted will pass the information about the new attendee and the fees that he has agreed to pay to the registrar.

**Your Tax-Deductible Donations**

The Richard Locke Scholarship Fund is what we use to help offset gathering fees for attendees. This past year general operating funds were used for scholarships, as well as money directly donated for scholarships. The Billy Emergency Support Fund supports all Billys, and HIV+ non-Billys in northern counties, and pays for emergency needs like rent, utilities, etc. And of course, you can contribute to our General Fund. Giving to any of those mentioned is a tax-deductible donation. Call the Billy office for more info.

**Billy Food and Drug Policy**

Those needing supplemental food for their special/extra-ordinary dietary needs should bring it with them. We will make every effort to provide space for storage and preparation. Our gatherings are alcohol/recreational drug free. Please continue to take your prescription medication if you need it to remain stable throughout the gathering.

**Scholarship Policy**

If you are asking for a scholarship, we strongly encourage you to pay $15 per day. Your scholarship request will be honored if we have the funds. Please be aware your request impacts others if sufficient funds are unavailable. Anyone who submits a request with their gathering registration by the scholarship deadline, may apply for a partial or full scholarship to attend a gathering. Scholarships are not granted after the deadline, and not at the gathering if you wish to add an extra night. In the event that scholarship requests for a gathering exceed available funds, scholarship requests will be reduced to meet the funds available for this gathering. All scholarship recipients are expected to contact the Billy Office by the day before the start of the gathering in the event they are unable to attend. If they do not do so, they may not be eligible to apply for another scholarship for one year.

**Refund Policy**

Refunds must be requested within one week of the close of the gathering. The entire deposit, minus a $25 handling fee, will be refunded except for any expenses incurred by the Billys for food and lodging to reserve the applicant’s space. In the event there is a waiting list and a replacement can be found for the person canceling, a full refund will be given. Exceptions to this policy will be considered on a case by case basis by the Board President and the Resource Coordinator.

*The mission of the Billys is to foster community, intimacy, and personal exploration among gay, bi, and queer men through shared values and heart-centered brotherhood.*
Living Sustainably  Labor Day Billy Gathering
Thursday September 1 ~ Monday September 5, 2016

~ ~ ~ fill out this page and mail in with your money ~ ~ ~

Name
Faerie name/AKA
Street
City, State, Zip
Home Phone
Cell phone
Email
Privacy Concerns? Circle any of your info above and we’ll leave it off the paper Gathering Directory we distribute. Email a face shot of your handsome mug to us at office@thebillys.org and it will be included. Info below is not printed in the Directory.

Check here please if you are a person of color
Emergency contact
Auto license #

Please Mark Your Attending Nights, & Arrival Time for Meals

Thu 9/1
Fri 9/2
Sat 9/3
Sun 9/4
We are leaving Monday 9/5

If you need a scholarship in order to attend, please ask for what you need to attend. Please interpret liberally your place on our sliding scale.

#_____ Nights $75-$135 sliding scale
#_____ Day Use at $38 - $75 sliding scale
Richard Locke Scholarship Fund Donation*
Billy Emergency Support Fund Donation*
General Fund Donation*
Scholarship Request Amount
Total I am paying now
Total I owe before the Gathering

Registration Policy
Please read the back page. Pre-registration is required. At least 50% of your payment must accompany registration to be complete, including those requesting scholarships. No payments will be taken at the gathering. Full payment must be made before the gathering, unless arrangements have been made in advance with the Billy office. No free drop-ins.

Deadlines
Scholarship deadline: 5 pm Fri. Aug. 12 at the Billy Office.
Early Bird Registration deadline: Fri. Aug. 19, 5 pm at the Billy Office. After 5 pm is Late Registration, which costs $85/night, subject to food/housing availability and payment in full. *See back page for our refund and late attendance policies, and other pertinent info.

Car Pool!  Volunteer!  Say Yes!
I can offer a ride from:
I need a ride from:
I can help bring gathering stuff:
I can help return stuff to the Billy office:

Housing, Workshops, Diet allergies, Other Info?
Tell us about it below, attach a note if needed. We desire to accommodate and support people of varying physical abilities, yet our gathering site has inherent access and use limitations. Let us know any particular special needs or concerns you have. Food allergies? Offering a workshop? Please tell us! Please list special diet needs, CPAP use, etc. All rooms are shared with bunk beds. Priority goes to those with special health needs, please explain below. Camping is abundant and lovely, nights are cool.

Medical/Food allergies/housing needs:

Liability Release
I am a responsible adult and will try not to harm myself, anyone else, or any property during the gathering. I understand there are no guarantees given or expressed to assure my safety, or the safety of my property, at the gathering by the Billy Foundation (dba The Billys). Parking is at my own risk. Falling trees and other acts of nature are unlikely but possible. Be aware that neither the Billys nor the facility we rent will take responsibility for damage to your vehicle. By signing below, I therefore release the Billy Foundation from all liabilities caused by my, others, or the Billy Foundation’s actions and/or inactions during the gathering. Thank you!

Signature  Date

Please sign your check and mail it with this completed form to: The Billys, PO Box 12205, Santa Rosa CA 95406-2205
Voice: 707-545-1044  Email: office@thebillys.org  Register and Donate online at thebillys.org  *see back page