



EarthMatters

A Retreat Center



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A retreat Center in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

A collection of images
made by Susan Gilliland
with text by Carol Proudfoot-Edgar

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Earth Matters is a retreat center manifesting the dreams of Jody and Noel. In their vision they saw that for the center to be “Earth friendly,” it would have to be solar and off the customary energy grid. They also wanted a center that would promote consciousness related to all the elements. Over the last three years they have created labyrinths, medicine wheels, and earth circles for drumming, dancing and ceremony. Lodging includes a main guest house, cabins, tipis, tenting/camping spaces with each site having its own privacy while altogether weaving a village of relationship with water, vegetable garden, chicken coop, ponds. Moving from one lodging site to another becomes a walk across short bridges, forest trails, stone circles and a mixture of unusual sculptures. The main guest house has a large private room with its own bath, a dorm room (for 6 – 9 people) with adjacent showers and toilets, a loft, an indoor circle space, and a full sized kitchen. All the private cabins have surrounding decks and views within the forest or of the distant Santa Cruz Mountain range. Tipis are located in a lovely, separate area within walking distance of the guest house. There are bathroom facilities at this site. The tent spaces are cleared, flattened, and prepared for camping. A wandering woodland trail weaves among these. On the hillside next to the guest house and below the main house (where Jody and Noel live) is a network of pond collectors for storing water from the winter rains and the mountain underground springs. Large stone slabs have been arranged around these to encourage meditation and communing with water. Between the pond collectors and the guest house is the large vegetable and fruit garden while the chicken coop is located just above the garden. Vegetables, eggs, and fruit gathered from the hens and gardens are the main fare, along with fish and chicken, for the meals served at the center and Noel is a marvelous chef!



























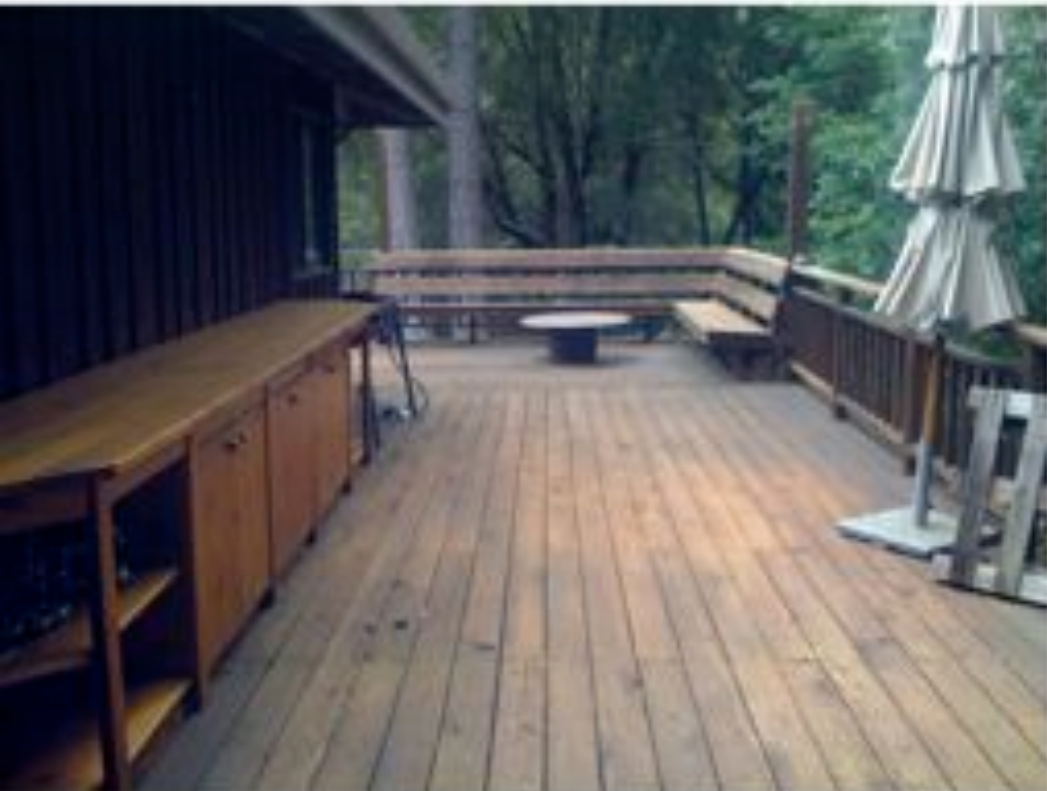
































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