

The Cycles of Earth



by Larry-Michael and Becky Lynn Hackenberg

Plan, Do, Finish, Rest.
Living in Harmony With Earth
A Weekly Almanac Guide
Weekend of December 19-20, 2009

In A Nutshell...

On Monday Dec. 21 at 7:05 a.m. in Three Rivers Michigan the Winter Solstice will occur. This means Monday will be the shortest day of the year and Sunday and Monday nights will be the longest nights of the year. While the daylight will increase ever so gradually over the next months (all the way to Summer Solstice), we here in Michigan know what is directly ahead of us: the deep freeze of winter. We have wound down to stillness.

Observe the Earth around you and consider slowing down with her.

Last Weekend

December 12-13, 2009: Finish

It was a weekend for finishing touches and completing holiday decorating and shopping tasks.

This Weekend

December 19-20, 2009: Rest



Moon symbol from photo © David Haworth, www.stargazing.net/david.
Sun symbol from photo by NASA.

Rest? Now? Are you nuts??? Wednesday's Resting Moon probably convinced no one that this is a good weekend to take it easy. The busy fullness of the holiday season diverts our attention from the fact that Earth has slowed to dormancy. We have everything from glittering light displays to eggnog to distract us. Eventually, after the presents have been opened and the company has left we meet the stillness with relief. It can feel pretty nice, right?

So, rather than ignore this slower, quieter time, pretending that it doesn't really exist, keep that feeling of quiet relief going. Observe the next two months as a block of time like no other in the year. Stay home more, take on only gentle projects, go to bed early; slow your pace closer to Earth's. You will find yourself experiencing the world in a very different way.

Meanwhile, enjoy these happy times with friends and family; the stillness will be there when you're ready.

Next Weekend

December 26-27, 2009: Plan

Plan to do nothing other than rest if at all possible; relish the stillness.

Musing

Christmas memories come in all sorts and flavors. Fair warning: This Christmas story has technical language and may not be suitable for adults.

Once upon a time, when I was a teenager (mid 1950's!) cheap Christmas tree lights were wired in "series" (i.e. lights connected to one to another in a big loop) and if one light went out, they all went out. More expensive Christmas lights were wired in parallel (i.e. like rungs on a ladder, each light was individually connected to two wires) and if one light went out, no problem.

One Christmas, my mom was putting up lights. A string of lights, wired in series, was not lighting and, frustrated, she tossed it out. I decided to rewire the lights in parallel. What I didn't understand was that the voltage, in series wired lights, is reduced by each light. There were 10 lights and each light bulb was designed to handle 12 volts. When I rewired the lights in parallel each light was now fed a full 120 volts. When I plugged the rewired lights in, there was a huge, mighty flash of what appeared to be a super nova collapsing.

I will remember that Christmas as the Christmas I learned the difference between series and parallel wiring.

Three Rivers Artists Guild's Holiday Fine Arts Market/Gallery now open next to the Riviera Theater (see www.ThreeRiversArtistsGuild.org). Prices from \$2--all created by Three Rivers fine artists. © Copyright 2009. All rights reserved. www.cyclesofearth.com