

The Redwood Men's Center presents
The Twenty-First Annual Men's Conference

THE LANDSCAPE OF DESIRE



*"You see, I want a lot.
Perhaps I want everything.
the darkness that comes with every
infinite fall,
and the shimmering blaze of every
step up."*

— Rilke

Thursday, May 19 through Sunday, May 22, 2011
Mendocino Woodlands Camp, Mendocino County



On the Internet at: www.redwoodmen.org • Find us on Facebook!

The Redwood Men's Center
attn: Conrad Larkin
PO Box 7808
Santa Rosa, CA 95407
Return service requested.

***What you are doing is essential. It is life affirming,
and in the end it will save us."***
— Robert Johnson, Author of "He", "She", and "We",
speaking of the RMC Conference

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CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Conference fees: Received by April 27: \$360
• Received after April 27: \$395
• Group rate until April 27 (3 or more): \$335 each
• Full time student: \$250
Workshops and scholarships available.

*Bring a friend, including young men, fifteen and older, who would
benefit from this conference. Scholarships are available. PLEASE
CONSIDER A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION TOWARD THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND.*

Vegetarian Non-vegetarian Meals

Send completed registration and checks to:

The Redwood Men's Center
Conrad Larkin, Registrar
P.O. Box 7808 • Santa Rosa, CA 95407

Or register online at redwoodmen.org
Credit cards taken online by PayPal for pay-
ment and donations.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State, Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Email: _____

I am also contributing \$25 \$50 \$100 Other _____ to the scholarship fund

I have enclosed a check for _____ (fee plus scholarship)
(made payable to the Redwood Men's Center)

Refund requests received before 4/27/11:

Fee paid less \$100.

No refunds after April 27, 2011.

THE LANDSCAPE OF DESIRE

MAY 19-22, 2011

MENDOCINO WOODLANDS CAMP



WHY DO SO MANY MEN, YOUNG AND OLD, FEEL FRUSTRATED IN IDENTIFYING AND FULFILLING THEIR DEEPEST DESIRES?

How many of us have narrowed our lives to our jobs, some imagined role, only a few relationships? When we deny our deep desires, the result may be the desolation of habit, addiction, or betrayal of ourselves and others. And yet there is nothing in this vast, complex, wondrous existence that does not cry out for our attention, our caring, our imagination. Ultimately we hunger for nothing less than the most meaningful and significant of lives. On this weekend retreat, our collective wisdom will explore the extent and range of our desire for relevance and happiness, for purpose and fulfillment in the world and in our own souls.

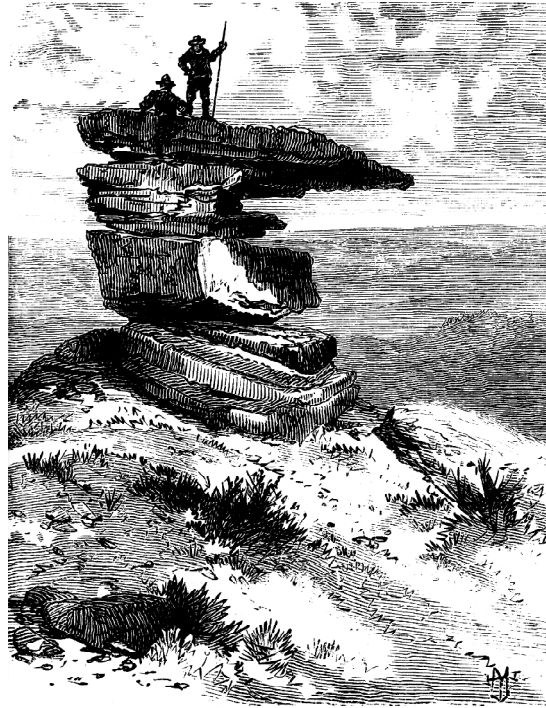
This is dangerous work. For the gateway to desire is also the gateway to grief. Both desire and grief ask: What am I supposed to do with my life? What keeps me from knowing my desire? How wide, broad, or deep is the landscape I inhabit? Historically men have gathered in community to wrestle with these questions — not leaving a man to struggle alone.

Together we will learn to align our passion with our purpose, search the tension between soul desire and sensual appetite, feel the guidance offered by ancient myths and wisdom traditions. We will share our stories and enter those of other men, from youth to elderhood; here lies a treasury which will enrich us all.

The Conference

Welcoming and supportive of men of all ages, “fifteen to a hundred,” the Conference is very interactive and rich with dialogue. Personal stories are told; songs are sung; victories celebrated; grieving shared — all in a safe place full of honest talk and mutual respect. There is time to hear ancient tales, meet in small groups, engage in healing ritual, sing gloriously together, play together, converse over meals, and sit in the silence of the trees.

This conference is particularly helpful for any man wishing to move out of old patterns and wounds which have shaped his life and relationships. Men in transition or undergoing significant life-passages often find meaning, strength and comfort here. Many fathers bring their sons to have them welcomed into the community of men. And many men return each year for the ongoing celebration of brotherhood.



Over the last twenty-one years of this Conference, we have been explorers of Soul. We have learned that to find and trust our way in this world we must tolerate uncertainties and fears; and we have found a way to do this together. In fact, the only way to do it is together. Some truths we have learned over the years are:

- *Men have much to offer each other through their differences — be they cultural, racial, sexual, political, spiritual, generational, or personal.*
- *Beauty and creativity, art and music, ritual and poetry are sources of inspiration, healing, and deep pleasure.*
- *Communication, relationship, and understanding among men form the foundation for a politics of peace and justice.*
- *We must continue learning how to creatively deal with conflict.*

- *The wounds of our fathers and their fathers have impacted our lives.*
- *Entering and grieving those wounds creates in us a masculinity of tenderness, wisdom, and generativity.*
- *Owning our own shadows is an essential step on our journey toward wholeness.*

Location

This year we will be at the Mendocino Woodlands Camp. Built by down- and-out men of the WPA and the CCC in the Great Depression of the 1930's, it is nestled in 700 acres of pristine redwood forest along the Little North Fork of the Big River, east of Fort Bragg. The rustic camp with miles of hiking trails has provided local and national men's groups with an inspiring setting since the 1980's. (See mendocinowoodlands.org.) Meals will be catered by Chef Oscar of the Phantom Café. The food will be fabulous.

Conference Leaders

The leaders are accomplished conference facilitators and teachers, dedicated to the journey of soul in their own lives. They are noted for their warmth, accessibility, and creativity, as well as for their passionate interest in each individual's wisdom and authority.

Doug von Koss, *Ritual Elder, Music Director of the Noah Project*

Barry Spector, *author of Madness at the Gates of the City: The Myth of American Innocence.*

Gordon Pugh, *Master Craftsman and Performance Artist*

Richard Naegle, PhD, *Psychotherapist and Teacher*

Hari Meyers, *Author, Teacher and Storyteller*

Gregory Guss, LCSW, *Psychotherapist and Community Organizer*

Michael Dickerson, *Graduate Student, Son and Friend*

Bill Denham, *Father, Friend and Poet*

Conference fees include three nights' lodging, eight delicious meals, all materials and programs. Workshops and scholarships are available.

For more information, call Conrad Larkin at (707)566-7570 or visit our website at www.redwoodmen.org. Register by mail or on our website, where you can pay with your credit card via PayPal. Open to men of all ages, cultures, and sexual orientations.

