



F A E R I E T A L E S

# The healing power of a natural connection

by *Eunice a.k.a. Eduard van Koolwijk*

Naked, bare feet with toes reaching for grip on the crust of mother earth, cherished by a warm swirling wind. Behind me, a rolling coastal landscape with dots of bright green shrubbery and white dunes. Down beneath, the glistening waters of the Indian ocean, reflecting the sun and a high, deep blue sky. For a few seconds I forgot to breathe, completely taken by the sheer beauty of the setting. My arms went up and I stretched hands and fingers into the skies, reaching for something beyond. Intensely connected, earth-based, and at the same time one with the universe. Aware of the uniqueness of the moment, a loud scream escaped from within my chest. Simultaneously, I felt my blood speeding through all my veins, a warm flush awakened a new kind of sexuality. Exhilarated and somewhat confused, I sat down and looked around, suddenly aware of the exposed tip of my heart...

Not a living soul for as far as one could cast the eye. How much time had passed? After two months on the road, it did not seem to matter. Days had gone by in a more natural rhythm and the concept of home, with its daily structure, had already become quite vague. Sliding down the sandy



photo by Eunice

hills, almost floating on air, charged with new energy, holding on to the experience, the unity of spirit and body, the inspiring multiplicity of life. Alone maybe, but not lonely. Could there be a continuous connection without getting trapped in that treacherous daily-life routine?

In the year 2000, for the first time in the history of mankind, most people on the planet will live in cities. The standard of living will increase, but not necessarily the quality of life. The rapid decrease of historic buildings—due to polluted air, acid rain and so on—do not promise much for all those organic structures, our own temples. And when body and soul are one, the effects on the latter must concern those city-dwellers. Admiration grows for the new pioneers among us who seek a healthier lifestyle in the country, without the constant input and distractions from the city. Their homesteads are increasingly becoming the new heavens, where gay men and women can find themselves and each other. This might explain the explosive interest in country life by faeries—their connection with nature and each other. For some, it is also a (re)discovering of gay-identity and, by sharing emotional depths, it is our growth as human beings.

In the winter of 1993, I visited Short Mountain Sanctuary for the first time. I knew then what was for me—an outdoor life with basic comfort and an exposure to a wide variety of natural elements. Working the earth and keeping animals for a more or less self-sufficient existence. Sharing crafts and talents with other men in a non-competitive manner. Stepping into a slower, more natural pace, with less pressure to contribute in a productive way to society's rat-race. Among all those strangers from a different culture,

I felt immediately at home—warmed by the heat of the woodburning stoves and the sincere attention and affection of the winter habitants: the healing power of a natural connection.

During the following spring and summer, things for me fell into place. I met John Ferguson (Lekker Ding) and Geert Oetken (later known as Trish-Trash) and miraculously we joined forces. The word got out to all major European gay-organisations—the faeries are re-emerging on the continent. So, the very first EuroFaerie seeds were planted and they still grow and flourish. Let us all be inspired to make our everyday lives full of faeriedom. ★

*Eunice is a EuroFaerie, a photographer/journalist, and a landscape designer living in Zeist, Holland. He obviously likes to wear many different hats (and dresses). The faerie community in Short Mountain, Tennessee, holds a 10-day Spring Gathering with an incredible Beltane celebration on May 1. For more info, contact: SM Sanctuary, PO Box 68, Liberty TN 37095 .*



## LETTER FROM THE EDITRESS

Welcome to the second issue of *EuroFaerie Facts* (the first was actually the announcement for last year's gathering in Terschelling). After producing a 20-page EuroFaerie section for *RFD* (the faerie magazine published by the community in Tennessee), which was time-consuming but also an immensely rewarding experience, I'm quite excited that we are starting our own newsletter on a regular basis. For now, this is going to be a quarterly publication, with seasonal issues coming out around the two solstices and the two equinoxes. It is intended to be a community newsletter, showcasing not only EuroFaerie talent, but the life of the EuroFaeries in general. Therefore, I urge you to submit not only your art, poems, and/or written articles, but announcements, greetings, personal photos, etc.—things that will contribute to the lives of all EuroFaeries. Since this newsletter is international, we'll conduct it primarily in English, with translations of some materials into other languages in future issues.

**call  
for  
entries!**

I hope that this two-page newsletter will be the start of a continuously-growing publication, perhaps the beginning of a European *RFD*. I eagerly await your entries for the spring issue. **The deadline for receiving materials is March 1.** Please phone 31-20-681-2465 for specifications on how to submit materials in electronic format. In the meantime, don't forget to stay LOVely like KuLOVly! ★

**Kulov**, a EuroFaerie @ Home

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Toy Toy & John on their new home in the north of Holland, where almost twenty faeries (a lot of them first-timers) celebrated Winter Solstice at the December 20 & 21 gatherette. The two hostesses facilitated a wonderful Winter Solstice/Blessing of the House ritual, which included sharing stories about our favourite habitats and covering the entire house with black farmer's plastic (a la Christo). Toy Toy & John, also known as the Ice Faeries, would like their large and cozy house to become a faerie retreat, sort of the North Holland 'Headquarters'. They need your input, ideas, and help in realizing this dream. THANK YOU ICE FAERIES! Here is their new address for your mailing lists: Eddie Tijssen & John Beek, Sellingerstraat 21, 9561 TA Ter Apel, tel: 31-20-599-324264.

Kulov is back from her job as the EuroFaerie ambassadorette in the States. She's here to stay and is currently living at Jackie Monroe's old flat at: Fagelstraat 84 III, 1052 GH Amsterdam. Her telephone number is: 31-20-681-2465. She needs your help in learning Dutch and in finding work. Phone her! ★



*EuroFaerie Facts* is edited and designed by Kulov. Send your comments, inquiries and entries to:

Noordeindseweg 107a  
2651 LG Berkel en Rodenrijs  
THE NETHERLANDS  
tel/fax: 31-10-512-0972  
e-mail: j.ferguson@pi.net

## FAERIE CALENDAR

**Sunday, January 18: First Annual Business Afternoon.** For those of you motivated faeries, who are seriously interested in getting more involved in the organizational aspects of the EuroFaeries, there will be a business meeting at Kulov's apartment in Amsterdam: Fagelstraat 84, third floor. Meeting will begin at 13:00 with possible topics for discussion: building an organizational infrastructure with sharing of responsibilities, hosting faerie events, fund-raising, missionary projects, Summer '98 gatherings, and more. Please phone Kulov by January 15, to RSVP and for directions to her flat at: 31-20-681-2465. Bring your ideas, willingness to get involved, vegetarian snacks and/or something to drink.

**Sunday, February 1:** A celebration of the Fire of Brigid at Lekker Ding & Alfredo's Faerie Farm. This pot-luck faerie circle will include a building of an alter and a lighting of the fire of the ancient Irish Goddess of craftspeople Brigid, which marks the Halfway Point between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox. We will gather at 13:00. Please RSVP, by phoning Lekker Ding at: 31-10-512-0972. For those of you who need to come a day earlier, it is possible.

**Sunday, February 8:** Our first drumming circle at Jackie Monroe's Faerie Academie in Zunderdorp. There's been an interest in starting a regular drumming circle, which at first will meet once every two weeks for practice. Drumming is a powerful aspect of faeriedom which the EuroFaeries have not yet incorporated into the community. We will gather at 14:00. In addition to practicing, we will discuss future drumming circles and locations. Please phone Ms. Monroe to RSVP and for directions at 31-20-636-8188. Bring your drums and/or plastic buckets, vegetarian snacks and/or something to drink, and, of course, your faerie tribal spirits.

**Saturday, February 14: Beautiest Valentine at the Temple**—a group faerie attendance of the day sauna in Amsterdam on Valentines Day (our day of beauty). A somewhat subversive attempt by us, EuroFaeries, to change the dark, overtly serious, and cruisy atmosphere of a place of public sex. We'll meet at the entrance at 13:00 (6 faeries get in for the price of 5), take over some cubicles on the top floor, decorate them, and do our faerie frolic throughout the day. Phone 31-20-681-2465 to coordinate what to bring.

KEEP IN MIND THE FOLLOWING DATES:

March 22: *A Celebration of Spring Equinox* at the Faerie Academie in Zunderdorp, where we'll dig out Persephone—in the form of a Barbie doll buried there during our last Halloween ritual. More info in the spring issue.

April 30–May 3: *A Dancing into May Gatherette* at Trish-Trash's house in Bonn. More info in the spring issue.

July 17–24: Our first *EuroFaerie Art Camp Gathering* on the island of Ameland. Official announcements will be mailed in March.

August 10–21: *Terschelling IV Gathering.* Official announcements will be mailed in March. ★

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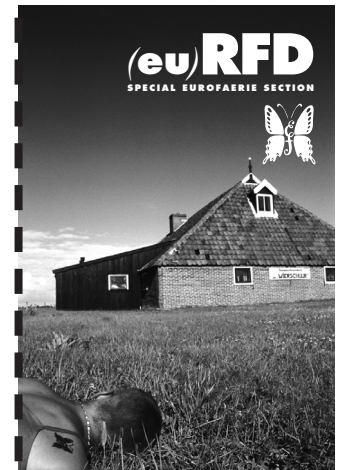
## SPECIAL INSERT: FUNDRAISING

Our 20-page section for *RFD* is completed and the US magazine has just come out of print. To those of you who contributed to the issue: **sincerest thanks**. All contributors will receive an original copy of the magazine after we receive them by post from Tennessee. However, we have accumulated a considerable amount of costs toward the production of this *(eu)RFD*.

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To raise money toward these costs, we have created small booklets of our 20-page section **only**. They feature EuroFaerie art, performance, personal accounts and academic musings on faeridom, our astrological chart, some of Alfredo's recipes, EuroFaerie dicks and much more. Booklets are printed in black on pink paper and have been hand-bound in clear plastic on Lekker Ding's **special binding machine** at the Faerie Farm. Since *(eu)RFD* is a comprehensive peek into the EuroFaeries and showcases what we are about, it makes perfect gifts for those non-faerie friends who always

ask what the faeries are about. Or to the ones whom you've tried to persuade to come to faerie circles and/or gatherings but they never had the guts to do so. And of course, it is a good reading during cold winter evenings. **See order form on the back of this insert.**



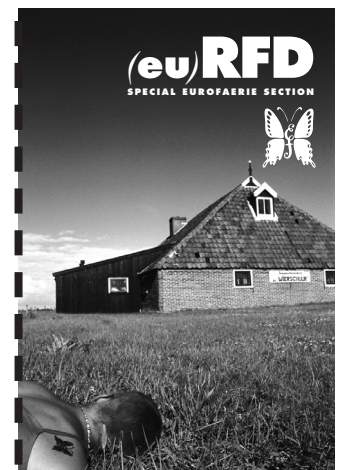
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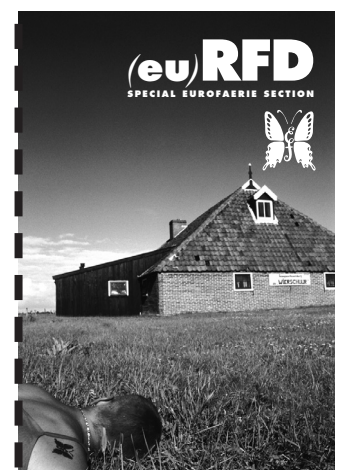
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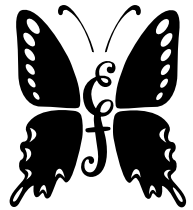
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fax \_\_\_\_\_

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