



Gnome News

A Publication Of The International Gnome Club

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Hello Gnomers!

I hope all of you and your Gnomes are doing well. Here in Northern California the shipments of Spring Garden Gnomes are coming in and there is a good selection of fun decorative items for the yard! This winter has been warmer than usual, and not much rain, so my Gnomes have had to work extra hard making sure the plants, trees, and critters are taken care of.

On Saturday, February 25, we hosted Gnome Museum Day at Gnome Habitat USA. The weather was nice and we had about 14 guests attend the event. Besides looking at all the Gnomes in the Museum, visitors bought big Gnome cookies, purchased handmade Gnome cards, Gnome doors, and even had their pictures taken, looking like Gnomes. Other vendors had jewelry, art, and Gnome hats. Guests could also walk the Gnome Labyrinth, learn about the medicine wheel, take a walk down by the pond, say hi to the horses and chickens or just relax and watch bubbles float up from the big mushroom. It was a great day and we made a lot of people smile!!! A big thank you to Kevin. I could not do these Gnome activities without her help and creative support!

I would like to thank my faithful newsletter contributors for the articles and website information they have provided me this issue. I encourage all members, to take a few minutes and let us know about what you and your Gnomes are up to! Let us know what you would like to see in your Club Newsletter this year.

In our next issue of **Gnome News** we will have a photo contest! Please send us a picture of you and your Gnome collection or you and your favorite Gnome. We will announce the winner and publish their picture in the next newsletter. The winner will receive a handmade Gnome notecard, courtesy of Kev's Creative Cards. (keyscreativecards@hotmail.com). All photos must be received by June 1st. Please e-mail your entry to: gnomegnet@aol.com.

Happy Gnome-sightings!

Membership dues: \$15.00. Three issues of "Gnome News" sent by e-mail. (Add \$5.00 if you would prefer to have your copy sent by snail-mail.) Send U.S. check or cash. Checks payable to: Liz Spera, 3901 Ayres Holmes Ln., Auburn, Ca. 95602 U.S.A. E-mail: gnomegnet@aol.com Website: www.gnomereserve.co.uk/club
Please be sure to send your e-mail address!

Pictures from Gnome Museum Day



Gnomish Encounters of a Swiss Variety

By Alyssa L. Ochs - - March 6, 2012

Last year, I traveled to Switzerland to do some sightseeing and take a much-needed vacation from the daily grind back in Chicago. At least one of my gnomes always tags along me when I travel, because as we all know, gnomes love adventure and they are extremely photogenic.

I arrived in Zürich, Switzerland on a chilly February evening and began to explore the city. As I passed techno clubs and artsy lounges, a flash of color caught my eye in an alley...an alley that seemed no different than any other alley in Zürich, Chicago, or anywhere else in between.



Lo and behold, what do I see? Dozens of life-sized gnomes extending from one end of the alley to the other! I squealed with delight and ran up to greet them with my best fake Swiss accent. I was so thrilled to meet them that I could barely hold my camera still enough to capture their brilliance! I begged my travel companion to capture a photo of me with one of the gnomes, who seemed rather delighted to meet an American girl.

I scoured the premises, but try as I might, I could find no explanation of where these gnomes came from and why they lived here. I chocked it up to the general mystery that surrounds all gnome-kind and proceeded to enjoy the rest of my vacation.

But when I arrived back home, I was determined to get to the bottom of these mysterious Swiss gnomes and expose the secret that I felt compelled to discover. Despite countless hours on the Internet, my research turned up absolutely nothing! It was as if I was the only person who encountered them!

Just as I was throwing in the towel, I came across a Wikipedia article entitled “Gnomes of Zürich”. Was this the key to my mystery? According to the article, *“Gnomes of Zürich is a disparaging term for Swiss bankers. Swiss bankers are popularly associated with extremely secretive policies, while gnomes in fairy tales live underground, in secret, counting their riches. Zürich is the commercial center of Switzerland.”*

I conducted further investigation about these so-called gnomes. I was infuriated that “gnome” was a hostile catchphrase propagated in the 1960’s and associated with greed, deceit, and secrecy. Was my gnomish discovery a political statement? Did I stumble upon a piece of history that I would have otherwise never encountered? I guess I’ll never really know for sure. But what I do know is that gnomes will never cease to be a mystery and they will never stop appearing in the places you least expect them.



GARDENING WITH GNOMES
Part XXVII
Show Gnomes Arriving to Your Yard
By Jean Fenstermaker



New arrivals rejoice in music as other newcomers march forward. One enters up through a water drain line as the song "New York, New York" fills the air.



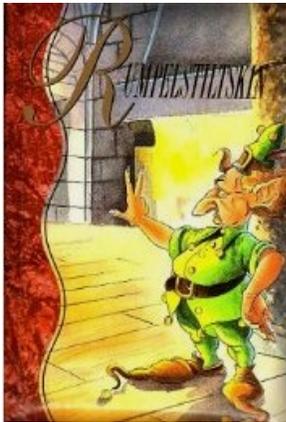
Designate an area of your yard to show gnome immigrants arriving. Having a miniature Statue of Liberty that plays the song *New York, New York* when tourists walk past really adds to the atmosphere. A trellis in the background labeled *Trellis Island Immigrants* helps to further get the idea across. Gnomes with suitcases that have stickers listing cities of the world hint of their travels thus far. By showing guests a gnome's passport with their identity and pertinent information right inside certainly makes the situation seem almost real. Onlookers seem to understand why some of the gnomes look rather worn when told of what they must have gone through from having traveled so many miles to get this far.

Photos by Jean Fenstermaker

Basic thoughts about Little People to help humans

Centuries ago, when there were far less humans than now, Little People lived in very dense forests in foreign lands. Most humans hardly knew of their existence. Forest birds and animals became their great friends. Humans, however, were too busy building castles and towns. Today, sounds of Little People can be heard in forests if humans will be silent and listen intently for light footsteps, laughter, and even the sound of scurrying Brownies, Leprechauns (and others).

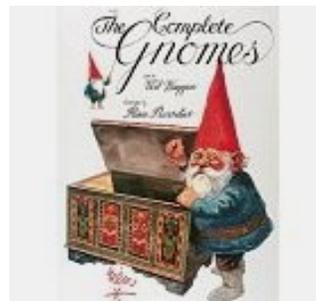
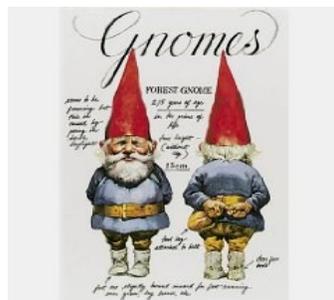
Dwarf bodies are usually depicted with a gnarled look to leg muscles. Their faces can look cheerful, but they often look angry and have large teeth unevenly spaced. These (to the right) happen to be from the movie “Snow White,” but they were rather unusual. Rumpelstiltskin below is a dwarf personified; up to no good!



Someone described a dwarf as having a “short and stalk-like body.”

Elves have pointed ears ... are generally thin. Their head/facial features are most often clean-shaven, with a beard that tapers down to a point. Elves generally dress in green-toned forest colors or bright Christmas colors. Their foot covers can have very pointed, up-turned toes like jester shoes (and even toe bells).

Gnomes have a sturdy, stocky (chubby) body. They always wear some type of boot, not shoes. Gnomes (adult guys) have a mustache/beard.



Gremlins are rumored to be mischievous (feather-brained), for the most part. They aren't known for being deliberately evil like Trolls or Snotgurgles, but they are rumored to be easily swayed.



Snotgurgles and Trolls can have various features, but they're ALL really ugly beyond description. If you run into one somewhere in a forest or even on your own property, beware even if they smile. Maybe just wave, but keep moving !



Wood Spirits or Wood Sprites (a.k.a. Woodland Spirits) can take on so many forms, most probably unknown to humans. They can be good, simple souls as well as naughty souls.

It depends on their family backgrounds and everyday influences. Like the old saying goes, "There's good and bad in everything."

Gnome Devotee

IS YOUR LIFE TOO CONFUSED OR SPREAD TOO THIN?

We usually do it to ourselves. The answer to a good bit of daily human confusion is that it is self-created and can be simplified easier than we think. Confusion in living can happen in a heartbeat – but not to Gnomes! They have been solid and peaceful as long as time can remember. We grown-up humans can all try to make our lives simpler, whether we live alone or are in a family. We can all do it.

Gnomes go about their daily business doing what is necessary to sustain their families, themselves, and friends ... taking care to be respectful and helpful to all living creatures in need (even humans).



Whether we like it or not, we're subjected to negative news from all directions. I've never heard of Gnomes fighting other Gnomes to annihilate them or bombing something – not even having one of their bridge creations collapse because of careless construction. Whatever Gnomes do seems to get done right – carefully thought out and completed in the spirit of total cooperation. There are no union strikes ... no design plan disputes or fighting over permits ... and no lack of consideration for forests, animals or humans.

How do they live that way? Well, they have just what they need, manage their belongings respectfully, and don't get caught up in unnecessary luxuries. They're loving, considerate, and lack arrogance and competitiveness. Their ideas are simple and wholesome – no pretentious personalities show off flashy belongings or brag about what schools their kids go to. I thoroughly enjoy my Gnome collection and constantly ponder the ways of Gnomes.

I decided to make time to go through every corner of my home when deciding to make my own life much simpler. My entire house got nicely (and very thoughtfully) tightened up. Old stored piles of music got sorted and sold to a music dealer ... videos, cassettes, DVDs and books were thinned out – you name it! I also offered some items to appreciative folks. My development just happened to have a neighborhood sale that drew miles of cars. A local white elephant sale for a special cause was timely. Small superfluous furnishings and clothing, etc., got picked up by a volunteer. Some family antiques were given to a thrilled cousin. I'm enjoying her enjoyment and seeing where she's proudly placed those things in her home. Even some jewelry I wasn't wearing got sold on consignment in an antique shop I trusted (and there aren't many of those).

Having less to care for indoors is truly uplifting. I only have one nice color TV on a kitchen counter area and one computer in a small office/sewing room. I deliberately see less TV such as news, etc., but I like documentary channels and an old movie now and then. I don't get a newspaper (never had time to read it anyway) and let all news magazine subscriptions expire. How many times do we need to hear and read about negative events? I now have more time to read, sew, and play an instrument.

I plan errand junkets to conserve gas and time and realized I don't usually have to get everything on my "To do" list done every day.

Some people can't walk, drive, or even ride a bicycle without talking on a cell phone. Why are they afraid to be quiet? I have a car phone for emergencies that came with the car and a house phone with voice mail. Period. My bank branch's gals were flabbergasted when they heard I neither banked on line nor had an ATM card – and I confess that I did acquiesce for those. I don't tweet on Twitter or have my face on Facebook to communicate with folks I have no relationship with.

Try making your life quieter and less cluttered.



Think of Gnomes every day – and start to simplify.

GNOME DEVOTEE