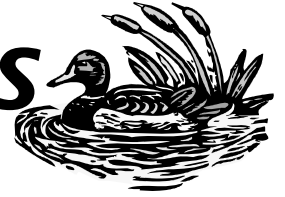




Shining Lakes News

A Newsletter for Shining Lakes Grove, A.D.F.



Beltaine 2005

Vol. 12, No. 2

When The Sun Meets The River, Many Insects Are Found

The weekend before was cold, and snow fell the weekend after—but for one weekend in the middle of April, it was warm and sunny, the perfect weather for the River Roundup. Sponsored by the Huron River Watershed Council’s Adopt-a-Stream program, the Roundup is our chance to go out into the rivershed every spring and fall and take samples of the macroinvertebrate (mostly insect) populations to see where the river system is healthy and where it’s not.

This year, I received training to officially make me a Team Captain for the event. Having been on about fifteen Roundups in the past, I pretty much knew everything I needed to for the training, but having the title is nice. My team included myself, a grad student who actually got into the water to take the samples, and a Malaysian orthodontist, her son, and his friend, who thought this would be a good way to learn about the river’s ecology. (And it is!) Our team was assigned to go all the way to Flat Rock—yes, Flat Rock is in the same rivershed as Ann Arbor, strange as that may seem! The Huron enters Lake Erie not far from the two sites we visited.

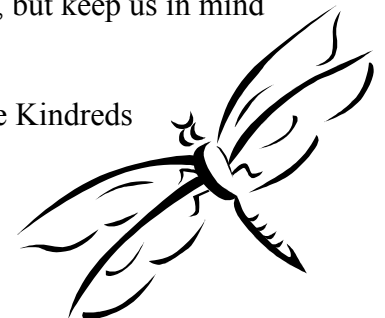
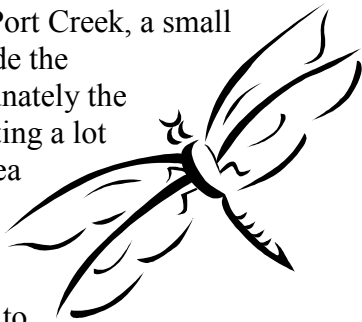
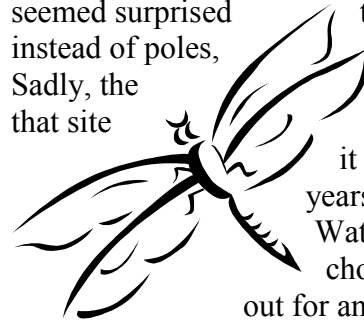
The first site was at Port Creek, a small stream a few miles outside the downtown area. Unfortunately the banks were steep, indicating a lot of development in the area (more pavement means the water floods into the river system quickly, and doesn’t get a chance to enter the stream naturally through the ground later on, which erodes the banks.) I wasn’t expecting our team to find much insect life there, based on earlier years’ results, but I was happily mistaken! We found lots of different species, including a dragonfly larva and lots of damselfly larvae. The stream was

in better shape than it was letting on! We also had one of the local residents come out and talk to us about what we were doing. By and large, the people I’ve met through the years have always been friendly and genuinely interested in what we were doing.

Our other site was the Huron River itself, at a downtown park, where we got to compete with dozens of people fishing in the stream. (They seemed surprised that we were using a net instead of poles, until we explained it.) Sadly, the insect population at that site wasn’t quite as good as it had been in previous years. The folks at the Watershed Council may choose to send another team out for another sampling, just in case our team wasn’t as good at finding things as we should be. If the populations continue to be low and not diverse, they might even choose to notify the DEQ for further action, but I don’t want to make this sound disastrous! Hopefully the next team to go out there will find better samples.

So do I need to keep telling you all how wonderful this is? What a completely new perspective on the river and our river goddess this can give you? How this helps fulfill our responsibility to ADF to perform public service work every quarter? It’s too late for the spring Roundup, of course, and most of you won’t read this until after the Bug ID Day (where we identify the species we collected) on May 1st, but keep us in mind next fall!

Yours in service to the Kindreds
and the Grove,
Rev. Rob
Henderson,
Senior Druid



Crazy for Daffy-Down-Dillies

By Rob Henderson (of course!)

Most of you know that I moved back to Ypsilanti in January. I'm in a rental house next to a party sore in a nondescript part of town. It's not a rich neighborhood, but it's not a violent one either. Living here for two months and seeing the land under Danu's blanket of snow, I spent those two months wondering what the place would look like when spring finally arrived. (Or pretended to arrive—this is still Michigan, after all!)



So when spring came, I was happy to see that the grass around here is nice and green, even if the amount of litter around here is annoying. And then one day, as I left the house and went back to the small asphalt lot where I park my car, I was stunned to see two daffodils blooming defiantly at me! In the middle of the pavement and flat ground in the back yard, these bright yellow harbingers of spring had burst forth.

Of course, being the expert I am in both flowers [Chronicler's note: No, he isn't!] and Greek myth [Chronicler's note: OK, I guess he is], I knew that the daffodil's genus name, *Narcissus*, comes from guy who refused to fall in love with any woman, and instead fell in love with his own reflection in a pool of water, staring at it until he starved to death, and later the flowers that bear his name grew in that spot. Well I didn't see any dead Greeks in the back yard—as I said, it's not a violent neighborhood, really. But there they grew, all the same.



But then last weekend, a wet blizzard blew through the area, dumping snow on the ground. Each time I went outside, I had to check—were the daffodils still holding on? Was this surprise storm going to kill them? The snow melted the next day—and they were fine! Huzzah! The last grasp of winter was vanquished!

I know the flowers won't last forever, but for now, those daffy-down-dillies give me hope that we can survive any random nastiness that the Fates throw our way. Huzzah!

Why are We Here?

By Jude Howison

Well there's a multi-layered question! I'm not going to attempt to discuss the larger philosophical question of human existence here. (Hey, catch me at Fire Watch sometime, though.) Instead, I want to address the more mundane version. Why is Shining Lakes Grove here, and why do we work hard to keep it going?

As I stand at the midpoint of another year serving as Grove Administrator and Grove Scribe, I find myself revisiting just what that responsibility entails. One of the duties of Grove Administrator is to ensure the community's needs are being met. I must make sure there are eight public High Day Rituals and the

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No e-mail access? Contact our officers at our snail-mail address or phone number.

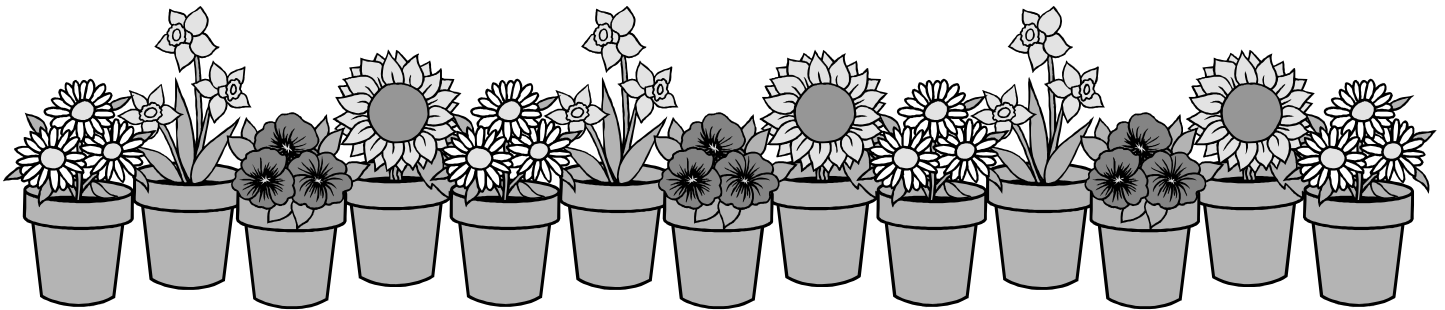
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Grove's community service projects and quarterly reports are completed. Well, those things are well established and are regularly accomplished by the other dedicated Grove officers. What I'm pondering is what other needs might the community have?

I know that for me the Grove provides a place to learn and grow in my personal spirituality. I have worked on the ADF Dedicator Program and look forward to starting the Generalist Study Program. I thoroughly enjoy the companionship and acceptance I find within the Grove. I believe that's why the Grove is here. Shining Lakes Grove, ADF, is here to provide the neopagan community with a safe and

accepting atmosphere in which to grow in their relation to the Shining Ones. But are you satisfied with what the Grove provides?

Do you find yourself thinking, <sigh> "I wish our Grove did that." Please, let me know if there is something you feel would enhance your experience with the Grove. I know Rob has asked this question before (many, many times). But I want you to know that that is what I am here for. It is one of the main responsibilities of the Administrator, and I want to fulfill that position to the best of my ability. That is why I am here.



Grove Calendar: Beltaine to Summer Solstice

Rituals

Liturgists' Roundtable—Ritual Planning: Help us plan our Summer Solstice ritual. All welcome. *5/31, 6/14, 7-9 pm at Rod/Liz's*

Fire Watch: We follow the traditions of our ancestors and keep the hearth fire burning the night before ritual. *6/17, Dusk at Botsford*

Summer Solstice Rite: Join us as we honor Bel and Danu, our primal father and mother deities. There will be a raffle and potluck after the rite. *6/18, 2-5 pm at Botsford (rain date: 6/19)*

Helping the Huron

Bug ID Day: Count the insect samples we collected from streams in the rivershed. Sponsored by the Huron River Watershed Council. (You must register in advance for this! jmartin@hrwc.org or 734-769-5971) *5/1, 12-3 pm or 2-5 pm, meet at NEW Center*

Classes and Study Groups

Dedicator Program Study Group: Join us as we work toward completing the ADF Dedicator Program. *5/14, 6/11, 3-5 pm at Ypsi Library*

Meetings

SLG Business Meeting: Discussion of general business and setting of the calendar. *5/10, 6/7, 7-9 at Borders*

Magicians' Guild: Studies of magic and its uses in Druidry. January's topic: Energy Work. *5/1, 6/5, 2-3 pm at Rod/Liz's*

Healers' Guild: Studies of natural remedies and other forms of healing. January's topic: Runic Reiki (Rod's new system). *5/1, 6/5, 3-4 pm at Rod/Liz's*

Warriors' Guild: Studies of honor, strength, and protection of boundaries. *5/1, 6/5, 4-5 pm at Rod/Liz's*

Social Events

Coffee Hour: Join us for our monthly discussion of interesting topics. *5/20, 6/24, 7-9 pm at Borders*

Festivals

Wellspring: Join ADF members from all over the continent for ritual, workshops, and the ADF annual meeting. *5/26-5/30, Brushwood Folklore Center, Sherman, New York*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 1 12-3 or 2-5 ID Day <u>NEW Center</u> 2-5 Guild Day Rod/Liz's Mage/Heal/War	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 7-9 Business Mtg. Borders	11	12	13	14 3-5 DP Study Group Ypsilanti Library
MOTHER'S DAY						
15	16	17	18	19	20 7-9 Coffee Hour Borders	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
				WELLSPRING	WELLSPRING	WELLSPRING
29	30	31 7-9 Liturgist RT Rod/Liz's	June 1	2	3	4
WELLSPRING	WELLSPRING					
5 2-5 Guild Day Rod/Liz's Mage/Heal/War	6	7 7-9 Business Mtg. Borders	8	9	10	11 3-5 DP Study Group Ypsilanti Library
12	13	14 7-9 Liturgist RT Rod/Liz's	15	16	17 Fire Watch Botsford	18 2-5 Summer Solstice Rite Botsford
19	20	21	22	23	24 7-9 Coffee Hour Borders	25
FATHER'S DAY	SUMMER BEGINS					

Addresses:

Borders Books and Music: 3527 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor
 Botsford Recreational Preserve, 301 Miller, Ann Arbor
 NEW Center: 1100 N. Main, Ann Arbor

Rod and Liz's: 263 Larkspur, Ann Arbor, (734) 998-1029
 Ypsilanti District Library, 5577 Whitaker Rd., Ypsilanti