



# Shining Lakes News

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



Autumn Equinox 2015

Vol. 22, No. 4

## The Drain She is Flowing, Flowing and Growing

Last summer, I was thinking about river goddesses (as I often do) and our nemeton (as I sometimes do), and I wondered what streamshed our nemeton was located in. I already knew that it was just barely in the Huron's rivershed, of course, but it's located a fair way from the river itself, so how does the water drain from our wooded circle all the way down to the river? I knew there was a stream of some sort passing within a few hundred feet of us to the west, and a quick check of the topographical map confirmed that it was directly downhill from us, so that had to be the one.

The map showed that the source was likely a few miles northwest of the nemeton, and that it passed through both farmland and residential areas before meeting the Huron near Superior Rd. The many perfectly straight stretched, combined with its name being listed as "Superior Number One Drain," made me suspect that it was man-made, and an e-mail to the County Drain

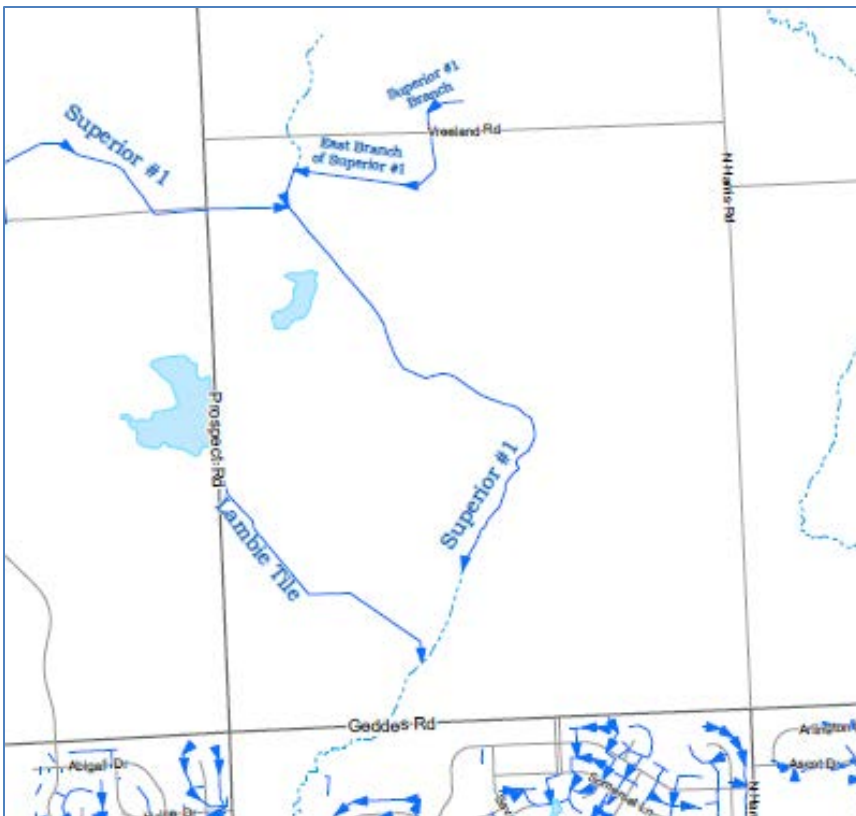
Commission confirmed that it was created around 1870 to help drain the swampy areas north of us. Folks may think it's a bit odd to honor the nature spirit of an unnatural waterway, but where there's water, there's always the potential for life. Personally, I think that 140 years is plenty of time for a spirit to associate itself with a new stream. (The scientist in me really wants to do some controlled experiments involving a bulldozer, but I will leave that to others.)

Last year, we held a special An Bruane session on a Sunday afternoon where we traveled to the source of the drain (or as close as I could get in my stroller) and did trance work to contact the spirit, much as we did with Ana over twenty years ago. And much the same as that earlier working, we sensed a presence there, but we received different impressions from it. I saw insects flying low above the surface of the stream, and I sensed how the transition along the length of the stream from rural to

more populated areas reflected the same transition of the Huron. We didn't get any sense of a name, though, so I'm forced to address it as "the unnamed spirit of Superior Number One Drain" in ritual, as my nickname "SNODgrass" seems too informal to use in ritual, even for me.

I don't know exactly how our Grove's relationship will develop with this spirit, as I'm sure none of that initial group who traveled to Big Lake in 1994 knew how that relationship would develop in the years to come. One thing I do want to begin doing is honoring this newly contacted spirit as the Earth Mother in rituals where Ana is the Deity of the Occasion. As a liturgist, I usually prefer not to have the DotO pulling double duty in the rite, and this gives us a chance to focus on Ana during the offerings portion of the rite while still acknowledging the importance of the land we stand on. The next High Day rite where we'll be doing that is the afternoon rite for Samhain, and I hope you all have the chance to join us and take part in the continuing evolution of our Grove cosmology!

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



Portion of the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner's map showing the segment of Superior #1 Drain flowing near the Nematon. Complete map can be found at: [http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/drain\\_commissioner/dc\\_webServicesResponsibilities/dc\\_drainmaps/SuperiorTWP](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/drain_commissioner/dc_webServicesResponsibilities/dc_drainmaps/SuperiorTWP)

# A Ritual of a Thousand Steps

I was unfortunate enough to miss this year's Grove Lughnasadh ritual. Yet I still managed to celebrate it, although my celebration came about in an unexpected way.

I had decided to go out to the Eddy Center near Chelsea and perform my Sunday devotions near the Lakeland Trail, one of the outermost trails winding around the Center. I pulled into the parking lot, stood at the trail head...and then, all of a sudden, felt an urge to make the trek out to the Crooked Lake overlook on the Hickory Hills trail instead. I stood there, studying the trail map. *Would I have enough time to make it out there and back to do my grocery shopping before I had to return home?* I wondered. I made the snap decision to "just do it" and set out.

So I began my journey throughout different landscapes. I walked uphill, I walked downhill. I walked through narrow paths with branches brushing my legs, I walked through comparatively wide trails surrounded by trees. I walked on dirt, I walked on sand, I carefully stepped my way through roots and rocks. I would step out of the woods swatting mosquitoes away and into open grassy areas. Sweat was slowly accumulating on the back of my shirt.

At one point, I began silently berating myself for choosing to head so far out to do my devotions. *You know, if you were going to walk on the Hickory Hills trail, you could've just parked in the lot near the trail on McClure Road....* I came out at the field next to said parking lot and thought about calling my dad to come and pick me up to take me back to my car. *No, you're not going to do that,* I told myself.

I began the final part of my walk, going down the steep hill to the Crooked Lake overlook. It had been some time since I had been on this trail, and it took longer than I remembered. I made my way down a steep hill covered with rocks, and wound up at the overlook. I flopped on the bench and took a breath before starting my devotions.

I poured some water out to Lugh. I described to Him how, even though I have never really felt any sort of connection to Him, how I remembered His story of seeking admission to the Tuatha De Danu by offering all sorts of skills, and finally winning the gatekeeper over with His argument that no one else could perform all of those skills. I made my offerings to Him and the rest of the Grove deities and sat back on the bench. I looked out over the blue water, seeing only a fishing boat on the lake, and inhaled the smell of lake water. Then I looked up at the sunlight shining through green leaves, thinking about how perfect everything was at that moment.

And then it hit me: I had just gone on a warrior's hike. I had given in to a sudden urge to go outside of my original plans and ended up making a long march to honor the Shining Ones. I realized that that trek was, in and of itself, an offering to Lugh. I sat on the bench a few minutes more, and then proceeded to make my way back to my car through the rocks, and the mosquitoes, and up the hills—a four-mile round trip in Lugh's honor.

—Molly Harris

## SLG Leadership Council

### Senior Druid

Rob Henderson robh@shininglakes.org

### Assistant Senior Druid

Rodney Cox uberrod@comcast.net

### Administrator

Noal McDonald dharzhak@yahoo.com

### Scribe

*Position Open*

### Pursewarden

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### Chronicler

Genevieve Stoyak gstoyak@gmail.com

### Public Relations Coordinator

*Position Open*

### Youth Activities Coordinator

Candy Brockman

candy.brockman@gmail.com

## SLG Guild Leaders

### Magicians' Guild

Rodney Cox uberrod@comcast.net

### Warriors' Guild

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### Healers' Guild

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### Bardic Guild

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Genevieve Stoyak gstoyak@gmail.com

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

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# Grove Calendar: Fall Equinox to Yule

## Social Events

**Coffee Hour:** Join us for our monthly discussion of interesting topics. *9/25, 10/23, 11/13, 12/4, 8-11 pm at Sweetwaters*

## Meetings

**SLG Business Meeting:** Discussion of general business and setting of the calendar. *10/14, 11/10, 12/8, 7-9 at Panera Bread*

## Helping the Huron

**River Roundup:** Collect water and insect samples from streams in the rivershed. Sponsored by the Huron River Watershed Council. (You must register in advance for this! [jfrenzel@hrwc.org](mailto:jfrenzel@hrwc.org)) *10/3, 9 am-3pm or 11 am-5pm, meet at NEW Center*

**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! [jfrenzel@hrwc.org](mailto:jfrenzel@hrwc.org)) *10/11, 12-2 pm or 2-4 pm, meet at NEW Center*

Per our new bylaws amendment, all Grove memberships will be due at Samhain. So if you've been wondering when to give us your dues, now you know! If you won't be at the Samhain rituals, you can always send them to us at:

Shining Lakes Grove, ADF  
PO Box 3901  
Ann Arbor, MI 48106



## Rituals

**An Bruane:** Rituals and advanced spiritual exploration for those who wish to go beyond the standard High Day rites. Members only, please. *11/3, 7-9 pm at Rob's*

**Liturgists' Roundtable—Ritual Planning:** Help us plan our Samhain and Yule rituals. All welcome. *10/27, 12/1, 7-9 pm at Sweetwaters*

**Yule Rite:** Join us as we honor Danu and Bel, our primal mother and father deities. There will be a raffle and potluck after the rite. *12/13, 2-5 pm at Friends*

## Public Service

**CROP Walk:** Join us as we help raise funds for local charities! For more info:

[http://hunger.cwsglobal.org/site/TR/2015CROPHungerWalks/TR-CHW2015?pg=entry&fr\\_id=21082](http://hunger.cwsglobal.org/site/TR/2015CROPHungerWalks/TR-CHW2015?pg=entry&fr_id=21082) *10/11, 1 pm at Rudolph Steiner High School*

## Samhain Weekend

November 6th and 7th  
Cavallo Equestrian Center,  
2185 N. Harris Rd., Ypsilanti

Two days of rituals, workshops, and celebration!

### Friday

7 pm: Fire Lighting Ritual

8 pm: Swearing in of the new Leadership Council

9 pm: Non-Celtic Ritual of some sort

### Saturday

1 pm: Workshop of some sort

2 to 4 pm: Samhain Afternoon Ritual: Join us as we celebrate the reunion of our tribal father Lugh and our river goddess Ana. This ritual will feature a craft project, and is suitable for all ages. There will be a raffle and potluck after the rite.

4 to 5 pm: Workshop of some other sort

5 to 6 pm: Ritual Prep

6 to 8:30 pm: Samhain Evening Ritual: Join us as we honor the Ancestors and Mannanan, our god of the Otherworld. This ritual uses themes of death and rebirth, and may not be suitable for young children.

8:30 to 10 pm: Ancestor Dinner: Bring your ancestors' favorite dish to share!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September 20	21	22	23 FALL EQUINOX	24	25 8-11 Coffee Hour Sweetwaters	26
27	28	29	30	October 1	2	3 9-3 or 11-5 River Roundup NEW Center
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 1 pm CROP Walk Steiner School 12-2 or 2-4 Bug ID Day NEW Center	12	13 7-9 Business Mtg. Panera	14	15	16	17  SWEETEST DAY
18	19	20	21	22	23 8-11 Coffee Hour Sweetwaters	24
25	26	27 7-9 Liturgist RT Sweetwaters	28	29	30	31  HALLOWEEN
November 1  DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS	2	3 7-9 An Bruane Rob's	4	5	6 Samhain Weekend 7 pm Fire Watch 9 pm Non-Celtic Ritual Cavallo	7 Samhain Weekend 2-4 Afternoon Rite 6-9 Evening Rite Cavallo
8	9	10 7-9 Business Mtg. Panera	11	12	13 8-11 Coffee Hour Sweetwaters	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 THANKSGIVING	27	28
29	30	December 1 7-9 Liturgist RT Sweetwaters	2	3	4 8-11 Coffee Hour Sweetwaters	5
6	7	8 7-9 Business Mtg. Panera	9	10	11	12
13 2-5 Yule Rite Friends Meeting	14	15	16	17	18	19

#### Addresses:

Ann Arbor Friends Meeting, 1420 Hill St., Ann Arbor  
Cavallo Equestrian Center, 2185 N. Harris Rd., Ypsilanti  
NEW Center: 1100 N. Main, Ann Arbor  
Panera Bread, 1773 Plymouth Rd., Ann Arbor

Rob's, 330 Chidester St. Apt. 812, Ypsilanti, (734) 277-1897  
Rudolph Steiner High School, 2230 Pontiac Trail, Ann Arbor  
Sweetwaters Coffee and Tea, 3393 Plymouth Rd., Ann Arbor