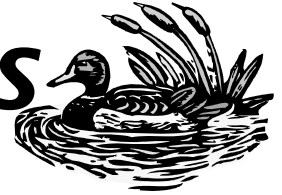




Shining Lakes News



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

Spring Equinox 2008

Vol. 15, No. 2

Twenty Druids Walk Into A Room . . .



Another High Day is here, and if recent High Days are any indication, we're going to have dozens of people crowded into the Friends basement for the rite. Many offerings and much praise to the gods, lots of interacting with each other, lots of happiness. And then we'll all go our separate ways to our homes, and a few of us will see each other a few times during the next six weeks, but except for Coffee Hour, no Grove event between now and Beltaine is likely to have more than four people attend. There are worse things than having a Grove with lots of people come to High Days and nothing else, sure. But as Senior Druid, it's my job to expect more of us.

Once upon a time, when the surface of the world was still molten and dinosaurs roamed. . . No, wait, it wasn't that long ago. It only seems that way to my ancient eyes. But back in the earliest days of the Grove, we used to have these special events called "intensives." It was a chance for everyone in the Grove to spend a few hours together and talk about, well, whatever was on our minds. We'd vote on a couple of topics to cover, about what direction we'd like the Grove to go in, or what was bothering us about what we'd been doing. In the days before most of us had e-mail, this was the only good opportunity for all Grove members to tell the officers what they wanted the Grove to do, where they wanted our focus to be. (And I'm told that most people aren't comfortable using e-mail for that sort of thing; my being a computer geek means that's never been a problem for me, but I do know the limitations of the medium.) But now the

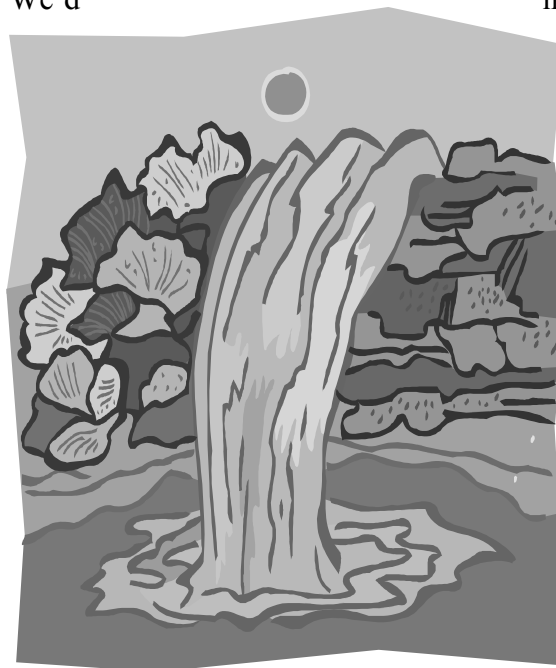
flow of the discussion, when it manages to flow at all, is more like slow molasses than Ana's rushing headwaters.

This is one of the great disadvantages of having so many Grove members not living in the Ann Arbor area. I remember when I lived in Ypsilanti and my home was one of the furthest from the middle of Ann Arbor. Now I live in Ypsilanti again, and my home is one of the closest. I'm certainly happy that we have so many people who have chosen to be members of our community, but I know this means that we just won't have as many people attending our events as we did in ye olden SLuGgie days. Guild Day is on hiatus because people just weren't attending, and the same has happened to our ADF Dedicant Path study group. Certainly the price of gasoline is a factor here (and one that's only going to get worse this summer), but I still think that if we can figure out the one or two events that people would make the extra effort to attend, we can actually have meetings that get a regular attendance of more than four.

To that end, I'd like to propose that we schedule an intensive for some time this fall.

(Summer gas prices and people's travel schedules would make an earlier one unworkable.) With enough lead-time, hopefully we can pick a time and place where we can actually get a good turnout. Please do let me know what days of the week and times would be better for you, and maybe we can get the waters of inspiration flowing faster once more.

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



New Pin for New (and Old) Dedicants

The spiffy pin pictured here was designed by ADF Vice ArchDruid Kirk Thomas and ArchDruid Emeritus Ian Corrigan. The words "ADF Dedicant" will be stamped on the back. The first thousand people to complete the written requirements for the ADF Dedicant Path (including those who have already completed them) will receive one. The Dedicant Path is the introductory portion of ADF's Study Program. If you would like to find out more about it, ask Rob or Jude, or visit: <http://www.adf.org/training/dp-faq.html>.



Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

Just as with national politics, it seems that as soon as you finish one election it's time to start the next. We need volunteers to serve on the Election Committee. The Election Committee is responsible for putting out the Call for Nominations, creating and mailing the election ballots, and counting the results. If you're interested, contact the Grove via kargach@netscape.com or (734) 262-1052. (It's easy! Really!)



What shows the news
of good times or blues,
or something about your dog?
It's blue and sleek,
new post every week,
it's blog blog blog!
<http://robslg.bravejournal.com/>

This year's Brideog
collected 34 pounds
of food for Food
Gatherers!

SLG Leadership Council

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Assistant Senior Druid

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Chronicler

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Youth Activities Coordinator

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Warriors' Guild

Rodney Cox uberrod@comcast.net

Healers' Guild

Rodney Cox uberrod@comcast.net

Producers' Guild (unofficial)

Genevieve Stoyak gstoyak@hotmail.com

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

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Grove Calendar: Spring Equinox to Summer Solstice

Rituals

An Bruane: Rituals and advanced spiritual exploration for those who wish to go beyond the standard High Day rites. Members only, please. *3/25, 4/25, 5/20, 6/24, 7-9 pm at Rod/Liz's*

Liturgists' Roundtable—Ritual Planning: Help us plan our Beltaine and Summer Solstice rituals. All welcome. *4/15, 4/29, 6/3, 6/17, 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. *5/2, 6/20, Dusk at Botsford*

Dawn Beltaine Rite: Join us on our annual journey to the source of the Huron River to greet the sun and bless our water for the coming year. *5/3, 4:30 am, meet at Botsford*

Beltaine Rite: Join us as we honor Aren, our god of love and freedom. There will be a raffle and potluck after the rite. *5/3, 2-5 pm at Botsford (rain date: 5/4)*

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. *6/22, 2-5 pm at Botsford (rain date: 6/23)*

Social Events

Coffee Hour: Join us for our monthly discussion of interesting topics. *3/28, 4/25, 5/30, 6/27, 7-9 pm at Borders*



Classes and Study Groups

Modern Druidry: *(see below for details) 5/18, 1-4 pm at Matthaei Botanical Gardens*

Meetings

SLG Business Meeting: Discussion of general business and setting of the calendar. *4/8, 5/13, 6/10, 7-9 at Borders*

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! jmartin@hrwc.org or 734-769-5971) *4/26, 9 am-2pm or 11 am-4pm, 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! jmartin@hrwc.org or 734-769-5971) *5/4, 12-3 pm or 2-5 pm, meet at NEW Center*

Festivals

Trillium: The first ADF festival of the season! *4/17—4/20, The Log Cabin Campground, Cross Junction, Virginia*

Wellspring: Join ADF members from all over the continent for ritual, workshops, and the ADF annual meeting. *5/22–5/26, Brushwood Folklore Center, Sherman, New York*

Modern Druidry

Living the Ancient Ways in Today's World

A three hour class on the practices and traditions of Shining Lakes Grove and Ár nDraíocht Féin (ADF), led by SLG Senior Druid Rob Henderson. Find out how we recreate the traditions of the ancient Indo-European cultures in a modern context. The classes will be held at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N. Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor) from 1 to 4 PM. Contact us at 734-262-1052 or kargach@netscape.com to register. The classes are free.

Our apologies for not getting Shining Lakes News ready in time for the ritual, but several inches of snow interfered with our publishing schedule. The newsletter will be available at Coffee Hour this coming Friday, or online in PDF format soon thereafter.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 23	24	25 7-9 An Bruane Rod/Liz's	26	27	28 7-9 Coffee Hour Borders	29
30	31	April 1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 7-9 Business Mtg. Borders	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 7-9 Liturgist RT Rod/Liz's	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 7-9 An Bruane Rod/Liz's EARTH DAY	23	24	25 7-9 Coffee Hour Borders	26 9-3 or 11-5 River Roundup NEW Center
27	28	29 7-9 Liturgist RT Rod/Liz's	30	May 1	2 Fire Watch Botsford	3 4:30 AM Dawn Rite 2-5 Beltaine Rite Botsford
4 12-3 or 2-5 Bug ID Day NEW Center	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 MOTHER'S DAY	12	13 7-9 Business Mtg. Borders	14	15	16	17
18 1-4 Modern Druidry Matthaei	19	20 7-9 An Bruane Rod/Liz's	21	22	23	24
25 WELLSPRING	26 WELLSPRING MEMORIAL DAY	27	28	29	30 7-9 Coffee Hour Borders	31
June 1	2	3 7-9 Liturgist RT Rod/Liz's	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 7-9 Business Mtg. Borders	11	12	13	14 FLAG DAY
15 FATHER'S DAY	16	17 7-9 Liturgist RT Rod/Liz's	18	19	20 Fire Watch Botsford	21 2-5 Summer Solstice Rite Botsford
22	23	24 7-9 An Bruane Rod/Liz's	25	26	27 7-9 Coffee Hour Borders	28

Addresses:

Borders Books and Music: 3527 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor
 Botsford Preserve, 3015 Miller Rd., Ann Arbor
 Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 Dixboro, 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