



# Shining Lakes News

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



Spring Equinox 2013

Vol. 20, No. 2

## I Have Thirty-Two Colors and Then Some



The Botsford Recreational Preserve was an incredible place for us to hold our rituals for seventeen years, no doubt about it. “Grandpa Don” put a lot of work into that site throughout the years, making it an amazing place to visit for anyone who wanted to spend time in nature, surrounded by old growth trees and Ann Arbor’s most diverse collection of plant species outside the Matthei Botanical Gardens.

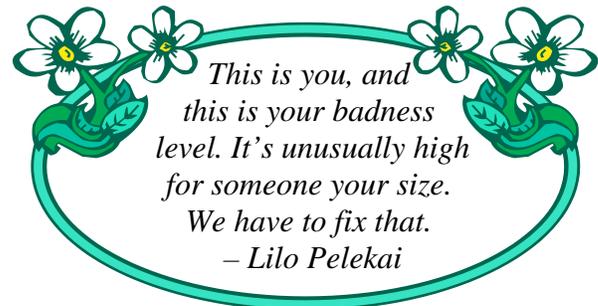
At this time of year, though, I think of one feature on the site that Don had no involvement with, that I’m pretty sure was there before he even bought the property. There was a right-of-way for the power lines that crossed over the driveway just beyond the entrance, which was probably the only section of the preserve that didn’t have any trees on it. And if at sunset you stood in that open section around the time of the equinox and faced west, you could clearly see the sun setting in between the trees on either side. The summer half of the year, the sun would set noticeably to the north, and similarly to the south during the winter half of the year. But every September and every March (this was back when we still tended the fire at Botsford the night before our indoor rites), when we arrived for Fire Watch, we could see the balance between day and night, laid out right there in the sky above us. The stone circles of Europe were laid out to give their builders that same kind of experience, and we just lucked into it because of a decision that Detroit Edison made long before our Grove was formed.

And that’s just one of the many experiences related to our Grove practices that has become a part of my own personal religious practices throughout the years. Every High Day comes with its own natural events and symbols that resonate within me, that make me realize that the holiday we’re celebrating right now is connected in time with the rituals of our Grove’s past, the rituals of our future, and the rituals of other ADF Groves and members as well. May apples and trilliums mean it must be Beltaine, and with them come all of the merriment and topsy-turvy of that season. Walking into spiderwebs built between the trees? It must be Lughnasadh. Ice on the river? Probably Imbolc. No more ice on the river? Probably Spring Equinox.

Spring Equinox in particular seems to have more of these associations for me than any of our other High Days.

Maybe it’s for the obvious reason that I’m just more likely to be outside by choice when March arrives, or maybe it’s because I always visit the Huron River during the week before the rite to commune with Ana. But the crocuses and snowdrops bursting from the ground, the sunsets happening later and later (even knowing how much Daylight flippin’ Savings has to do with that), the rushing waters of the river, all put me into that frame of mind where I remember all of the other spring rituals, the many different versions of the story of Ana that we’ve shared, our egg hunts where we’ve put a physical form to finding the life returning to the land (and managed to find a cell phone once – if only it had been a working phone, that would have been awesome!), the blessing of the tools and seeds that we bring, all coming together to reinforce the connections that I feel to the Kindreds and to my Grovemates.

One thing I don’t ever think about at the equinox? The balance of lightness and darkness within me.



I certainly don’t have a problem with balance in general. I love walking upright as much as anyone. And I think that everyone should try to live a balanced life, especially in terms of maintaining good relationships with the Kindreds and with other humans. (We used to call it “eudaimonia” in the Dedicant Path manual, but I don’t think it uses that word any more. Long Greek words can be scary.) A balanced diet is a good idea too. Moderation in all things, including moderation, is a good way to live your life.

My objection to the “light and dark within us” view is two-fold. Firstly, I’m just not a fan of dualism in general. Even back in the early Nineties when I thought of myself as Wiccan, duotheism never quite worked for me. It felt like we were just swapping out the good/evil dichotomy of the monotheist religions for a slightly different one, and even if we weren’t automatically defining one of them as

the “bad” one, people were still likely to identify with one over the other and set up a potential conflict right from the get-go. I’ve never been a fan of gender-segregated ritual, even knowing full well that the Greeks and other ancient cultures loved them. I’m not even a fan of ADF’s own Two Powers Meditation for this reason, preferring the tripartite “Bone Breath and Blood” trance induction technique instead.

But as with most aspects of our practice, this is a personal opinion, and I know lots of folks disagree with me, and that’s cool. What concerns me more is this apparent choice people are making to view themselves as only containing two kinds of essence within themselves. Maybe this makes sense from a monotheistic or duotheistic viewpoint, but if we honor lots of deities and lots of other spirits as well, it would seem more appropriate to view ourselves as having elements of many of those spirits and forces within ourselves. We humans are amazingly complex beings, and it makes no sense to me to reduce or limit our self image to a binary encoding system. We’re not computer software. (Remember, I have a bachelor’s degree in computer science. If you were software, I could probably tell. I know how to apply a Turing Test.)

## Cascaron Eggs

Cascaron—otherwise know as confetti eggs—are eggs that are hollowed out, colored, and filled with confetti. It is a Mexican tradition I learned from my aunt. To have a Cascaron broken over your head is supposed to bring you good luck. In Mexico, Cascarones are very popular during Easter, birthdays, and many other special occasions or holidays. This tradition is not only popular in Mexico but it is becoming increasingly popular in the United States.

They are actually very easy to make. All you need are a few items: a needle, scissors, confetti (or glitter, birdseed, Fruity Pebbles, or whatever you want to use as filler), tissue paper, and glue. Of course you are going to need raw eggs and egg dye (or vinegar and food coloring).

How to make Cascarones:

- 1) Use the needle to poke a small hole in the top of the egg.
- 2) Make a larger hole at the bottom of the egg so the yolk can drain out.
- 3) Drain the yolk out of the larger hole and wash out the inside of the egg. Let dry
- 4) Color the eggs; make sure to get some inside the shell so it won’t float on top. Let dry.
- 5) Make a funnel out of a piece of paper to use to fill the eggs with filling of your choice.
- 6) Take a piece of tissue paper a little larger than the large hole and glue the edges to the egg. Let the glue dry.



There! You are done and you have Cascaron eggs for your next special event! Easy peasy and lots of fun for both young and old.

[www.ohhappyday.com/2011/04/diy-party-confetti-egg-game/](http://www.ohhappyday.com/2011/04/diy-party-confetti-egg-game/)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cascar%C3%B3n>

<http://www.inhabittots.com/how-to-make-confetti-filled-eggs/>

—By Candy Brockman

I myself am not made of only black or white or any number of shades of grey. I am made of the steely grey of Athena’s eyes, the deep red of the blood of my Ancestors, the hunter’s green of the leaves on the trees in June, the orange and yellow of our Grove Flame, the dark brown of the bottom of our Well, the cobalt blue of the sky during a solar eclipse, the wine-dark color of the sea, the beige of the oats on the offering plate of my home shrine, and gold and silver and purple and more new colors that I discover every day as I continue my Druidic practices.

I hope the arrival of spring will help you find the colors within yourselves as well!

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

### SLG Leadership Council

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#### Healers’ Guild

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#### Bardic Guild

Valerie Hartzler [vhartzler@yahoo.com](mailto:vhartzler@yahoo.com)

#### Producers’ Guild (unofficial)

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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. *4/30, 6/18, 7-9 pm at Rob's*

**Liturgists' Roundtable—Ritual Planning:** Help us plan our Beltaine and Summer Solstice rituals. All welcome. *4/23, 6/4, 7-9 pm at Sweetwaters*

**Nemeton Work Day:** Our project to build a new nemeton in the woods and have it ready to use by Samhain. Details on how long we'll be there and what we'll be doing will be posted closer to the date. All welcome. *4/13, 5/11, 6/15, 1 pm at Cavallo Equestrian Centre*

**Fire Watch:** We follow the traditions of our ancestors and keep the hearth fire burning the night before ritual. *5/4, 6/22, Dusk at Cavallo Equestrian Centre*

**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. *5/5, 5 am, meet at Cavallo Equestrian Centre*

**Beltaine Rite:** Join us as we honor Aren, our god of love and freedom. There will be a raffle and potluck after the rite. *5/5, 2-5 pm at Cavallo Equestrian Centre*

**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. *6/23, 2-5 pm at Cavallo Equestrian Centre*

We collected twelve pounds of dry goods for Food Gatherers at Imbolc. Thanks to everyone who donated!

## Meetings

**SLG Business Meeting:** Discussion of general business and setting of the calendar. All welcome. *4/9, 5/14, 6/11, 7-9 at Wendy's*

## Social Events

**Coffee Hour:** Join us for our monthly discussion of interesting topics. All welcome. *3/29, 4/26, 5/17, 6/28, 8-11 pm at Sweetwaters*

## Fundraising

**Olga's Kitchen Fundraiser:** "Simply present this flyer and we will donate a percentage of your bill to Shining Lakes Grove, ADF." (Flyer can be found at <http://shininglakes.org/olgas.pdf>) *3/29, all day at Olga's*

## Helping the Huron

**River Roundup:** Collect water and insect samples from streams in the rivershed. Sponsored by the Huron River Watershed Council. Please register in advance by contacting [jfrenzel@hrwc.org](mailto:jfrenzel@hrwc.org) *4/20, 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. Please register in advance by contacting [jfrenzel@hrwc.org](mailto:jfrenzel@hrwc.org) *4/28, 12-3 pm or 2-5 pm, meet at NEW Center*

## Festivals

**Wellspring:** Join ADF members from all over the world for ritual, workshops, and the ADF annual meeting. *5/23-5/27, Brushwood Folklore Center, Sherman, NY ([www.stonecreed.org/wellspring.htm](http://www.stonecreed.org/wellspring.htm))*

September 21<sup>st</sup>, 1993: The founders of Shining Lakes Protogrove hold its first ritual in their home.

Beltaine 1994: Shining Lakes Protogrove holds its first public ritual.

June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1994: Shining Lakes Grove receives its provisional grove charter from ADF.

September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013: Shining Lakes Grove, ADF celebrates its twentieth birthday, and begins its third decade of serving the Ann Arbor Pagan community.

If you have any awesome ideas for ways to celebrate our twentieth birthday this fall, let us know!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 24	25	26	27	28	29 8-11 Coffee Hour Sweetwaters Olga's Fundraiser	30
31	April 1	2	3	4	5	6
EASTER						
7	8	9 7-9 Business Mtg. Wendy's	10	11	12	13 1 pm Nemeton Work Day Cavallo
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 9-3 or 11-5 River Roundup NEW Center
21	22	23 7-9 Liturgist RT Sweetwaters	24	25	26 8-11 Coffee Hour Sweetwaters	27
	EARTH DAY					
28 12-3 or 2-5 Bug ID Day NEW Center	29	30 7-9 An Bruane Rob's	May 1	2	3	4 Fire Watch Cavallo
5 5 AM Dawn Rite 2-5 Beltaine Rite Cavallo	6	7	8	9	10	11 1 pm Nemeton Work Day Cavallo
12	13	14 7-9 Business Mtg. Wendy's	15	16	17 8-11 Coffee Hour Sweetwaters	18
MOTHER'S DAY						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
				WELLSPRING	WELLSPRING	WELLSPRING
26	27	28	29	30	31	June 1
WELLSPRING	WELLSPRING					
2	3	4 7-9 Liturgist RT Sweetwaters	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 7-9 Business Mtg. Wendy's	12	13	14	15 1 pm Nemeton Work Day Cavallo
					FLAG DAY	
16	17	18 7-9 An Bruane Rob's	19	20	21	22 Fire Watch Cavallo
FATHER'S DAY				SUMMER BEGINS		
23 2-5 Summer Solstice Rite Cavallo	24	25	26	27	28 8-11 Coffee Hour Sweetwaters	29

### Addresses:

Cavallo Equestrian Centre, 2185 N. Harris Rd., Ypsilanti  
 NEW Center: 1100 N. Main, Ann Arbor  
 Olga's Kitchen, 3399 Plymouth Rd., Ann Arbor

Rob's, 11623 Lisa Lori Ln., South Lyon, (734) 277-1897  
 Sweetwaters, 3393 Plymouth Rd., Ann Arbor  
 Wendy's Restaurant, 1655 Plymouth Rd., Ann Arbor