

"A Few Words From A Druidic Brother"

My name is Ben Evenbeck and I am a member of Frederic Sieg Grove #94, Occidental. I have been a member of the Grove for roughly six months.

I have long been curious about the Druids...what do they do? What are they about? Who are they?

After being sworn in back in February, I have some initial observations to share.

To me, the 3 things that stand out the most about Grove #94 are a reverence for history, respect, and caring for the community.

I really appreciate the commitment to honoring the past. Former members, historical research and rituals seem to play a big role in the life of Grove #94. There are always great stories about deceased members, and often there is a picture of a brother on the wall to go along with the story.

Since I joined, many historical documents and photos have been located and shown around at meetings. My favorite is a picture from the 1920's featuring a Druid float in a parade hosted in Bodega. It looks like those guys were having as much fun as we do at parades now!

Of course, like other fraternal organizations there are rituals. The druids are the first and only such organization I belong to, and I look forward to learning additional sacred practices as I learn and grow as a Druid. I think only by honoring the past can move forward in a positive and productive way.

The most outstanding aspect of the grove for me is the unconditional respect amongst the brothers. Regardless of age, tenure, income, vocation orrespect for one another is paramount. Whether sharing ideas, working on projects or socializing every brother is treated in a fair and just way. There are not many places in modern society that place such value on being respectful to one another.

I am also extremely proud of how much support is shown to the local and regional community. The support is demonstrated via the scholarship program, donations to local organizations (Ag-Boosters for one) and participation in community events.

I also have had a lot of fun at all the events I have attended so far.

I look forward to learning and sharing the reverence for history, respect, and support of the local community I have experienced so far on my druidic journey. I hope to attend more events and get to know more of the membership and groves.

Ben Evenbeck.
