

1. What is the Deer Tribe Metis Medicine Society? And when did it start? Can you tell us a bit about the history of the Deer Tribe?

DTMMS is the organization behind the Sweet Medicine SunDance Path. SMSD is a shamanic medicine/warriors path consisting of 15 ceremonial gateways and 22 degrees of development. It focuses on emotional, mental, physical, spiritual and sexual evolutionary maturity, and includes the teachings of Sweet Medicine SunDance wheels and keys, as handed down by the mother organization, the Twisted Hairs Metis Medicine Society Council of Elders. It includes extensive healing disciplines, martial arts, and weapons skills, including firearms. It started officially as a non-profit corporation in 1986 under the name "Native American Lodge of Ceremonial Medicine." It later changed to the Deer Tribe Metis Medicine Society (DTMMS).

The Deer Tribe Metis Medicine Society was founded for the purpose of gathering, translating and teaching the Wheels and Keys of the Sweet Medicine SunDance (SMSD) Path of Turtle Island. The SMSD Path promotes a spiritual practice that has evolved out of the ancient ways of the Twisted Hairs medicine men and women of Turtle Island (the Americas). Mandated and guided by the Twisted Hairs Metis Medicine Society Council of Elders, the Deer Tribe also provides training and guidance for apprentices working the "gateway" process of personal growth and spiritual awakening in this Path.

Our Vision is to foster the well-being of the Four Colts of the Gold Horse – the flourishing of Beauty, Power, Knowledge and Freedom for all!

Our Mission as Rainbow SunDance Warriors is to fight against ignorance, slavery, bigotry, racism, war, dogma and superstition using the Wheels and Keys of the Sweet Medicine SunDance Path to seed the future generations with Beauty, Power, Knowledge and Freedom.

SwiftDeer and the Deer Tribe are modern day representatives of an ancient lineage of sacred knowledge of universal laws, ceremonial alchemy, healing techniques, alignment and communication with the elements of nature, magick, controlled dreaming, spiritual awakening and determination.

Like the arcane mystery schools of the Sufi, the Druidic and Celtic, the Tibetan, and other Great Power traditions, the Sweet Medicine SunDance Path has evolved over thousands of years.

The Wheels and Keys of the Sweet Medicine SunDance Path are presented as tools to help heal Grandmother Earth, encouraging people to reconnect with her. This can establish a balance of female and male energies and eliminate dogma and ignorance which keeps people in patterns of struggle and disempowerment.

It is only through ignorance that we surrender our freedom. These teachings, therefore, are dedicated to the preservation of individual autonomous freedom for all peoples to live and maintain life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, humor, health, hope and harmony.

2. Whom or What are the Twisted Hairs Metis Medicine Society Council of Elders? Are they physical beings we can meet on planet earth? How many exist in the council and what is their purpose?

For many ancient peoples hair symbolizes knowledge. "Twisted Hairs" refers to those who take knowledge from many sources and weave it together, synthesizing and formulating "braids of truth." Over the centuries these "braids" are tried and tested. Those that are found to be valid and in alignment with sacred law are retained and added to the ever growing body of knowledge. Those that do not hold up under such rigor are discarded. So it has been for millennia within these ancient traditions of learning and journeying toward human enlightenment.

Originally established in 1254 B.C. as the Rattlesnake School of Turtle Island, the Twisted Hairs Metis Medicine Society Council of Elders is a body of shamans, medicine men and women, sorcerers and magicians from many tribes throughout North, Central and South America, who have traveled and studied beyond their traditional tribal boundaries and evolved to levels of great learning, wisdom, power and knowledge. The traditions that stem from Turtle Island are called the Southwest Power, one of the Eight Great Powers of knowledge and wisdom on the planet.

At times throughout history the mystery schools were forced to take their teachings and knowledge "underground" for safekeeping because they were being misused by others for personal power and domination or perverted by religious hierarchies. This happened here on Turtle Island following the Spanish conquest by Cortes, Pizarro, and others, as well as the invasion of Europeans onto the North American continent.

In 1975, hearing the call of Grandmother Earth and seeing both the need and the readiness within the collective, the Elders of the Twisted Hairs Council decided to again release the first of many Wheels and Keys of this Sweet Medicine SunDance Path so that these teachings would be available to anyone seeking personal growth and spiritual awakening. The Council designated SwiftDeer as one of the Carriers of the Shields of Knowledge of this Path.

These elders do exist in the physical. There is also a group called the Ascended Masters, which according to legend, guide us from the other 11 planets with human life that we are aware of in our universe.

The number of members varies, as some pass away even as others join the council. As of July 2008, we stand at 475, from over 1000 tribes of Turtle Island, which includes North, South, Central America, the Polynesian Islands, Australia & New Zealand. According to legend, Turtle Island was at one time one land mass, prior to the event of Venus entering our solar system. With Venus' gravitational influences, our planet was put into its current geographical configuration.

The purpose of the Council is the preservation and dissemination of the wheels and keys of the Zero Chiefs, the wisest of the elders, in the 15th Gateway. This also includes the Ascended Masters, which also function in other parallel universes.

3. It seems that many of the teaching are given in Wheels and Keys, can you tell us more about this and why information is passed in that form?

The first teachings in this discipline were in the form of triangle, or arrowhead. As the knowledge evolved, 4 arrowheads were put together to form a pyramid. When you open or unfold a pyramid, it forms a wheel with 12 points. The first wheels, *as-above* or *nagual* wheels, were all 12 wheels. There is always a center to a wheel- so this would mean 13. Then over time, it was found that the 12 wheels led into 8 wheels (plus center), which represent the *so-below* or *tonal*. All 3 (arrowhead, 8 wheels and 12 wheels), as well as elementary 4 wheels are part of the major structure for dissemination of knowledge in this path. Life is a circle, the wheel of life. Life moves in cycles, which are circles. Our brain uses at its highest capacity both hemispheres, and the entire rest of the brain, which uses circular reasoning in order to create unity of mind, body and spirit. This is one of the major aspects that distinguish this path from other paths.

4. Is the Deer Tribe the only society that holds the knowledge of the Twisted Hairs?

The organization of the Twisted Hairs was first formed in Oaxaca in 1254 BC as the “Rattlesnake School.” It wasn’t until 1254 AD that it came to be called the Twisted Hair Metis Medicine Society Council of Elders, Metis meaning mixed blood, races & tribes. From that point forward, the path was called the SMSD path, with major focus on the 3-4 day Dreamers SunDance. The term “Twisted Hair” was coined strictly for Turtle Island.

All of the elders in the 11th to 15th gateways are called Naguals= man or woman of wisdom, knowledge & power which is used benevolently. Each Nagual will have their own “Nagual’s party” and their own individual group of apprentices. A Nagual’s party is a group of dreamers most aligned with each other, that can dream with collective intent. This starts as a Sorcerer’s Band, becomes a Band of Sorcerers, and does not become a Nagual’s Party until they can dream with collective intent, to the point that they can dream across to the other side together. To this date, there are only 4 Nagual’s Parties that have successfully accomplished this.

(Note: A sorcerer is the lowest level inside of this type of path. The sorcerer is learning to source the force of the everything, bring it down into his/her personal resource circle of power and then through proper application of sacred law, apply their intent to become the source of the force. It is essential that they learn that sorcery must never lead to any level of self-importance or egoism, as this lead to becoming dark. Sorcery is therefore the battle to choose between good and evil.)

All of these Naguals belong to the Sweet Medicine SunDance Path. Each of these Elders share the knowledge of the Twisted Hairs in different ways. The Deer Tribe is the society created by SwiftDeer to share the knowledge of the Twisted Hairs.

There is an organization called the 8 Great Powers Elders Society. Within each of the 8 Great Powers, there are 12 legitimate lineage schools, referred to as Medicine Societies, Wisdom Schools, Mystery Schools, Secret Societies, etc. This is a total of 96 legitimate schools of knowledge. All work with what we call Svaha: concepts and teachings that are factual based, validated knowledge that works and brings an evolutionary movement towards the light. On many levels, the elders of each of these traditions could all be called Twisted Hairs, but it is generally reserved for those in Turtle Island.

5. *How can people that are interested in the teachings arrive at them?*

Get in touch with an acknowledged & credentialed DTMMS Alpha Road Person, or have the good fortune to run into one of the other Naguals who may or may not accept new apprentices. NOTE: There are many apprentices that have left this path to go on and find other schools. You may also find these people sharing the teachings. They no longer have the authoritative and credentialed right to share these teachings. The primary reason for this is because we are constantly adding to the knowledge of this system of wheels and keys.

6. *Are all the teachings Native American based? How was this body of knowledge braided together?*

In our system, there are 14 “shields” of knowledge. At this time, 5 of the cardinal shields (S, N, W, E and center (Quodoushka & Matriarchy/Patriarch Shields) have been released through Deer Tribe training Manuals. Each of the Non-Cardinal shields hold 1008 wheels. The 2 NorthEast shields were opened 8 years ago, followed by the 2 SouthEast shields 3 years ago. When I, Thunder Strikes (doing ceremony in the 6th ceremony of the 13th Gateway) finish the final 4 ceremonies, I will have access to the 2 NorthWest shields. Only those elders in the 15th Gateway have access to the 2 SouthWest shields, the SouthWest being the direction of our power within the 8 great powers. As one can easily see, if someone drops from the path, they no longer have access to the new wheels, which give further depth to the ‘old wheels,’ therefore the old wheels cannot be taught properly without that new knowledge.

Initially, the teachings were all originally from Turtle Island (i.e., native). In the 14th century, to the best of my knowledge, we began doing “*shield exchanges*” with the other 96 schools of legitimate knowledge of the 8 great powers. I personally have exchanged with schools from 6 other of the 8 great powers, giving them one of our shields for one of theirs. In this *shield exchange*, only the cardinal shields were ever exchanged. In the cardinal shields, we have downloaded and will continue to download Svaha teachings. Knowledge that works from the other legitimate schools of the 8 Great Powers. Our Zero Chiefs arrange these onto the wheel form- as many of the other disciplines teach linearly. These wheels are then tested for 10 years of time.

How are they braided together?

Hell if I know. This is one of the major functions of the 15th Gateway Elders/Zero Chiefs’ jobs.

7. *As we read the literature it becomes clear that you are the Nagual of this lineage; can you tell us what it means to be a Nagual?*

8. *Most of us know the term Nagual from the books of Carlos Castaneda, are there any differences regarding the term “Nagual” from what he writes to the beliefs of the Deer Tribe?*

The Elders’ Council has a governing body, divided into 5 Wheels (South, North, West, East & Center), each with different duties. The South circle is referred to as the Sorcerers; the North is the Dreamers; the West is the Ceremonial Alchemists; the East is the Prophets/Seers. In the center are the Zero Chiefs (15th Gateway founders of the path). Each direction has different in their intent and focus. The focus of Castaneda’s group, for example, was primarily South (sorcery). I am the Nagual of the North Wheel. I am known as the 8/18 Dreamers Nagual of Turtle Island.

The Naguals that sit in leadership of each Wheel are counted in cycles of 20. There are always 20 Naguals in succession per cycle, but the amount of time each Nagual stays in position will vary. The 20th Nagual of one cycle is followed by the 1st Nagual of the subsequent cycle. For each Wheel, the count for the Nagual is different and separate from the other Wheels.

As the 8/18 Dreamers Nagual, I am the 18th Nagual in the 8th cycle of the North wheel. My teacher, Grandfather Two Bears was both the 8/16 and 8/17 Nagual. There was a break in his position because World War 2 disrupted the council’s work. I may become the 8/19, but that is up to the Zero Chiefs. Once we reach the 20th Nagual, the next cycle Nagual would be 9/1.

To be a Nagual is both a blessing and a curse. The level of authority and responsibility that comes with it is enormous. I have learned to live with it and enjoy it. It is a beautiful privilege.

Some distinctions:

Naqual: 5th, 6th, 7th dimensions- the vertical axes of reality, and the 72 parallel dimensions going to either side- the horizontal horizon of learning. The 7 dimensions on this planet are considered the vertical ladder of integration.

Nagual: indicates a person who is at minimum in the 11th GW, and represents a man or woman of knowledge, power and wisdom and teaches only to the light. This is a title that must be earned.

Nagal: a man or woman of spirit that is dedicated to their path with heart, within a path that has heart (i.e., one of the 96 legitimate schools of the 8 Great Powers).

9. We have also found an interview on the internet where you mention that one of your teachers, Tom Two Bears Wilson was known as Don Genaro by Castaneda readers, please tell us about this?

Castaneda used the name Don Juan Matus to conceal the identity of his teacher, Jack Shockley, who has crossed over. The entity known as Don Genaro the acrobat, was a full blood Navajo known as Tom Two Bears Wilson. In the Native American world, at a minimum, you will have your matriarchal clan name, patriarchal clan name, medicine name, your sacred name, your night warrior name and your elder's name. (This causes havoc with census numbers!) Jack Shockley and Tom Wilson are their patriarchal clan names. Both Don Genaro and Don Juan Matus were one of their other names, though I will not tell you which one. For myself, Harley SwiftDeer Reagan is my birth name, SwiftDeer is my medicine name, Thunder Strikes, which I am known as now, is my elder's name. My Cherokee clan and tribal name given to me by my mother's mother, Spotted Fawn, is Unhua Oskenonton Anikawai which translates into English= the deer that carries magick through the forest quickly, i.e., Swift Deer.

10. The Deer Tribe's syntax is very similar to that of Castaneda or vice-versa, are the roots of the knowledge the same?

Yes. One of my primary responsibilities is to set with much wiser elders that myself to translate all of the SMSD materials from native Olmec, Mayan and Cherokee into English. I am a Texan, so even my English isn't good English 😊.

11. Can you tell us about some of your other teachers?

My primary teachers are the 4 worlds of grandmother earth, any other 2 legged I come into contact with on GME that has knowledge I don't have. All I want is Svaha. I have no concern for opinions, perceptions, points of view, belief systems or philosophy, because theirs is worth the same as mine- absolutely zero. All that matters is does that knowledge work, is it benevolent, does it produce just rightful actions, and can it be used for the betterment of self, life & others. I have been very blessed in this lifetime to study with some of the wisest teachers in the martial arts, philosophy,

psychology, sorcery, medicine & magick. Once teacher I will mention, amongst the greatest, was Hyemeyohsts Storm.

12. Regarding the teaching you are bringing to Brazil, can you tell us a bit of what people can expect from the participation in one of your workshops?

13. What things will be discussed during the workshops?

Buckle your seat belts, put your tray tables into the upright position, and get ready for the Naqual. We will be covering the basics necessary to launch you out of your world of supposed reality and over into the other reality, and cover any and all topics that come out of that basic format. These will include, but not be limited to the basics of the Green Manual, but also from advanced teachings if the group can hold its space. Dianne & I have one focus, to import as much svaha as your group can maintain and sustain, at whatever rate they can hold and transform with.

I am used to long, extended teaching times, which we call sorcery sit-down style. Since I only sleep 4-5 hours each night, I like to start at 10 am, teach to 1 pm for a short lunch break (which I don't need, but you will); teach from 2 - 6 pm. Take a 2 hour dinner break which we all will need. I do not socialize during breaks. Then I like to come back from 8-10 or 11, with a wrap up deepening what has been covered that day.

The Quodoushka has a slightly different schedule, but it is still close to the same. It is essential to do the presentation of the initial teachings first, in order for the Q to go to a deeper level, though both workshops can be taken separately. I hope this is clear. I will always teach as high and as far as you can walk with me. To be blunt, I am there to be of service.

14. Have you ever had any interest in coming to Brazil before? Or have you had any insights or dreams about Brazil and its people?

I have been to Brazil many times with Grandfather Two Bears to work with some of the naguals in that area. No, I cannot refer you to them, as I do not have their permission to do so. Also, our current lineage crystal carver is located in Brazil, so we maintain constant contact.

I work in the dreamtime with many of the elders of the council who have residence in Brazil, and I think this is very important. Due to our intense focus on individual, autonomous liberty and freedom, and our warrior's path is not acceptable in many countries, because we create sovereign warriors, not domesticated servants, slaves who live under authoritarian types of

government structures. It is due to this that many Naguals will not open their teachings to the general public. I have that responsibility. Incidentally, this is why I asked about having access to firearms if we should be traveling out in the bush. Dianne and I, and all of our apprentices are trained to never be in victim syndrome. I hope you understand what I mean.

15. We know that a workshop only brings understanding and development if there is a follow-up. Do you plan to leave guidelines to keep on going? Practices that can be done on our own? Do you have an ongoing program?

I totally agree that there is a need for follow-up. We will therefore leave you guidelines to keep on going. You'll gain many practices that you can do on your own. Once I have opened the territory, other credentialed Alpha Road People will come and follow-up. This can include our deeper apprenticeship program, which I will talk to you in person about.

16. There are a few lodges in many parts of the world, especially in Europe, why aren't there lodges in Central and South America yet?

The governmental structures in Central and South America are not conducive to teachings of autonomous liberty and freedom. In addition, we have yet to publish any of our materials in Spanish or Portuguese. And, due to a heavy influence of socialist/communist/authoritarian formats, it is hard to find bodies of people such as yours that are willing to bring us there. Since the teachings originate there, those who are genuine seekers of liberty, freedom and knowledge, will find the apprentices or Naguals, though they are generally very closed and protective of the path.

17. You are coming with your wife, Dianne Nightbird, can you tell us about her and her relation to the Deer Tribe? From what we know, one of the teachings given by the Deer Tribe is that: Everything comes from Woman, with that in mind, we ask Dianne: what is your role within the Deer Tribe and as wife of the Nagual?

Thunder Strikes: Dianne came in and was gleaned by GF two bears as being one that would fulfill the prophecy of becoming the Nagual woman and mate to my Nagual man. She was seated and sealed and locked down in that position. She is a skilled martial artist, shooter (having earned triple distinguished expert in pistol, rifle & shotgun, the NRA's highest level of accomplishment), she is a NRA instructor in all major disciplines, and Arizona Concealed Carry Weapons Permit instructor. In 2007 she was the American

Handgunner World Shoot Off runner up Ladies Stock Gun Champion. She is a Personal Protection Specialist (provides executive protection). She is the Nagual Woman of this path, Pipe Chief, Sweet Medicine SunDance chief, soon to be our Sweet Medicine SunDance Elder, and is in charge of the entire Quodoushka program. The correct way to state the law is that Everything is born of the receptive/creative feminine principle and seeded by the active conceptive masculine principle, and nothing should be done to harm the children. Therefore most of our workshops are taught in female/male teams, in order to ensure adherence to those sacred laws.

NightBird: I am co-founder of the Deer Tribe. Inside the tribe, I am always awake, aware and alert to public relations, quality control and how the teachings are carried out through the leadership and different faces of DTMMS. As wife of the Nagual, we are in a partnership that is a spiritual committed partnership, as well as a life partnership, with shared interests that keep us having fun and enjoying our life together.

18. Dianne, do you always give teaching together with SwiftDeer? Or are there teaching that only you give?

Yes, I usually, teach with SwiftDeer. I give teachings on an individual basis, as requested and as needed in shamanic counseling. In addition, I give small group pipe teachings.

19. Dianne, Do you have any dreams regarding Brazil?

I would like to have positive, good impact with the people that come to our workshops. That it will spark an interest that allows Alpha Road People to travel and do additional workshops. I would like to connect to the natural spiritual essence that Brazil and her people carry, and I am looking forward to discover more about her culture.

20. (Thunder Strikes) Is there anything you would like to tell to the people who are interested in participating in the workshop?

For me, I look forward to opening this incredible area and bring the teachings back home, so to speak. Therefore my prayer is that I will do so in the wisest, most benevolent way possible. I would like to teach you the beauty of your sacred self. That is my intent.