

Winter Buddy Journal

Monday February 1st Ask for your help

Hi Cheryl (hope you enjoy the snow:),

I have a winter buddy, the Majestic Oak and after my first visit today I would love to revisit. I would appreciate you may can give some advice how to approach my winter buddy in the next visit either with a question and/or physical gesture so we both the tree and I can build a relationship - once we get your question(s) and or physical gesture we will report back to you so you will become part of our relation. Below is our first written report with a photograph where we ask you to react. Thanks so much for creating a more than human community.

love andrea + Majestic Oak

Report 1 (Feb.1, 2021):

Majestic Oak: "Hi everyone, laboring a lot in my top branches, swing in curved small pathways continuous back and forth to keep up with the wind force. The wind deposits more snow crystals on my North side trunk, leaving the South side ground more open. I really want more snow so my South side roots can get covered as well and get the snow warmth.

Then my winter buddy, an anxiety slender white womxn leans on my South side and thanks me that I give her shelter and makes her feel comfortable, warm and protected. Her weight is leaning into my uneven valleys of bark. She says" I'm impressed you are here for so long, you must know your place really well. To fully be face to face with you I choose today to step as far as possible away from you. It took me 40 feet and brought me into the open ball field until I fully could sense and see you but the wind bringing the snowflakes on my right cheek was really unblessend. Was able to do a still image of you to share with others but not much more than that. I walked towards you for an answer of help from the snowstorm, unblessed misery, until I thought I was prepared as my swiss farmer's ancestors always told me: "There is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothes."

Majestic Oak: Would you love to be the whole winter outside and we with me? It comforts me that we share the tumbling snowflakes from the upper atmosphere

Anxiety Winter Buddy: Not really! Looking up into your branches - one branch is broken and falling onto your other branches and yes less wind but otherwise I'm still cold. I prefer after a while leaning on you to go back into my indoor walls with central heat and wall protection. Glad to know the squirrel stays with you.

Majestic Oak (whispering): Honestly the squirrel is so repetitive - always chooses the same branch to walk along to jump over to the next branch of my family kin, the Tilted Oak.



Photograph of Majestic Oak, February 1st at McCarren Park in Williamsburg, Brooklyn

Tuesday February 2nd, 2021: *Response Offerings from Cheryl*
(I compiled her images and questions):



Wednesday February 3: Reporting Back to You

Hi Cheryl,

This morning I visit our Majestic Oak and was so nice to have your sharing with me — I felt I was not alone with the Majestic Oak, you were with me. I was deeply with your gestures, the question and as well the tree out of your window. Below is the Report back (written and visually with a question). I as well added your beautiful contribution. We are looking forward to hear from you, whenever you have time. Love andrea and Majestic Oak.

Report 2 (Feb. 3, 2021):

Majestic Oak: This morning my Anxiety Winter Buddy said: "*Wau Impressive!*" But actually the expression was not for me. It was for the tall snowman couple that will melt soon and shrink. What even happens to respect your elders? Well, then they came over and moved around me with opening and closing hand gestures, twisting their hand wrist in and out dancing with the thick branches spiraling patterns that are along my trunk. I was glad her friend Cheryl is so nice and asked, "*Is this a lonely time for you?*" Tell her, that it could look like knowing how these two legged species with their four legged dogs ignore me here in the Park. Actually my time is a solitude time. I love to be in my own company in the wintertime and then once spring comes I start to communicate with all diverse beings. I'm the longest here on that strip of Park. The land I'm on deeply reflects in my cells. I expand my trunk as time passes and my branches know when to stop to reach horizontally so the newcomers have space as well.

Anxiety Winter Buddy: Wau! Your bark is so rough full of wrinkles! All these valleys. The ice sits in there.

Majestic Oak: But could you please Anxiety Winter Buddy keep your hand longer on my trunk, don't mind for one time get a little help to get some ice faster melting, because the tripping of ice my moss friends in the wrinkle valleys would love to soak it up.



Hi Friend Cheryl,
Majestic Oak and I
were wondering
about the tree right
out of your window
How they and you
are doing today
after the winter
storm aftermath?



Photograph of Majestic Oak, February 3st , 2021 at McCarren Park in Williamsburg, Brooklyn

February 8, 2021 (Report 1): Response Offerings from Margaretha

From an herbalist perspective, Oak is about strength, and its medicine is for those who are strong when everyone else around them has given up. Oak people persist, but even they can fall, or their boughs can come off. I think Oak would like us to use their seeds, they would like to be seen as delicious and nourishing. They would like to be seen and accessed for their abundance of acorns -- such a nourishing and delicious food, one traditional peoples have used for a very long time, including the Oneida, where I live in central New York.

I'm also sharing some companion species seed packets I made for Oak with the Trees of Tomorrow project. Another offering <3



Sunday February 28, 2021: Reporting Back to You

Hi Margaretha

Thanks so much for your offerings! They are so rich they asked to visit Majestic Oak several times. Please find below Majestic Oak Report and thanks for becoming part of Majestic Oak relation. Would love to hear more about your Oneida connections and bring this back to Majestic Oak.

love andrea + Majestic Oak

Majestic Oak Report 3 (Feb. 28, 2021):

Majestic Oak: "Alright! You don't want to come closer to my trunk today- totally get it! The water puddles between my thick roots. You don't want to mess with it! I will take care of it. Actually gives me a break from all the humxn and dogs that come so close to my trunk feeling the pressure of their weight on my roots and with the high nitrogen I have to deal with."

Anxiety Winter Buddy: [To be in conversation with Majestic Oak in this rainy day and keep my feet dry I walk slowly the peripheral branches circumferences to sense "How are you? and Hello" ...waterfall pathways going downhill the trunk all in diverse colors from darker to lighter to gather to become puddles. I'm back to find out if snow melting will help me to find evidence of acorns.]

"Majestic Oak my friend's Margareta shared an herbalist perspective that you Majestic Oak would agree that we may take your acorns offers and they would like to be seen as delicious and nourishing. I cannot find any evidence on the ground that you had acorns. Could it be you did not have any last year?"

Majestic Oak: Can you imagine how much energy is required to offer acorns? Well maybe it was a year of rest and just RELAX. The first inhabitants on this land, the Lenape people had relations with our ancestors' tree kin and were able to know where to find acorns and when not. Now most humxn in the park don't wait even for our acorns and please tell your friend Maragretha "thanks for acknowledging our gifts", but the city dwellers have big expectations from us that we handle the climate crisis and get upset when we react to storms and our branches are taken by the wind turbulence."

Anxiety Winter Buddy: "Majestic Oak I hear you, you have to endure a lot and hope we can find better ways to be good relatives. With that like to express a Thank You: I sense calming energy and strength from you and feels so good!

By the way I got another offering from Margaretha, a seed pocket and suggested your ancestors, and maybe you as well, have companionship with corn poppy. Do I miss the color and playfulness of corn poppy! As a child I saw brilliant red petals with a black basal spot in all the farming fields in my small village Boswil in Switzerland where I grew up. I would gather them in the field and bring them back home and put them in a vase and they were always so dramatically strong but simultaneously fragile. Had no idea North America has them as well – I can not remember I ever saw them here in New York City. I will look out for the corn poppies this summer and will ask them if they like to visit your Oak tree land and when they like to visit you and you like them to have around your land I will gather corn poppy seeds and the seed pocket will come really handy then.



Photograph of Majestic Oak, February 28st 2021 at McCarren Park in Williamsburg, Brooklyn