



Who among us fails to at once recognize this ancient and universal symbol and ceremony?

Fire-Ties



Yanomamo making fire.

The Role of Ritual and Ceremony in Linking People and Conserving Fire Landscapes



Longleaf pine loves fire.

Fueled

Fueled by a million man-made wings of fire – the rocket tore a tunnel through the sky. And everybody cheered.



We'll always need our matches, but now-and-then using primal methods to light special fires can help bind us to special people, places, and times.



Blowing fire into life, and life into fire.



Fueled only by a thought from Gaia – the little longleaf seedling pushed its way through the ashes of last week's fire on the first of its one hundred-fifty thousand days on Earth. And no one even noticed.

Adapted from Marcie Hans (1965) : *Serve Me a Slice of the Moon.*



Prescribed fire is something we can celebrate.

Ritual and ceremony have long been vital to societies. But today we often think of them in historical contexts, rather than as necessities. Or we fail to think of them at all, even as we conduct them. The rate of "civilization" appears in many cases to be negatively correlated with the importance of certain rituals and ceremonies, with more "civilized" and scientific societies attaching less importance to these ancient, "primitive," cultural practices. Considering the many harmful and accelerating impacts of "developed" societies on the natural world, I propose that those of us who have

abandoned these practices review, and in some cases revive, certain of the rituals and ceremonies that once bound us to the Earth, and to one another. I draw on the work of human ecologists, historians, philosophers, local folks and other critical thinkers, as well as on personal experience, to show how these practices help us maintain reverence for and conserve landscapes, while binding people of shared vision and values together. One practice we can celebrate is the "First Fire" of the prescribed burning season.



First blood.

"A society is ultimately measured not by what it develops or consumes, but rather by what it has nurtured and preserved."

Jim Posewitz

Orion: The Hunter's Institute



Prescribed fire is always serious business, but that is no reason it cannot at times be joyful as well.

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