

For Immediate Release

Southern Witches and Wiccans join the protest against Go Daddy CEO's slaughter of an African Elephant.

Atlanta - The *Dogwood Local Council* (DLC), a southern affiliate of *Covenant of the Goddess* (CoG), has formally decided to discontinue the use of GoDaddy's hosting services after the release of CEO, Bob Parsons' hunting video. In March of 2011, Parsons released a video depicting himself and others shooting a "troublesome" elephant. As he explained to reporters, these elephants, "trash fields and destroy crops" leaving villagers to starve. According to Parsons, the hunting is a welcomed activity which brings both food and safety. (As reported by [The Los Angeles Times](#))

"We understand that Parsons' acts were within the legal limits of Zimbabwe's laws. And he may believe that he is doing good. However, the ends do not always justify the means. After careful consideration, we, as Witches and members of humanity, have decided to protest these killings," states Hawk, First Officer of *Dogwood Local Council* and High Priestess of GryphonSong Clan.

In the hunting video, Parsons comments on the well-documented fact that there has been a noticeable increase in elephant attacks. However, as noted by Dogwood's members, Parsons fails to identify the reason for this elephant problem: humanity's own aggression toward the elephants. In a 2006 *New York Times Magazine* article, entitled, "Elephant Crack-Up?" written by Charles Seibert, this proverbial Catch 22 is well illustrated. Seibert writes, "The great paradox about this particular moment in our history with elephants is that saving them will require finally getting past ourselves; it will demand the ultimate act of deep, interspecies empathy." (As published by [The New York Times Magazine](#), October 2006)

In their discussions over the GoDaddy Video, *Dogwood Local Council's* members repeatedly expressed the need for a genuine and reciprocal balance between humanity and animal cultures as expressed by Seibert. The teachings of Wicca and Witchcraft do not place humanity over the natural world but within it. According to the Pagan world view, humanity is as much a part of nature as the elephants.

"While we do not want to see humans starving as a result of these roving elephants, we cannot condone the progressive annihilation of a species simply because they are in our way. And the African Elephant is still on the WWF endangered species list," adds Hawk.

Moreover, *Dogwood* members echoed the concerns of others that Parsons' video was merely a publicity stunt for GoDaddy services. Questions have been raised by various media outlets as to whether the hunting event was, in actuality, a selfless attempt to come to the aid of a starving village. After all, GoDaddy is known for its somewhat risqué advertising and marketing campaigns.

“Was this a true act of humanitarianism or was this an outrageous promotional stunt for GoDaddy? If it was purely an act of goodwill, was it really necessary to release the video and, more poignantly, the photos of villagers wearing “GoDaddy” hats? Does Bob Parsons always carry around a few hundred logo caps on those yearly trips to save people from marauding elephants?” questions Lady Miraselena, Public Information Officer of Dogwood Local Council.

The Witches of *Dogwood Local Council* will now join others in moving its website from GoDaddy's hosting services and no longer use the company as its domain registrar. *Dogwood* strongly urges all concerned individuals to follow suit. Currently, the Council is in the final stages of deciding which new hosting service would best fit their needs. They are hopeful to find one that derives some of its power from green energy sources; thereby, making two strong statements and taking two steps forward on behalf of the Planet, nature and their Goddess - Gaia.

For more information about *Dogwood Local Council*, please visit www.dogwoodlc.org or follow @dogwoodlc on *Twitter*.

For more information about *Covenant of the Goddess*, please visit www.cog.org or follow them on *Facebook*: /pages/Covenant-of-the-Goddess.

Dogwood Local Council (DLC)

Throughout the United States, the Covenant of the Goddess has Local Councils that serve CoG members on a state or regional level. Alabama and Georgia are served by the Dogwood Local Council. A Local Council is a smaller branch of the Covenant, consisting of at least three member covens of at least two different traditions, in reasonably close geographic proximity to each other. Dogwood Local Council (DLC) sponsors annual festivals, speakers and a variety of seasonal events. They are based out of Atlanta.

Covenant of the Goddess (CoG)

The Covenant of the Goddess is one of the largest and oldest Witch and Wiccan associations and was incorporated as a nonprofit religious organization in 1975. The

Covenant is an umbrella group of cooperating, autonomous Witchcraft congregations and individual practitioners with the power to confer credentials on its qualified clergy. CoG fosters cooperation and mutual support among Witches and Wiccans and secures for them the legal protections enjoyed by members of other religions.