



# Turtle Sculpture Information





**The Oneida Nation, a Native American tribe from the United States, follows a traditional lunar calendar known as the Oneida Moon Calendar. The Oneida people, like many other indigenous cultures, have traditionally used the moon phases to track time and organize their activities.**

**The Oneida Moon Calendar typically consists of 13 moons or lunar months, each corresponding to a specific phase of the moon. The exact names and meanings of the moons can vary between different Native American tribes and even within different communities of the same tribe.**

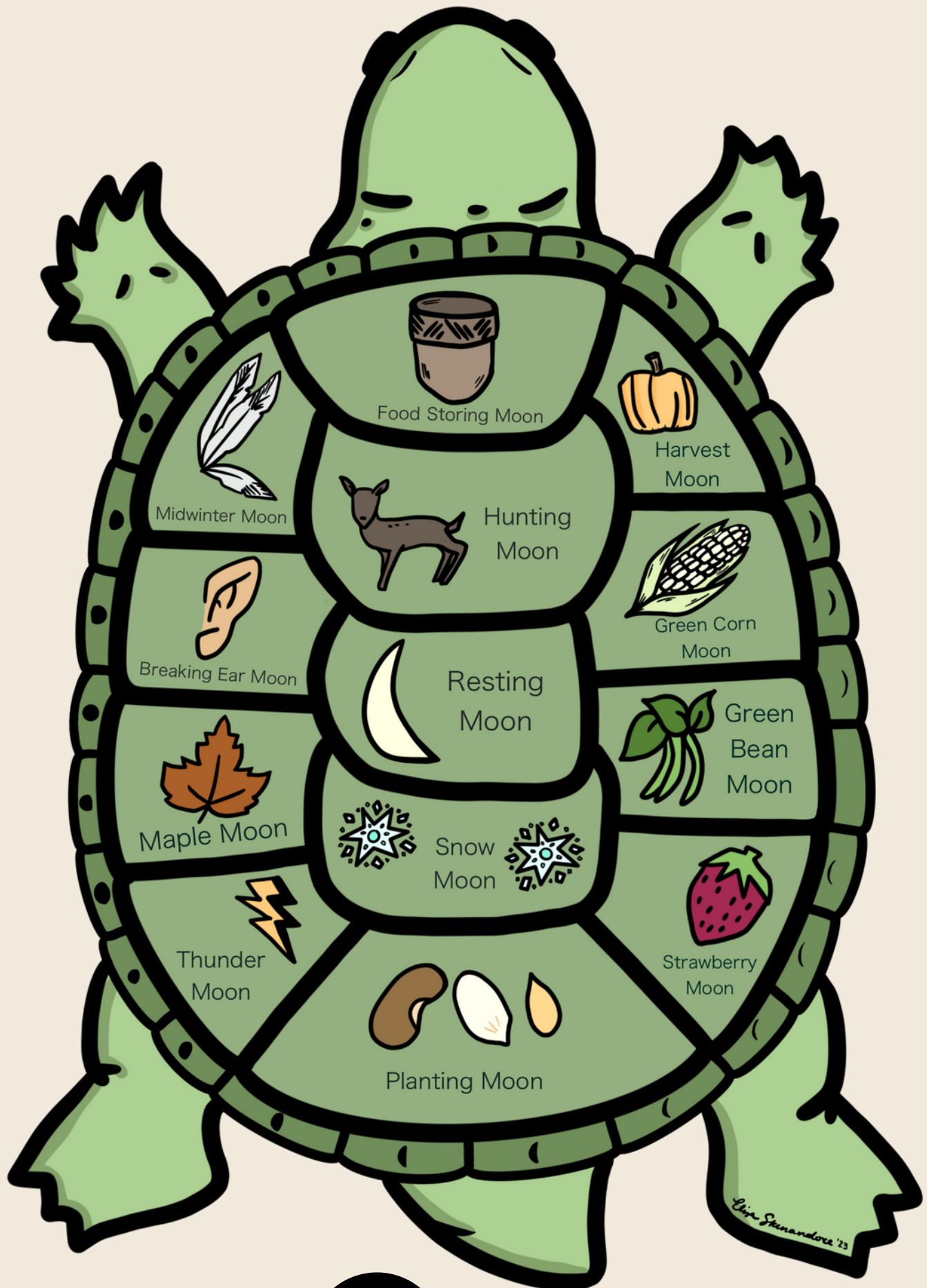
**The version represented on the turtle here in the Baird Creek Greenway, sculpted by a local artist of the Oneida Tribe, Cody Cottrell, represents the 13 moons as represented on the picture on the next page.**

**Our goal with all of our sculptures, is to provide education to our community on the wildlife, pollinators, trees, and critters in our greenway. Please enjoy the turtle, frog, and crayfish sculpture while learning about local native culture.**

**For more information visit these links shared by Cody:**

**<https://oneidalanguage.ca/oneida-culture/oneidalanguage-symbols/13-moons-turtle-island/>**

**<https://earthhaven.ca/blog/13-moons-on-turtles-back/208>**



ELIZA SKENANDORE

# A Land Acknowledgement

~Written by Louise Padron, Othayu:ni Onayote\*ka, Wolf Clan of the People of the Standing Stone, or the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin.

"The mission of the Baird Creek Preservation Foundation is to facilitate the preservation and restoration of the Baird Creek Watershed in order to enhance its value as an ecological, recreational, and educational resource for generations to come.

The mission parallels that of the mission of what First Nations people have done for thousands of years to preserve the natural resources of the land. I am reminded of the responsibility of each of us to maintain good ecological, recreational, and educational balance in all things, especially the land. Many Native traditions acknowledge the seven generations principal, that what happened seven generations ago impacts us today, and what we do effects those that will come seven generations from now. I appreciate the longevity in the mission statement, that what they are doing today to preserve this land will impact the next seven generations.

With that, I was asked to do a land acknowledgement to recognize seven generations back, and beyond. A land acknowledgement is a formal statement recognizing, honoring, and respecting Indigenous peoples as traditional stewards of the land. Acknowledgment becomes even more meaningful when coupled with authentic relationships and informed action, as we are doing here today. Recognizing the land fosters inclusivity, open dialogue, and community building, and is often part of a gathering or celebration such as kicking off April to celebrate earth day!

The land where Baird Creek now sits was historically home to the Ho-chunk, Potawatomi, and Menominee tribes, who thrived here in Northeast Wisconsin for time immemorial. The Baird Creek Preservation Foundation acknowledges this ancestral land we stand on today as sacred, historical, and significant to the Ho-chunk, Potawatomi, and Menominee tribes, as are the lands of all First Nations Peoples.

The Myaami and Lakota people also once lived in Wisconsin, but their land in this state was ceded entirely. Of the 574 federally recognized American Indian and Alaskan Native tribes, Wisconsin is home to 11, plus one seeking federal recognition. The Ho-chunk Nation, Forest County Potawatomi, and Menominee Indian Tribes persist in Wisconsin, but have moved to the north, west, and south of where they once lived. The Oneida Nation Reservation is now the closest in proximity, whose land was acquired through a land treaty with the Menominee Tribe. Like the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin, the Stockbridge-Munsee band of Mohicans were relocated from the northeastern part of United States. Other Wisconsin tribes include Ojibwe bands of Bad River, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Red Cliff, Mole Lake Sokaogon, and Saint Croix. The Brothertown Indian Nation in Wisconsin is seeking federal recognition, as are 12 others nationwide.

By recognizing this land, we create a better public consciousness of Native history, sovereignty, culture, and current circumstances that are often overlooked. If anyone has any questions about any of those things, please feel free to ask as we go on this hike. As we walk, I will also be sharing some traditional stories and how they tie into the natural wonders here. But before we go, I want to say Yaw^ko, thank you again, for being here, and to the Baird Creek Preservation Foundation for acknowledging the history and sacredness of this land, for the work you do to preserve and care for our mother earth, valuing the natural resources, and planning for future generations, to ensure all things can equitable thrive in balance, as the Indigenous people who were once home to this land did."