

The impact of Squirrels on tournament Magic

Scurrying to the Top

Mike Flores

Friday, July 26, 2002



- [Mike Flores Archive](#)



Introduction: Squirrels and Sharing

If you're an old timer like me, you may remember a card called [Liege of the Hollows](#). The first Squirrel-centric card to have any kind of effect on constructed play, the Liege was briefly used in a green-white [Armageddon](#) deck played by Team AustiKnights in the summer of 1997. No, that deck doesn't quite rank up with that team's best efforts, which include the original Senor Stompy and the "other" black-red Necropotence deck in the Top 8 of Randy Buehler's Pro Tour - Chicago... but this is Squirrel Week, so the Liege deserves a mention.

If their introduction to tournament **Magic** doesn't ring a bell, it's probably because Squirrels wouldn't quite ready for prime time for another two years. While the multiple-tokens-generated premise of [Liege of the Hollows](#) was a sound one, it wasn't until Squirrels quit sharing that they made a big splash.

During *Urza's Block*, that time when incredible card advantage engines were being printed in every set, when [Windfall](#) made players wince, [Memory Jar](#) gave [Tinker](#) its first call up to the big leagues, and [Yawgmoth's Bargain](#) paved the way for the first of several powerful combination decks, green got

into the card advantage scheme as well. *Urza's Legacy* gave us a bang-up Elf of incredible talent: [Deranged Hermit](#).



A Crazy, Colorful, Elf

[Deranged Hermit](#), although himself an Elf, was the first really substantial card the Squirrels got for tournament **Magic**. He was the best token-generating creature since [Verdant Force](#), and seems to be the forerunner for the Squirrels-as-card-advantage theme that has run through almost every block since. He remains, three years after his debut, the most significant constructed card ever printed... that can also qualify for a nod during Squirrel Week.

[Deranged Hermit](#) quickly became a veritable celebrity, making appearances in all sorts of decks. He was getting calls from all the top designers, and had more quick success than any elf since [Llanowar Elves](#) was printed back in 1993. Immediately thrust into the spotlight, [Deranged Hermit](#) showed up at Pro Tour - New York 1999 (*Urza's Saga/Urza's Legacy* Constructed) in the Eric Taylor/Pat Chapin "[Snap](#)" deck, which is literally the strangest deck of all time. It rarely won the same way twice, sometimes crushing creature decks by generating more creatures than they had, sometimes making the opponent draw his deck, sometimes drawing its own deck first, and sometimes not winning at all. I would like to say that the [Snap](#) deck revolved around the synergy of [Snap](#) (or [Barrin, Master Wizard](#) + [Cloud of Faeries](#)), [Deranged Hermit](#), and [Gaea's Cradle](#) (Snap the Hermit, untap the Cradle, re-play the Hermit, generate more and more squirrels), but as I said, the deck was extremely strange, and win or lose, it never made very much sense to me. What I can say for certain, is that the [Snap](#) deck was better at generating a larger raw number of squirrels than any other competitive deck in the history of **Magic**.



The Snap deck took Chapin to Top 16, and if his deck hadn't been stolen in the next-to-last round, PT New York would likely have been a fourth PT Top 8 for him.

"Snap" - Patrick Chapin



Main Deck 60 cards

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 9 Forest | 2 Crop Rotation |
| 4 Gaea's Cradle | 4 Fertile Ground |
| 5 Island | 2 Frantic Search |
| 2 Thran Quarry | 4 Snap |
| 1 Yavimaya Hollow | 4 Stroke of Genius |

21 lands

16 other spells

- 2 [Barrin, Master Wizard](#)
- 4 [Cloud of Faeries](#)
- 4 [Deranged Hermit](#)
- 2 [Elvish Herder](#)
- 2 [Elvish Lyrist](#)
- 4 [Priest of Titania](#)
- 4 [Raven Familiar](#)
- 1 [Yavimaya Granger](#)

Sideboard

- 4 [Absolute Law](#)
- 3 [Contamination](#)
- 4 [Meltdown](#)
- 1 [Morphling](#)
- 1 [Mountain](#)
- 1 [Plains](#)
- 1 [Swamp](#)

23 creatures

15 sideboard cards



With the release of *Urza's Destiny* in the summer of 1999, Squirrel lovers everywhere were both rewarded and challenged by the new set's powerful rares. On the one hand, the life expectancy of the average Squirrel dropped quite a bit with the appearance of a surly [new artifact creature](#), himself rotten to the 'Core; on the other hand, the exciting [Opposition](#) made for a brilliant new synergy between blue and green. Completely muscling the [Snap](#) deck out of the *Urza's* Block Constructed spotlight, the new U/G deck of choice, Squirrel Prison, proved very efficient and ultimately quite successful. Each [Deranged Hermit](#) in this deck represented not just a significant threat (or cluster of threats), not just nine power worth of attackers, but also "five [Icy Manipulators](#)." Squirrel Prison hit hard immediately, and gave Dr. Michael Pustilnik a first place finish at Grand Prix - Memphis.

Squirrel Prison - Michael Pustilnik



Main Deck 60 cards

2 Faerie Conclave	1 Annul
11 Forest	4 Opposition
8 Island	2 Power Sink
4 Treetop Village	1 Stroke of Genius
_____	1 Sunder
25 lands	3 Treachery
_____	_____
4 Deranged Hermit	12 other spells
2 Heart Warden	

- 1 [Masticore](#)
- 3 [Morphling](#)
- 4 [Priest of Titania](#)
- 1 [Rofellos, Llanowar Emissary](#)
- 4 [Yavimaya Elder](#)
- 4 [Yavimaya Granger](#)

23 creatures

Sideboard

- 2 [Annul](#)
- 1 [Delusions of Mediocrity](#)
- 2 [Douse](#)
- 4 [Gaea's Embrace](#)
- 3 [Harmonic Convergence](#)
- 1 [Masticore](#)
- 2 [Sunder](#)

15 sideboard cards



The *Masques* Block Also-Rans, Rans, and Additional Also-Ran

"Everyone gets 15 minutes of fame."

"Here today, gone tomorrow."

"I love you..."

"... but I'm not in love with you."

There are certainly a lot of clichés out there, and basically all of them can be applied to the popularity of Squirrel decks as *Mercadian Masques* crept onto the tournament scene during the autumn of 1999. Already battling for the spotlight against superstars like [Morphling](#) and [Academy Rector](#), [Deranged Hermit](#)--once a darling of deck design--now found himself competing for appearances against hungry newcomers like [Ramosian Sergeant](#), [Nether Spirit](#), and [Waterfront Bouncer](#). Things only got worse

when *Nemesis* brought in [Lin Sivvi, Defiant Hero](#) and a host of excellent utility cards in supporting roles.

For his own part, [Deranged Hermit](#) was relegated, at least initially, to bit parts in the dreaded "tier two decks."

On one hand, there was Toby Wachter's [Pack Hunt](#) deck. Early on in the Grudge Match at Neutral Ground, Wachter posted a Top 8 finish with a deck that, though tied to the earlier Squirrel Prison archetype, was trying to make use of some of the new *Nemesis* spells in the hopes of generating more Squirrels than one would expect with a limit of four [Deranged Hermits](#). Unfortunately, its success was tied to a gentlemen's agreement at Neutral Ground that no one play combination decks.

4-Pack - Rev. Toby Wachter



Main Deck

60 cards

10 [Forest](#)

3 [Gaea's Cradle](#)

6 [Island](#)

3 [Treetop Village](#)

22 lands

3 [Opposition](#)

3 [Pack Hunt](#)

2 [Stroke of Genius](#)

3 [Treachery](#)

11 other spells

4 [Birds of Paradise](#)

4 [Deranged Hermit](#)

4 [Llanowar Elves](#)

4 [Multani's Acolyte](#)

4 [Priest of Titania](#)

3 [Skyshroud Poacher](#)

4 [Yavimaya Granger](#)

27 creatures

Sideboard

4 [Arcane Laboratory](#)

4 [Chill](#)

3 [Masticore](#)

4 [Splinter](#)

15 sideboard cards



While extremely explosive, 4-Pack was quickly phased out of the Neutral Ground metagame by decks headlined by [Parallax Wave](#) or [Dark Ritual](#) as US Regionals approached.



Then a number of designers hit upon the fact that [Skyshroud Poacher](#), whose job it was to fetch Elves, was himself a Rebel. During rather an embarrassing time for Squirrels in competitive **Magic**, the once-proud [Deranged Hermit](#) was getting pulled out of libraries at the top of a Rebel chain starting with [Ramosian Sergeant](#) and stabilized by [Lin Sivvi](#), [Defiant Hero](#). The instability of these decks in terms of mana base, and the fact that [Deranged Hermit](#) simply meant more card advantage for a deck that was already generating both board position and card advantage via Rebels, meant that few top players would choose the archetype.

In any case, it turned out that there were better [Skyshroud Poacher](#)/[Deranged Hermit](#) decks to be found.

After some months of wallowing in mediocre Rebel decks, two similar designs arose which played [Deranged Hermit](#) as a finisher in a deck otherwise designed to control the board via land destruction. From Europe a whisper called "Trinity Green" was heard--albeit softly--across the Internet. The mono-green deck accelerating out [Fallow Earth](#) with [Birds of Paradise](#) and [Llanowar Elves](#) had hotly contested origins in 2000, despite the fact that until after German Nationals, it was supposed to be a secret. Mark Wraith, a Top 8 competitor with Trinity Green at English Nationals, credited Ben Ronaldson and John Ormerod; Ormerod is claimed to have said that it was based on the deck played by that year's French National Champion, Yann Hamon. Trinity's design has also been linked to Ireland's John Larkin and The (current) Man himself, German Kai Budde. Regardless of who is responsible for the original Trinity Green deck, what is not in dispute is that it was the most widely successful Squirrel deck in **Magic** history until this year. Wraith's Top 8 list, even though it eschews [Fallow Earth](#), is representative of early Trinity:

Trinity Green - Mark Wraith



Main Deck

60 cards

14 [Forests](#)

4 [Gaea's Cradle](#)

4 [Rishadan Port](#)

22 lands

4 [Bird of Paradise](#)

3 [Blastoderm](#)

4 [Deranged Hermit](#)

4 [Llanowar Elves](#)

3 [Masticore](#)

4 [Priest of Titania](#)

4 [Rofellos, Llanowar Emissary](#)

4 [Skyshroud Poacher](#)

30 creatures

4 [Plow Under](#)

4 [Tangle Wire](#)

8 other spells

Sideboard

1 [Blastoderm](#)

2 [Dust Bowl](#)

4 [Fallow Earth](#)

1 [Masticore](#)

4 [Simian Grunts](#)

3 [Splinter](#)

15 sideboard cards



At about the same time in the United States, the former competitive Magician who runs this very website returned [Deranged Hermit](#) and the Squirrels he manages to respectability first at the Ohio Valley Regionals, qualifying for US Nationals with a deck called "Angry Hermit."



At Nationals that year, CMU teammates Aaron Forsythe and Mike Turian both ran the Angry Hermit; also both made the Top 8 of the 2000 US National Championship. Aaron, who designed the deck, additionally won the Type 2 portion of the tournament with a 5-0-1 record, and took a spot on the US National team. Squirrels played an even greater role in the Nationals version of Angry Hermit, as Forsythe and Turian borrowed the [Skyshroud Poachers](#) from Trinity Green to increase the consistency with which they could deploy the powerful (and Squirrel-packing) [Deranged Hermit](#).

Angry Hermit - Aaron Forsythe



Main Deck

60 cards

- 11 [Forest](#)
- 2 [Gaea's Cradle](#)
- 4 [Karplusan Forest](#)
- 2 [Mountain](#)
- 4 [Rishadan Port](#)
- 2 [Treetop Village](#)

25 lands

- 4 [Avalanche Riders](#)
- 4 [Birds of Paradise](#)
- 4 [Deranged Hermit](#)
- 4 [Llanowar Elves](#)
- 3 [Masticore](#)
- 2 [Rofellos, Llanowar Emissary](#)
- 3 [Skyshroud Poacher](#)
- 3 [Yavimaya Elder](#)

27 creatures

- 4 [Arc Lightning](#)
- 4 [Plow Under](#)

8 other spells

Sideboard

- 2 [Ancient Hydra](#)
- 4 [Blastoderm](#)
- 2 [Boil](#)
- 1 [Masticore](#)
- 1 [Splinter](#)
- 3 [Thran Foundry](#)
- 2 [Uktabi Orangutan](#)

15 sideboard cards



Lest [Deranged Hermit](#) have a monopoly on the tournament Squirrel scene during the summer of 2000, a *Prophecy* addition by the name of [Squirrel Wrangler](#) made a small impact on *Masques* Block Constructed. Jon Becker played his interesting "The Lost World" in a late *Masques* Block PTQ and made Top 8 before bowing out to Andrew Stokinger's Blue Skies deck.

The Lost World - Jon Becker



Main Deck

61 cards

2 Dust Bowl	3 Chimeric Idol
22 Forest	4 Predator, Flagship
2 Rath's Edge	2 Reverent Silence
_____	4 Saproling Burst
26 lands	4 Skyshroud Claim
_____	_____
4 Blastoderm	17 other spells
4 Rib Cage Spider	
3 Spitting Spider	
3 Squirrel Wrangler	
4 Vine Trellis	

18 creatures	



The Lost World was an extremely powerful, if eccentric, build. Designed to generate tons of forests via [Skyshroud Claim](#), the deck then used Squirrel Wrangler to convert each of those forests into multiple Squirrels, continuing with the Squirrels-as-card-advantage theme. Because [Squirrel Wrangler](#)'s "other" ability would then make the numerous Squirrels also very large and dangerous, The Lost World could open up a game by stalling the ground with [Vine Trellis](#) and [Rib Cage Spider](#)... and then end it immediately with one huge attack.



It would have been interesting to see what kind of effect Squirrels would have had on the *Masques* Block Constructed metagame if [Skyshroud Claim/Squirrel Wrangler](#) had been discovered earlier, but in at least one tournament, the Squirrels showed they could hang with the Rebellion.

Invasion of the Down Time

If the next block brought any Squirrels, they certainly didn't chatter around the top tables of competitive events. With the *Invasion*-spurred rotation of *Urza's* Block, [Deranged Hermit](#) hung up his pointy ears and took a good long rest. He would need it.

Squirrels got their next call to the big show in the late summer of 2001. Though no longer part of the relevant Block Constructed format for Chapin or Pustilnik, now rotated out of Standard where he had been relatively successful in Regional and National events the previous year, [Deranged Hermit](#) would be taking on his biggest format yet--Extended--at the 2001 World Championships in Toronto. Though many players had strong finishes with "Cradle Elf" decks, it was Franck Canu of France who posted a perfect record with the [Deranged Hermit](#) at Worlds 2001 with this version:

Cradle Elf - Franck Canu



Main Deck

60 cards

14 Forest	4 Coat of Arms
4 Gaea's Cradle	_____
_____	4 other spells
18 lands	
	Sideboard
4 Deranged Hermit	3 Choke

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|----------------------------------|
| 2 | Elvish Champion | 3 | Emerald Charm |
| 3 | Elvish Lyrist | 2 | Fecundity |
| 4 | Fyndhorn Elves | 3 | Hidden Gibbons |
| 4 | Llanowar Elves | 3 | Null Rod |
| 4 | Llanowar Sentinel | 1 | Uktabi Orangutan |
| 4 | Masticore | | |
| 4 | Priest of Titania | | |
| 4 | Quirion Ranger | | |
| 2 | Rofellos, Llanowar Emissary | | |
| 3 | Uktabi Orangutan | | |

15 sideboard cards

38 creatures



Canu's deck, though a focused mono-green beatdown build rather than the strangest deck of all time, is oddly reminiscent of Pat Chapin's deck from Pro Tour - New York 1999. With [Gaea's Cradle](#) and [Priest of Titania](#) generating tons of mana,



Cradle Elf could churn out expensive threats with a relatively low (18) land count. Moreover, this deck introduces an idea that we have seen in only one deck so far, and as a less central theme... Not simply Squirrels-as-card-advantage, Cradle Elf, by virtue of [Coat of Arms](#), rewards [Deranged Hermit](#), and its associated masses of Squirrels and Elves, with additionally high power based on just how large their numbers are.

We will see more instances of giant Squirrels in the next section.

Cradle Elf had a lot of raw power, and was one of the fastest decks to appear at Worlds 2001. Improvements to the [Illusions of Grandeur/Donate](#) decks, the increased popularity of [Pernicious Deed](#), and the eventual discovery of Miracle Grow nevertheless made its day in the sun a short one.

Odyssey Block: Where Squirrels are Many and Large

Many Squirrel-based cards have come out of the most recent **Magic** expansions. Though the old theme of Squirrels-as-card-advantage is certainly there, a new idea, that of the Squirrel-as-giant-monster, has also been explored through a couple different cards. The two most relevant for constructed thus far have been [Krosan Beast](#) and [Squirrel Mob](#).

While [Krosan Beast](#) himself has yet to make an appearance in a hugely successful deck design, his influence on one of the most dominant decks of the last Extended season is a significant one. After a fabulous Swiss run with Miracle Grow at GP Las Vegas, Alan Comer speculated that one or more [Krosan Beasts](#) might be appropriate to the design... After all, it was relatively easy for a deck digging for mana with [Gush](#), [Land Grant](#), and [Sleight of Hand](#) to reach threshold quickly.

Miracle Grow - Alan Comer



Main Deck

60 cards

6 [Island](#)
4 [Tropical Island](#)

10 lands

3 [Gaea's Skyfolk](#)
4 [Lord of Atlantis](#)
4 [Merfolk Looter](#)
4 [Quirion Dryad](#)

15 creatures

4 [Brainstorm](#)
4 [Curiosity](#)
4 [Daze](#)
3 [Foil](#)
4 [Force of Will](#)
4 [Gush](#)
4 [Land Grant](#)
4 [Sleight of Hand](#)
4 [Winter Orb](#)

35 other spells

Sideboard

2 [Boomerang](#)
4 [Chill](#)
3 [Emerald Charm](#)
2 [Misdirection](#)
4 [Submerge](#)

15 sideboard cards



What ended up happening was that at a subsequent Grand Prix, Mike Long added [Werebear](#) to the deck as an alternate threshold card. While this did not further the cause of large Squirrels per se, in the early days when threshold was considered primarily a Limited mechanic, [Krosan Beast's](#) roundabout influence ended up quite significant, especially for the eventual Osaka U/G deck lists.

Miracle Grow - Mike Long



Main Deck

60 cards

6 [Island](#)
4 [Tropical Island](#)

10 lands

4 [Quirion Dryad](#)
2 [Waterfront Bouncer](#)
4 [Werebear](#)
4 [Wild Mongrel](#)

14 creatures

4 [Brainstorm](#)
4 [Curiosity](#)
4 [Daze](#)
2 [Foil](#)
4 [Force of Will](#)
4 [Gush](#)
4 [Land Grant](#)
2 [Opt](#)
4 [Sleight of Hand](#)
4 [Winter Orb](#)

36 other spells

Sideboard

1 [Annul](#)
4 [Chill](#)
2 [Hydroblast](#)
4 [Legacy's Allure](#)
2 [Phyrexian Furnace](#)
2 [Submerge](#)

15 sideboard cards



Speaking of Pro Tour - Osaka, large Squirrels ended up a significant presence there as well, even if none of them managed to finish in the Elite 8. One deck in particular is interesting for discussion, if only for the fact that it was chosen by The Man emeritus, Jon Finkel:

Mono-Green Squirrels - Jon Finkel



Main Deck

60 cards

4 Deserted Temple	4 Call of the Herd
20 Forest	4 Chatter of the Squirrel
-----	4 Narcissism
24 lands	4 Overrun
	4 Roar of the Wurm
4 Basking Rootwalla	4 Squirrel Nest
4 Squirrel Mob	-----
4 Wild Mongrel	24 other spells

12 creatures

Sideboard

1 Bearscape
3 Druid Lyrist
4 Leaf Dancer
3 Moment's Peace
4 Still Life

15 sideboard cards



Finkel's mono-green deck was chock full of Squirrels, running [Chatter of the Squirrel](#), [Squirrel Nest](#), and the Squirrel-centric [Deserted Temple](#) in addition to [Squirrel Mob](#). Like Canu's deck from Worlds, the Finkel deck didn't just generate card advantage via Squirrels, it rewarded creature size by Squirrel numerosness, both by [Squirrel Mob](#) and [Overrun](#).

More important than the gains made in Squirrel size, the current Block has introduced several competitive-quality cards that continue the Squirrels-as-card-advantage theme, including [Acorn Harvest](#), [Chatter of the Squirrel](#), and [Squirrel Nest](#). By far the most important of these is the last card, which won Ken Ho the aforementioned PT Osaka.

Blue-Green Madness - Ken Ho



Main Deck

60 cards

13 Forest	4 Circular Logic
9 Island	4 Roar of the Wurm
1 Tarnished Citadel	3 Squirrel Nest
-----	4 Standstill
23 lands	3 Upheaval

4 Aquamoeba	18 other spells
4 Arrogant Wurm	Sideboard
4 Basking Rootwalla	4 Aura Graft
3 Werebear	3 Moment's Peace

4 [Wild Mongrel](#)

19 creatures

3 [Nantuko Blightcutter](#)

2 [Persuasion](#)

3 [Still Life](#)

15 sideboard cards



Ho's deck played on several of the themes that other U/G decks that showed up in Osaka focused on, specifically madness ([Arrogant Wurm](#), [Basking Rootwalla](#), [Circular Logic](#)), flashback ([Roar of the Wurm](#)), and threshold ([Werebear](#)).



Unlike most of the Osaka decks, especially those more centered on madness, Ho's design did not play [Aether Burst](#). Instead, he chose to play with two of the most dominating cards available in the format: [Upeaval](#) and the aforementioned [Squirrel Nest](#).

These cards set Ho's deck apart from most other U/G decks, as it excelled against the dominant mono-black control decks that showed up in Osaka. [Squirrel Nest](#) especially thwarted the [Chainer's Edicts](#) and [Innocent Bloods](#) that those decks relied upon so heavily for board control. Ken was so prepared, so focused on [Squirrel Nest](#), that he even ran four [Aura Grafts](#) in his sideboard to steal the Squirrel Nests of others! The Ho deck is vitally important to our review because it is the single biggest win, ever, by a Squirrel-based deck.

Not long after, Patrick Chapin, with whom we started our discussion on successful Squirrel decks (U/G Squirrel decks in particular), posted an impressive finish himself at Grand Prix - Milwaukee. Bowing out in the finals to his old deck design partner, Eric Taylor, Chapin's second-place Squirrel Prison deck nicely incorporates both [Squirrel Nest](#) and the card that usurped his own Snaps, [Opposition](#):

Squirrel Opposition - Patrick Chapin



Main Deck

60 cards

9 Forest	3 Circular Logic
9 Island	2 Compulsion
4 Yavimaya Coast	4 Counterspell
_____	4 Fact or Fiction
22 lands	4 Opposition
	4 Squirrel Nest

2 Arrogant Wurm	21 other spells
3 Basking Rootwalla	Sideboard
4 Birds of Paradise	2 Bearscape
4 Merfolk Looter	2 Call of the Herd
4 Wild Mongrel	3 Gainsay
_____	4 Jungle Barrier
17 creatures	2 Static Orb
	2 Upheaval

	15 sideboard cards



Pat credited [Squirrel Nest](#) with his success against the dominant Standard deck, [Psychatog](#). Each [Squirrel Nest](#) effectively "counters" a [Psychatog](#), even without any other machinery in play. Over time, the addition of a second [Squirrel Nest](#) or [Opposition](#) to the board will allow Pat's deck to "get ahead", forcing his opponent to try to play the beatdown game. Because the [Psychatog](#) decks are so slow and controlling, they are ill-suited to this strategy. All weekend, Chapin was able to sit back on his permission spells, knowing that [Upheaval](#) would usually be the only spell he would really have to answer.



Most recently, Team CMU continued to show its dominance at US Nationals, this time with Squirrels in tow. Eugene Harvey, a member of the 2001 US National Team, took a step forward in 2002, running a Squirrel Prison deck originally designed by teammate Mike Turian. The Harvey deck trades some of Chapin's anti-control choices for red, making the deck stronger against other creature decks. Apparently this change did not deter Harvey's effectiveness against control overmuch; his red-inclusive version of Squirrel Prison took out three straight Psychatog decks in the Top 8 to become the 2002 National Champion... winning the second biggest finish for Squirrels yet.

Squirrel Opposition - Eugene Harvey



Main Deck

60 cards

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 7 Forest | 2 Call of the Herd |
| 5 Island | 4 Circular Logic |
| 3 Karplusan Forest | 4 Deep Analysis |
| 2 Shivan Reef | 3 Fire // Ice |
| 4 Yavimaya Coast | 4 Opposition |
-

21 lands

- | |
|-------------------------------------|
| 4 Birds of Paradise |
| 3 Flametongue Kavu |
| 3 Llanowar Elves |
| 4 Merfolk Looter |
| 4 Wild Mongrel |
-

18 creatures

21 other spells

Sideboard

- | |
|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Aura Graft |
| 1 Call of the Herd |
| 1 Flametongue Kavu |
| 4 Gainsay |
| 3 Jade Leech |
| 2 Static Orb |
| 2 Unnatural Selection |
| 1 Upheaval |
-

15 sideboard cards



Which brings us to today. In the current *Odyssey* Block Constructed metagame, Squirrels seem to have fallen by the wayside in favor of 6/6 Wurms as green's creatures-of-choice. Whether or not they can continue their run is tough to say. The rest of this PTQ season, plus the Type 2 and Block portions of Worlds in Sydney will be proving grounds for everyone's favorite furry tokens.

Mike may be reached at madmanpoet@yahoo.com.

Did you like this article? Send comments to editor@wizards.com.