

C.Φ.R.D. Biquarterly

Connexus Of Reformed Druids

An RDNA Publication

Leaf: White Oak – *Quercus alba*

February 1, 2022

1 Earrach, 59 Y.R.

Volume 2

Issue 4

John the Verbose, editor

MNdruids@gmail.com

Oimele



Photo: Solstice Meditation Garden, Springbrook Nature Center, Fridley, Minnesota

Contents

News of the Groves.....	3
Bardic Column.....	4
Bonfire Banter.....	5
Book review: Once Around The Sun by Ellen Evert Hopman.....	6
Vestments of the RDNA Priesthood, and Etiquette Thereof.....	7
The Seeker's Corkboard.....	12
Vivid Visions Gallery.....	13
Videos of Interest.....	16
The Right Rites For Rampant Ritualists.....	17
Augur's Intuition.....	18
Calendar of Events.....	19
Blogs & Social Media Links.....	20
Artisan Promo Page.....	21
Reformed Druid Resources.....	23
Newsletter Info.....	25
Contribute Content to the Next Issue!	26
This Article's <i>Thank You</i> Photo!	27

Click on a line to jump to that page.

Note: Click-navigation only works if you download the PDF.

News of the Groves

News from Oakdale Grove (Minnesota)

Oakdale Grove is hosting a **spiritual retreat camp** from May 13th to 15th, 2022 at a western Wisconsin state park! Oakdale Grove has sponsored and paid for a group camp site for up to 30 people. The site is for tent camping only, does not have any RV hookups or electricity, but is ADA accessible. Vault toilets are adjacent to the campsite. The only monetary cost to attendees would be that they would need to purchase a Wisconsin State Parks vehicle sticker for the number of days they plan on attending the retreat. For out of state vehicles, the parking fee is \$13 per day or \$39. At that point, non-resident attendees are better off purchasing a \$38 season pass, then they can visit all Wisconsin state parks for the rest of the year. The group camp allows up to two vehicles to be parked at the camp site, other vehicles need to be parked in the nearby lot.

Official programming is still TBA, but several seminar topics have been proposed including:

- Divination in Reformed Druidism and uncommon methods
- Upper Midwest tree identification
- Stargazing
- History of druidry from ancient, to revival, to the modern foundations
- Meditation techniques
- Whiskey sampling party (hence being in *Wisconsin* rather than a Minnesota state park)
- Free time
- One of Oakdale Grove's Second Order Druids may be taking on the ordeal of the All-Night Vigil to enter the priesthood

If you have requests for programming or seminar topics, especially if you plan on attending and would like to present a topic not yet listed (or participate as a co-panelist on a topic), or if you have any questions, email the *C.O.R.D.* editor (email is on the cover page). Since attendance is limited to 30, an RSVP system will be implemented and posted in the next article of the newsletter and probably shared across social media. Note to potential guest panelists: Oakdale Grove cannot offer monetary compensation to presenters at this time (but the camp site rental is paid for, so there's that).

For those who plan to attend, here is a list of things to bring:

- Tent, sleep gear, camp chair, warm & cool weather clothes (spring can be chaotic), bug spray
- At least one bundle of firewood from less than 10 miles away from the camp
- Potluck food that can be shared with attendees
- Notebook & writing utensil
- Bottle of whiskey or scotch if the sampling party is added (we can all coordinate brands later)
- A ritual chalice (optional), ritual garb (optional)
- Water to stay hydrated plus any additional food if necessary

Bardic Column

***Hoarfrost* by Leofe Allaway Voss**

Born in the mists of a time long forgotten,
It clings to the last vestiges of life
And awakens in silence.
A dazzling display of fractals
In a frozen, crystalline landscape.
Seeking permanence but knowing
That its life is fleeting, ephemeral.
Warmth touches the delicate,
Multi-dimensional structures
But its story does not end here.
This is merely a beginning,
A transformation, a metamorphosis.
It fades away, but does not disappear.
It will return to the mist to sleep
And when the familiar chill calls,
It will awaken once again.



Photo credit: Leofe Allaway Voss

Bonfire Banter

Overview

This section is an open forum for opinion pieces, letters to the editor, druidic gossip, philosophical exposition, news of solo druids, relevant product reviews, tutorials, and other discourse.

Contribution from *I Talk To The Trees*

Joke of the day: why was the fish blushing at the ocean? It saw its bottom. During this Waters Of Sleep I have been learning some various lessons of life. One is spend more focus of loving myself, Mother Earth and others. It has been a challenge but then it ain't called life. But this was not expected. Love takes various shape and size. To be intentional is even harder at times.

Contribution from Sarah of the Woods – Running in ALL Seasons

I started running when my first dog Webster begged me to take it up. He was a nutty 11 month old Lab rescue that had been bred for pheasant hunting and didn't understand why everyday didn't include 4 to 5 hours of water retrieving and covering miles upon miles of upper midwestern prairie. He taught me how to run intervals and pace myself and urged me to go further and further until I could actually out run him. Sadly he left this world at the age of 13, but he left with me a love of running that lives on.

This year, I decided I would embrace winter running. I usually slogged along on the treadmill for 3-4 months waiting till temperatures hit 40 degrees again, but not this year. I was gifted a pair of second hand Yaktrax, think tire chains for your shoes, and bought a real outer layer made for running.

Running in 5 degrees is a completely different experience. In the summer I loose myself when I run, it's like I disconnect from my body as the rhythm of my heartbeat, breath and foot strike work together in a meditative drum circle. In fall and spring my mind is wrapped in noticing the changing seasons and nature. In winter I am forced to be acutely present, in my body, focused on my body. Don't slip on the ice, unzip the neck of the outer layer one inch, wipe the frost forming on my eyelashes, pull the guard up over my nose and then pull it back down when it gets too warm and hard to breathe. It is a constant argument in my head to keep going on, not give up.

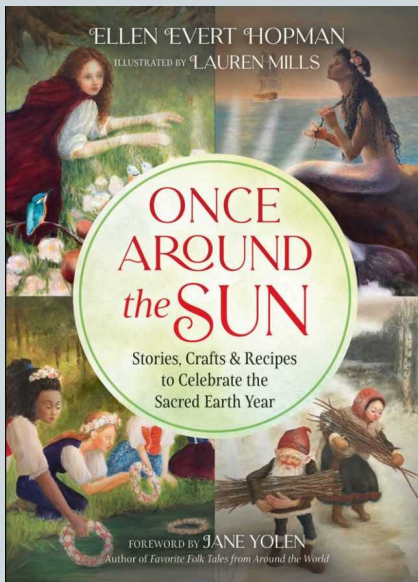
For the 45 minutes I'm out, it's a glimpse into what winters were like for most of human history for those who lived in continental or colder maritime climates. You don't have a choice you just keep going. And soon enough the days get longer and 35 feels balmy.

Book review: Once Around The Sun by Ellen Evert Hopman

Reviewed by John the Verbose

I recently had the rare opportunity and privilege of reading and reviewing a book before its release date. Every now and then there's a difficult question posed throughout the druid community. What are some good children's books on druidry? There just aren't that many. The same question exists for paganism in general, though *druid-specific* kids' books are certainly a minority within a minority. Ellen Evert Hopman has added a literary contribution to help address the need for great books on druidry for kids that I believe any druid, pagan, or pagan-friendly parents would approve of. That contribution is the upcoming book Once Around The Sun: Stories, Crafts, and Recipes to Celebrate the Sacred Earth Year.

The book features folklore blended into short stories surrounding the Wheel of the Year festivals from a kid's perspective, starting with the customs of Samhain and what happens as the Cailleach walks the land. The book doesn't focus solely on Celtic or druidic customs, but offers a palette of customs across multiple cultures, such as Scandinavian, Italian, and Polish, showing why we honor the change of the seasons the way we do.



Each story is preceded by a quick glossary of terminology and pronunciation guide for any new words the young readers will encounter. This was even helpful for me as I learned a few new words myself! After each story there are added bonuses of a seasonal recipe or two on how to make something special with easy to understand cooking instructions. There's also instructions for fun crafts or activities for kids to try, such as making a Brigid's Cross, magic wands, learning runes and ogham, and even magical correspondences for common herbs, plants, and trees!

If your children have started reading chapter books and are elementary age to young adolescent, then this one is perfect for them to add to their collection and getting them interested in how some of our customs came to be. And since even I learned something from reading this book, I think any adults new to druidry or paganism can get something out of this book as well. That soda bread recipe is calling to me! Once Around The Sun can be preordered now through *Inner Traditions* and select booksellers, but live sales launch in the United States on April 19, 2022 wherever you find your favorite books, and will be available in the UK around early June.

Vestments of the RDNA Priesthood, and Etiquette Thereof

There's not much dogma in the RDNA beyond the Two Basic Tenets and the forbiddance of animal, human, or blood sacrifice of any kind. Though once you get to the Third Order or above (the levels of the Priesthood), you are certainly bound to encounter a modicum of orthopraxy. Orthopraxy simply put is *the right way to practice* something. "Believe what you will, but do it like this," essentially. When you are consecrated to the RDNA priesthood, one tradition is that you are given a Druid Sigil pendant, but the formal custom is that you receive your liturgical badge of office: your *stole* or neck ribbons. Depending on what level of the RDNA priesthood you have entered, the color and placement is important. The Order of the Acorn, the First Order, and the Second Order do not have any particular vestments, though in the past some Groves have given clear ribbons to their Second Order druids as a reminder to *think clearly* as they prepare for the priesthood, though this is not customary. Now let's explore the etiquette and color code of the levels of the priesthood!



The Third Order – The Order of Dalon Ap Landu

Vestment color: one red, one white

Position: draped over the shoulders

Of the 139 people who have entered the priesthood, the vast majority of them tend to stick with the Third Order. You are given two ribbons, a red one and a white one. The red one is to be worn from Beltane to Samhain, then the white one is to be worn from Samhain to Beltane. Oakdale Grove and the defunct Raven's Cry Grove use *reversible* ribbons so you don't lose one or forget to bring it to the Beltane or Samhain rituals. At those ceremonies, there's a changing of the vestments between the sacrifice and the consecration.

The Fourth Order – The Order of Grannos

Vestment color: green

Position: draped over the shoulders

Grannos is a Gaulish god of healing springs, and consequently this order is one that is dedicated to uplifting the weak and weary, and may be ideal for those who go into hospital chaplaincy. Entering the Order of Grannos has gotten difficult since 2004, as the current atriarch was no longer returning correspondence and now is an inactive member of the RDNA. The responsibility of appointing a new atriarch falls on the shoulders of the Council of Dalon Ap Landu, which according to the original RDNA Constitution would need a one-eighth quorum of the council members known to be active. I think that's 18 votes minimum. The individual depicted here is not in the Order of Grannos. Image is for dramatization only.





The Fifth Order – The Order of Braciaca

Vestment color: goldenrod or yellow

Position: maniple (wrist)

Braciaca is a Brythonic deity of malt, grain, and brewing. What’s interesting is that scholars can’t agree on whether the deity was a god or goddess. The *Interpretatio Romana* was that Braciaca was the war god Mars, yet Braciaca has a definitively feminine Brythonic name. There’s only one inscription that mentions Braciaca so we literally have nothing else to go from. In the end, what does it matter? There have been a number of nonbinary deities throughout history. They/Them/Deity pronouns, please. The Order of Braciaca is dedicated to gladdening the hearts of all, leading by example, and conducting yourself with grace. The individual depicted is not in the Order of Braciaca. Image is for dramatization only.

The Sixth Order – The Order of Belenos

Vestment color: goldenrod or yellow

Position: draped over the shoulders

Above all Belenos is a healing deity, associated with shining light and his chariot that carts the sun across the sky. I call him the “vitamin D god” as the shining light of a clear day tends to reenergize us and lift our spirits. The Romans equated Belenos with Apollo which is where the strong solar associations shine through. The RDNA focuses much more on the solar associations, but also on the light of truth and healing through warmth and cheer. I actually *am* in the Order of Belenos, but the ribbon here is chroma keyed because I forgot my actual Belenos ribbon at home for this photo shoot. Mine is actually a much smaller ribbon with a sun-face pendant that overall resembles a masonic collar (see overlay).



The Seventh Order – The Order of Sirona

Vestment color: blue

Position: draped over the shoulders



Sirona is a Gaulish goddess of healing springs, though in the RDNA she tends to be attributed to lakes and rivers. ARDA indicated the color for the order is “blue with wavy” which seems ambiguous. Wavy *what?* Is it supposed to have rickrack on it? Rickrack is terribly retro, but you could take two lengths of rickrack and weave them together for a coiled or “wavy” effect, especially with two shades of blue. When I created my ribbon, I opted for royal blue grosgrain for the main portion and a light blue coiled upholstery trim, that still resembles flowing water. I’m also wearing a black robe here because in 2017 I was appointed by the Council of Belenos as the 2nd Atriarch of Sirona. The Order of Sirona still needs to form a council so that we can vote to appoint someone to be the first Atriarch of the Order of Taranis.

The Eighth Order – The Order of Taranis

Vestment color: Black and gold

Position: maniple (wrist)

Taranis is a Gaulish god of thunder, and in the RDNA is representative of all manner of weather phenomena. Taranis has also directly responded in the early days of the Reform at a time when the Curse of the Druids was invoked. The Order of Taranis was never properly formed because that is the responsibility of the Council of Sirona, which doesn't have enough members to form its own council yet. The Orders of Taranis and above had been proposed and the vestment colors and worn positions are merely reserved until the orders and their councils can be formally established and solidify those vestment conventions with a proper vote. The individual depicted is not in the Order of Taranis. Image is for dramatization only.



The Ninth Order – The Order of Llyr

Vestment color: sea green

Position: draped over the shoulders

Llyr is a Welsh god of the sea, and sometimes attributed to the personification of the sea itself. For whatever reason, there aren't many mentions of Llyr in the Mabinogion or Welsh mythological cycle, and likewise not much mention of the Irish analog Lir in their mythology, either. Consequently, Llyr is interpreted as a primordial sea god and sometimes as literally being the sea. The Order of Llyr has also not been filled out yet, because that would be the responsibility of the Council of Taranis that also doesn't exist yet. And as such with the orders that have been proposed but not established, the colors and worn positions are merely reserved for this order until they can be codified. The individual depicted is not in the Order of Llyr. Image is for dramatization only.



The Tenth Order – The Order of Danu

Vestment color: brown

Position: draped over the shoulders

Danu is a maternal goddess associated with earth, fertility, and possibly of several rivers in continental Europe. Danu is the matron namesake of the Tuatha De Danann in Irish mythology. The Order of Danu was the last order proposed in the early years of the Reformed Druid movement. Like the eighth and ninth orders, it too is not yet populated, but reserved. Over time it became an honorary order for any deceased Reformed Druid. However, if ever the Council of Llyr becomes established, they could appoint someone living to the Order of Danu. The individual depicted is not in the Order of Danu. Image is for dramatization only.





The Eleventh Order – The Order of the Morrigan

Vestment color: black with 9 slits with maroon or purple ribbon interwoven

Position: draped over the shoulders

The Morrigan is an Irish goddess associated with war, fate, sovereignty, and death. Stephen Crimmins, the 43rd Arch-Druid emeritus of Carleton Grove, proposed the Order of the Morrigan as a new higher order as well as two others in the RDNA. In recent years, a rite of passage was written for this order, and a new separate level of dedication was created for this as well. For those who are not in the priesthood they can dedicate themselves as an *acolyte* of the Order of the Morrigan using the rite of

passage, but it is important that they do not represent themselves as a *priest* of the Order of the Morrigan. This idea of becoming an acolyte of an order could change in the future if and when the Council of Danu appoints someone to the Order of the Morrigan and they too form a council.

The Twelfth Order – The Order of Arawn

Vestment color: black

Position: draped over the shoulders... a torc with wolves was also proposed

Arawn is the Welsh god of the underworld *Anwn*. Any priest of Dalon Ap Landu who is interested in chthonic deities, the onslaughts of winter, or hunting stags with hounds may also be interested in pursuing this order. Like the other orders above the 7th, this one hasn't been populated yet, so again the vestments are reserved and possibly subject to change by the Council of Arawn if it ever gets formed. A black *diagonal* shoulder sash has also been proposed as an option. The individual depicted is not in the Order of Arawn. Image is for dramatization only.



The Thirteenth Order – The Order of Aengus

Vestment color: pink

Position: draped over the shoulders

Aengus is an Irish god of youth and love. This order is somewhat of a natural progression from the order of Danu with its RDNA associations with druids who have passed, then an order for a war, fate, and death goddess, and an order for the god of the underworld. Brú na Bóinne or the area around Newgrange in Ireland is a place associated with this god of youth. The Neolithic tomb at Newgrange is sometimes described as being like a spiritual womb for the dead to be interred and they will be reborn into the afterlife. Aengus, being youthful, can easily be associated with part of the cycle of rebirth. He was also conceived and born on a single day that lasted nine months, so there's that too. Once the higher orders are built out to the Thirteenth Order, then members of the council can propose and build out even more higher



orders! How many deities are there? The individual depicted is not in the Order of Arawn. Image is for dramatization only.

Final notes on the higher orders:

- It is customary to be *invited* to enter the higher orders, though *requests* are usually honored
 - You just gotta find a member of those orders who is active and not too far away
- You can enter multiple higher orders once you reach the Third Order
 - You would have to be ordained by a member of that higher order with permission of its atriarch.
- You do not have to enter the higher orders sequentially
- When you enter one of the higher orders, you are also a Third Order Druid at the same time.
 - So if you enter the Fourth and Sixth Orders, you are both of those levels *and* still a Third
- If an atriarch of a higher order retires, the council of the next lower order appoints a new atriarch, and if need be, ordains that person to that order.
 - You can only be an atriarch of one higher order, but a member of many of them.
- **Only an atriarch of the higher orders may wear black robes**
 - If an atriarch is wearing a black robe, they may only wear the ribbon of the order in which they are atriarch
 - Third Order ribbons can also be worn if desired, as there is no Third Order Atriarch
- Members and attendees of RDNA Groves and Protogroves must not wear the vestments of an order to which they do not yet belong.
- Groves and protogroves may establish unique badges, vestments, colors, or worn positions to designate different roles within their fellowship as long as they do not conflict with existing customs. Any other colors not already reserved for the Third or higher Orders are acceptable for other members and attendees.
- The width and length of the ribbons, stoles, or maniples are not regulated. Some of us have one inch wide ribbons, some are two inches, some three. The length can be as short as three feet or down past the knees. It usually comes down to budget and level of effort put in when creating vestments.

The Seeker's Corkboard

Overview

This is the place where you can state that you are seeking other druids to form a protogrove. Long has it been said, something to the tune of *in the proper way, at the proper time, at the proper place, may another druid cross your path*. Well, here is a little nudge to help this happen sooner! These bulletins will be cumulative on each issue of C.O.R.D. until you send a stop request. They will be arranged alphabetically by country, then by state/province/region, then by town name.

To submit a Seeker's Corkboard request, email the editor and **provide your preferred name, location, and an email address** that you check consistently at least once per month. Just remember that any contact information you submit to this section does become public. Your email address in the newsletter will be split apart and will use different characters (& and /) instead of @ and '.' to prevent or mitigate random harvester bots from scanning them for spam.

Example Bulletin

USA: **Kansas**: Hutchinson: Dorian seeking others for starting RDNA protogrove. Email dorian_the_druid (at) gmail (dot) com.

Standard Disclaimer

I advise Googling *safety tips for meeting people from the Internet* or something to that effect. Furthermore, this is not intended as a section for personals ads or soliciting hookups.

Bulletins

USA: District of Columbia: Tyler Vanice seeking others for starting RDNA protogrove in D.C.. Monument Grove that previously met in the capital has been inactive and I would like to meet others in the area and start something back up. Also looking to be ordained if anyone is traveling to the capital region this year or next! If interested, please reach out. Email tyler.vanice&gmail/com.

Vivid Visions Gallery

Overview

It's a druidic photo gallery. Enjoy!

Contributions from John the Verbose



Trumpeter Swans, Elk River, Minnesota



Bald Eagle, Elk River, Minnesota



Mississippi River near confluence of Elk River



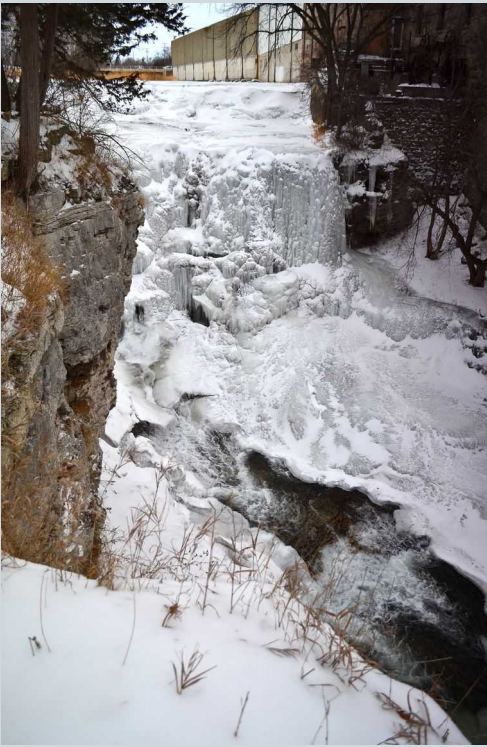
Squirrel dangling from a sunflower having a snack



Poison ivy berries, Hastings, MN



Hopewell mounds, Saint Paul, MN



Vermillion Falls, Hastings, MN



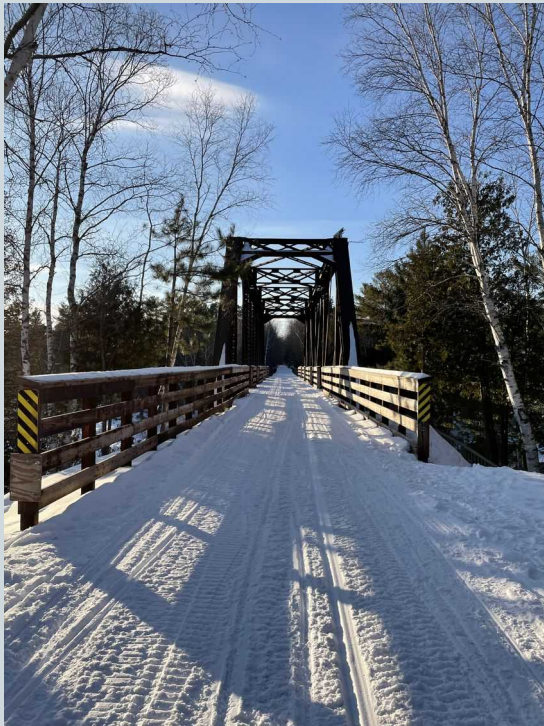
Vermillion Falls, Hastings, MN



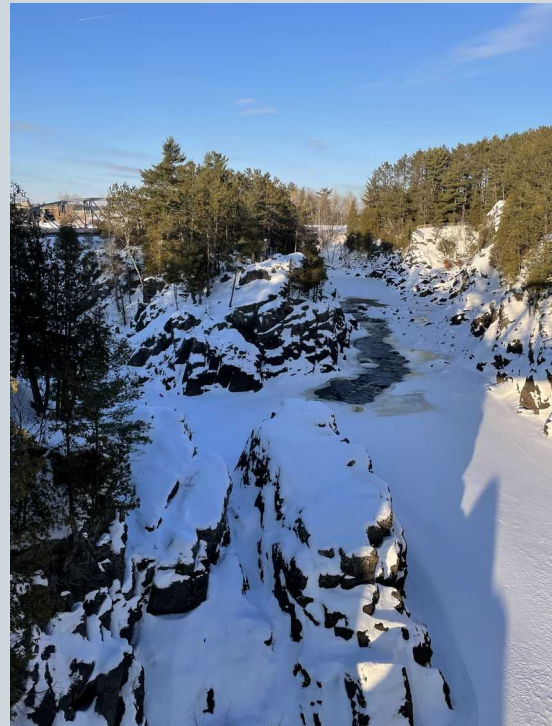
Chimney Rock, Chimney Rock Scientific Natural Area, Hastings, MN



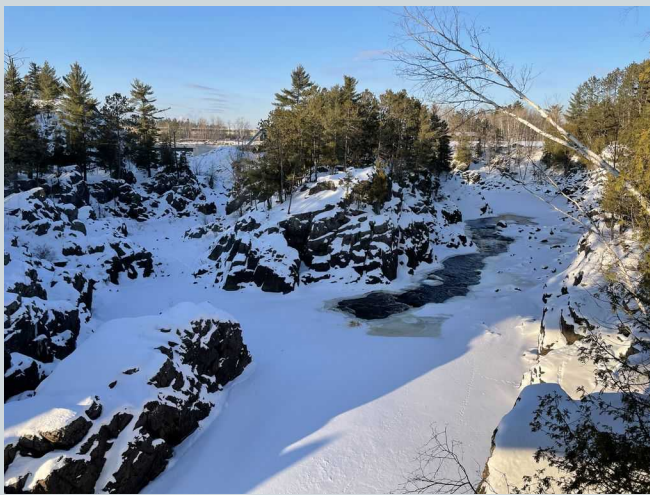
Seated Pharaoh, Chimney Rock Scientific Natural Area, Hastings, MN



Willard Munger State Trail, Thomson, MN



Saint Louis River gorge, Thomson, MN



Saint Louis River gorge, Thomson, MN



Tilted basaltic dike, Thomson, MN

Videos of Interest

Overview

This section is reserved for videos relevant to druidry. Enjoy!

Who Were the Celts?



It recently came to my attention that there's a common misconception that 'Celtic' refers to *just Irish* for some reason. I don't know why some people think that, but this is an informative video for people of all understandings of Celts.

Build Secret Bushcraft Survival Stealth Shelter – shared by *I Talk To The Trees*



Ray Mears' Bushcraft S02E04 – Sweden



featuring glimpses into the Sami culture

The Right Rites For Rampant Ritualists

Overview

This section is for sharing rituals, devotionals, or other liturgical contributions.

Oimelc Chant – Attributed to Robert Larson (?) From NRDNA Services

For three months, O Earth-Mother,
has Thou been gone from us.

Wilt thou not return?

Our hearts are heavy,
our days our dark.

Wilt thou not return?

All seems dead,
hast thou departed?

Never to return?

O, Earth-Mother, we ask a sign.

A sign of thy return.

A sign of Life in the midst of Death.

A sign of thy return.

Sleep in peace,
but send a sign!

A sign of thy return!

A sign of Life!

The Life of thy return!

Augur's Intuition

Overview

This section is reserved for reader-submitted divinations, premonitions, soothsaying, prophecies, omens, maybe a Celtic horoscope for the range of a month.

Submission by John the Verbose

Methodology: Acorns

Meanings

You can use acorns or any found objects with a distinct pointy end, such as broken pieces of small tree branches, pebbles, seashells, bolts or screws for the urban druid, or lumps of hastily sculpted clay. There's a prescribed methodology to utilize here for those who want to learn it, and it ain't palmistry, but follow your intuition!

Interpretation

The time of nurturing is in a period of stagnation, mirroring the season in many places right now, but in short time there will be movement in the right direction, onto the next stage of the great journey!



Calendar of Events

Overview

This section is for contributors to add any gatherings they wish to announce publicly. This is also an almanac of full and new moon dates, the next Wheel of the Year high day, and any applicable minor holidays of the Schismatic Druids of North America (SDNA).

High Days & Moon Phases

- 1 Earrach (February 1) Oimeic & New Moon
- 16 Earrach (February 16) Full Moon
- 30 Earrach (March 2) New Moon
- 46 Earrach (March 18) Full Moon
- 48 Earrach (March 20) Vernal Equinox

Shared Open to Public events

Place: Oakdale Grove's Oimeic Ritual – Saturday February 5, 12:00 PM, Roseville Central Park, 2540 Lexington Avenue North, Roseville, MN – at fire pit to the right of Jaycee's Shelter viewed from parking lot.

Upcoming minor holidays of the SDNA (non-canonical) calendar

- 14-21 Earrach (February 14-21) **Festival of Love** – dedicated to Danu, Cernunnos, and other fertility deities.
- 29 Earrach (March 1) **Feast of Merddyn** – patron of wizards. Do something magical or read Arthurian legends.
- 31 Earrach (March 3) **Feast of Rhiannon** – goddess of horses, matron of mothers and queen of the Otherworld.
- 39 Earrach (March 11) **Feast of Angus Og the Warrior** – Practice with ritual weapons or learn to sword fight.
- 45 Earrach (March 17) **Feast of the Druid Amhairghin** – Celebrate Irish paganism.

Long-term notice for the 60th anniversary of the RDNA

6 Samradh, 61 Y.R. (Saturday, May 6, 2023) is the day of the 60th anniversary reunion of the foundation of the Reformed Druids of North America at Carleton College! More details to follow as the event approaches.

Blogs & Social Media Links

Blogs Curated By Druids (accumulative each issue)

- Courtney's blog [Corey Adventures](#)
- Ellen Evert Hopman's blog [A Druid's Blog](#)
- John the Verbose's [Tumblr](#)
- TheMageiboLine's [Tumblr](#)

Social Media

- C.O.R.D. Biweekly's [Facebook page](#)
- "Official" Reformed Druids of North America (RDNA) [Facebook group](#)
- [*Editor's note: if you request to join there are four vetting questions. Please answer all four; they're really easy.*]
- New Reformed Druids of North America (NRDNA) [Facebook group](#)
- Ron Stonemage's [Instagram](#)
- Oakdale Grove's [Twitter](#)
- Oakdale Grove's [Facebook page](#)
- Oakdale Grove's RDNA Druid Training Program Development [Facebook page](#)
- Tribe of the Oak Celtic Reconstructionist (non-RDNA) Druid Grove [website](#)

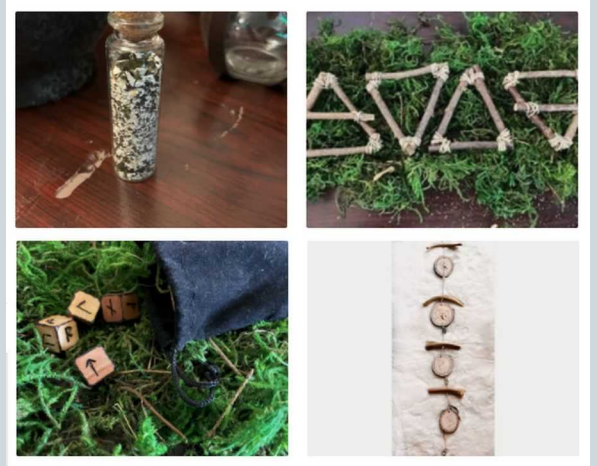
Artisan Promo Page

Overview

Each article of *C.O.R.D.* will contain up to two pages of featured artists, craftspersons, or small online storefronts that may be of interest to the druid community in some way. There is no cost involved; anyone can request that their content be promoted here on a first-come-first-served basis.

[Hazel Oak and Yew Handcrafted Spiritual Goods](#)

Hello and welcome to Hazel Oak and Yew, my space to share my love of witchcraft and my pagan practice with you all. Here I share my handcrafted goods for practicing along with sets of things for you to learn to practice on your own, in your own way. This Etsy shop offers altar supplies, handmade décor, divination tools, and grimoire materials. Custom orders are available!



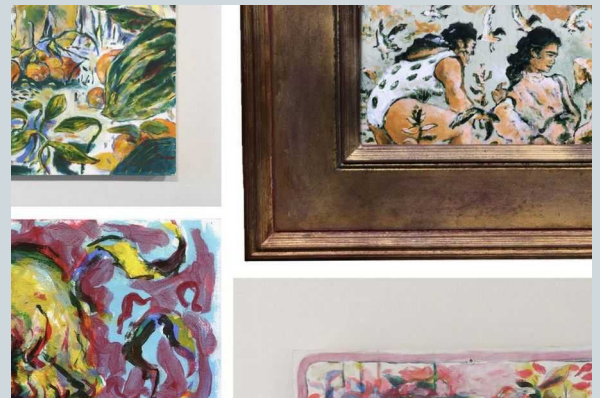
Reannag Teine Pottery

Historically Inspired Pottery: Islamic, Greek, or Italian Renaissance... skulls, squashed fairies, or Viking kitties, we are devoted to creating unique pieces of historically inspired ceramic art--a touch of the unique you can use all the time. Hand-thrown and hand-painted yet safe for food, dishwasher, microwave, and oven. Reannag Teine, Gaelic for “star fire,” is a mother-daughter team with six degrees and a myriad of art awards between them... and a healthy amount of humor to bring it all together. Find us on Facebook, YouTube, Twitch, Instagram—and of course at www.ReannagTeine.com!



Jeremiah Soup's [art gallery](#)

All he wanted to do was subscribe to the newsletter but I was stunned by the art gallery when I clicked through the link in his email signature out of curiosity. I actually asked if I could share this here on his behalf, and I'm glad he agreed to it.



Ron Stonemage's [wire art and wrapped stones](#)

I think we originally discovered each other's Tumblr blogs about a year and a half ago. Not only is the wearable artwork intricate and beautiful, but Ron often has a lot of thought provoking questions about druidry that sometimes takes some time to piece together an answer.



Reformed Druid Resources

Overview

The Reformed Druids of North America is probably one of the few major druid orders that provides all resources for learning about our style of druidism at no cost. We might not have all the answers, and unfortunately we don't have a mentorship or official training program, however there is something major in the works on an unofficial capacity. For now, here is a list of resources we *do* have.

Grove Finder

Everyone wants to know: is there an RDNA or NRDNA Grove in _____? Well, the most current source of truth is the [Grove Finder spreadsheet](#). It's been updated *en masse* in January 2019 & 2020, but it can be updated any time on an ad-hoc basis. It tracks Reformed Druid, New Reformed Druid, and Reformed Druidic Wicca (MOCC) Groves & Protogroves.

RDNA Year Conversion Chart & Calendar

The RDNA Calendar began at Year of the Reform 1 on Beltane (May 1) 1963. It's unapologetically half a year off from the Celtic New Year. As of Beltane 2021, the 59th Year of the Reform (Y.R.) began.

- [RDNA Gregorian/Year of the Reform Conversion spreadsheet](#) can be a helpful tool.
- [RDNA calendar \(FREE PDF\)](#) current through April 30, 2024 can help you learn what day of the four seasons it is, because you'll see the RDNA calendar system is all over this publication.

Oakdale Grove's RDNA Druid Training Program

This is a work in progress. So far the draft is 114 pages long, and I'm only half way into adding the *basic* content I want to put in it. I am not an educator, so I'm concerned about its flow and efficacy. If anyone wants to help develop it with me, I would greatly appreciate the assistance.

Books From the Reformed Druids of North America

- [A Reformed Druid Anthology](#), 2nd ed (also known as ARDA-2) – this is a monumental collection (almost a thousand pages long), and it comes in various forms and formats due to its sheer size. **The PDF versions are always FREE**, but hardcover prints are available from Lulu Print-On-Demand.
 - [ARDA-2 complete \(FREE PDF\)](#) (Volumes 0-10, excluding vol 6)
 - [ARDA-2 complete ePub format from Lulu \(99¢\)](#)
 - [ARDA-2 Volumes 0, 1, & 2](#) in one tome (hardcover purchase from Lulu)
 - [ARDA-2 Volume 3](#) in one tome (hardcover purchase from Lulu)
 - [ARDA-2 Volumes 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, & 10](#) in one tome (hardcover purchase from Lulu)
 - [ARDA-2 Volume 6: Green Books of Meditation](#) complete (**FREE PDF**) – this alone is almost a thousand pages long and intentionally set apart from the other volumes. The Green Books are only available in PDF and contain inspirational writings from all religions.

ARDA Derivative, Condensed, or Adapted Works

- [Unofficial Welcome Pamphlet \(FREE PDF\)](#) is the original 22 pages of the main written works plus introductory info on the RDNA and how to start your own protogrove
- [Black Book of Liturgy \(FREE PDF\)](#) is Oakdale Grove's recommended readings from [ARDA-2](#) plus many scripts of RDNA ritual variations and rites of passage)
 - [Black Book of Liturgy](#) (hardcover purchase from Lulu)

Top recommended books by authors in other druid orders

- [The Druidry Handbook: Spiritual Practice Rooted in the Living Earth](#) by John Michael Greer (Ancient Order of Druids in America – AODA)
- [The Rebirth of Druidry](#) by Philip Carr-Gomm (Order of Bards, Ovates, & Druids – OBOD)
- [A Legacy of Druids: Conversations With Druid Leaders Of Britain, The USA And Canada, Past And Present](#) by Ellen Evert Hopman (Tribe of the Oak)

Books on ancient druids (scholarly quality)

- [Druids: A Very Short Introduction](#) by Barry Cunliffe
- [The Druids](#) by Stuart Piggott
- [The Druids](#) by Peter Berresford Ellis
- [The World of the Druids](#) by Miranda J. Green

Books to Avoid

- [The 21 Lessons of Merlyn: A Study in Druid Magic and Lore](#) by Douglas Monroe (fraudulent sources, numerous inaccuracies passed off as historical facts, and other junk wrapped in a shiny literary bowtie)
- Just everything from Douglas Monroe, really.

Newsletter Info

About *C.O.R.D.*

Connexus of Reformed Druids – C.O.R.D. Biquarterly is a free and publicly available newsletter for the Reformed Druids of North America, its branches, and for anyone else who might be interested. It follows in the footsteps of prior publications such as *A Druid Missal-Any* and *Druid Inquirer*. *Connexus* is an homage to the late Emmon Bodfish, who petitioned the Council of Dalon Ap Landu to update RDNA liturgical nomenclature to make it less churchlike and more unique. *Connexus* is Latin for *connection* (not exactly druidic, but I'm not complaining). Emmon's petition never gained traction (plus the Council had lost its ability to gain a voting quorum and it had no chairperson at the time) but it seemed fitting to adopt this word for a publication that connects druids around the world.

Past Articles

[Click here](#) to access all prior *C.O.R.D. Biquarterly* articles and the content contribution forms.

Meet the Editor

Greetings! I'm John "The Verbose." I've practiced generic forms of druidry since I spent a semester in Ireland in 2004. I began interacting with the RDNA in 2011, and in 2013 I was ordained as a priest of Dalon Ap Landu and formed Oakdale Grove in Minnesota with 5 other grovemates. In 2015 I had the rare opportunity to become a priest of Belenos and in 2017 the even rarer honor of becoming a priest of Sirona, as well as the new curator of her Order. In January 2020 I began work on developing an RDNA style druid training program, and as of now that is still a work in progress.

I am absolutely committed to my oath of Service and wish to help others explore Reformed Druidry by a diverse array of means. That includes assembling and issuing these newsletters. Anything in this publication that doesn't have an attribution and is written in the first person is pretty much me sharing my opinions and experiences. That's where your help with contributions is so helpful; we have a newsletter with crowd-sourced content to appeal to a broader druidic audience. I sincerely hope you find this periodical to be a worthwhile investment of your time. I always welcome constructive criticism and suggestions or other feedback.



Peace, peace, peace! ☪

Contribute Content to the Next Issue!

Submission Process

Issues will be released within a day or two of the RDNA Wheel of the Year high days. That's more or less the deadline if you wanted to submit any content for the forthcoming article. Anything received a bit late might end up on the draft of the next article thereafter.

Gmail Users Can Use Our Full-Feature Google Form to Contribute!

We have a [convenient form](#) that allows Gmail users to enter text-based contribs as well as attach files or photos! A Google account is only required for sending attachments through the form.

Non-Gmail Users Have Two Ways to Contribute

1. There is a [lite version of the same form](#) for those who don't have a Gmail account, which allows anyone to submit text-based contributions only.
2. Or simply copy and fill the form below when emailing contributions to my Gmail: **MNdruids**

Hello,

I would like to share the following/attached content for the next C.O.R.D. article.

I hereby consent and attest that I (the sender) hold the rights or permission to share it.

[Exception for memes, public YouTube video links, certain other content types.]

- I wish to be credited under the name: _____
- Subscribe me to the newsletter mailing list? _____
- Other comments/suggestions if applicable: _____
- [Input your content you wish to share below the line, and/or attach files]

What Does C.O.R.D. Look For? Content that is PG-13 or tamer in the following categories:

- News of Reformed Druidry Groves, Protogroves, & Solo Druids
- Poetry and Short Stories
- Druidic projects, tutorials, arts, crafts you are making
- Personal milestones, editorials, druidic book or product reviews, critiques
- Seeker Bulletins like "Solo druid looking for other druids in _____"
- Your own photography
- Links to videos of druidic interest (need not be your own) or druidry-related memes
- Links to your druid blogs or social media
- Divinations and their summaries
- Events you're willing to announce publicly
- Do you have a druid-oriented Etsy shop or similar online store? One page of the newsletter will be reserved for artisan promo space
- Propose a topic; you can help make this newsletter be a success!

This Article's *Thank You* Photo!

A very special *thank you* photograph dedicated to everyone who contributed to this article!



***The Sacred Dish*, Indian Mounds Regional Park, Saint Paul, Minnesota,
Sculpted by Duane Goodwin of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe**