

C.Φ.R.D. Biquarterly

Connexus Of Reformed Druids

An RDNA Publication
Leaf: White Oak – *Quercus alba*

August 1, 2022
1 Foghamhar, 60 Y.R.
Volume 2
Issue 8
John the Verbose, editor
MNdruids@gmail.com

Lughnasadh



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

Contents

The State of the Groves.....	3
Bardic Column.....	7
Campfire Colloquy.....	8
The Seeker's Corkboard.....	11
Vivid Visions Gallery.....	12
Videos of Interest.....	14
The Right Rites For Rampant Ritualists.....	15
Augur's Intuition.....	16
Calendar of Events.....	17
☺☺☺ Pagan Pride Festivals This Fall Near You! ☺☺☺.....	18
Blogs & Social Media Links.....	21
Artisan Promo Page.....	22
Reformed Druid Resources.....	24
Newsletter Info.....	26
Contribute Content to the Next Issue!	27
Thank You!	28

Click on a line to jump to that page.

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

The State of the Groves

Overview: The listing of all currently active Groves and Protogroves of the RNDA, NRDNA, and MOCC (formerly RDW) has been updated as of July 2022! Thank you to all those who run a Grove or Protogrove and responded to the inquiry this year! The last time a census of the Groves and Protogroves was taken was January 2020, which was supposed to be the start of a great decade in our imaginations. The pandemic has absolutely taken a toll on the fellowships of the Reform. We skipped having a census in 2021, but interest is ramping up again, and it's generally safer considering druids like to be outdoors anyway. In 2020 there were 32 active fellowships in the Reform. As of July 2022 there are now only 21 fellowships.

The listing of the active fellowships is still on the [Grove Finder](#) spreadsheet on a shared Google Drive and will still be updated for the time being. Last year I was trying to work with Stephen Savitzky about giving the rdna.org website a major overhaul, but that project hasn't been implemented. For now, Oakdale Grove has its [own website](#) with the design I had intended for the RDNA site. There is where the future of the RDNA online will live. My vision that I implemented on my own site is that each fellowship in the Reform can be given one informational webpage. Below each Grove and Protogrove will have their webpage linked for people to read the full details of each fellowship. That's much nicer than the Grove Finder spreadsheet, and also provides room for a few paragraphs about the groups, rather than a 70 character blurb. It also has a placeholder for a Grove or Protogrove Constitution if the fellowships choose to fill it out.

Here are the updates for the active ones:

News from [Carleton Grove](#) (Minnesota)

Carleton Grove is technically a Protogrove at the moment, as they have indeed entered an interregnum period without a Third Order Arch-Druid. They have at least one member, and it will be an uphill battle to regain formal Grove status. Carleton Grove members, you just need to know that Oakdale Grove is not that far from Northfield and willing to help you build back up, and hopefully before next May which is the 60th Anniversary of the RDNA. There's gonna be a reunion at Carleton!

News from [Emerald Grove](#) (Washington)

We may not always hear a lot out of Emerald Grove of Seattle, but despite the difficult times, they have grown to 92 members, breaking their own record for largest fellowship of the Reform!

News from [Our Lady of the Elms Grove](#) (Oklahoma)

This MOCC fellowship is intermittently active with 8 members in the Muskogee-Warner area.

News from [Tuatha De Danann Grove](#) (California)

This Hayward-based NRDNA Grove is active with 5 members.

3 [Back to Contents](#)

News from [Clan of the Triplehorses Protogrove \(Oregon\)](#)

This Medford-based group is active with 6 members.

News from [Dravidia Protogrove \(Maryland\)](#)

This Protogrove in the town of North East is still active with 1 member.

News from [White Rabbit Grove \(Wisconsin\)](#)

This Grove in the Driftless Area is active with 1 member.

News from [Our Lady of the Oaks Grove \(Oklahoma\)](#)

This Tulsa-based MOCC fellowship is active with 14 members.

News from [MOCC Fort Worth Protogrove \(Texas\)](#)

This fellowship is forming in the Fort Worth area with 1 member currently.

News from [Shrine of the Irish Oak Protogrove \(Arkansas\)](#)

This fellowship in Waldron has been active since 2004 and has recently formally declared the group to be an RDNA Protogrove! This fellowship is active with 4 members.

News from [Blackthorn Protogrove \(Kentucky\)](#)

This Louisville-based fellowship is intermittently active with two members.

News from [Poison Oak Grove \(California\)](#)

This Grove in Canyon is active with 1 member.

News from [Koad Grove \(Ohio\)](#)

This Toledo-based Grove is active with 3 members.

News from [Our Lady of Holy Wisdom Grove \(Oklahoma\)](#)

This MOCC fellowship in Seminole is active with 14 members.

News from [Dogwood Protogrove \(Virginia\)](#)

This protogrove serves the Tappahannock area with 2 members.

News from [Circle of Flowing Truth Protogrove \(Florida\)](#)

This fellowship is new to the Jacksonville (Lakeside) area and expects to be intermittently active with 2 members currently.

News from [Oakdale Grove \(Minnesota\)](#)

This fellowship is active in the Twin Cities and has grown to 15 members this year.

News from [Grove of the Golden Valley \(California\)](#)

This NRDNA fellowship is intermittently active in the Sacramento area with 3 members.

News from [Tucson Protogrove \(Arizona\)](#)

This fellowship in Tucson is active with 4 members. I have a feeling they'll be a Grove by this time next year!

News from [MOCC Fort Smith Protogrove \(Arkansas\)](#)

This fellowship serving Fort Smith and the Springdale area is forming with 6 members.

News from [MOCC Mindanao Protogrove \(Philippines\)](#)

This fellowship is the only active group of the Reform that is overseas, currently forming with 3 members.

News from (I can't say yet!)

I've been bursting at the seams with excitement since around the end of May, but there's something happening and I just can't announce it yet, so here's a teaser.

The Losses

Since the start of the pandemic, the Reform has lost 11 fellowships. Most have been lost due to unknown circumstances because the organizers have not returned contact. It's been over a month since the census inquiry was sent. It would have taken less than two minutes to complete, and I asked for responses within 14 days. I also created a poll to ask what a response time should be when seekers are reaching out to contact modern alternative spirituality groups. The poll results indicated that 91% say they would expect a response within a week or two. A third specified it should be within a few days tops. This is just something to consider if you're running or planning on running a druid group. The following are the fellowships that have been closed or lost contact.



- **Hazelnut Mother Grove (HMG)**

- This one was a bit heartbreaking. Like its namesake, this was the Mother Grove of the NRDNA. All NRDNA fellowships have to report in to HMG and hold regular meetings in order to maintain their active status. I am uncertain what will happen to the last NRDNA Groves going forward, or if there was even a contingency plan in place outlining which Grove takes over now that HMG has dissolved. It might necessitate a bardic competition

between Tuatha De Danann Grove and Grove of the Golden Valley!

- **Monument Grove**
 - This one really hurt to mark as *lost contact*. This one in DC was run by 30th Carleton Arch-Druid emeritus Mike the Fool who might secretly be an American James Bond. He last checked in with the Council of Dalon Ap Landu on May of 2020 indicating he was overseas and safe, but in a rather cryptic way. I have faith that he'll show up again at the proper time and at the proper place. There was the time in 2016 he called me from an Egyptian cell phone number and asked me to meet him in the Carleton Arboretum. Yeah, my phone literally said "Egypt" and I'm glad I answered! Where are you, Mike?
- **Order of the Mists Protogrove**
 - Served Rock Springs, Wyoming
- **Nine Oaks and Mystic Well Protogrove**
 - Served Las Vegas as a women's study group
- **Earth Spirit Protogrove**
 - Served Ridgecrest, California
- **Golden Bough Protogrove**
 - Served Joshua Tree, California
- **Three Stones Protogrove (NRDNA)**
 - Was a daughter group of Nine Oaks and Mystic Well Protogrove, also in Las Vegas
- **Whispering Winds Through the Willows Grove**
 - This one has been a mystery because it was led by a "Rev Earthdragon" who, back when he was still maintaining contact from Battle Creek, Michigan, never answered our questions as to who his Third Order ordainer was, and there's no Earthdragon craft name listed in our roster of Third Order druids. Now Earthdragon is no longer returning contact at all.
- **Akron Protogrove (MOCC)**
 - This one has actually closed due to the organizer moving away from Ohio
- **AZ Protogrove**
 - Served Black Canyon City, Arizona

With the loss of these 10 fellowships, 94 members of the RDNA, NRDNA, and MOCC have been displaced. It is not unreasonable to conclude that some of those 94 members may have passed away in connection with the pandemic. In fact I do know that to be the case with at least one fellowship's organizer last summer.

Bardic Column

A Very Small Prayer by Johano Sycamore Bear

O, Lugus, God of the Harvest and Master of the Arts!

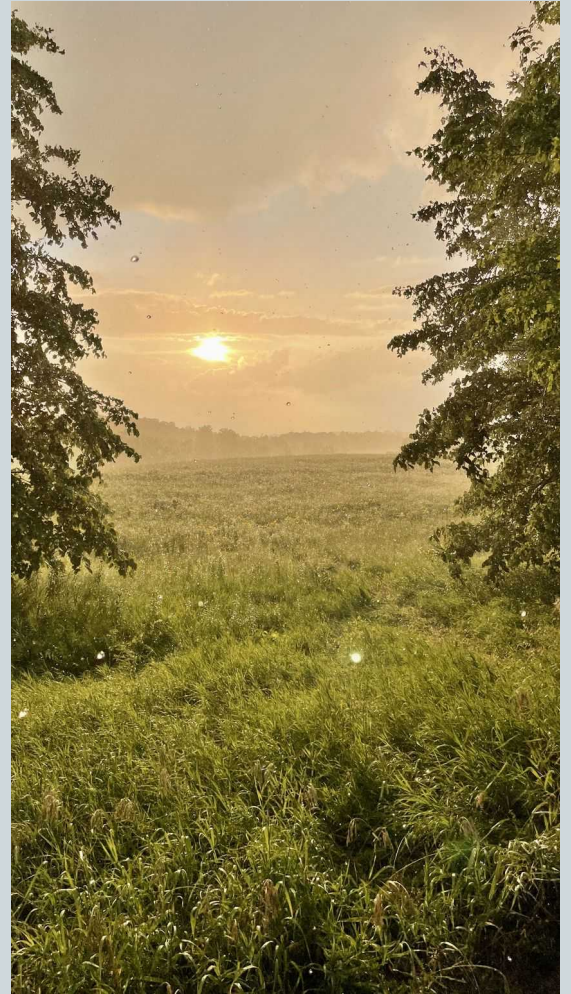
Walk with us this harvest and bless us with abundance.

The long waving grains have begun to turn from green to yellow.

The trees and vines grow heavy with fruits and nuts.

Lugus, we humbly ask your blessings

as we prepare for the coming winter.



*Sun shower, Elm Creek Park Reserve
by John the Verbose*

Campfire Colloquy

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 John the Verbose

In Defense of Ritual

I recently received this question from a reader on my blog:

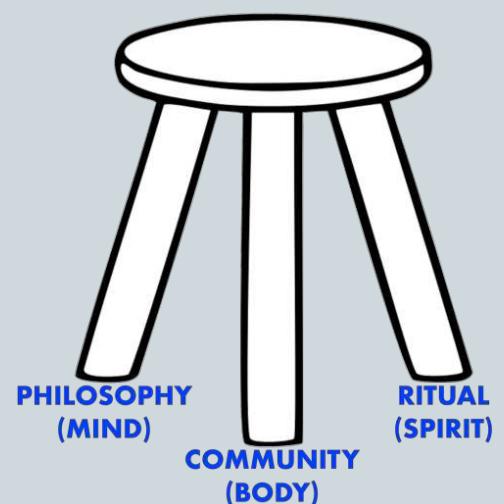
stoneandwire asked: Overall what is the purpose of these physical things such as being tossed in a river or other "rites of passage" during initiations in the druid orders? Overall what does nearly getting injured by being tossed in a lake without knowing what is down there have to do with improving yourself spiritually? This has been one of the main reasons I think so many "pagans" today do not see the need for formal rituals where they could be hurt. Overall, why is there a need for such physical stuff when its supposed to be a spiritual journey?

Rites of passage are a fundamental aspect of spirituality, and arguably a necessity in our human experience. Most world religions will place some sort of emphasis on *mind, body, and spirit*. Solo spirituality without rites of passage are great for perhaps the mind, but without the physicality (body) or that moment of transformation and new beginning (spirit), it leaves us with a void, or an emptiness which we might not even realize we have.

Imagine graduating college by just passing your finals and the office sends you an email saying you graduated with honors and that's all you ever get for it. That email serves as your degree, proven by a mere confirmation number. For those expecting some sort of ritual to mark the occasion (a grad ceremony with gold cords, or at least a fancy paper degree), they would say "Wait, that's it? That's all I get?"

Imagine just getting a marriage certificate at the county registrar and never having a wedding ceremony. Imagine leaving a loved one's burial to the state and never having a funeral. Ok yeah, some people do that. Your personal spirituality should not be neglected in this manner though. *Most* people *need* to mark these occasions with a transformative event.

Visualize your spirituality or religion or whatever you call your practice as a three-legged stool. It is held up by a philosophy or set of beliefs, has some form of ritual or set of practices (i.e. rites of passage), and community, whether that's just you solo (yes you can be a community of one) or a bunch of people. If you take away one of those legs, the stool cannot stand. David the Chronicler stated something similar,



though he originally omitted *community* even though he was writing to a fellow druid at the time after they had both established new Groves (communities) in their respective areas:

1. It is mine observation that religion is composed of two parts: the philosophy and the ritual. Should either be absent, there is no longer religion.

2. For without the philosophy the ritual is but playacting; and without the ritual the philosophy lacks the warmth and vitality, which is capable of perpetuating it beyond its originator.

3. For there is in all men a certain desire for the glory of ceremony.

4. Often it is indulged in for its own sake, as in the case of secret organizations and in the worship of the state (which is often confused with patriotism).

5. For ritual is capable of crowding all else out and becoming the end in itself. It is for this reason that we are constantly threatened by the Druid ritual shedding its philosophy and becoming mere playacting.

6. I am persuaded that our philosophy is valuable, for in Nature we have found a peace and a fulfillment that was otherwise lacking.

7. But we have also recognized that ritual is most often a hindrance; and to eliminate it is simply to encourage non-ritual to become the ritual. Rather as Druids we have endeavored to build a ritual which will be the destroyer of its own importance.

-Epistle of David the Chronicler 3:1-7

That last line may appear self-defeating, but what David means is that it's not ritual for the sake of ritual. We don't get hyped up that a ritual is *happening*, but that we ought to focus on the *fulfillment* we gain as a result of the ritual.

Rites of passage also have a three-legged stool. Without needing a new picture just visualize the following

1. **Separation:** You as the candidate (or sometimes there are more than one) are singled out for this occasion; the focus is on you, and you are about to leave an old part of your life behind
2. **Liminality:** During the rite, you are in a transitional phase; the rite itself takes time and you are going through a process of change
3. **Incorporation:** At the end of the rite you have reached a new beginning; perhaps you gained new insights or had something bestowed upon you or reached the end achievement and now you apply these changes on the path ahead

Rites of passage have a profoundly positive effect on those who complete them, and even modern psychologists are increasingly lamenting that our modern society is lacking in these rituals. The rite you are asking about is the ordination rite to the Order of Sirona. In the entire 59 year history of Reformed Druidry, this ritual has only been done twice, and it's really the only RDNA rite that has an element of danger. Well there's also the Order of Hephaestus which requires the candidate to jump over a fire nine times, but Hephaestus is Greek, and the Order is considered a non-canonical "side order" of the priesthood. We also have designated spotters for this rite of passage, which is exactly why community is important!

Safety is important, and we will be as accommodating as possible. If we can hear thunder in the distance, the advisement is to reschedule. As druids embrace nature, we will have our rituals in the sleet and rain, but we really try not to endanger each other. For future ordinations to the Order of Sirona, it would be strongly urged to find a body of water that is known to be safer in general, perhaps at an actual designated swimming beach.

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



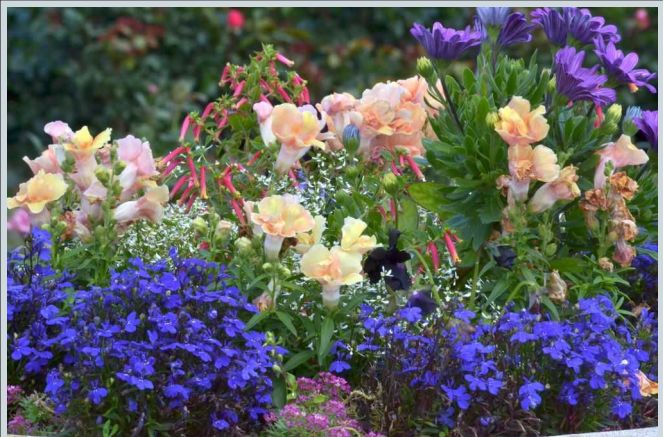
Manitou Falls, Pattison State Park, Wisconsin



Amnicon Falls State Park, Wisconsin



Rose Gardens, Leif Erikson Park, Duluth, MN



Rose Gardens, Leif Erikson Park, Duluth, MN



Rose Gardens, Leif Erikson Park, Duluth, MN



Rose Gardens, Leif Erikson Park, Duluth, MN

Contribution from *I Talk To The Trees*



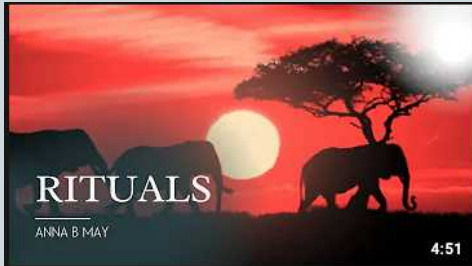
Storm clouds departing, Twin Cities, Minnesota

Videos of Interest

Overview

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

"Rituals" by Anna B. May



dreamlike, ambient electronica with African instruments and reverberating non-lyrical vocals and stunning videography

"If I Had Wings" music video by Anna B. May



an airy, introspective, neoclassical instrumental piece

The Right Rites For Rampant Ritualists

Overview

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

The Importance of Elections in Reformed Druid Groves

If there's any ritual tradition your Grove should do, it's holding elections for the offices of **Server, Preceptor, and Arch-Druid**. This is so foundational in the RDNA, it's not even in the *Book of Customs*. It's in *The Book of the Law*. Carleton Grove's constitution states that elections for officers take place annually during *Foghamhar*, or autumn (Law 1:11). Groves have the autonomy of outlining when and how often to hold elections. Maybe every other Beltane, or New Years Day on prime numbered years, or every New Moon. Whatever you put in your Grove's constitution, adhere to it.

How to Carry Out Elections

There's no wrong way to have elections in the RDNA. Ok that's not true; blindfolded darts would be a very wrong way to elect officers! If you want, you can even specify your method in your Grove's constitution. Common methods include:

- Show of hands
- Voiced selection
- Written tallies on a sheet of paper
- Paper ballots (probably one of the better methods)
- Athenian jars (placing a pebble in a jar designated for your candidate)
- Facebook, Twitter, SurveyMonkey, or other online polls

The important part is that the officers should be eligible to hold their nominated office, and they should be *selected* by the members of the Grove. This means that making a deliberate *choice* for the candidates is important, and not something to be left to the whims of a divination or to the chance of a coin or dice. The ancient tribes of the Celtic Iron Age would choose someone to be their druid. Although we are completely disconnected from the ancient druids and are *Reformed*, we still adhere to that custom of having the people choose who they want their Arch-Druid to be.

Sample Ballot

Officer Ballot [FELLOWSHIP NAME] Grove	Server	Preceptor	Arch-Druid	Supplemental Role [not required]	Other Legislation [not required]
Reformed Druids Of North America	<input type="checkbox"/> Incumbent name <input type="checkbox"/> Challenger name	<input type="checkbox"/> Incumbent name <input type="checkbox"/> Challenger name	<input type="checkbox"/> Incumbent name <input type="checkbox"/> Challenger name	<input type="checkbox"/> Incumbent name <input type="checkbox"/> Challenger name	Raise monthly dues \$100 for hippie van?
[DATE] Nth Year Of The Reform	<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yea <input type="checkbox"/> Nay

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

Sometimes you just have **too many damn acorns** and you just can't figure out what is going on or keep track of all your responsibilities and expectations. Yeah you're gonna lose track of some of your acorns, and if you're lucky they'll be an oak tree in a couple years, and within a few decades you will have even more acorns to deal with. Sometimes you have to give some acorns to someone else, or let the squirrels scamper off with a few. That acorn that fell out of the tree right in front of you... that's the important one right now. That's the next cycle. That is the next phase of the continual flow and renewal of life.



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 Foghamhar (August 1) Lughnasadh
12 Foghamhar (August 12) Full Moon
27 Foghamhar (August 27) New Moon
41 Foghamhar (September 10) Full Moon
53 Foghamhar (September 22) Autumnal Equinox
56 Foghamhar (September 25) New Moon

Shared Open to Public events

Place: Minnesota: St. Paul: Como Park Fire Pits: August 6, 1 PM: Oakdale Grove's Lughnasadh ritual & proposal to join another druid order.

Place: Minnesota: Oakdale: Oakdale Nature Preserve (pavilion): September 24, 1 PM: Oakdale Grove's annual officer elections & Autumnal Equinox ritual

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

- 6 Foghamhar (August 6) **Feast of Lugh** – for some reason, Lugh gets two festivals in the SDNA.
- 15 Foghamhar (August 15) **Feast of Our Lady Queen of the Heavens** – Celebrate the star, moon, or mother goddesses. Take your Grove's high priestess to dinner.
- 23-25 Foghamhar (August 23-25) **Festival of the Heroes** – a memorial for historically pagan warriors. Meditate on their values and interpretation of honor.
- 39 Foghamhar (September 8) **Feast of the Birth of the Mother** – Celebration of the birthdays of the physical incarnations of the goddess. Celebrate every mother in your Grove.

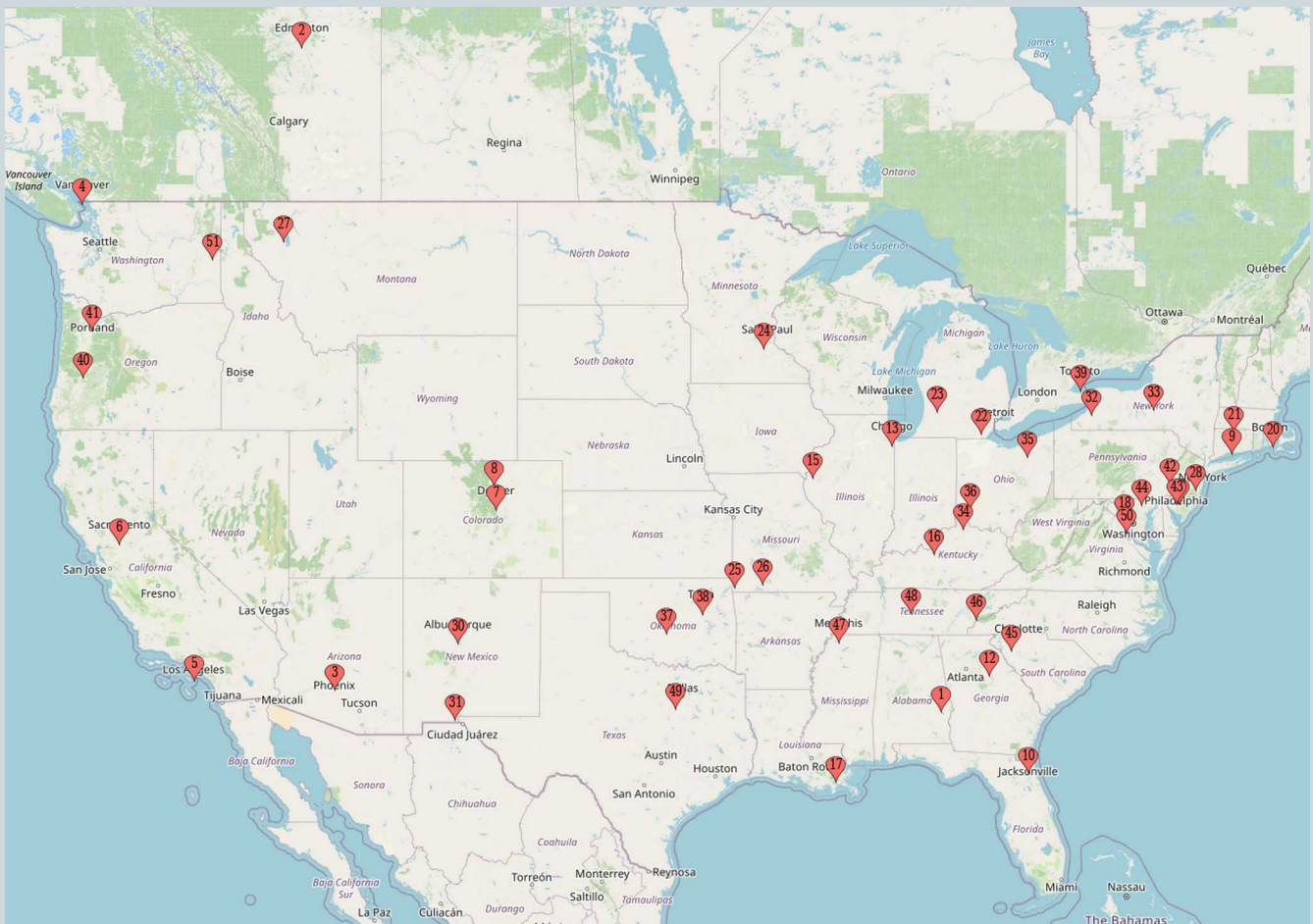
Long-term notice for the 60th anniversary of the RDNA

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. (Planning begins in the fall!)

☺ ☺ ☺ Pagan Pride Festivals This Fall Near You! ☺ ☺ ☺

Overview

Right, so the Reformed Druid movement was not intended to become a pagan religion. However these days it sure looks like one. For some druids it is, for others it really just isn't. However, disclaimers aside, Pagan Pride events are a surefire way to potentially meet other druids in their myriad of philosophies! Across North America, Pagan Pride events are beginning to make a comeback. Want to create an RDNA Protogrove? Ask around for druids at your closest Pagan Pride event, exchange email addresses, print personal business cards, wear a Druid Sigil. Remember we don't *try* to recruit. We try to discover others and make ourselves discoverable. We can ask if people have been trying to find other druids. If so, we answer the calling that had already been put out there.



Map of 2022 Pagan Pride Day Locations

Listing of Known Pagan Pride Events for 2022 (Please Verify For Yourselves!)

- Alabama: Auburn: Kiesel Park: September 17, hours TBA...
- Alberta: Edmonton: Richie Hall: September 10, 11 AM to 5 PM
- Arizona: Phoenix: Steele Indian School Park: November 5, 9 AM to 5 PM

- British Columbia: Vancouver: Trout Lake Park: August 13, 12 PM to 7 PM
- California: Los Angeles/Long Beach: Rainbow Lagoon: October 2, 10 AM to 5:30 PM
- California: Sacramento: Phoenix Park: September 10, 10 AM to 6 PM
- Colorado: Denver: TBA: Usually announced in October for last weekend of month
- Colorado: Fort Collins: City Park: August 21, 10 AM to 6 PM
- Connecticut: Berlin: Veteran's Memorial Park: Weekend near Autumnal Equinox TENTATIVE
- District of Columbia: See Frederick MD and/or Reston VA
- Florida: Jacksonville: Riverside Artist Square: September 25, 11 AM to 5 PM
- Georgia: Athens: Washington Street between Pulaski & Hull: October 22, hours TBA
- Illinois: Chicago: Garfield Park: September 24, 10 AM to 6 PM
- Illinois: Wheaton: Henry S. Olcott Memorial Library lawn: September 10, 10 AM to 5 PM
 - "TheosoFest" with free admission, vehicle parking is \$5
- Iowa: Burlington: Dankwardt Park: August 27, times not specified
- Kentucky: Louisville: Waterfront Park: September 10, 11 AM to 6 PM
- Louisiana: New Orleans: October 1, updating [website](#) soon for full details
- Maryland: Frederick: UU Congregation of Frederick (lawn), September 17, 10 AM to 6 PM
- Massachusetts: Lakeville: Ted Williams Camp: September 11, 10 AM to 6 PM
- Massachusetts: Northampton: 1 Kirkland Ave, September 24, 9 AM to 5 PM
- Michigan: Ann Arbor: Washtenaw Community College: September 10, 10 AM to 5 PM
- Michigan: Grand Rapids: Richmond Park: September 17, 9 AM to whenever
- Minnesota: Minneapolis: Minnehaha Falls Park: September 10, 10 AM to 6 PM
- Missouri: Joplin: Cunningham Park: September 10, 9 AM to 6 PM
- Missouri: Springfield: 405 Washington Ave, September 17, 11 AM to 5 PM
- Montana: Kalispell: UU Church, 1515 Tumble Creek Road: September 17, 11 AM to 6 PM
- New Jersey: Old Bridge: 144 E Greystone Rd ([registration](#) required): August 6, 9 AM to 6 PM
 - Technically a "Pagan Picnic" by *Hands of Change* with similar stuff to Pagan Pride Days
- New Jersey: Cherry Hill: Cooper River Park: October 1, 10 AM to 6 PM
- New Mexico: Albuquerque: Bataan Memorial Park: September 25, 10 AM to 6 PM
 - Has admission fee: donation of one non-perishable food item
- New Mexico: Las Cruces: Pioneer Women's Park: October 15, 11 AM to whenever
- New York: Buffalo: Buffalo Irish Center: October 9, 11 AM to 4 PM
- New York: Syracuse: Long Branch Park: September 17, 10 AM to 5 PM
- Ohio: Cincinnati: Mt. Airy Forest: Stone Steps Picnic Shelter: August 5, 12 PM to 8 PM
 - Pagan Pride Potluck Picnic: free event, but bring food to share
 - Park Vehicle Fee: \$5 for Hamilton County residents, \$8 for non-residents

- Ohio: Cleveland (Bedford): Bedford Public Square, Aug 18-21, 5-10 PM, 12-10 PM, 12-5 PM
 - Has admission fee: donation of two non-perishable food items
- Ohio: Dayton (Fairborn): Fairborn Community Park: October 22, 9 AM to 6 PM
- Oklahoma: OK City: Wiley Post Park: September 24, 10 AM to 5 PM
- Oklahoma: Tulsa: Dream Keepers Park: October 1, 9 AM to 6 PM
- Ontario: Toronto: Gage Park: September 11, 10 AM to 6 PM
- Oregon: Eugene: Alton Baker Park: August 7, 12:30 PM to 7 PM
- Oregon: Portland: Oaks Amusement Park: September 18, 12 PM to 7 PM
- Pennsylvania: Allentown (Easton): Louise Moore County Park: August 20, 9 AM to 4 PM
- Pennsylvania: Philadelphia: Clark Park: September 3, 10 AM to 6 PM
- Pennsylvania: York: Samuel Lewis State Park (no entrance fee): September 24 10 AM to 6 PM
- South Carolina: Greenville (Easley): Maynard Community Center: October 1, 9 AM to 5 PM
 - Has admission fee: donation of one non-perishable food item
- Tennessee: Knoxville: The Concourse: September 10, 10 AM to whenever
 - Has admission fee: donation of one non-perishable food item (or cash)
- Tennessee: Memphis: Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park: October 20-23, starts at Noon
 - [Registration](#) required: \$60 for whole weekend or \$25 per day "Festival of Souls"
- Tennessee: Nashville: Two Rivers Park: October 1, 10 AM to 5 PM
- Texas: Dallas-Fort Worth: Arlington UU Church: November 6, 10 AM to 5 PM
- Virginia: Reston: Lake Fairfax Park, October 1, 10 AM to 5 PM
- Washington: Spokane: UU Church of Spokane: September 17 10 AM to 4 PM

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](#)

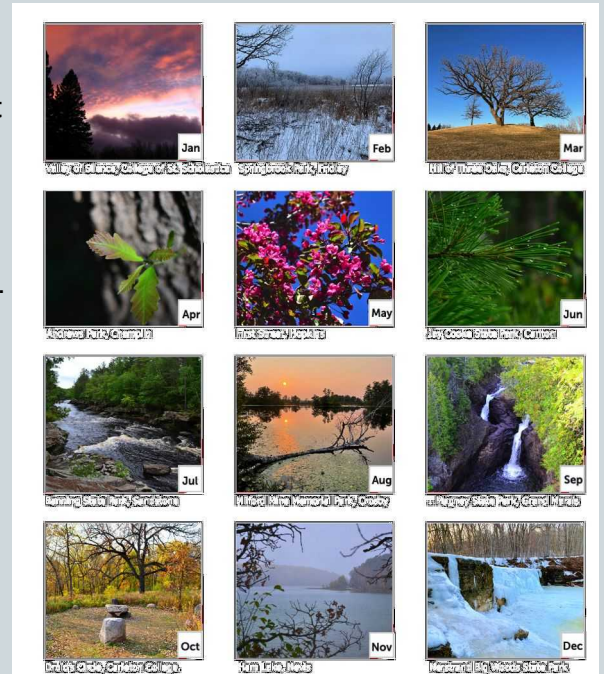
Artisan Promo Page

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.

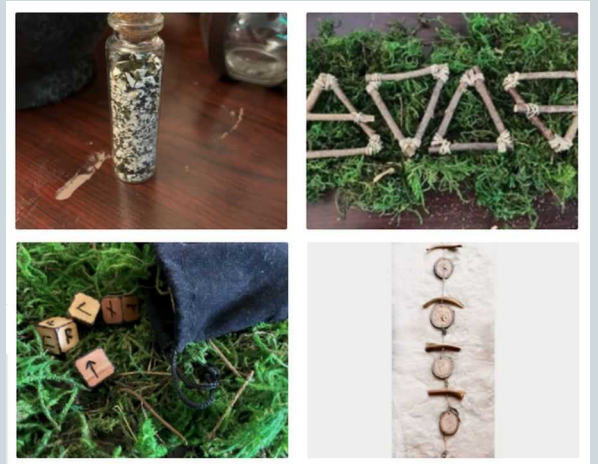
[2023 Minnesota Nature Calendar](#)

This is a specialty calendar for 2023 with moonrise & moonset times for the Twin Cities, Minnesota geographic region. If you live beyond the Twin Cities but you still want the calendar, just ignore the rising & setting times, and the rest of the calendar does its job just fine. The photography is by John the Verbose.



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

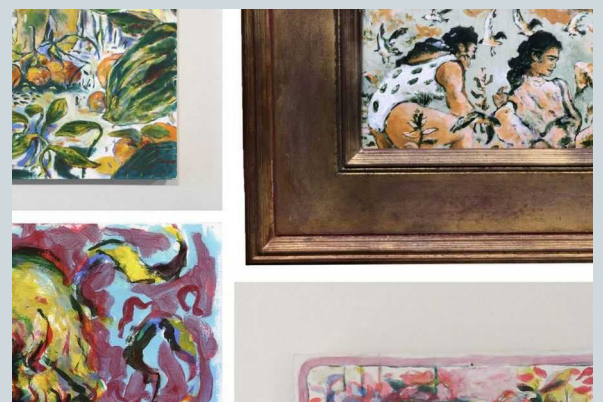
Hello and welcome to Hazel Oak and Yew, my space to share my love of witchcraft and my pagan practice with you all. Here I share my handcrafted goods for practicing along with sets of things for you to learn to practice on your own, in your own way. This Etsy shop offers altar supplies, handmade décor,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



[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.

22 [Back to Contents](#)



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!



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



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.]

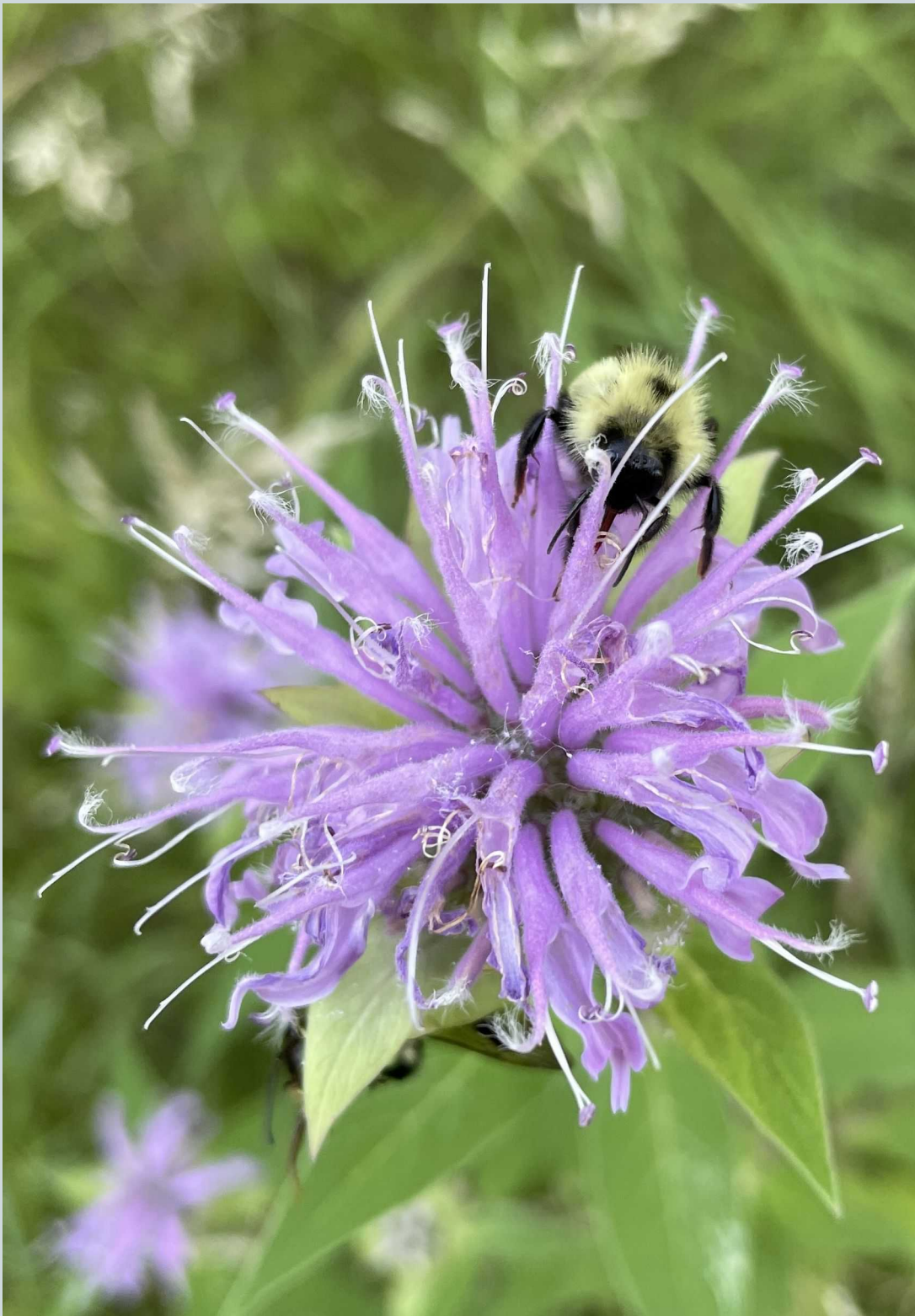
- I wish to be credited under the name: ____
- Subscribe me to the newsletter mailing list? ____
- Other comments/suggestions if applicable: ____
- [Input your content you wish to share below the line, and/or attach files]

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!

Thank You!

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



A bumblebee with proboscis in a wild bergamot flower, Maple Grove, MN.