

C.Φ.R.D. Biquarterly

Connexus Of Reformed Druids

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

September 22, 2022
53 Foghamhar, 60 Y.R.
Volume 3
Issue 1
John the Verbose, editor
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Autumnal Equinox



Photo: Stone Circle, Oak Savannah Park, Elk River, MN

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News of the Groves

News from Potomac Protogrove and Monument Grove (Washington DC), contributed by Tyler Vanice [with comments from the editor].

[Mike the Fool (of Monument Grove which was in a years-long hiatus) is BACK in the United States!] He hasn't seen trees in years so he was excited to participate. Mike the Fool joined us at Theodore Roosevelt Island in DC yesterday [September 15] for the Autumn Equinox ritual.



Mike brought his harp [Sine Alice Ceolbhinn] and we all had a great time! Not sure what this means for Monument Grove just yet.



News from Tucson Protogrove (Arizona) – Report on Alban Elfed Ritual, 2022

On Sunday, September 18th, Tucson Protogrove gathered for Alban Elfed (Autumn Equinox), atop Barnum Hill in Tucson. 2 Protogrove members were present, myself (Meirneal), and Gannd. After some discussion, it was decided to change the location of our gatherings slightly.... to the BASE of Barnum Hill. We have several members that have knee issues, and trudging up and down the hill probably isn't helping much. This change will begin at Samhain of this year. Also discussed was a slight change in the date for our



Beltane (2023) Celebration. As Gracie and I will probably be in Minnesota for the RDNA's 60th Anniversary, we will be celebrating Beltane later than normal (May 14th). Finally, we talked about ideas to let the community know we are here, so that folks that are interested can come join in our High Day celebrations. More on that as it develops... Until next time, best wishes.

–Respectfully Submitted, C, Adam G. Grose (Meirneal) Tucson Protogrove, RDNA



News from Oakdale Grove (Minnesota)

Ice Cream Social: The druids of Oakdale Grove have been keeping rather busy this year, consistently having at least one casual meetup per month in addition to the eight Wheel-of-the-Year high day rituals. Last month we had our ice cream social in a regional park and chatted about our upcoming officer elections; an RDNA requirement for maintaining formal Grove status. Next month we have several events already planned so that we can spread the word earlier in hopes that some of our events might align with member schedules, so that they have additional opportunities to spend time with like-minded individuals.

Upcoming Grove Elections: Our ballot also has *five* legislative questions to vote on: whether or not we will become a *Druid Alliance of North America* affiliate group (in addition to primarily retaining our RDNA affiliation), whether or not we make the office of Bard official (requiring an amendment to our charter), whether or not we increase attendance requirements for *voting member* status in the Grove (also requires amendment), whether or not we increase attendance requirements for Officer candidate eligibility (requires amendment), and whether or not we would adopt *bardic duels* as a legislative utility (requires amendment).

Twin Cities Pagan Pride: Two Saturdays ago members of Oakdale Grove were at the Twin Cities Pagan Pride Fall Festival, where Oakdale Grove and an allied group: *Northern Roots Grove* (an independent local druid group) shared an informational booth as "Druids of the Twin Cities." We raffled off a druidry starter kit – a gift basket of items donated by both groves such as candles, herbs, chalices, a book, a specialized calendar, crystals and other items. Proceeds will go toward the rental cost of the *Druid Hospitality Suite* at the 2023 Paganicon event next March.



Three of us hosted a *Druidry 101* panel discussion. TCPP encouraged us to create



a PowerPoint presentation which I spent a few weeks of my free time creating, and they provided the projector as well. I was skeptical that a daylight presentation inside a white tent would not be conducive to an effective visual aid unless it was an especially bright projector. I would have loved to see it in use under daylight conditions first, because you could hardly see anything being projected. The tent would have needed black

interior walls, then *maybe* it might show up on the screen.

In the afternoon, the two Groves combined powers and held a ritual to celebrate unity and send healing energies around the world. Oakdale Grove's carnyx did a heck of a job to summon



the masses to gather. Everyone loves the big weird horn! We invited the ancestors, nature spirits, and the deities, making offerings to each. The main work of the rite was a Tonglen meditation: breathing in the bad, and converting it to good. Radiating peace, kindness, and love with every exhale. We got some good feedback at the end, and whether it was the ritual, the panel discussion, or our info booth, we had a lot of interested people stop by, wanting to learn more about druidry, all with great questions.

Volunteer Litter Removal: Last weekend on Saturday, members of Oakdale Grove went to Carleton College to participate in some ecological activism: volunteering for litter cleanup along the Cannon River in the lower arboretum. At first we remarked that to the credit of the students at Carleton, they seem to care a lot about keeping their own college campus clean and pristine. Though we did begin to find a fair amount of litter and



trash. The longer we were out there cleaning up, the more we started to realize that *most* of the trash littering the riverbanks were from townies that fish along the riverbanks on campus. Concentrations of litter seemed to have a running theme of *fishing paraphernalia*, and we deduced that probably not many Carleton students do much in terms of fishing.



Credit: Johano Sycamore Bear

The volunteer event was off to a soggy start. First it was cool and damp out at 8:55 in the morning. Then as we were receiving our group instructions from Matt the Arboretum Manager, it started to pour rain for about 10 minutes. We were thoroughly soaked, and afterward the sun came out and it just started to get hot and humid, and we had to remember that the *results* are the reward for the hard work.

Bonfire & S'mores: On Sunday we had a more relaxed casual event for Oakdale Grove, which was just a bonfire to hang out, talk about druidry, and have a few s'mores. It was a quiet turnout on an overcast day, but there were lots of good questions



asked, plenty of mirth, and some really good s'mores! There are still a lot of s'more supplies, so we will bring them to the Autumnal Equinox ritual this coming Saturday at Oakdale Nature Preserve, and other members will get to have some after the ritual and to celebrate Oakdale Grove's 9th anniversary!



Bardic Column

This first two entries are belated because as editor I somehow missed two contributions for the Lughnasadh issue. With apologies and much overdue credit to Mairead and to CuCrow for the lovely poems!

"Lughnasadh Love" by Mairead

*Come my dears to celebrate with me
Love in fullness we shall see*

*Bring your colors gold, orange and red
Wear vines and gems upon your head*

*Baskets of tasty herbs and roots
And please remember your harvest boots*

*Children carry small bags of grain
All has been growing in sun and rain*

*The cattle and chickens will all watch on
While Brigid and Goddesses lead in song*

*With burning lamp and my walking staff
I'll sprinkle 'round a little chaff*

*Give thanks for protection as we transform
Refreshed, renewed and then reborn*

*Given to us this fullness of love
Now we return it to earth and above*

*This is my invite to all of you
Lughnasadh in August; no need for ado!*

By: Mairead © 2022



harvest offerings by John the Verbose

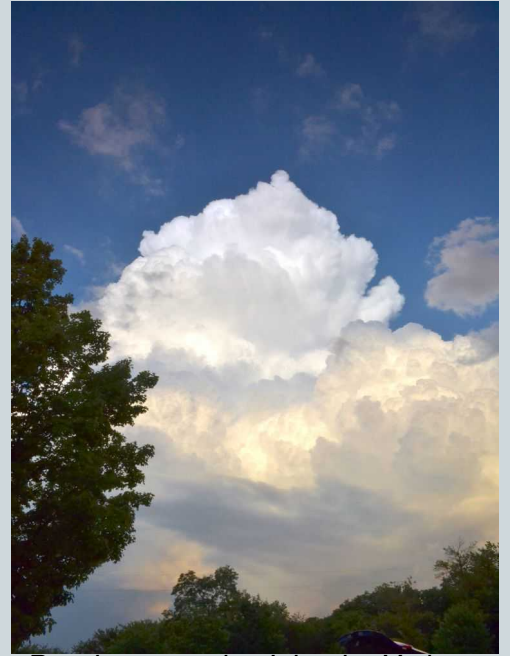
A Lughnasadh poem by CuCrow:

*Thunder booming through the skies,
the heartbeat of electric veins.
The brilliant flash of the sun god
that signals the start of games.*

*With wit and brawn and strength and skill
he welcomes all who challenge.
with laughter and a raucous will
victim to ones revenge.*

*We praise to him, the god of games
on this day, and among the rest
with food and drink and loud of song
to see just who will be the best.*

*And as I write this token of him,
and share with you my art.
He guides my hand, though through my whim
as I carry him within my heart.*



Passing storm by John the Verbose

Prayers for the Equinox by Kynan

Dawn

*I turn toward the East
To welcome the first light of day
Rising, golden, over the dark horizon.
The Holy Sun emerges
Where Land meets Sky,
Locus of harmony between heaven and Earth.
May we see more clearly
And act with courage and vision
Through emerging light upon the world.
May the Earth uphold my body
And bless my mind and spirit with vitality.
Within me do the energies of Sun and Earth
Join together for a lifetime.
At this dawn let their Inspiration
Flow through me, guide me forward.*



*Sun over Mississippi River
by John the Verbose*

Noon

*I turn toward the southern Sky
To acknowledge the Sun at its zenith
Blinding light upon blue firmament
Across the two realms, above and below.
Air from the living Sky
And the four quarters of the world
Flows through my lungs,
Breathing in and breathing out,*

Sustaining my life.

The land supports me as I walk and sit

To complete the tasks of the day.

May integrity and compassion

Inspire the thoughts of my mind

And actions of my body

Through the hours of the day

And in the course of mortal life.

Dusk

My eyes look toward the West

Knowing that the dusk has arrived

To bring the day to a close...

The Light, once white-hot,

Turns into a cool orange glow

Dwelling upon the dark horizon.

Holy Sun descends below the land

Beyond the limit of what we can see;

Rivers flow into the Sea,

Shadows emerge upon the landscape,

Awen flows into the mind.

May I cultivate wisdom and balance

In my heart and every branch of life

As I honor the sacred Earth

And continue to live by Her sustenance.



Dusk, Anoka Nature Preserve, by John the Verbose

Midnight

I turn toward the Northern expanse

*Hours after all the Land and Sky
Became shrouded in realm of Night,
The first and the last of all things.
One rotation of the world's axis complete,
The cycle continues inexorably.
Among the constellations
That pierce the dark firmament
My eyes look toward the North Star,
Ever constant and steady,
Revealing a part of the cosmos
Not visible in the light of day.
May my body, mind, and spirit
Revere the mysteries of life and death,
Activity and repose, rise and decline.
I touch the cool land below
And prepare to let go, to rest.*



*Near North Branch, MN
by Sarah of the Woods*

Campfire Colloquy

Overview

An open forum for news of solo druids, letters to the editor, druidic gossip, philosophical thoughts, etc.

Contribution from Sarah of the Woods

Sometimes Children Know

I planted a tree this weekend. Not just a tree, but a tree to memorialize the best first dog a couple and family could ever have. I researched and thought long about our yard and soil conditions and looked for the fastest growing, most resilient, with brilliant fall foliage. The most scientific species available.

We went to look and my son said nope! That's not THE tree! So I let him wander. He went through rows and rows and came upon a heritage species, locally sourced, tree that in the fall should be the exact color of our beloved dog's fur. I asked how he knew and he said the tree spoke to him. So I listened.



Restored Oak Savanna at Lake Elmo County Preserve by Sarah of the Woods



Contribution from Jenny Hughart

I give praise to the Earth Mother and Sky Father for this sunflower, which popped up as a volunteer in a too-small pot in my backyard and has been going great gangbusters. It makes me unreasonably happy every time I look at it! A blessed Autumnal Equinox to all!



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 at least weekly. 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 we will use different characters (& and /) instead of @ and '.' to prevent or mitigate roving address harvester bots from scanning them for spam.

Standard Safety 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 on behalf of *Potomac Protogrove* in Washington DC. If interested, please reach out. Email [tyler.vanice&gmail/com](mailto:tyler.vanice@gmail.com).

Vivid Visions Gallery

Photos from Joshua Hubert: Yellowstone National Park & boarder community of Gardiner, MT



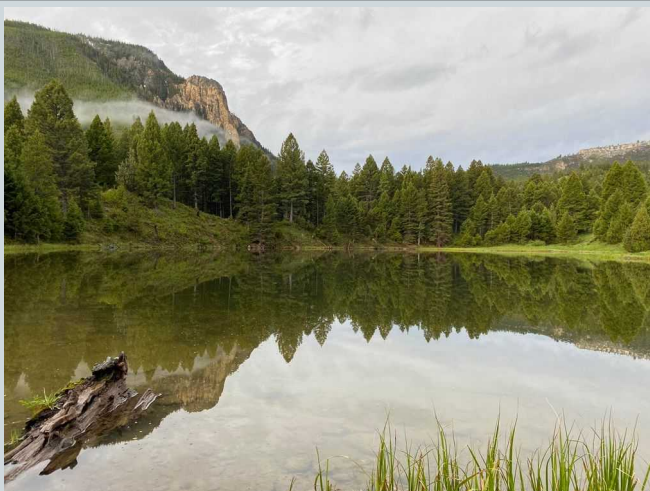
Gardiner River Pre-flood



Flooded Gardiner River



Trail bridge collapsed by flooded Gardiner River



Joffe Lake in Mammoth Hot Springs



Resting Bull Elk

...more on next page



Cinnamon black bear



Remains of winter elk kill, Gardiner, MT

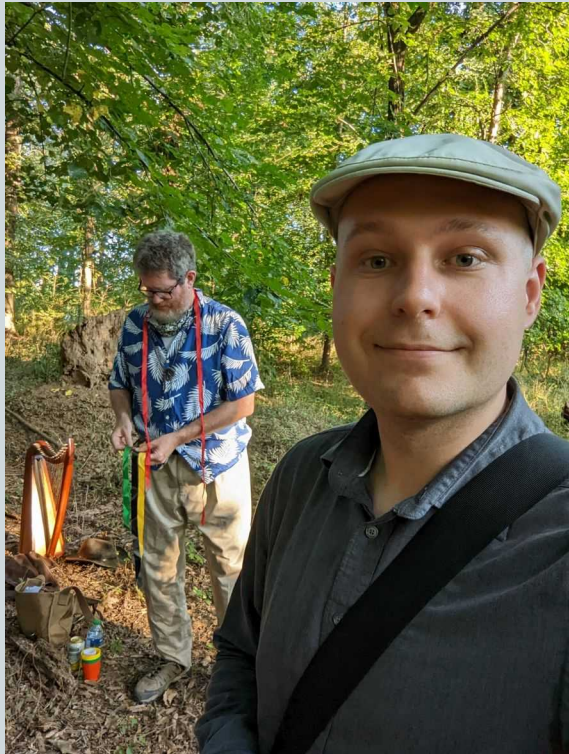


American White Pelicans



Red Dog with family group

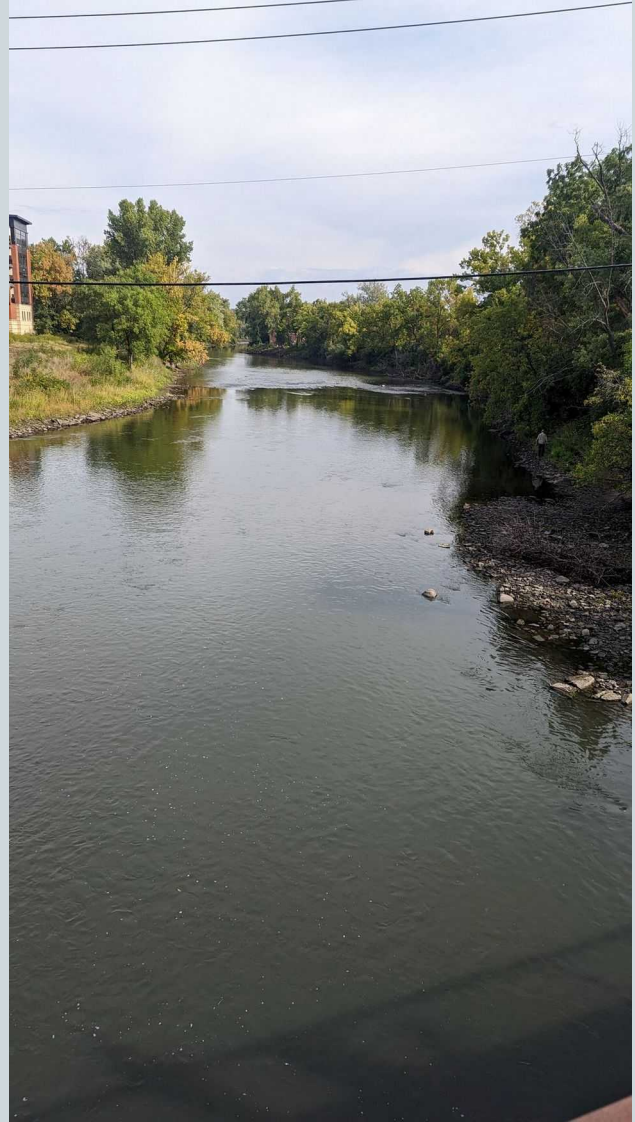
Photos from Tyler Vanice: Potomac Protogrove's Autumn Equinox Ritual, with Mike the Fool!



Photos from Johano Sycamore Bear



Bracket Polypores, Carleton College Arboretum



Cannon River, Northfield, MN1



Kettle River, Saint Croix State Park



Kettle River, Saint Croix State Park

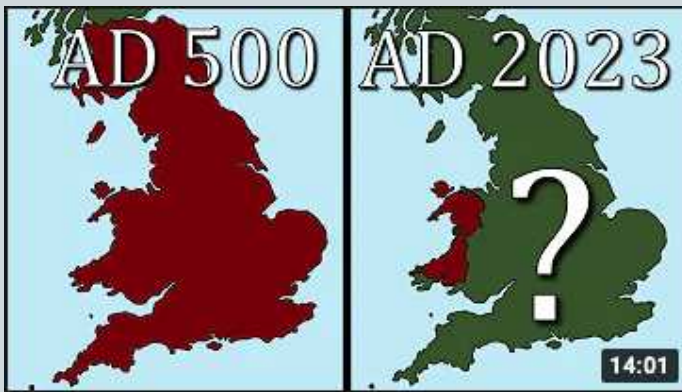
Videos of Interest

IAPNRadio Pagan Artist Spotlight



Special guest: pagan author Ellen Evert Hopman

England's Missing Celtic Language



Why doesn't England speak a Celtic language?

The Real Reason Glen Canyon Dam Was Built



The controversial Glen Canyon Dam

The Right Rites For Rampant Ritualists

Overview

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

Mixing the Waters-of-Life

In Reformed Druid rituals, the sacramental *Waters-of-Life* which is what we call our consecrated whiskey, is almost always diluted. The exception being for Second Order consecrations, in which the candidate partakes of the Waters "to their fullest extent" (Customs 3:12) meaning an *undiluted* full chalice. Use a smaller chalice, so that perhaps 100 mL is full enough (two shots, no more). I was recently asked what the ratio is supposed to be. Admittedly I said I estimated that it was about 1/3 water, but only by eyeballing it. One third is possibly "incorrect" but more on that in a bit. That was easier to do when before the pandemic we all shared from a 12 oz chalice. The smaller vessel made it easier to guess where the invisible 1/3 line was. My 48 oz pitcher on the other hand changes shape and diameter for every inch of its height, so it's much harder to guess, especially given its larger size.

So what can we do? Well, we've got options!

For a time the druids of Carleton Grove used a double-spouted cruet with the ratio pre-measured before they left for ritual. Personally I don't trust cruets like that because they're usually fragile glass with stoppers that I wouldn't trust in a car ride to the ritual site. Lots of aesthetically pleasing options though if you want to go that route for a ceremony at home though.

Another obvious idea is to bring a measuring cup! There's a surefire way to be exact. If you think measuring cups are unappealing, you could also use a small clean chalice as a measuring cup if you use a pitcher to consecrate and distribute the Waters. Its consistent size might not give you an exact volume, but your ratio will be close enough overall. Less effective but relatively fair would be to count the seconds of a slow pour of water and then multiply that for the slow pour of whiskey. If you have thirsty grovemates, another trick is to pour a whole 750 mL bottle of whiskey in the pitcher on top of a miniature (8 oz) bottle of spring water. That's 31% water which is "close enough" for a high-day ratio. Smaller Groves... uh, just bring a funnel and pour the unused mix back into the bottle.

About That Ratio...

Is the water supposed to be 1/3 (33.3%) or 1:3? Remember 1:3 means one part water *in addition to* three parts whiskey, making four parts total, or 75% whiskey. Even ARDA says the ratio is a matter of controversy. On high-days it's 1:3 being mostly whiskey, and if you have rituals in between it's supposed to be 3:1 being mostly water. This is not a hard rule, really just guidelines that allow for estimation. Oh and don't buy *Glass Manor* whiskey, it's trash.



Augur's Intuition

Overview

Reader-submitted divinations, premonitions, soothsaying, prophecies, omens, etc.

Submission by John the Verbose

Methodology: Geomantic Mound

Meanings

Caput Draconis – dragon's head

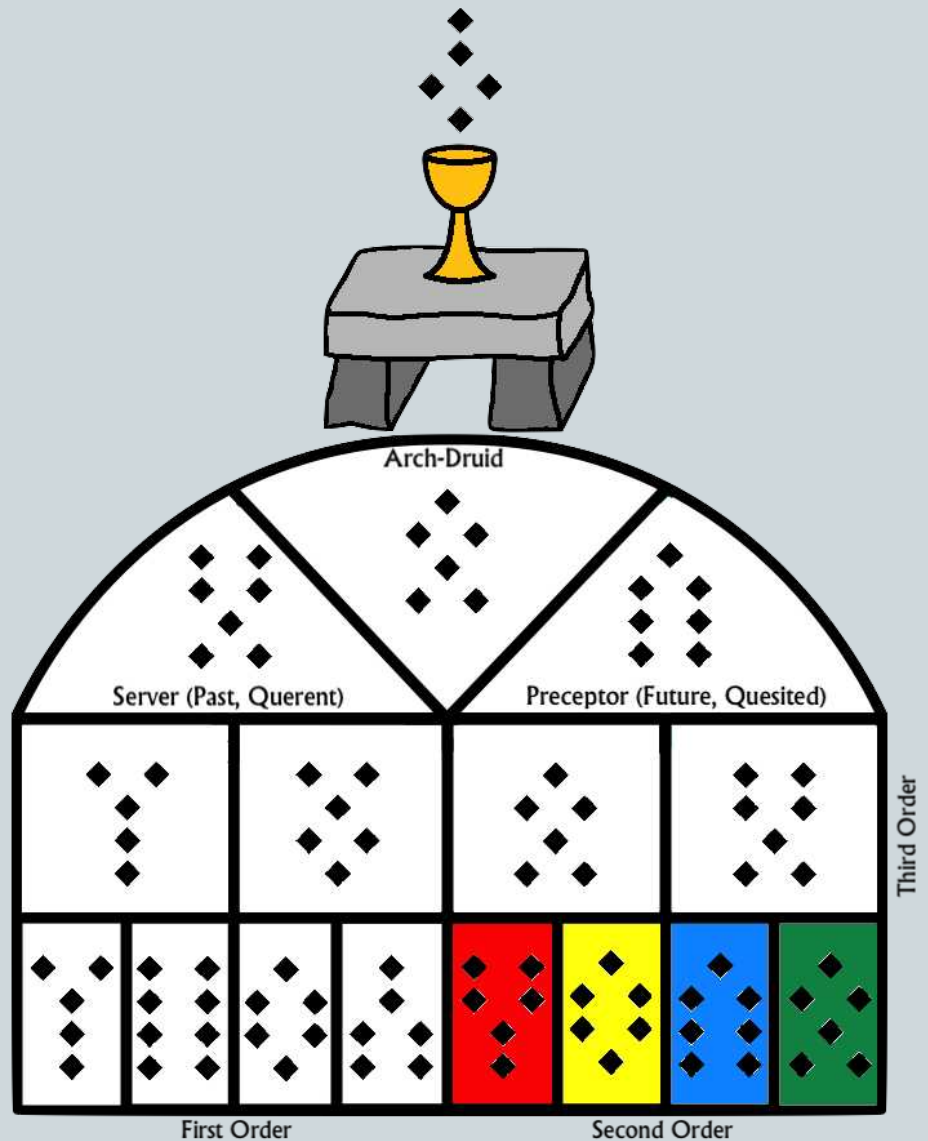
Populus – the people

Carcer – prison

Fortuna Minor – lesser fortune

Interpretation

A realistic outlook given current circumstances paired with gains and good fortune led to amicable new beginnings and peace of mind, as indicated by the Server – the cupbearer, holding the chalice (*albus*). Struggles or compromises in your work-life balance will be alleviated by your fortitude and continued peace of mind leading to contentment for a short while though the result is still a net loss, paving the way for a bit of disruption and conflict. That would be the time to stand by what you're passionate about and you can still have a positive outcome.



Calendar of Events

Overview

Contributors may 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

- 53 Foghamhar (September 22) Autumnal Equinox
- 56 Foghamhar (September 25) New Moon
- 70 Foghamhar (October 9) Full Moon
- 1 Geimredh (November 1) Samhain

Shared Open to Public events

Oakdale Grove (Minnesota):

- Autumnal Equinox Grove officer elections and ritual: Oakdale Nature Preserve picnic shelter, 4444 Hadley Avenue North, Oakdale, MN, Saturday September 24, 2022, 1 PM
- October casual meetup: Tree & Plant identification walk: Locke County Park, 840 71st Ave NE, Fridley, MN, Saturday October 8, 2022, 1 PM gather at picnic tables for coffee (near restrooms), walk is 1:30 PM to 3 PM
- Zen Buddhist Meditation and Teaching: Skinner Memorial Chapel, Carleton College: 1 North College Street, Northfield, MN, October 9, 5 PM to 6 PM. Masks recommended.
- Samhain ritual: Roseville Central Park fire pit (next to Jaycees picnic shelter from Lexington parking lot) Saturday October 29, 2022, 1 PM

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

- 62 Foghamhar (October 1) Feast of Chwerthin – tell jokes, awful puns, laugh, and be mirthful.
- 63 Foghamhar (October 2) Festival of Guardian Spirits – a time to honor your personal guardians.
- 68-70 Foghamhar (October 7-9) Autumn Festival of Wine and Pleasure – Enjoy a mid-harvest feast and abject hedonism.
- 73 Foghamhar (October 12) Feast of the Autumn Fool – It's like the inverse of April Fool's Day; you be the fool.
- 85 Foghamhar (October 24) Feast Day of Air and its Inhabitants – Meditate and commune with nature spirits.

RDNA 60th Anniversary Beltane Gathering

Overview

6 Samradh, 61 Y.R. (**Saturday, May 6, 2023**) is the day of the 60th anniversary gathering of the foundation of the Reformed Druids of North America **at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota!** Watch this space as details will be refined as we approach Beltane. This event is being coordinated by John the Verbose of Oakdale Grove.

Update as of September 12, 2022: Oakdale Grove mailed a formal letter to the *pro-tempore* Arch-Druid of Carleton Grove. We explained Oakdale Grove's mission statement to assist other fellowships when called upon. We indicated that Oakdale Grove is coordinating the 60th anniversary gathering in the Arboretum at Carleton, and indicated that many members of the RDNA worldwide look up to Carleton Grove as the seat and spiritual home of Reformed Druidism (with no pressure). We also kindly asked that the *pro-tempore* Arch-Druid share the letter with other members of Carleton Grove in case anyone is interested in collaborating. We are optimistically hoping for affirmative responses.

Envoys & Delegations Attending From the Following Fellowships:

- Oakdale Grove
- Potomac Protogrove
- Tucson Protogrove
- *[Your Grove/Protogrove name here!]*

Lodging Information

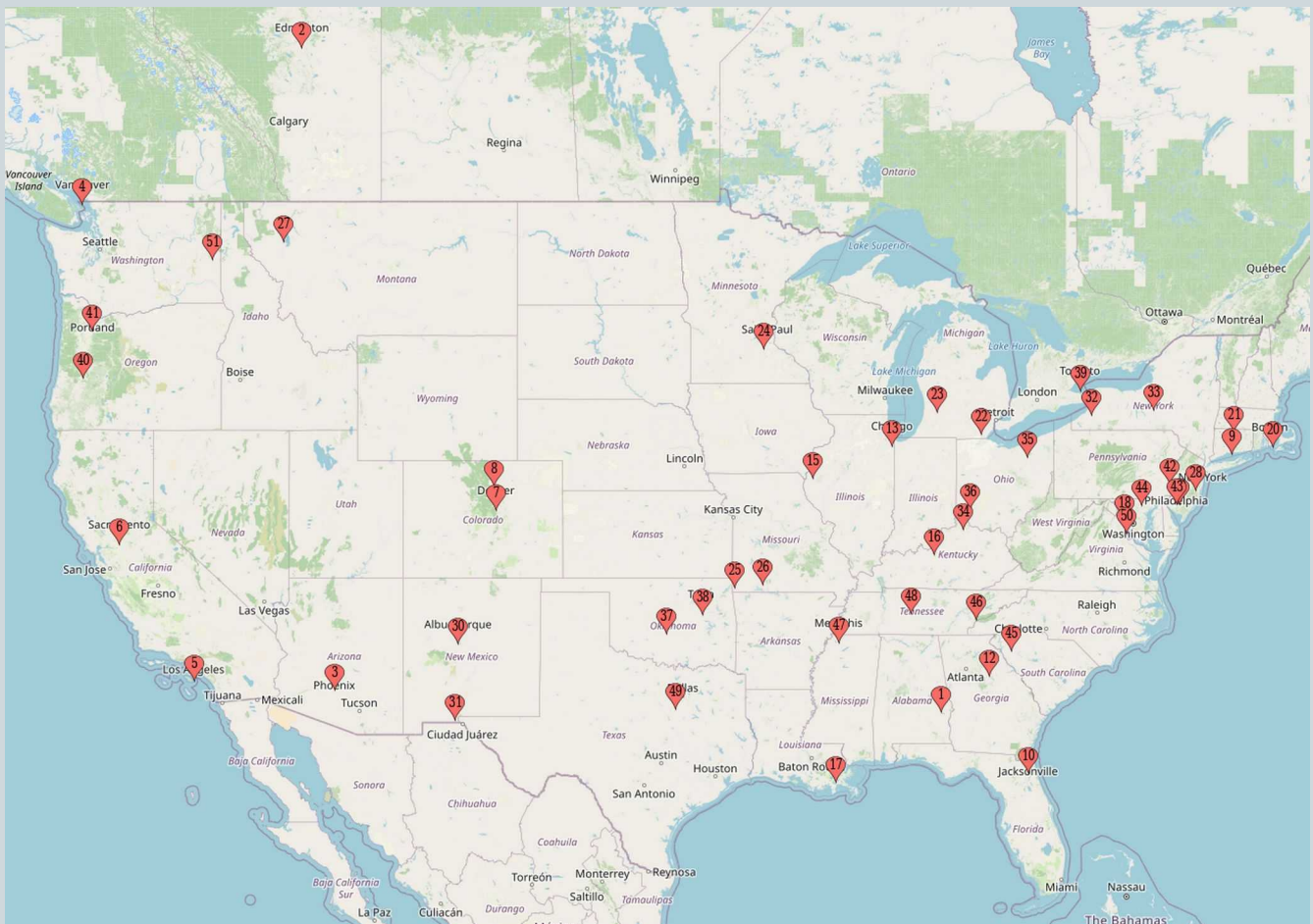
Don't bother trying to book at the **Archer House Inn** anymore. They bulldozed the ruins last year after the 2020 fire. It was an iconic building and a block away from the edge of the Carleton College campus. It was a great haunt for the druids, and had superb restaurants in it. Now only the ghosts can float above the bricks.

Now the closest lodging is an extra block away: **Fairfield Inn & Suites** with prices hovering around \$150 per night (has pool). If you want a good balance of relative proximity and price, I would recommend the **Country Inn & Suites** with prices hovering around \$140 per night (has pool). If you plan on having your own car or a rental vehicle, you could drive the extra mile to the **AmericInn** with prices under \$100 per night (has pool). Lastly and a bit farther there is Coratel Inn & Suites with prices under \$75 per night (no pool).

😊😊😊 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!)

- Arizona: Phoenix: Steele Indian School Park: November 5, 9 AM to 5 PM
- California: Los Angeles/Long Beach: Rainbow Lagoon: October 2, 10 AM to 5:30 PM
- Colorado: Denver: TBA: Usually announced in October for last weekend of month
- District of Columbia: See Reston, VA

- Florida: Jacksonville: Riverside Artist Square: September 25, 11 AM to 5 PM
- Georgia: Athens: Washington St between Trappeze & "40 Watt": October 22, 2 PM to 10 PM
- Illinois: Chicago: Garfield Park: September 24, 10 AM to 6 PM
- Louisiana: New Orleans: October 1, updating [website](#) soon for full details
- Massachusetts: Northampton: 1 Kirkland Ave, September 24, 9 AM to 5 PM
- 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
- 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
- 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: 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 CANCELED**

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](#)
- White Rabbit Grove's [Facebook page](#)

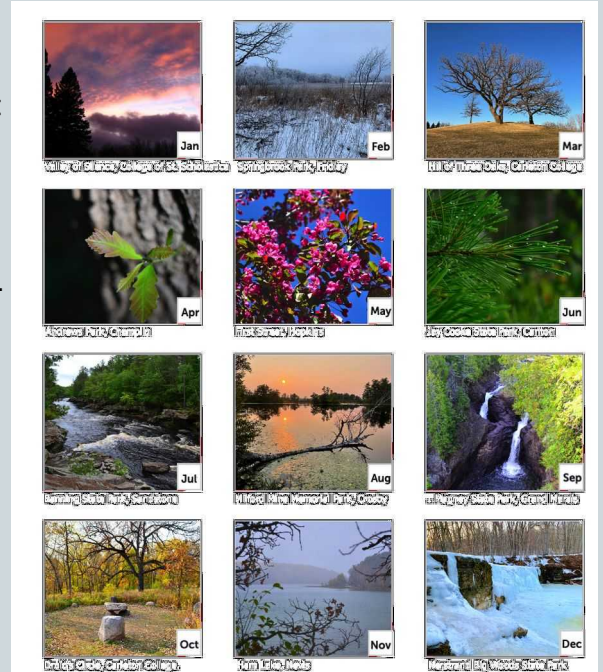
Artisan Promo Page

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.

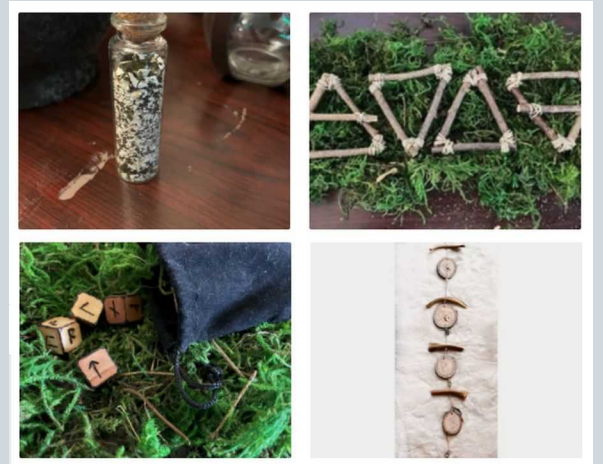
[2023 Minnesota Nature Calendar](#)

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!



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

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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!



Book Reviews for Works by Author Ellen Evert Hopman

Once Around the Sun at [The Hearth & Hedge](#) and at [Pagan Pages](#)

Priestess of the Forest at [Portland Jones](#)

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 (yet), 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 Listings](#) on Oakdale Grove's website. 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 \(FREE PDF\)](#) – 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 and contributions are 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

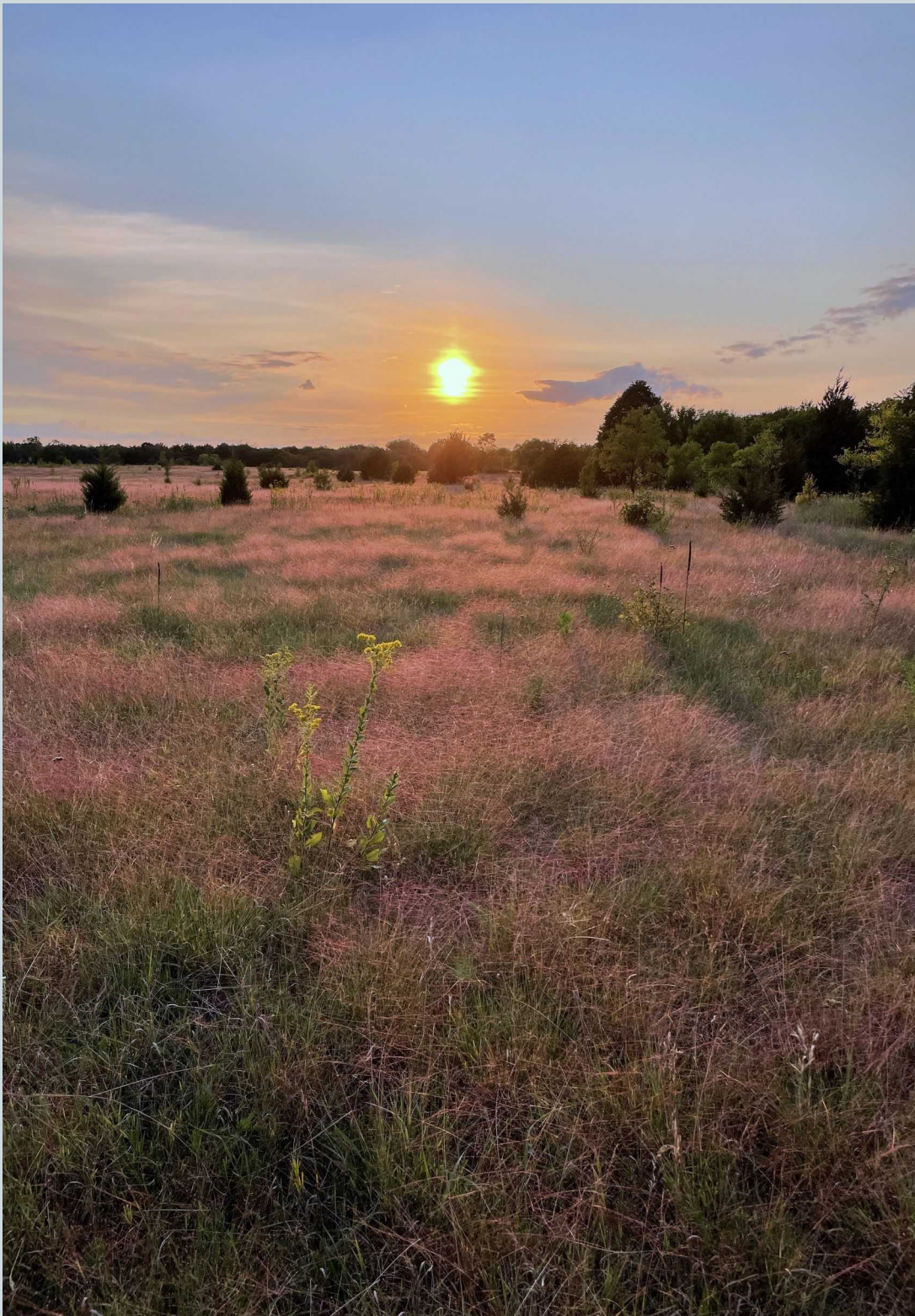
There is a [lite version of the same form](#) for those who don't have a Gmail account, which allows anyone to submit text-based contributions only.

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!



Sunset over purple lovegrass on the Anoka Sand Plains.