

C.Φ.R.D. Biquarterly

Connexus Of Reformed Druids

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

March 20, 2023
48 Earrach, 60 Y.R.
Volume 3
Issue 5
John the Verbose, editor
MNdruids@gmail.com

Vernal Equinox



Photo: Stone Circle, Oak Savannah Park, Elk River, MN. Typical Minnesota spring equinox.

Contents

News of the Groves.....	3
Campfire Colloquy.....	5
The Seeker's Corkboard.....	7
Vivid Visions Gallery.....	8
Videos of Interest.....	9
Augur's Intuition.....	10
Calendar of Events.....	11
RDNA 60 th Anniversary Beltane Gathering.....	12
Blogs & Social Media Links.....	13
Artisan Promo Page.....	14
Reformed Druid Resources.....	16
Newsletter Info.....	18
Contribute Content to the Next Issue!	19
Thank You!	20

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)

This past weekend a few of Oakdale Grove's members attended *Paganicon*, which seems to have become the largest indoor pagan convention that I'm aware of. Oakdale Grove was pitching in on sharing the "Druids of the Midwest" party suite, which we sponsored along with members from other regional Groves, Protogroves, and solitaires from various other druid orders such as OBOD and ADF, and Northern Roots Grove, a local independent druid group. The convention's overall theme this year was "Metamorphosis & Transformation." We didn't want to be cliché and make our entire theme *butterflies*, so while we were in the pre-planning stages someone joked that our party room should have a werewolf theme to be different. We all laughed at the notion, then greenlit the idea. Then the whole weekend we had a life-size werewolf mannequin in the party suite. What will the druids think of next?



Druids & werewolf, photo courtesy of Ben Babb

The Druids of the Midwest party suite will likely have to adjust its name for future *Paganicon* sessions, as we also had druids representing from Montana and Tennessee. All the more because we met some California druids from the *Wild Druid Collective* who used to be regulars at *Pantheacon*. This was their first time at *Paganicon*. They said they loved it so much that they hope that they can come back again, and that they'd love to take part in the party suite. I absolutely loved conversing with them, and also hope they can come back in the future!

The party suites are open to all attendees at the convention, but there's something different about being able to share in hosting a suite that it feels like a "home room" while you're there enjoying all the events over the weekend.

The party suite itself was host to a number of unofficial events, from an LGBT pagan meet & greet, to casual discussions about druidry and the Groves being represented, to the Ogham Bingo session that I led which helped people learn the pronunciation of the Ogham alphabet and its tree associations in a fun way (with prizes). Jean Drum held a lunar praxis seminar on a range of simple things druids can do to incorporate the moon into a regular personal practice.

3 [Back to Contents](#)



Ogham Bingo, photo courtesy of Ben Babb

The biggest draws to the druid party suite overall were the Morrigan devotional hour, eclipsed only by karaoke night. Though with the music, the room was getting too crowded for me, and I had to step out for the evening to not be overstimulated by the noise and the energy. Plus I really don't care for pop or classics but that's just me.

Sunday morning I was one of the presenters in a panel discussion at a Druidry Q&A workshop (one of the official Paganicon events). It was an honor to be in a lineup seated next to fellow speakers Kristoffer Hughes of Anglesey Druid Order (ADO) and Jean Drum of Ár nDraíocht Féin (ADF) and

Heather Roan Robbins, a Grove organizer in the Order of Bards, Ovates, and Druids (OBOD), and panel moderator, Laurie Froberg who runs the local Northern Roots Grove and is an Oakdale Grove member.



Collectively, we filled the lecture hall almost completely. To me, that was astounding for 9:30 AM on the last day of the convention and after the big party night! I've already registered for Paganicon 2024 while the [preregistration](#) prices are lowest, and am already mulling a few ideas for the party suite. See you there in 20204?

Druidry Q&A panel, photo courtesy Ben Babb

Campfire Colloquy

Overview

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

Contribution from John the Verbose

Next week is the newsletter's annual *Mwfydnfud* issue, celebrating the ancient holiday beloved by so many. What is Mwfydnfud, you ask? Some sort of obscure quasi-made up Welsh thing like Dalon Ap Landu? In fact it's not Welsh, but an acronym for "Messing With Forces You Do Not Fully Understand Day!" It was a term coined by the druids at Carleton College in recent decades, and was a sort of holiday that floats around somewhere between Oimelc and Beltane. It makes sense to let it shift naturally to April Fool's Day, which is (apocryphally) the date in 1963 when David Fisher sat down in Goodhue with a few friends to start hashing out the whole *druids* prank. And given that humor is important in the RDNA, Mwfydnfud and/or April Fool's Day ought to be just as major a holiday as Beltane.

In the Mwfydnfud issue of the *C.O.R.D. Biquarterly* newsletter, we have a lot of space for whimsy, and would love to see any humorous contributions you might have in the following veins:

- Humorous
- Irreverent
- Satire
- Parody
- Nonsensical or absurd

Send us any content via [Google Forms](#) by end of day Thursday March 30th, 2023

Book Review: The Circle of Life Is Broken by Brendan Myers

Brendan's latest book is a compelling clarion call about the climate crisis. He states that these are his *meditations* on the subject. The author is a druid, but it isn't a book about druidry. If anything, it falls under *philosophy* and *ecology*. Druidry ties in throughout for obvious reasons, though. From the start it is a captivating revelation of the tragedy that society has become. It suggests a harsh reality that we have done too little too late, that perhaps we may have been beyond Earth's ecological tipping point for some time already. He posits a paradigm shift that there never has been a *balance* in the natural world, but that everything is only *chaos* that happens to oscillate in apparent cycles, merely resembling a balance. Brendan expands upon his definition of the *Circle of Life* throughout the first section, revising it periodically with nuanced refinements. This book is teeming with classic Reformed Druidism. Reformed Druids have long-mentioned the *continual flow and renewal of life*, which essentially *is* the Circle of Life.

Brendan mentions a meditation method called "The Aesthetic Attitude" which is going into nature with disinterestedness: meaning we aren't trying to accomplish tasks or gain something other than *just* appreciating it for what it is. He states, "I can appreciate the World of Earth for its own sake, and then perhaps the answers to my questions will find me." He also reminds us that, "If you have been given a world of beauty and wonder, then you have also been given a world of danger and terror." That statement paired with the section title "Who Faces the Circle of Life?" reminded me immediately of the Second Tenet of Reformed Druidism: *And great is the spiritual importance of Nature, which is the Earth-Mother, for it is one of the objects of creation, and with it we do live, even as we **struggle through life** do we come **face to face** with it.* That *struggle* is an indication that Nature isn't all puppies and butterflies, and helps us stay vigilant of the reality of a perilous world.

There's a section on modern societal euphemisms that force certain anthropocentric attitudes in the forefront of our perceptions. One of them reminded me of a euphemism I learned in college that has always bugged the heck out of me: "tax delinquent land," or *wild natural spaces that aren't earning money* for the economy or revenue for the state. Moreover I think it's *previously exploited* land that has re-wilded itself. Calling Nature "tax delinquent" is infuriating to me. Nature ought to remain tax exempt.

Brendan points out that our shift from childhood to adulthood has a disenchanting effect between nature and us, where societal expectations pull us to participate in the sterility [magically speaking] of a productive civilization. We need to find that sense of enchantment again as a society, not just as individuals or druids. He encourages us to become – and recruit more "Earth Keepers" in all levels of society, while warning vehemently against Ecofascism. We must not resort to Ecofascism, and to outright banish any Ecofascists among us. He states "Hatred cannot save the Earth, for hatred cannot heal." In all, this new release is very current and hyper-relevant now. There's still time to save the Earth in his opinion, but we need to grow as Earth Keepers, globally nonpartisan, as our entire existence is in the balance. This book is definitely worth the read! ★★★★★

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

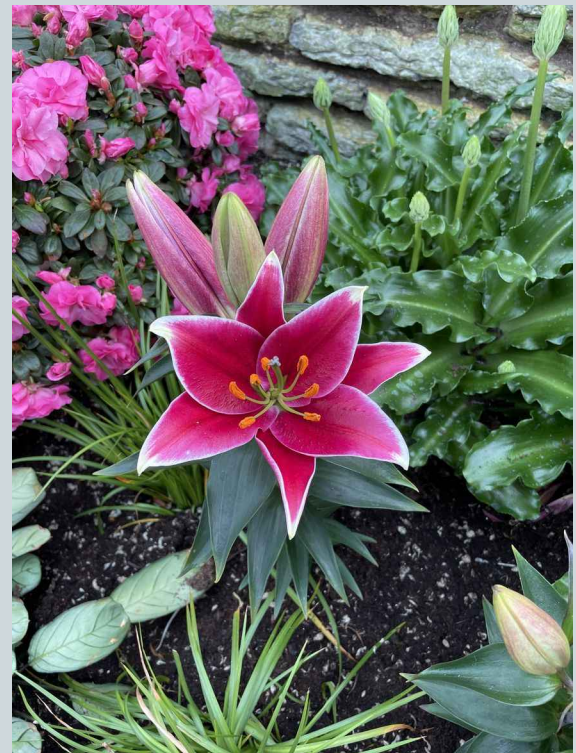
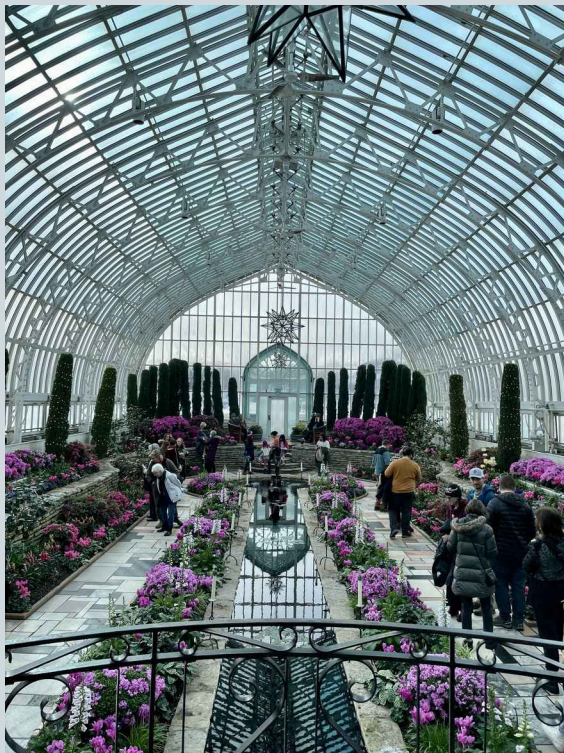
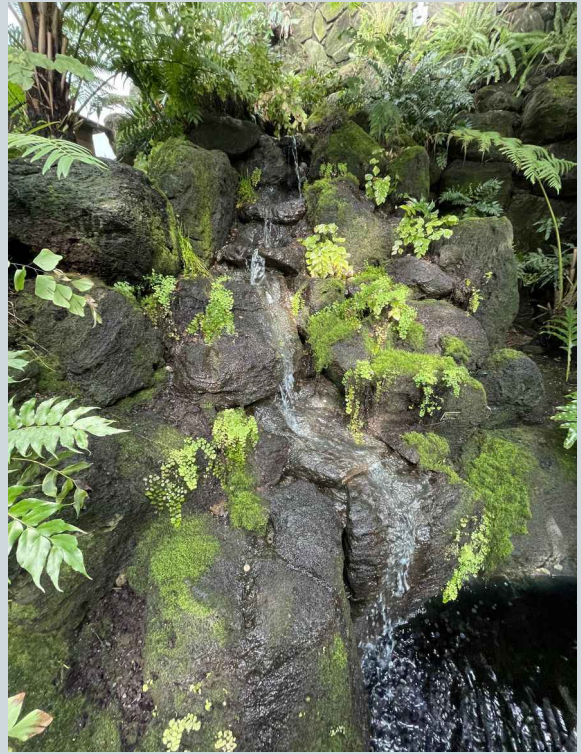
I advise Googling *safety tips for meeting people from the Internet* or something to that effect. Furthermore, this is not intended as a section for personals ads or soliciting hookups.

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

Contributions from John the Verbose – Oimelc Ritual & Como Park Conservatory Meetup



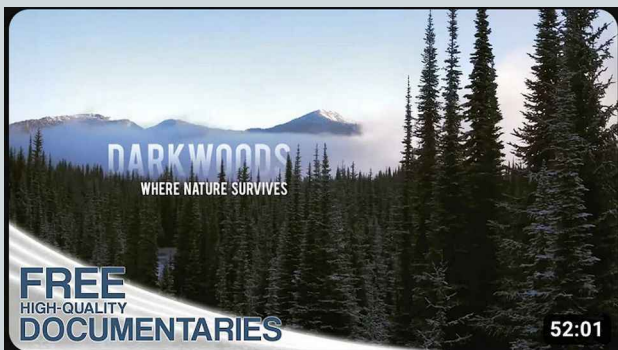
Videos of Interest

The Last Legion



I never heard of this one until last week. A new twist on an old tale...

Darkwoods: Where Nature Survives



Observe the unrivaled nature through the seasons of a year and get enchanted by this region of inestimable value for plenty of rare animals.

Augur's Intuition

Overview

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

Submission by John the Verbose

Methodology: "Druid Sticks" with a Geomantic Mound

Meanings

Caput Draconis – Dragon's Head

Tristitia – Sorrow

Conjunctio – Conjunction

Populus – People

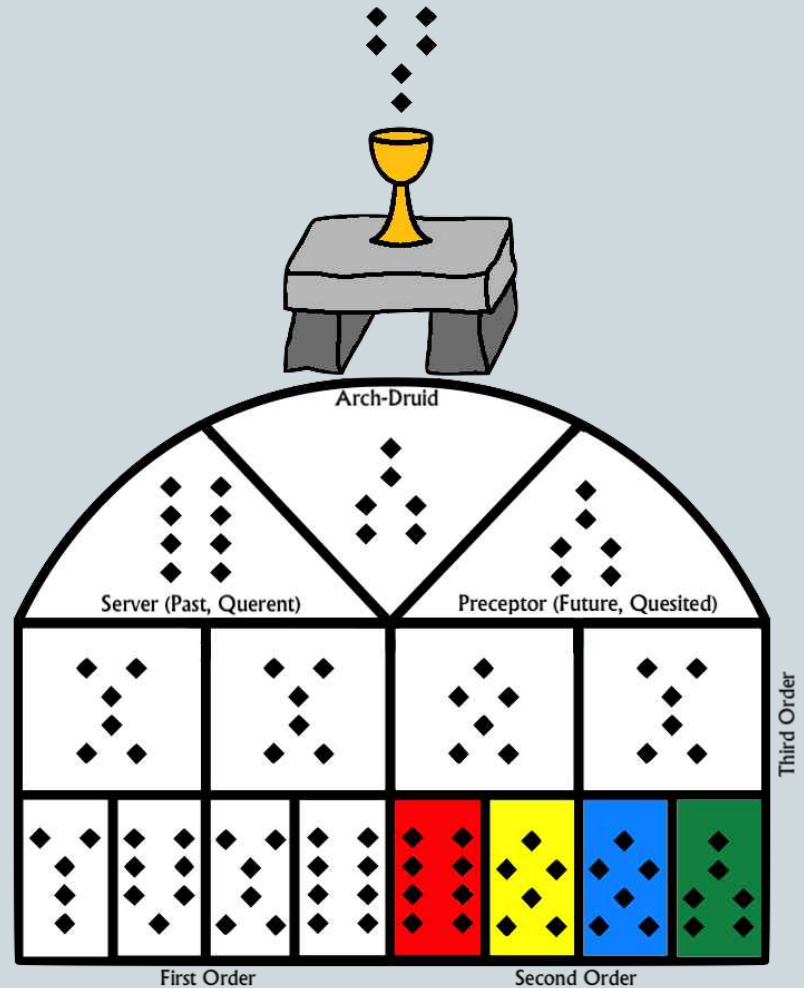
Interpretation

The Dragon's Head is usually great for new beginnings, but it is affected by what appears around it. In this case we have a glum mood, and it's not just you. It's pretty much everyone involved. We're in a time where everything feels diminished or in a lull, but use that to your advantage and focus on the next steps and you'll get a head start on your path to success.

The lull is its own form of recovery, just like any tree that sleeps properly through winter will come back stronger than trees that couldn't enter a dormant state. Just let it happen and let it do its own thing without

mucking it up. Take a look at how things in your home life might be affecting your circumstances one way or another. Knowing what's at play is the next step toward taking action. Did you miss an opportunity that you are now kicking yourself for? If you keep beating yourself up, it's just gonna take more time to move on from it.

The solution is to look at examples from the past. Group efforts can pull you back up by your bootstraps and get you going in the right direction, though it's a long haul this time. Baby steps will have to suffice, not great strides this time. However that will get you closer to long term major success.



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

48 Earrach (March 20) Vernal Equinox

49 Earrach (March 21) New Moon

60 Earrach (April 1) Mwfydnfud

65 Earrach (April 6) Full Moon

79 Earrach (April 20) New Moon

1 Samradh (May 1) Beltane

6 Samradh (May 6) 60th Anniversary Gathering!

Shared Open to Public events

Place: Minnesota – Oakdale Grove

- Vernal Equinox Ritual: Saturday March 25, 1 PM, Roseville Central Park
- Mwfydnfud Ritual/Casual Meetup: Saturday April 1, 1 PM, Roseville Central Park
- Earth Day Casual Meetup: Saturday April 22, 1 PM, Como Park (near Butterfly Lot)
- 60th Anniversary Beltane Gathering: Saturday May 6, 1 PM, Hill of Three Oaks (tentative), Carleton College Arboretum

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

- 60 Earrach (April 1) **Feast of the Spring Fool** – Do something silly just because it feels good, take the day off and go fishing, or sit on a hilltop and herd clouds.
- 64 Earrach (April 5) **Feast of Alexander Nevsky** – celebrate the Slavic viking who won a victory over the Teutonic knights, one of the rare victories for pagans of that time. Contemplate your pagan pride and hope for total freedom someday.
- 82 Earrach (April 23) **Feast of Oghma** – Spend the day learning and practicing the ogham alphabet.

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 and also the Arch-Druid of Carleton Grove.

POINT OF CONTACT: JOHN THE VERBOSE – GMAIL ADDRESS IS "MNDRUIDS" ...if we know each other already, email and I can give you my phone number and we can communicate quickly. If we don't know each other personally I would prefer email, but I have push notifications for that account on my phone, and communication should be similarly as prompt.

Update as of January 30, 2022: Oakdale Grove's **Facebook** page has created a public [event listing](#) for the weekend. It is still only a draft and will be updated and refined as the event approaches, but feel free to select *Interested* or *Going* if you want to keep tabs on the updates and not miss out.

Update as of March 15, 2022: Oakdale Grove's **website** has an [event page](#) with more details for the 60th Anniversary Gathering.

Envoys & Delegations Attending From the Following Fellowships:

- Carleton College Grove
- Oakdale Grove
- Monument Grove
- Tucson Protogrove
- Poison Oak Grove
- Koad Grove
- Wild Onion Grove (ADF)/Berkeley Grove
- *[Your Grove/Protogrove name here!]*



Lodging Information

Prices for lodging in Northfield have gone up, sorted nearest to farthest from Carleton College:

- [Fairfield Inn & Suites](#) ≈ \$354/night and up (has pool) **almost booked full**
- [Country Inn & Suites](#) ≈ \$252/night and up (has pool)
- [AmericInn](#) ≈ \$136/night (has pool) **BOOKED FULL**
- [Coratel Inn & Suites](#) \$130/night (no pool)

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](#)

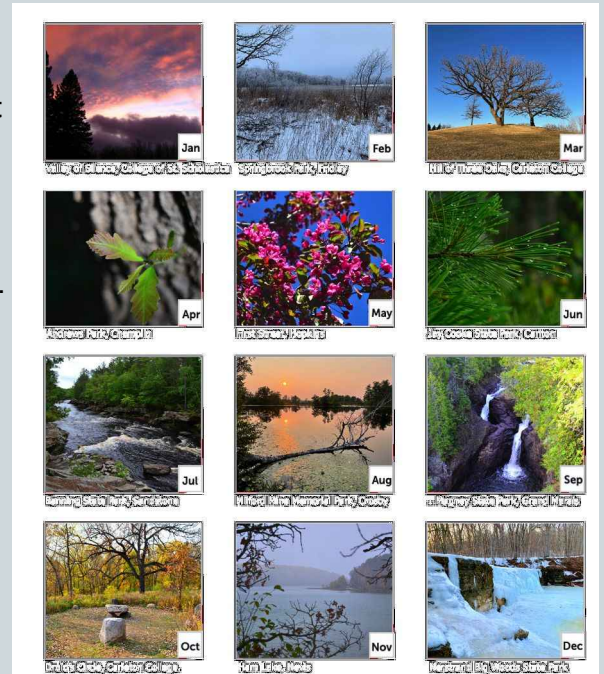
Artisan Promo Page

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

14 [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!



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!



Springbrook, (officially County Ditch Number 17), Springbrook Park, Fridley, Minnesota.