

C.Φ.R.D. Biquarterly

Connexus Of Reformed Druids

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

May 1, 2023
1 Samradh, 61 Y.R.
Volume 3
Issue 6
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Beltane



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

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News of the Groves

News from Carleton College Grove (Minnesota)

Hannah, the Arch-Druid of Carleton Grove is focusing on her *Comps* graduation project this spring, which is easily one of the most stressful times for a *Carl*. Despite this she is helping to coordinate the Beltane gathering to make sure the druids have an official reservation at the available sites in the Arboretum. One unfortunate detail is that the Hill of Three Oaks is already booked for the times we were hoping to reserve it.

I've seen this happen before at Beltane. One year there was a party tent on the soccer field adjacent to the Hill and the arboretum was bustling with activity. Another year I saw a sizable crowd waiting on the hilltop, and I was shocked to think they were there for Beltane. Yet again at that time it was reserved to another group. A truck drove across the field and backed up to the Hill of Three Oaks to drop off several cases of beer. It is quite the hopping place for everyone! So we're focusing on reserving the Council Ring (on the shores of Lyman Lakes) for the main event. Hannah already has the Council Ring reserved for the druids for the Vigil to take place, so that is secured at least!

Stay tuned for a special *part two* edition of the Beltane *C.O.R.D. Biquarterly* newsletter for news from the reunion!

News from Oakdale Grove (Minnesota)

Members of Oakdale Grove met together on Earth Day weekend to put together small swag bags to hand out to the first 40 attendees of the 60th anniversary gathering at Carleton College this coming weekend. We're hoping that will be enough for everyone; for context there were 17 attendees at the 50th anniversary gathering in 2013. Any remaining swag bags will be put toward the second 60th anniversary gathering for the Midsummer Solstice on June 17th, which coincides with the annual Carleton College Alumni Reunion when we celebrate with the *Druids of Solstice Past*.



Right now the focus is on making sacrifices to Taranis for favorable weather. For all of April we've had equal days of snow and rain, with unseasonably colder weather. I have seen only *one* tree blossoming with flowers and have heard reports that dandelions are starting to pop up in people's yards. The buds are finally starting to leaf out on most trees, which is a very good sign. We can still end up with a May blizzard, though frost warnings typically cease for summer by May 10 around these parts. Right now the weekend forecast is calling for gloomy skies, probably with some rain, and perhaps a thunderstorm. Chance of precipitation is variably 25-30%, though at this time, five day forecasts are only helpful up to 75% of the time, and accuracy drops sharply after six days. In the meantime, make those sacrifices to Taranis!

Bardic Column

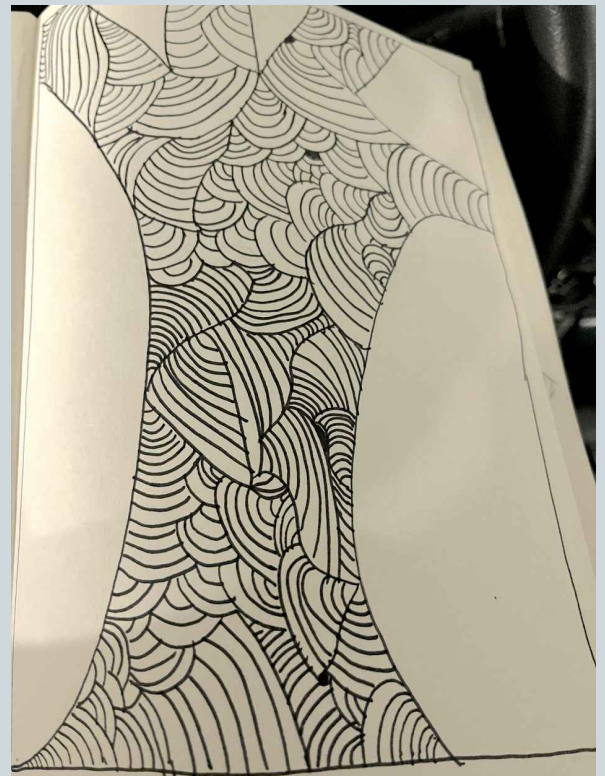
Meditations of the recent seasons by Edward Malnar

Autumn, 2022 – Season of the Mother Grove: Autumn of Golden Skies

Dusty dry air hovered in slow afternoons of broad, paling sunsets. Their long-fingered light poked down to the forest floor in trickles of fiery gold. Cloudless, the sky felt immense and resolute as day after day passed with a static dome of pristine pressure. Its faint brush of cirrus on powder blue weirdly mirrored the exposed stones of the Cannon riverbed, naked betimes to its skeletal limestone.

I watched closely for what such dry days would inspire in the trees of the Mother Grove. Much like the Autumn of Blazing Glory, onset of *kouyou*-color came swift and flaring. The trees competed in displays of avian pride, and all over campus trees flashed their hues in one coherent display. I inhaled one timeless, too-short afternoon amid the monochrome golden crown above Prairie Creek, where the gentlest zephyrs rippled like the falls' trickle. Indeed, the sensitive could not help but join with them in breathing deep this must-fragrant air.

Still students rushed by, an activity of human life approaching a spirant campus for the first time in years, failing to notice the muskrats' gloaming busyness. Geese joined this irregular rhythm of life, changing their routes and leaving customary gatherings oddly quiet yet town retention ponds overcrowded with jostling mobs. Farmers too made quite a rush, for their crops stiffened in time with the trees. Although they aroused such early, great clouded storms of compost-dust, I felt relief after their autumns of wet, wilting grain and insipid vegetables. This year the harvest swelled and grinned with resolve to face the winter.



"Here I Am" meditative artwork by I Talk To The Trees

After early *ensilumi*, the ground stayed warm. Much underbrush stubbornly defied the early frost and early fall, reaping copious hours of November sunlight to give themselves the edge next season. Deer stayed in herd formation well into hunting season, easily espied every evening in Mother Grove if one went looking, and coyote carols eerily echoed across a gilded prairie yielding to persistent, pastel-smearred starshine. Invertebrate kind dwelled long, keeping a murmur of birds on hand during an uneven, forgetful forage of restless hibernators.

When frost finally came, it only tiptoed through the senescent grass gone again at second glance. Rain only fell by night, as if contracted not to mar the monolithic azure, and brought hints of loneliness, poignant campaign-powered solitude that reeked of Moomin Valley in November. This season of life

was reluctant to go and the warm earth fought off snow almost until Thanksgiving.

*This season is special too for my vigil of initiation as a full Druid.

Winter 2023 – Season of the Mother Grove: Winter of Long Ice

Wet and heavy the warm snow came, and wet and heavy it lingered as ice. Thick and heavy the warm clouds enclosed, and frequent lay the patchy mud. Winter bared its teeth with sharp plains winds just enough to convince most that this remains the bitter, snowy north, and so it was for the Yule gathering. The revels of Druids-covert, those who are and do not know they are Druids, came Yule night when all winter appeared at once. Wet snow soaked pages of prayers and songs, yet we sang and prayed. Fierce winds threatened to freeze sodden clothes kept damp by wet snow, yet we built the fire high. Deep snow blocked entrance and deterred departure, yet we gathered. Light amid a swirling, howling dark – this is the life we build.

Long, weary hours of clearing fallen snow made all wet. Wet was the snow as it clumped and clung in glacial tracts. Wet was my sweaty back under a single jacket hanging open. Wet was the runoff from the roof, which froze straightaway the next night. Cycling temperatures preserved these rinks for weeks, long-lived ice recast by a zany Zamboni dance about zero degrees. Blankets made a monotone mundane, each night unseasonably hot beyond feeble drafts' balance, each night bland and jaundiced beneath illuminated clouds. The starsong sadly was silenced so. These sultry nights instigated the antics of squirrels, a restless species constantly stirring this season.

Sparse bright mornings after a weighty storm left marvelous wonders of frosted trees and half-vanished structures. Amid this bright and shining world only crows moved, crows that spoke to me each morning until I spoke back. When chilled daylight gales sealed the snow in icy crust, I took pity and shared with them some fish and salad (all devoured the instant I turned my back). This was quite the gossip of the Mother Grove, a rumor spread through fluffy feathers. The sheer exposure of ice-topped snow made witness easy: great fox and reckless raccoon scampered swiftly meal to meal. Deer leapt gracefully from slick-ice asphalt into belly-daubing drifts. And in pale, frosted mornings, birdsong was heard not long past Imbolc; perhaps it forebodes an early spring.

This season differentiated itself in danger. The ice broke boughs and severed trunks; those wounded forest lords will recover more easily than the homes and vehicles smashed. The low brush of floodplain and marsh was crushed flat, and in their exposed extremities many show damage of frostbite. The ice crept down some dens I found and drove those desperate winter-dwellers hard. Nor could humans with all our craft escape the brunt of the blow. The lingering ice choked streets and walks, painting a patina of injury, a frictionless freeze that made even me – sure-footed as the shield granite pine – slip and fall with threefold frequency. And no human effort could evade the deadly tangle of rudderless ice-wending vehicles when the ice lay thick and black-heartedly subtle; my expertise of

the Winter of Ice and Mountain Mist proved only enough to avoid bodily harm while bent metal, cracked plastic, and shattered glass prevailed often. None was spared. Even on frequented streets, the ice dug in with tick-insistence. It built curbs and barriers a sheer, solid inch high that haughtily defied both plow blade and salt. For over a month, only a couple main thoroughfares could be traversed more easily than the lunar landscape. And that on clear days, for twice a storm descended upon me fiercely while driving and all exertions barely kept a vehicle at minimal speed from slippery catastrophe.

Nor was that the end of inconvenienced conveniences, for in the season's slushy rump, temperatures danced like mad idolators about the freezing point. Once again every day's melt slicked to ice overnight and the ice persisted still. When the rains came, they could not reach storm drains or any outlet. Would-be rivers became isolated pools that solidified by night and by day resumed struggling around and through concrete channels designed for their flow. I was appalled by several blunderbuss runs of potholed treachery that dissolve human construction almost as quickly as we enact. I ruefully write so much about human habitation, but so I must: it was impossible to walk, snowshoe, or even ski on the maddening moguls of ice-cratered woodland. The Mother Grove's depths remained concealed from my eager eyes since this winter came with one message: this is the season of sleep.

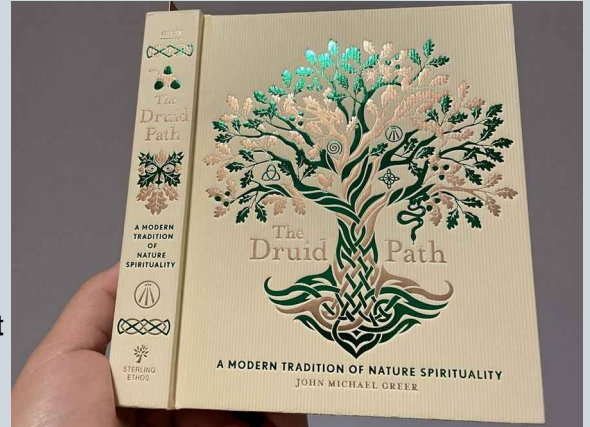
Campfire Colloquy

Overview

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

John the Verbose's book review of John Michael Greer's The Druid Path

In 2021 John Michael Greer, the emeritus Grand Archdruid of The Ancient Order of Druids in America (AODA) (and also an RDNA Third Order druid), published this beautifully bound *druidry 101* book, The Druid Path: A Modern Tradition of Nature Spirituality. The title and cover art are debossed in elegant emerald green and gold leaf, and the wrap on the cover is slightly corrugated. The book is fun to look at and fun to hold. It is almost a perfect square. It is too big to be a "pocket book" but it is still small among books.



The book is written in small print, but double spaced on 200 pages. Chapter overview pages have slightly larger text, and some only have room for two paragraphs. Pictures sometimes take up half or a whole page. Altogether this is a quick read, and good for people with ADD. There's also five lined pages in the back so that the reader can take notes. Regardless of the beauty of the book, Greer is encouraging us to write in it; it's fine to make it your own as something to keep on your bookshelf and treasure it along your spiritual journey.

In some ways, this is a condensed rehash of some of his other druidry books I've read, but there's "new to me" stuff in it, too. This book mentions the practices within are based on AODA, but he also mentions The Order of Bards, Ovates, and Druids (OBOD) on occasion as well. Thus I have a minor issue with a curious blanket claim he makes on page 84 about "Practicing Druidry With Others," in which Greer asserts that your Druid Initiation "should be strictly private." Given that he mentions more than one druid order several times over the course of the book, a new reader might think this applies to *all* druid orders. In the RDNA for instance, you need to be in the presence of a Third Order Druid priest to be initiated (in the RDNA we say *consecrated*, but same thing). However, he doesn't mention the RDNA in the book, nor any of its direct or inspired offshoots, so I won't count it against him.

The section on Divination covers the Coelbren Alphabet, which is of dubious origin and likely fabricated by Iolo Morganwg. Regardless of its historic authenticity, it has value in its *efficacy* which is really what matters. This divination guide explains how to make your own Coelbren oracle set, and is situated near the middle of the book so it is easy to flip to. Most conveniently it comes with a complete guide to interpretations of your omens. Greer gives the reader advice for solo rituals, and provides some solo rites and instructions on how to adapt them for group settings. The overall rating gets a generous five stars among quick druidry 101 books: ★★★★★

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The Druid Sigil Has Been Appropriated By Neo-Nazis

Not quite a book review, but a warning that went unheeded, and discovered by happenstance.

In 2016 I was seeing racist pagans and druids coming out of the virtual woodwork. It was on every social media platform. Some call themselves folkish or folkists. That's one of the many underhand code words they use to find each other. It's not just in Heathenism. It was probably hidden the whole time, but in the political climate they were emboldened to reveal themselves more openly. Suddenly I was seeing racists with interests in druidry, saying things like it is their *European bloodline's birthright*.

Things they liked and shared on social media were becoming covertly or overtly racist. Some posted secret number or letter combinations that, after I Googled some of them, were Neo-Nazi codes. One day a guy on Facebook (with a Nazi flag on the wall behind his profile picture) 'liked' my Grove's page. I reported several of his overtly racist posts and blocked him from my page. Some YouTube videos allegedly about druidry turned into a rant on Europe losing its whiteness. I was shouting "what does this have to do with druidry" at YouTube and realized that person's channel had *a lot* more videos. He told his viewers to save his videos before they get taken down *again*. Maybe he should have taken that to be a sign? Facebook, Tumblr, Twitter, Discord, YouTube, and other sites, (including one entire right-wing Druid Order who requires their students to attest that they aren't transgender) had an influx of users who were espousing a range of Alt-Right, racist, and paganized fascist "traditional" values.

The RDNA is supposed to be 100% inclusive. Concerned about how far that inclusivity extended, I brought up the general issue to the Council of Dalon Ap Landu in 2019 asking that together we stand up against this fascist neo-tribalist movement and come to a consensus with an anti-racist statement. One person had helpful input stating that nobody has to tolerate Nazis in the RDNA. Most of the others said the council has no authority to make decrees. The Council perceives itself to be in a state of legislative abeyance only because we can no longer reach a quorum. Personally, I think the Council *can* do something about this (mostly because the rules for a quorum were never consistent nor written down), and we'll have that opportunity to meet in a smaller council session this coming weekend.

Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel once said “For evil to flourish, it only requires good men to do nothing” and now that has happened in the RDNA. Thus, it is time to stop it from going further.

Last month I was at a used book store looking for books on druidry. Spirituality was right next to Philosophy, and on the spine of a rather large paperback on the Philosophy shelves, the RDNA Druid Sigil caught my eye. It was on a book about *love*. I will not give out the whole title. I will not give out the subtitle. I will not give out the author's name. When I Googled the name I realized it's a pen name that is a pun on a legalese concept. They deserve no attention for what they have done. Using a pen name, they obviously don't want their true identity known. The spine identified the Druid

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Sigil over the black and white background as the "Freedom Flag." The font on the cover is one that I immediately recognized as *Narkisim*, a beautiful serif font that I use prolifically in my druidry documents. It's the same font I use in the headers and index of this newsletter! With those two immediate coincidences, I knew I was buying that book, and wanted to know how the Druid Sigil correlates to Love, and what it says about druidry. Inside the book, everything at a glance read like the target audiences are law practitioners. Everything was divided into sections, subsections, and decimals beyond. Something looked off-kilter about every single page I flipped through. I didn't know what it was at first, but my curiosity turned to a compulsion to buy the book so that nobody else can.

This 2018 book is *not* about druidry, and certainly *not* about love. There are blatantly false statements such as 'attractiveness has a 1:1 correlation with intelligence.' There is extensive anti-Muslim content throughout, most sickeningly: referring to Muslims as a sub-race. My stomach turned.

Factors in Muslim self-ruin, i.e., the decimation of their good-looks & intelligence:
1. The Muslim practice of enshrouding the figures of women, and concealing their faces under *burkas*, enormously reduces the number of women available for review by men; this is monumental interference with sexual selection which in turn causes intelligence to decline *pari passu* with good-looks in the Muslim sub-race.¹

4. While *burkas* obstruct potential suitors from being able to evaluate women's beauty or ugliness, they also impair, to a degree, the assessment of women's intelligence. Thus, on all counts, a burka interferes with, and seriously impedes, sexual selection. Consequently, a prime determinant of the evolution of life — selection of potential mates — is largely rendered, if not null and void.

In fact the book is constantly obsessed with race, in an unmistakably genocidal way.

in the competition

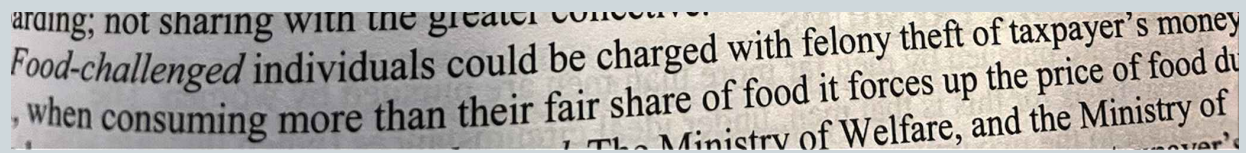
05.60.00. NEUTRALIZING RACIAL COMPETITORS
(By the Sterile Human Control Technique)

Neutralizing racial competitors — in a non-violent way — is achieved in the same manner that entomologists practice controlling insects. With insects, this method is known as the *Sterile Insect Control Technique*. In this endeavor entomologists breed sterile insects, usually males, which are then released into the wild to compete with normal males. When the female insect engages in sex with a sterile male, she is not fertilized, and no eggs are produced.

The practice with humans is similar; it is known as the *Sterile Human Control Technique*.

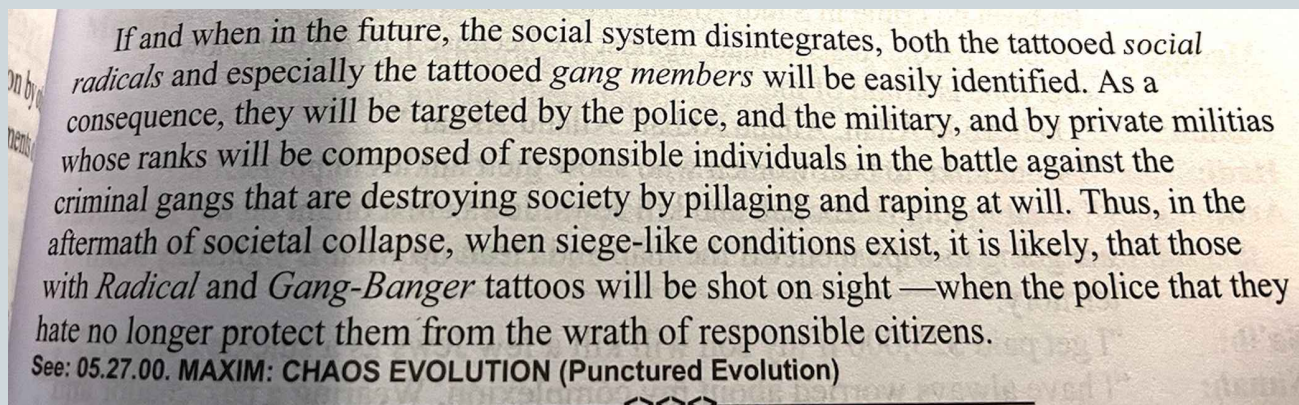
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They also speak out against other people who fall outside of *traditional social norms*. The statements on transgender individuals are vague and I'm not even certain what their point was in the few sections I saw with meandering references to trans people. One thing is certain, people who don't fit conservative norms are targets of violence or punishment. People with obesity, according to this book, would be charged with self-harm. They call them "Food-challenged individuals." They also lump in people on Welfare as food-challenged individuals, and criminalize both of them all equally as felons.



Food-challenged individuals could be charged with felony theft of taxpayer's money, when consuming more than their fair share of food it forces up the price of food du... The Ministry of Welfare, and the Ministry of...

People with unusual piercings or tattoos are also callously lumped in as unintelligent felons who prevent themselves from attaining a sustainable income by their visual lifestyle choices, and 'will inevitably revert to a life of crime to make ends meet.' The book then goes on to state that this class of people will be executed on the streets.



If and when in the future, the social system disintegrates, both the tattooed *social radicals* and especially the tattooed *gang members* will be easily identified. As a consequence, they will be targeted by the police, and the military, and by private militias whose ranks will be composed of responsible individuals in the battle against the criminal gangs that are destroying society by pillaging and raping at will. Thus, in the aftermath of societal collapse, when siege-like conditions exist, it is likely, that those with *Radical* and *Gang-Banger* tattoos will be shot on sight —when the police that they hate no longer protect them from the wrath of responsible citizens.
See: 05.27.00. MAXIM: CHAOS EVOLUTION (Punctured Evolution)

It doesn't matter *what* this book is called. The title is a disguise. The subtitle is a lie. Love is rarely mentioned. The author doesn't want us to know who he really is. The publishing company has no other books and no website. I suspect he knows how to find his target audience and give this (likely self-published) book to them directly (this used book is autographed). **So what is it? This is an Alt-Right fascist manifesto, with freedom for the conservative fascists, and everyone else gets Orwellian totalitarianism and death.**

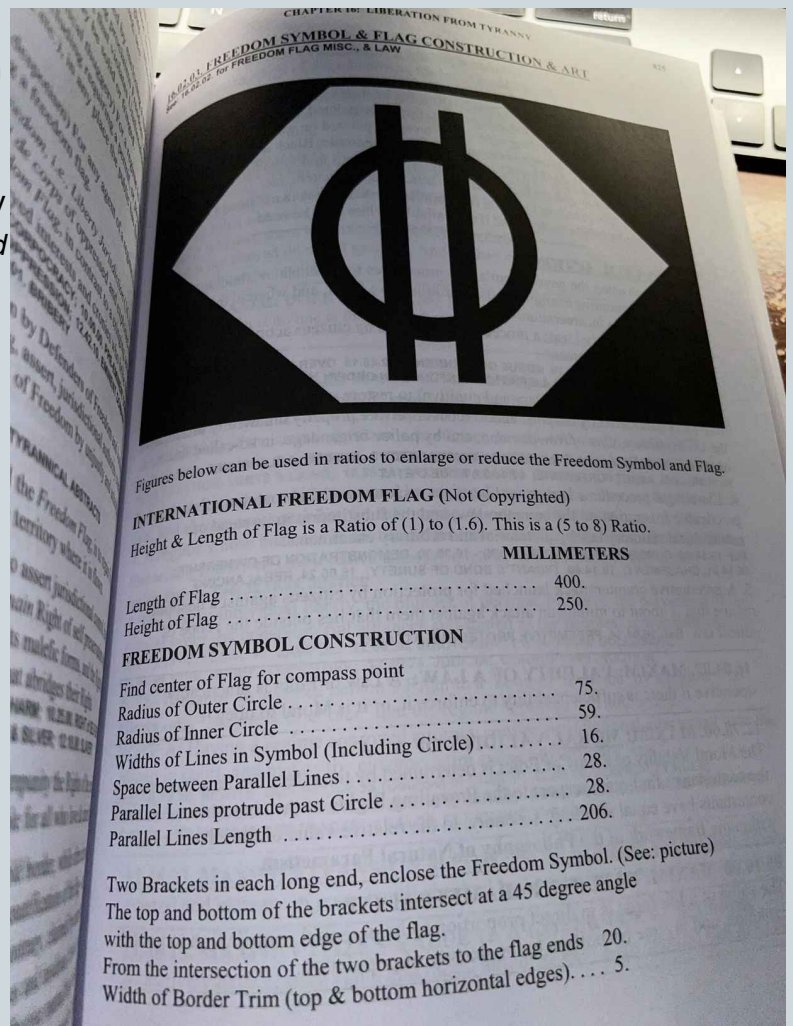
How did the Druid Sigil get shoehorned into this? The book doesn't make mention of druids or druidry or the history of the symbol. I suppose we can count that as a blessing: that readers of his manifesto won't find their way directly to us because of those ideologies. I believe the author found the Druid Sigil when searching for topics like Religious Freedom. He needed no other excuse. He saw the word *Freedom*, and took our symbol and twisted it into something nauseating and harmful. Perhaps he thought the Reformed Druids were obscure enough that we wouldn't notice he's repurposing our logo

for his racist movement. He wants his Alt-Right tribe to use his "Freedom Symbol" and his "Freedom Flag" to find each other out in the open.

Back in 2016 when I saw early warning signs in the druidry and pagan communities, this 1000 page book was probably already a manuscript. I couldn't have seen this coming, not in this way with the Druid Sigil. However, despite what I *did* see coming, the RDNA Council felt that there is nothing we can do about the encroachment. Though really, yes we can do something. We can easily make it official that the RDNA does not support racism or hatred. At the very least, by omission the RDNA never condoned racism, but that's not enough anymore. We need to make it official that *matters of the spirit never condone racism*.

For now, dear solo RDNA druids, study groups, Groves & Protogroves, please put statements out there that the RDNA does not condone racism, because that is a *de facto* truthful interpretation: *The Chronicles of the Foundation* and the rest of ARDA make **no** statements condoning it. The RDNA is about seeking Awareness in the *Good* things in Nature. Ancient Norse pagan and Buddhist symbols were already appropriated by Nazi Germany, causing them to be irreparably damaged in the eyes of society. The symbols can no longer redeem themselves, not with any amount of good intentions or reclaiming. **DO NOT LET THAT HAPPEN TO THE DRUID SIGIL!** May the Druid Sigil always be known to represent *basic good-natured druidism*, nothing more.

This book gets zero stars, and the author can go reprogram themselves.



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



Swollen Mississippi River, Elk River, MN



Swollen Mississippi River, Elk River, MN



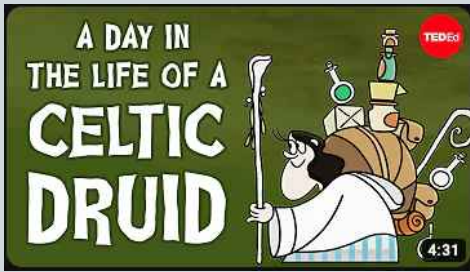
Portal to the Otherworld, Elk River, MN



Swollen Elk River, Elk River, MN

Videos of Interest

A Day in the Life of a Celtic Druid



A cute little Ted Talk on the ancient druids in Gaul

Children of the Sun – Wild Bees



I didn't realize there were so many kinds of bees in Europe! Trigger warning: one is a spider snack.

"Gales of Superior" Spring Storm 4/20/2023



Lake Superior is infamous for the "Gales of November," however April gales are more numerous. This storm featured 60 MPH (100 KMH) wind gusts. Between the 9-10 minute mark a rogue wave breaks open the green safety gates that are closed during the Season of Sleep, when *Gitche Gumee* is most violent. The gates exist because on April 30th, 1967, three brothers Nathan, Eric, and Arthur Halverson went out to the lighthouse during a storm like this one. All three brothers were swept off the pier over the canal walls and were never found. One Coast Guard serviceman, Edgar Culbertson, also died during the search and rescue attempt. The lake water was about 38° F (3°C) at the time. As I write this I realize that the tragedy occurred 55 years ago today. I've been along the shore on days like this when I lived there during college. Wind sends mist into your face like a thousand icy needles every second. The splash of the waves sends rocks and pebbles arcing through the air at you. You can see the size of some of the rocks on the walkway along the bottom edge of the video.

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

Fortuna Minor – Lesser Fortune

Rubeus – Red

Populus – People

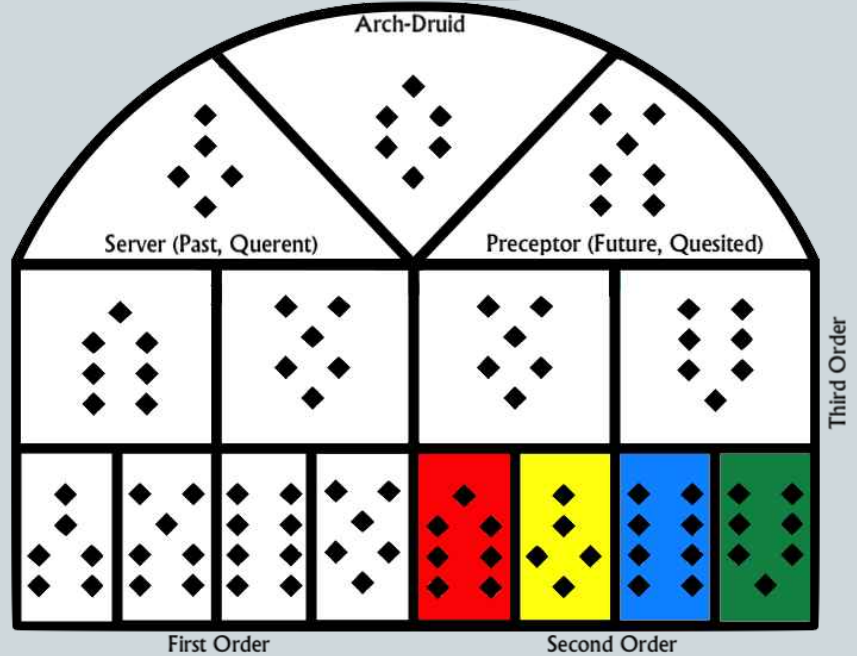
Acquisitio – Gain

Interpretation

There is an initial weakly optimistic outlook that can be helped by outside helpers. You must embrace the good with the bad, especially concerning money management. Though you will be among your brethren and sistren, and in standing together everything is favorable.

Prepare for a joyful passion, but be cautious not to overreact on your thoughts, because this is a time for the group to focus on matters of spirit, otherwise sorrowful conflicts may ensue.

The outlook is shaping up to be overwhelmingly joyful and a time of growth, particularly in meeting new people. Just don't get caught up trying to control how things pan out. Conflicts of the past are to be left in the past, though healing may take a few more months to come. Then things shall be more secure and stable in the end, ultimately resulting in beneficial net gains. Oh, and don't cry over a spilled chalice, it'll be fine!



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

- 1 Samradh (May 1) Beltane
- 5 Samhradh (May 5) Astrological Beltane & Full Moon
- 6 Samhradh (May 6) 60th Anniversary Gathering part 1 at Carleton College
- 19 Samhradh (May 19) New Moon
- 35 Samradh (June 4) Full Moon
- 48 Samhradh (June 17) 60th Anniversary Gathering part 2 at Carleton College Alumni Reunion
- 49 Samradh (June 18) New Moon
- 52 Samradh (June 21) Midsummer

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

- 18 Samradh (May 18) **Feast of Cernunnos** – Engage in the wild hunt. The rest of the SDNA description of this holiday is trash.
- 24 Samradh (May 24) **Feast of the Dark Goddess** – Celebrate Babh, the Morrigan, Macha, and other divine feminine foe-slayers, meditating upon their beauty.
- 25 Samradh (May 25) **Feast of the Two Ladies** – Celebrate the maiden and the mother, meditate on your feminine side and your concepts of womanhood.
- 44 Samradh (June 13) **Feast of Epona** – Go horseback riding and spend the day appreciating your equine friends. Give your kids ponies or horse books.
- 49 Samradh (June 18) **Festival of Bards** – Hold a big bardic revel with as much song and dance as possible.

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
- Sunset ProtoGrove



Lodging Information

Prices for lodging in Northfield dropped except at AmericInn. Availability has shifted, sorted nearest to farthest from Carleton College:

- [Fairfield Inn & Suites](#) ≈ \$339/night and up (has pool)
- [Country Inn & Suites](#) ≈ \$244/night and up (has pool) **TWO ROOMS LEFT**
- [AmericInn](#) ≈ \$198/night (has pool) **TWO ROOMS LEFT**
- [Coratel Inn & Suites](#) \$110/night (no pool) "PRM10OFF" for 10% off

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.

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



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!



(707) 407-8488 • Pottery@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

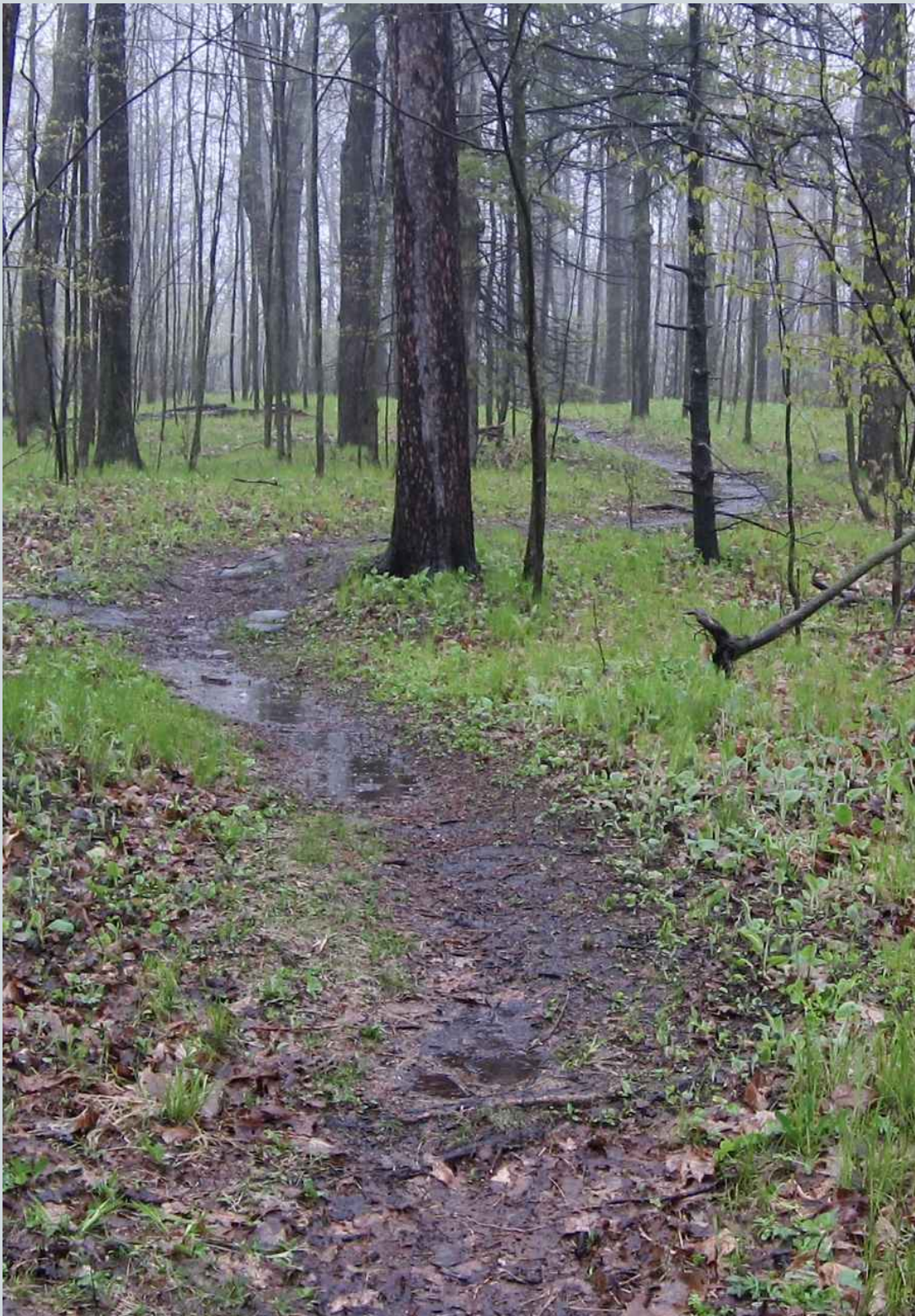
There is a [lite version of the same form](#) for those who don't have a Gmail account, which allows anyone to submit text-based contributions only.

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!



Foggy trail to Valley of Silence, College of Saint Scholastica, Duluth, Minnesota.