

# C.Φ.R.D. Biquarterly

## Connexus Of Reformed Druids

A publication for the Reformed Druids of North America – RDNA

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## Vernal Equinox



Photo: Council Fires Overlook at Oheyawahi, a very sacred place in Mendota Heights, Minnesota that translates to "A Hill Much Visited" in the Dakota language. In volume four of this newsletter we will gain Awareness of seven tribes who were here before us to honor their legacy. Fort Snelling burns in the background (prescribed burn for prairie restoration within the state park).

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# The Seven Council Fires of the Dakota

## Honoring those who were here before us.

This section of the newsletter was added after great deliberation. In the previous three volumes of this newsletter, three different stone circles have featured on the front cover: The Druid's Circle at Carleton College, the Meditation Garden at Springbrook Nature Center in Fridley, and a stone circle in dedication to Oak Savanna Park in Elk River – all in Minnesota where the newsletter editor lives. My greatest concern was cultural appropriation of a modern Native American stone circle for use as a cover image on a *druidic* publication.

I am in fact, part Native American. It shows rather prominently in my multiethnic appearance, but my indigenous ancestry does not include any local tribes, and I'm positively certain of that. A key factor is that my family is disconnected from their ancestral traditions, which are still living traditions today. Therefore I can't just start exploring or practicing them unless I was first invited to do so from within those communities. My ancestors had their indigenous identity stripped away when they assimilated into American culture and religion generations ago. Their cultural erasure was likely the only way to survive, but I digress.

The stone circle on the newsletter cover page is located in Mendota Heights at a sacred place called *Oheyawahi*, meaning "A Hill Much Visited" in the Dakota language. It overlooks the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers, which they call *Bdote*. In their oral traditions, that is at the tip of *Wita Tanka*, or "Big Island" (which is marked as Pike Island on our maps) where the ancestors of the Dakota descended from the sky. Bdote and Mendota both linguistically refer to the confluence of the rivers, with Mendota either as a dialectical difference or a spelling variation that stuck after it was first transcribed into writing.

Over four months of meditating on *not* choosing that site as a cover feature, I sought out the input of local indigenous voices. I also found various resources provided from their perspective. I learned more about my own state's history, including re-learning about the Dakota War of 1862, which I never would have learned about *at all* except after taking an elective course on Minnesota history back when I was in college. In the end, I decided there *is* a culturally sensitive way to include this stone circle as a feature of volume four of this newsletter.

The Dakota people *want* more people to learn about this place, about their history, about their voices. From our perspective as druids, we understand the importance of sacred landscapes. We have our own ways of expressing reverence for the land, and particularly places of power. As a druid however, I am **not** going to perform druid rituals at their stone circle. That *would* be culturally appropriative. It is far better to show you this sacred space so that it can be inwardly appreciated, so that we can all learn something from it, even if we are thousands of miles apart, and so that we can therefore honor the



legacy of those who have called this land their ancestral home, long before us. The Seven Council Fires stone circle is actually a ring of limestone benches. All are invited to sit there when they are not in use. All are invited to Oheyawahi for reflection and learning.

One other note of importance is some terminology worth learning. This sentence is the only place you will see me use the word *Sioux* to refer to these tribal nations. Most people aren't aware that it is a disparaging term, and not even a word in the Dakota language. It is an Ojibwe word meaning *Snakes*. Dakota, and the dialectical variations Lakota and Nakota mean *Friends* or *Allies*. This section of the newsletter may sometimes collectively use Dakota since it is the most common dialectical variation, though there is another term that some of today's tribal nations are pushing for people to learn and use: *Oceti Sakowin Oyate*, or *Seven Council Fires People*. (Source: [Lakota Times](#))

### **This article's featured Oceti Sakowin Nation: Sisitonwan**

The Sisitonwan tribe, commonly named *Sisseton* today, translates to "Medicine People Who Live by the Water." French explorers documented this tribe as ranging from Leech Lake in what is now northern Minnesota westward toward the Missouri River valley. As European colonizers pushed Ojibwe tribes west, they followed the Great Lakes into Minnesota, displacing and causing a lot of tension with the tribes of the Oceti Sakowin. The Ojibwe and Dakota quickly became enemies, leading to several centuries of intertribal warfare. The Ojibwe had one name they used for all of the Oceti Sakowin: *Sioux*, meaning *Snakes*. For this reason, many people of the Oceti Sakowin are opposed to being called the *Sioux*, because it is neither a Dakota word nor respectful.



At the signing of the Treaty of Traverse Des Sioux in 1851, Chief Ishtakhaba of the Sisitonwan Sakowin (in English known as Chief Sleepy Eye) was disheartened at the rushed pace of the treaty negotiations. He had long been friendly to the settlers in Minnesota and to the government. Governor Alexander Ramsey was pushing the final negotiations with a suspicious urgency. Sleepy Eye knew the treaty asked for too much from the Oceti Sakowin in return for not enough compensation. Sleepy Eye wanted more time for consideration, as well as to wait for additional members of his tribe who were on their way. Governor Ramsey insisted that only the chiefs needed to be present. Negotiations still dragged on, but the treaty was eventually signed without modifications.

The town of Sleepy Eye, Minnesota was founded in 1872, named after Chief Ishtakhaba whose village was there when it was part of the Lower Sioux Indian Reservation. Despite the treaties, settlers continued to move into reservation lands, and the treaties became nothing but broken promises.

Sources:

- [Mni Sota Makoce – The Land of the Dakota](#), Westerman & White, 2012

# News of the Groves

## News from Tucson Grove (AZ)

On Sunday, March 3rd, two members of Tucson Grove (Archdruid Adam and Preceptor David), attended a “Meet the Pagans” event at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson. UUCT is and has been very supportive of the Tucson Pagan community, even sponsoring a Chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS).

The purpose of this event was to introduce the congregation to various alternative spiritual paths that coexist alongside the more mainstream paths. The groups represented at this event included Druidry, Wicca, Magick, Tarot Readers and Rune workers. David introduced himself and Adam very briefly during the service. Later, the congregation had an opportunity to visit each table and learn about the group represented by that table. We had several people inquire about Druidry, and made several good contacts for the Grove. Hopefully, we will be invited back the next time the UUCT holds an event like this.



The Druidry display table



Tucson Grove Preceptor David explains  
Druidry to a congregation member.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Adam Grose, ODAL  
Archdruid  
Tucson Grove

## **News from Oakdale Grove (Minnesota)**

Oakdale Grove is on the cusp of completing Units 1 and 2 of the Order of Bradán Feasa (OBF) Druid training program! For any newer readers who are unfamiliar with the OBF program, it is a free training course for anyone interested in Druidry, regardless of whether or not they have an affiliation with any Druid order or are solo. It is designed with Reformed Druidism in mind, and can be adopted for use by any Groves, not just Oakdale Grove. Completion of the program does not bestow any ranks or ordinations, however participants will receive a certificate of completion and will be inducted into the Order of Bradán Feasa (*Salmon of Knowledge* in Gaelic from Irish mythology).

However, Units 1 and 2 provide enough information which Oakdale Grove has decided would be sufficient for any Second Order Druid candidate, thus securely preparing one to be *eligible* for the Office of Preceptor of an RDNA Grove. Certification would take place after the Unit 2 exam with a 90% or higher score. There would then be an optional Unit 3 which will be the Clergy Prep Course and Grove Governance Guide (GGG). Again, completion of Unit 3 will not bestow ordination, but would be a resource for candidates interested in the priesthood of the RDNA.

### **So where exactly are we at in terms of OBF progress?**

The Unit 1 interactive PDF draft version 0.41 is already *live* on Oakdale Grove's website, and is 181 pages. We have yet to complete filling in the glossary, and we can pretty much guarantee that some of Unit 1 is going to get bumped to Unit 3 because there's a lot of Grove-running advice littered throughout the first workbook already. So if people are completing v0.41 and submitting it back to us, they'll have done a little more than will be asked of them. So it's better to wait for version 1.0. Oh, and Oakdale Grove still has yet to vote on approving it, too.

Unit 2 is Mike the Fool's 2014 ARDA Study Course, adapted from its original Facebook discussion format into another interactive PDF workbook. It was incomplete in 2014, but Oakdale Grove has added some content for it, some of which will also get sent to the Unit 3 draft. Oakdale Grove's added content is clearly labeled so that Mike's original content stands apart from what we've augmented it with. That way each contributing author has the appropriate credit. The Unit 2 draft is 42 pages, also needs a complete glossary, but is otherwise mostly complete until we move the advanced questions to Unit 3.

Unit 3 is a husk. The draft has the title page, publishing information, dedication, table of contents shell, and some sample text for the sake of establishing document formatting. The goal is to have the optional Unit 3 live by the end of 2024. Unit 1 was started in 2020 and was originally meant to go live within a few months, so we'll see how Unit 3 goes!

# Bardic Column

## ***Season of the Mother Grove: Transition of Dismal Dripping***

by Edward Wellspring of Northfield

There was not winter. Only the barest hints of snow in gray skies suggested a change of season. My Yule retreat was short-lived in hazy rain, and I slid in mud. Disconsolate amid the dripping Grove, I found a sympathetically tear-stained offering of heartbreak sacrificed at the Great Altar. Congealed clouds hovered over the dawn and concealed morning, casting pallid gloom across the land this Yule. The darkness lasted but lightly, yielding later florid displays of flaming dawns. A dozen splendid crimson daybreaks dappled the season's short mornings.

The season could not be totally denied, for disease like plague descended on Northfield and for weeks shuttered society, but all other portents portrayed a mistaken time. Humidity hung as vacuous vapors, catching wide moonbeams that blocked out the stars above when clumping clouds did not. Instead of snow, fae fogs filled the Grove by night, and fair frosts gleamed on grass most mornings. In one such flash freeze, I saw a shining sundog signal icy severity. One lone thick snow leveled the earth in white. Yet each time when cold and snow appeared, they were blasted away by a flare of heat and steady sunshine, leaving the ground dark with mud and freeing the river to flow unimpeded. Most often when the skies shed their moisture, sighing rains soothed the thirsty soil. Roiling fog rose steaming from rich earth, and sunny, muddy days prompted ready feet to roam.

Through all December the restless rustle of squirrels persisted, and gangs of rival geese competed to control the open ponds. The geese never left until January, but more shocking yet, the ducks never departed at all. I encountered ducks in every single week of this season, a testament of temerity in this time of intemperate melt and swelter. The activity of them all may well explain the persistent presence of prowling foxes and confident coyotes. Even as I write, the songs of nest-builders mingle in the morning. All these speechless animals boast and laugh at a season easily survived. All season long, the Earth slept shallowly, disturbed and uneasy. Native leaves of forest flooring never lost their verdancy. Twice root weeds reared their heads to the shallow sun and put out sprouts between frosts. And just a fortnight from Imbolc the trees began their first buds, preparing premature pinions for spring. This Season of Sleep brings little rest.

# Campfire Colloquy

## Overview

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

## Big News: New Ordinations to the Orders of Belenos and Sirona!

### By John the Verbose

Sunday, March 17, 2024 was the Pan-Druid Ritual at Paganicon in Minnesota led by Jon Drum, Archdruid of ADF. Jumping back in time to Beltane of 2023, Jon was unable to attend the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gathering of the RDNA at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, when we had previously been making plans to bring the next advancements to Reformed Druidism. Those plans had gone on hold, and in order to make them work out, I realized that whenever the next opportunity presented itself, we'd have to seize the day.

Back to the present, at Paganicon Jon and I started discussing ideas on Friday: day 1 of the annual indoor pagan convention. By Saturday, we concluded that the Pan-Druid ritual on Sunday morning would be an excellent time to ordain Jon Drum to the RDNA's Order of Belenos and Order of Sirona: higher levels of the Reformed Druid priesthood. Normally, ordinations do not occur during the Season of Sleep in times such as the Vernal Equinox. That doesn't mean it can't be done. After all, even David the Chronicler became a Third Order Druid in April of 1964.

The Pan-Druid Ritual was a hybridized ADF & RDNA style ceremony, where explanations were added here and there for any attendees who were unfamiliar with the ritual format. Jon had previously asked if I would like to honor the Earth-Mother in the ADF style, and lead the Catechism of the Waters in the RDNA style. In past ADF rituals, one of my favorite segments to pitch in with is Honoring and later Thanking the Earth-Mother. I sang the RDNA's Hymn to the Earth-Mother and asked for the acceptance of it as an offering. All of the attendees watching the ritual even made their personal offerings at the altar, and our Sacrifices were well-accepted.

For the Magical Workings segment, we had the two back-to-back ordinations. We told the audience that these ritual segments are extremely rare occurrences that have only taken place a few times ever. I stated that the Council of Belenos and the Council of Sirona had invited Jon Drum to enter those orders. He completed the rite of passage for Belenos, but there were some new considerations to take for the Order of Sirona's rite of passage.

When Gary Zempel was the first person ordained to the Order of Sirona in 1966, Carleton Grove picked him up and threw him into Lyman Lakes at Carleton College. In 2017 when the Council of Belenos voted to appoint me as Zempel's successor, I was pushed into Lyman Lakes at roughly the



exact same spot as Zempel. However, what could not be seen at the time back in 2017 was what was under the surface of Lyman Lakes.

The water is so murky that nobody could see the dense mesh of tree branches under the water. I wasn't impaled, but I immediately realized that was a distinct possibility. The more pressing concern when I was thrown in, was the fact that my legs and hands went through the interlocking web of slippery branches. Pushing myself up had them all flexing, closing gaps, tightening, pushing my hands off to the side, and catching on everything as I tried to lift myself up. It only took 10-15 seconds to finally stand up and get out of the lake, but I realized there was just too much danger in that setting for such a rite of passage.

Stacey Weinberger was ordained to the Order of Sirona in 2023 at the Beltane reunion, *next to* Lyman Lakes. Instead of pushing her into the water, we decided it would be safer and just as effective to asperge her with a soaking wet tree branch that had been dipped into the lake. I suppose by asperging, it actually turned out that Mike the Fool who volunteered to wield the wet branch gave her a good *thwap* with the wet branch as well.

This past weekend for Jon Drum's ordination to the Order of Sirona, we agreed upon an anointing of spring water. I used my blue glass Georgian pattern chalice to pour the spring water onto him. The moment was moderately awkward for me to perform. First of all, because I am not one to pour water on people. Second, never in my lifetime had I ever imagined that I would one day pour a glass of water on the leader of an entire world religion! Deep down inside, my soul was gritting its teeth, while the other part of me was thinking, yup, it's an RDNA tradition! I'm just elated that we had discussed the idea in advance, and we were in agreement of its acceptability. Plus I got water on myself too, during the congratulatory hug.



## Further Thoughts on the Higher Orders of the Reformed Druids of North America

By John the Verbose

So now the Order of Sirona *finally* has a council. The higher orders of the RDNA can only be established when the next order *beneath* has a minimum council of three members. The Fourth Order could not have been established until the Third Order had three members: Fisher, Frangquist, and Nelson. That way they could get a 2/3 majority or higher to appoint someone to the Order of Grannos. Until 2017, the Order of Sirona had only been Gary Zempel, and he had resigned with a note in the

archives stating "do with my offices and titles what you will."

In 2017, the Council of Belenos voted with greater than a 2/3 majority to replace Zempel with me in the Order of Sirona. Now that the Order of Sirona has three active members, I would like to convene its first formal council to build out the other higher orders of the RDNA. There's a popular belief that the higher orders are "closed," but in reality, they're just hard to get into. You first have to be a Third Order Druid in the RDNA, and then you have to be *invited* by a member of that order, the invitation has to be approved by the Matriarch, Patriarch, or Atriarch (I prefer using the gender-neutral neologism *Atriarch*) of that higher order, and the ordination has to be done in person.

The Order of Taranis, the Eighth Order of Reformed Druidism, is the next order to populate before Llyr and someday even Danu can be populated by living representatives. Somehow, Mike the Fool is listed as the Patriarch of the Order of Taranis, though I'm skeptical about its validity, given that the Order of Sirona didn't have a proper council until a few *days* ago. Regardless, I know Mike *did* hold an outdoor vigil while he was in Hurricane Ivan. The Council of Sirona will still have to hold a vote first, but I will put forward a motion to endorse and retroactively acknowledge Mike as the Patriarch of Taranis. I would also make a motion to suggest that Mike builds out the Order of Taranis to those who would contribute to the long term advancement of Reformed Druidism, inviting other enthusiastic members to the Order. In our proposal, I hope to also motion to suggest that a safer rite of passage be prescribed on behalf of the wellbeing of candidates to that order. The Council of Sirona cannot make decisions for the administration of other Orders, but it doesn't hurt to make requests.

Also keep in mind that Stephen Crimmins (ODAL, Order of Hephaestus), had suggested that once the Order of Danu has living Druids appointed into it, that there should be the following additional orders added: The Eleventh Order, the Order of the Morrigan; the Twelfth Order, the Order of Arawn, and the Thirteenth Order, the Order of Aengus. I imagine that the Council of Danu would technically be able to create the next higher order of their choosing. though it would be nice if some of the existing unnumbered higher orders get shoehorned in somewhere with a number. Perhaps the Orders of Lugh, Brigit, Ogmios, Belisama, Arvalus, Sucellos, Nantosuelta, Trebaruna, Epona, Camulos, Cernunnos, Nemetona, and others could someday be populated and receive a numeric ordering!

# 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

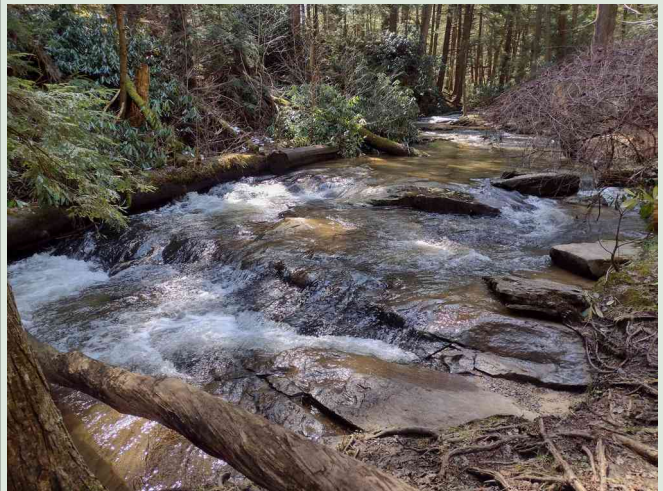
**USA: District of Columbia:** Tyler Vanice on behalf of *Potomac Protogrove* in Washington DC. If interested, please reach out. Email [tyler.vanice&gmail/com](mailto:tyler.vanice@gmail.com).

**USA: Georgia: Savannah:** Hey this is a PSA. There are druids in your area seeking other druids (like, at least three, and I don't think it's the same person), we just don't have names or contact info. I can't even remember where I've been seeing references to this (Probably somewhere on Discord), but hey, reach out to us if you wanna put in a bulletin here. Contact the newsletter editor!



# Vivid Visions Gallery

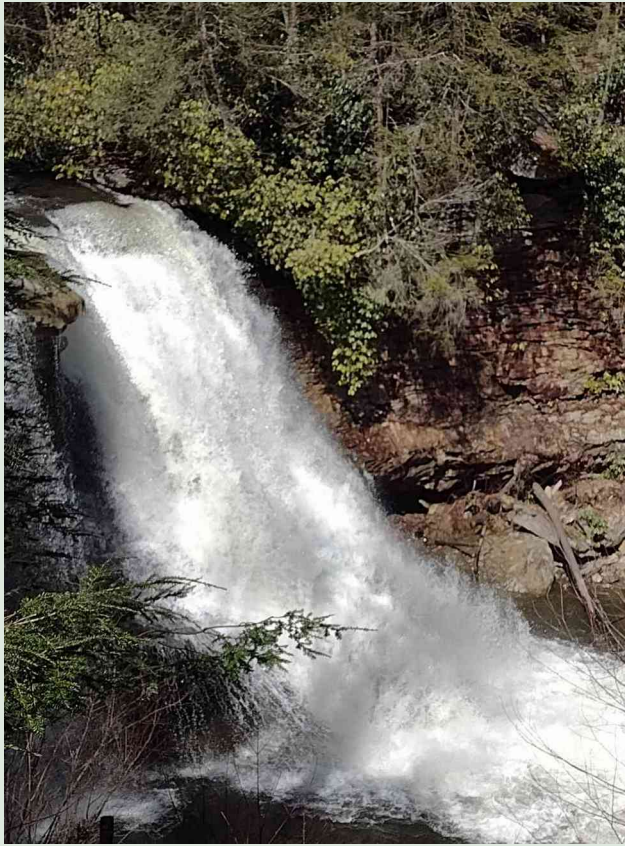
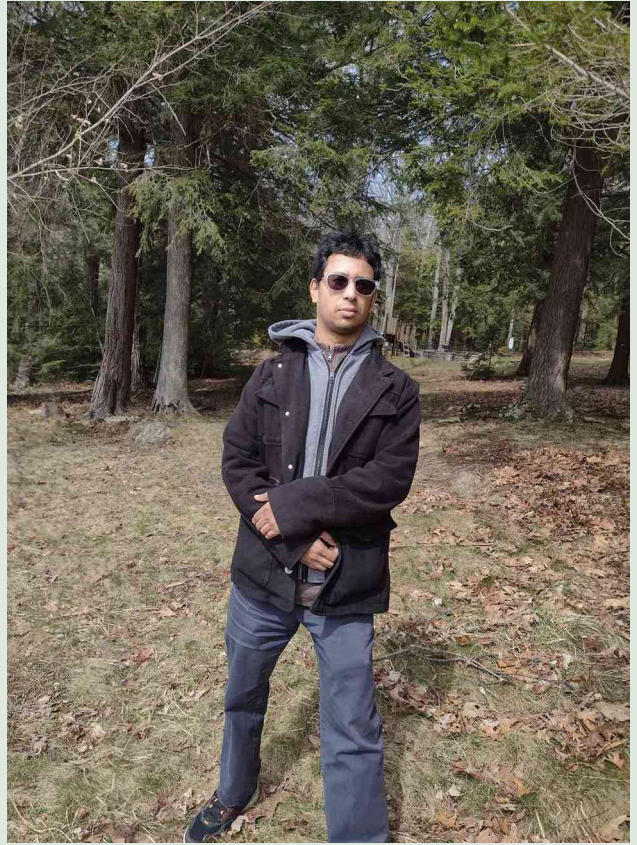
## Contributions from Kynan of Maryland



I took these photos on my solitary, self-led Nature retreat to Swallow Falls Park, Herrington Manor Park, Deep Creek Lake, and New Germany Park, all of which were in the western frontier of Maryland. Each park was a unique nemeton of its own and had its own Spirit of Place. I appreciated meditating on waterfalls and forests, praying to the Sun and open sky, observing sparks of sunlight on the lakes, and hiking through a wooded trail.

[more on next page]







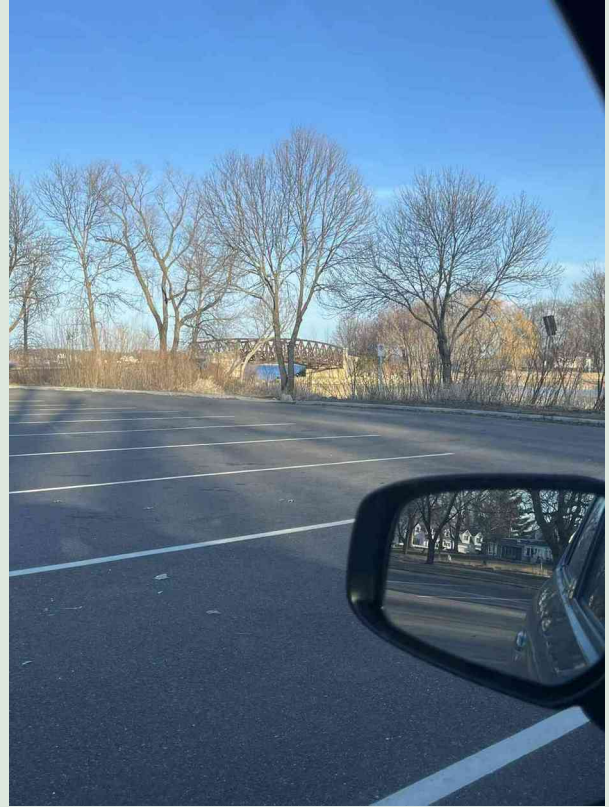
**Contribution from Emma Larson**



Crocus in early March



**Contributions from *I Talk To The Trees***





**Contributions from John the Verbose**



Sugar maple by moonlight



The tree that hugs you back, by moonlight



Two frozen creeks, by moonlight



Tree eating a clothesline pole, by daylight



## Videos of Interest

### Is It Possible To Decipher Prehistoric Rock Art?



### The Incredible Neolithic Finds Of Ancient Britain



### What Happened At Pen Y Crug? – The Story Of An Iron Age Hill Fort



# The Right Rites For Rampant Ritualists

## Overview

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

## Equinox Enrichment Experiment

by Johayan Sycamore Bear

Today is the Equinox. Vernal for the Northern Hemisphere and Autumnal for the Southern Hemisphere.

The Earth Mother balances on her axis – north and south  
For brief moment of balance – night and day equal  
But like all things – the moment is fleeting

My task (a challenge really) for you is thus:

Set aside 15 minutes and if you can, spend it in Nature.

Listen to the trees, the birds, the fauna.

Silently, ponder the upcoming season and how each season flows into the next.

I'd like for you to think on something that I'd submitted previously to this newsletter as part of a larger poem:

Across the planet – north to south  
Plants and animals adjust their rhythms  
In rhythm – one season follows another

A fleeting moment of balance and order in the natural world  
Gives way to another moment of change – the illusion is complete  
There is no balance and order – only illusion of adjustment.

We all can add our own knowledge and experience to the world around us.

Help others as we would hope they would help us.  
Be considerate. We don't know the truths of others.  
Small acts can have large results.

# Augur's Intuition

## Overview

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

## Submission by John the Verbose

### Methodology: Lorraine Anderson's Gratitude Deck of Appreciation

#### About this deck

Lorraine asks that you allow this deck to shift your perspective. This isn't an oracle deck, nor a form of divination. Nevertheless, meditate on these cards as a form of guidance. Do they feel intuitively relevant? Are you experiencing any synchronicity regarding what the cards say? Above all, are they helping you and/or others to have a more fulfilling life? Each card has unique imagery on the back. The text from each one will be transcribed here, with the imagery shown on the right.

#### Cards drawn

- Take a walk. Spend time being thankful for little wonders all around you.
- Use your imagination. Contemplate what life would be like without everything you have.
- Share a hug. There are many ways to say "I love you."



# The "Carletongny" Calendar

## Overview

Did you know Reformed Druidism has its own calendar system? There are different ways of calculating RDNA time, but here is the method that this newsletter uses. Carleton Grove called 1963 the *First Year of the Reform* (Y.R.) which for them began at Beltane. They had no year zero. That's why 2023 was Y.R. 61 at Beltane for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, not year 60. Beltane (May 1) is when **summer** begins, or **Samradh** (SAU-rah) which lasts 92 days. Lughnasadh (August 1) is when **autumn** begins, or **Foghamhar** (FOE-war), lasting 92 days. Samhain (November 1) is when **winter** begins, or **Geimredh** (GEV-rah), lasting 92 days. Oimelc (February 1) is when **spring** begins, or **Earrach** (ARE-rock), lasting 89-90 days. The term "Carletongny" Calendar is merely a play on words from the *Coligny* Calendar, an archaeological discovery of a fragmented Celtic calendar.

C.E. (Beltane)	Y.R.	C.E. (Beltane)	Y.R.	C.E. (Beltane)	Y.R.	C.E. (Beltane)	Y.R.
1963	1	1993	31	2023	61	2053	91
1964	2	1994	32	2024	62	2054	92
1965	3	1995	33	2025	63	2055	93
1966	4	1996	34	2026	64	2056	94
1967	5	1997	35	2027	65	2057	95
1968	6	1998	36	2028	66	2058	96
1969	7	1999	37	2029	67	2059	97
1970	8	2000	38	2030	68	2060	98
1971	9	2001	39	2031	69	2061	99
1972	10	2002	40	2032	70	2062	100
1973	11	2003	41	2033	71	2063	101
1974	12	2004	42	2034	72	2064	102
1975	13	2005	43	2035	73	2065	103
1976	14	2006	44	2036	74	2066	104
1977	15	2007	45	2037	75	2067	105
1978	16	2008	46	2038	76	2068	106
1979	17	2009	47	2039	77	2069	107
1980	18	2010	48	2040	78	2070	108
1981	19	2011	49	2041	79	2071	109
1982	20	2012	50	2042	80	2072	110
1983	21	2013	51	2043	81	2073	111
1984	22	2014	52	2044	82	2074	112
1985	23	2015	53	2045	83	2075	113
1986	24	2016	54	2046	84	2076	114
1987	25	2017	55	2047	85	2077	115
1988	26	2018	56	2048	86	2078	116
1989	27	2019	57	2049	87	2079	117
1990	28	2020	58	2050	88	2080	118
1991	29	2021	59	2051	89	2081	119
1992	30	2022	60	2052	90	2082	120



## Foghamhar Y.R. 61 Date Conversion Chart

<b>Earrach</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Earrach</b>	<b>Spring</b>
1	Thu, Feb 1, 2024	46	Sun, Mar 17, 2024
2	Fri, Feb 2, 2024	47	Mon, Mar 18, 2024
3	Sat, Feb 3, 2024	48	Tue, Mar 19, 2024
4	Sun, Feb 4, 2024	49	Wed, Mar 20, 2024
5	Mon, Feb 5, 2024	50	Thu, Mar 21, 2024
6	Tue, Feb 6, 2024	51	Fri, Mar 22, 2024
7	Wed, Feb 7, 2024	52	Sat, Mar 23, 2024
8	Thu, Feb 8, 2024	53	Sun, Mar 24, 2024
9	Fri, Feb 9, 2024	54	Mon, Mar 25, 2024
10	Sat, Feb 10, 2024	55	Tue, Mar 26, 2024
11	Sun, Feb 11, 2024	56	Wed, Mar 27, 2024
12	Mon, Feb 12, 2024	57	Thu, Mar 28, 2024
13	Tue, Feb 13, 2024	58	Fri, Mar 29, 2024
14	Wed, Feb 14, 2024	59	Sat, Mar 30, 2024
15	Thu, Feb 15, 2024	60	Sun, Mar 31, 2024
16	Fri, Feb 16, 2024	61	Mon, Apr 1, 2024
17	Sat, Feb 17, 2024	62	Tue, Apr 2, 2024
18	Sun, Feb 18, 2024	63	Wed, Apr 3, 2024
19	Mon, Feb 19, 2024	64	Thu, Apr 4, 2024
20	Tue, Feb 20, 2024	65	Fri, Apr 5, 2024
21	Wed, Feb 21, 2024	66	Sat, Apr 6, 2024
22	Thu, Feb 22, 2024	67	Sun, Apr 7, 2024
23	Fri, Feb 23, 2024	68	Mon, Apr 8, 2024
24	Sat, Feb 24, 2024	69	Tue, Apr 9, 2024
25	Sun, Feb 25, 2024	70	Wed, Apr 10, 2024
26	Mon, Feb 26, 2024	71	Thu, Apr 11, 2024
27	Tue, Feb 27, 2024	72	Fri, Apr 12, 2024
28	Wed, Feb 28, 2024	73	Sat, Apr 13, 2024
29	Thu, Feb 29, 2024	74	Sun, Apr 14, 2024
30	Fri, Mar 1, 2024	75	Mon, Apr 15, 2024
31	Sat, Mar 2, 2024	76	Tue, Apr 16, 2024
32	Sun, Mar 3, 2024	77	Wed, Apr 17, 2024
33	Mon, Mar 4, 2024	78	Thu, Apr 18, 2024
34	Tue, Mar 5, 2024	79	Fri, Apr 19, 2024
35	Wed, Mar 6, 2024	80	Sat, Apr 20, 2024
36	Thu, Mar 7, 2024	81	Sun, Apr 21, 2024
37	Fri, Mar 8, 2024	82	Mon, Apr 22, 2024
38	Sat, Mar 9, 2024	83	Tue, Apr 23, 2024
39	Sun, Mar 10, 2024	84	Wed, Apr 24, 2024
40	Mon, Mar 11, 2024	85	Thu, Apr 25, 2024
41	Tue, Mar 12, 2024	86	Fri, Apr 26, 2024
42	Wed, Mar 13, 2024	87	Sat, Apr 27, 2024
43	Thu, Mar 14, 2024	88	Sun, Apr 28, 2024
44	Fri, Mar 15, 2024	89	Mon, Apr 29, 2024
45	Sat, Mar 16, 2024	90	Tue, Apr 30, 2024

# Blogs & Social Media Links

## Blogs Curated By Druids (accumulative each issue)

- *I Talk To The Trees's* blog [Corey Adventures](#)
- Ellen Evert Hopman's blog [A Druid's Blog](#)
- John the Verbose's [Tumblr](#)
- TheMageiboLine's [Tumblr](#)
- Druid Dad's blog [A Modern Druid Journey](#)

## Social Media

- C.O.R.D. Biquarterly'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](#)
- Oakdale Grove's [Instagram](#)
- [Druid Dad Discord Server](#)

## Other Media

- Podcast: [Druid Dad Podcast](#)

# 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 questions that really invoke critical thinking in my responses that keeps me on my toes!



### 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](http://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 59<sup>th</sup> 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](#), 2<sup>nd</sup> 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)

# 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

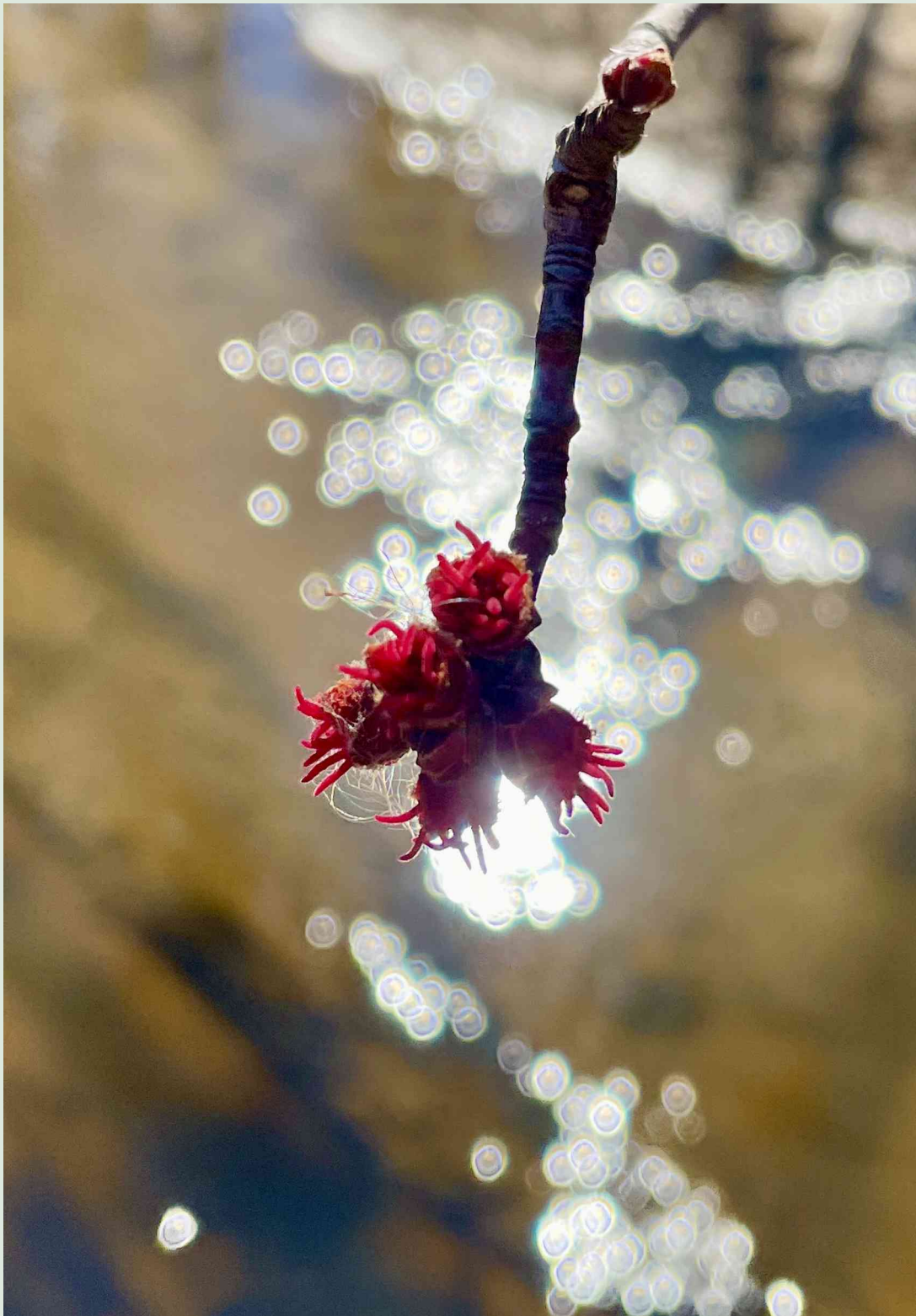
There is a [lite version of the same form](#) for those who don't have a Gmail account, which allows anyone to submit text-based contributions only.

## 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!



Sugar maple flowers budding, Eastman Nature Center, Maple Grove, Minnesota