

C.Φ.R.D. Biquarterly

Connexus Of Reformed Druids

A publication for the Reformed Druids of North America – RDNA

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Autumnal Equinox



Photo: Oakdale Grove's Druid Sigil-inscribed stone, moved from our oak grove to the paved trail around 2020 during prairie restoration, probably because it had a mysterious carving on it.

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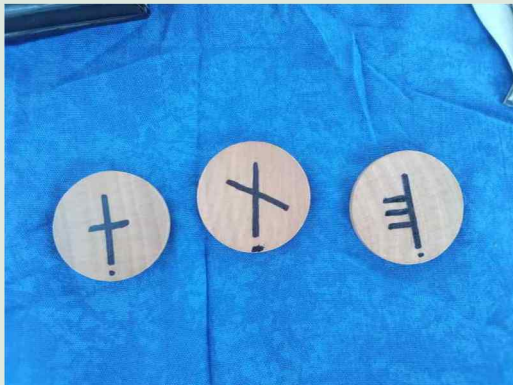
Click on a line to jump to that page.

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

News of the Groves

News from Tucson Grove (Arizona)

Tucson Grove celebrated Autumn Equinox on Saturday September 21st, 2024. Two Grove members and two visitors were in attendance (although another visitor caught up with me after the ritual. I was at another event in the same park, and told him where I was. We talked for about 20 minutes, I think). We used the ritual from the Black Book of Liturgy, with very minor changes. Our Grove Preceptor, David, took an omen, using the Grove's set of Ogham discs. It was determined that our sacrifice WAS accepted by the Earth Mother.



The Ogham that he pulled were:

- Ailm- Energy
- Muin- Introspection
- Fern- Endurance

Also, just before the ritual started, we had someone come by and ask who we were and what we were doing. I told her about the Reformed Druids and gave her some information on the Reformed Druids. She and I talked for a few minutes, and she told me about how she had lost both her husband and the community of the church she belonged to. It seems like she is kind of seeking. She didn't stay for ritual, but we wish her peace on her spiritual journey.

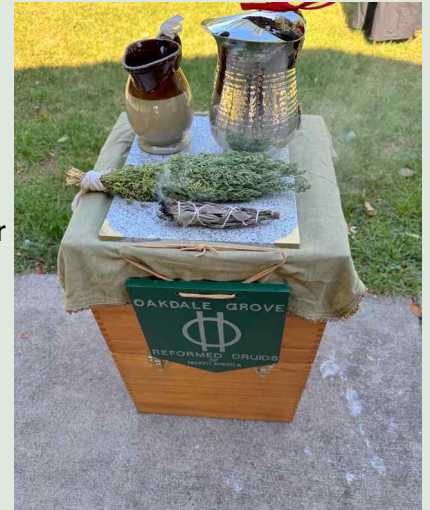
The big news is that Tucson Grove has a new member, we welcomed Ryan to the Grove on September 20th. Ryan is the one that was consecrated into the 1st Order back in July. Tucson Grove now stands at 6 members, and we have extended invitations to several others to become part of the Grove. Best wishes to all for the Autumn season!

Adam Grose
Archdruid
Tucson Grove

News from Oakdale Grove (Minnesota)

We held our annual elections for Grove officers when we met for our Autumnal Equinox ritual. In the morning we had some thunderstorms roll through, but it was sunny and drying out in time for our gathering, election, and ceremony. As is our informal custom, I had our Grove's framed constitution on display in case anyone wanted to review the requirements for the officer roles.

We've had a few new contacts expressing interest in Druidry lately, so we may be on the verge of a cycle of renewal in the Grove. We've also been contacted for conducting interviews as part of an anthropology project, so this too is an interesting development for sure. We've had a warmer start to fall, but even in August I was seeing changes in the sugar maples and the cottonwood trees. They're always the first to whisper of the coming autumn. Then finally overnight on the even of the Autumnal Equinox itself, the weather began to shift, drying out and cooling rapidly. With the windows open, it was time to put a blanket back on the bed!



Bardic Column

***Season of the Mother Grove: Summer of Broad Rings* by Edward Wellspring**

Summer slipped in, sliding on nightly rain and dawning to daily sun. Light winds lifted lovely clouds, raised stacks of storms, and stirred sweeping fronts. With boisterous laughter Lord Taranis pounded the earth night after night with drench and downpour. Rivers rose and roared, erupting over rims. Dragon jaws lashed at their conventional cages, and waters swelled: they broke over banks, filled up flood plains, lapped at hill slopes, and minimized human domains. The soil softened and mud loosened as currents cut and shaped the land anew. The flow found new fields of play and raced with the punchdrunk headiness of a frolicking foal. Then came the strangest signs of the season: withdrawing waters wallowed within the flood plain bounds and abided there, fivefold, eightfold wider than the river's normal form. Rain fell and more rain followed. In standing water, ducks paddled down bicycle trails and herons trod baseball diamonds. For an entire month, trees stood as pillars on a flat temple floor, and sparse disturbances sent rings rippling all around.

Yet the Earth Mother sang a litany of life. Sunlight separated storms and pierced perfect picturesque cloudscapes, lifting dense humid air from pools and mudflats. Trapped in moist atmosphere transported from tropics, plants thrived in chalcedon canopies' corridors and underbrush's shamrock walls. Thick foliage formed muted glades and filled the fecund forests with shadowed warrens, a wealth of luscious leaves blocking all sightlines. In the stillness of lazy humid days, no silence was felt: insect life galore bustled and scuttled, surrounding victims in unsteady rings and white noise swarms. Amid their restless noise, I happened to shock a coyote out of dense brush before my feet. Happily this lush bounty brought back the rabbits, while fledglings fed greedily on plentiful bugs and bough-bending burdens of nuts. Constant activity thrived and twirled in heady dance of life, so Dalon ap Landu grinned wide: in their eager reaching, the Mother Grove's well watered trees proudly swelled in sunlight and fattened by broad rings.

Signs and omens stalked other corners of life. As summer settled into persistent, hot days, scattered storms and sudden lightning arrested the floods' overstayed presence. Flood plains went drowned and washed all summer, while some days the beating sun fell on fetid fish that fouled the air. An ominous owl awake by day boded death, while an eagle disturbed from breakfast ascended with halcyon auspices. Crops stood crippled in the fields low or flat, while towering stalks crowned hilltops and wreathed the landscape in waving fronds. At last the air settled, with mild dewy nights unveiling slow morning clouds. Pockets of heat persist and promise more yet to this Season of Life.

In Anticipation of the Equinox by Jax K.

A shadow thrown towards solstice night

Cold storms blowing over head

Friends dispersed by snow and ice

Darkness drawing in our dread

Scorn for winter

Fear of quiet

Spite for light's retreat

Anxious hearts locked in homes

where hope feels far from reach

Mourn light's loss, but remember

that in darkness The Mystery unfolds

The seed that blooms in spring

requires dark and cold

Darkness lives in each of us

with or without the sun

The Cycle is alive within

and dark deserves love in turn

In darkness we rest, we reflect, we grow

For it is only the Season of Sleep

Neither light nor life leaves us

So let the darkness relieve us

of our sorrow and our grief

A Contribution from Kip Satyr

As the wheel turns, we find ourselves at the threshold of Mabon, the Autumn Equinox. A time of balance, where day and night stand equal, a fleeting moment of harmony before the descent into the longer nights of winter.

The harvest is gathered, the fruits of our labor laid bare. We reflect on the seeds sown in the spring, the growth nurtured through summer's warmth. Now, we reap what we have sown, both in the fields and within our souls.

Mabon invites us to pause, to give thanks for the abundance we have received. It is a time to honor the Earth, to acknowledge the cycles of life and death, growth and decay. We stand in gratitude, recognizing the interconnectedness of all things.

As the leaves begin to turn and fall, we are reminded of the impermanence of life. Change is inevitable, and with it Comes the opportunity for transformation. We let go of what no longer serves us, making space for new beginnings.

In this moment of equilibrium, we find clarity. We look inward, contemplating our journey, our achievements, and Our lessons. Mabon is a time of introspection, a chance to align ourselves with the rhythms of nature and our own inner truths.

May we embrace this season with open hearts, finding peace in the balance, and strength in the cycles of life. As we honor Mabon, we honor ourselves and the world around us.

Campfire Colloquy

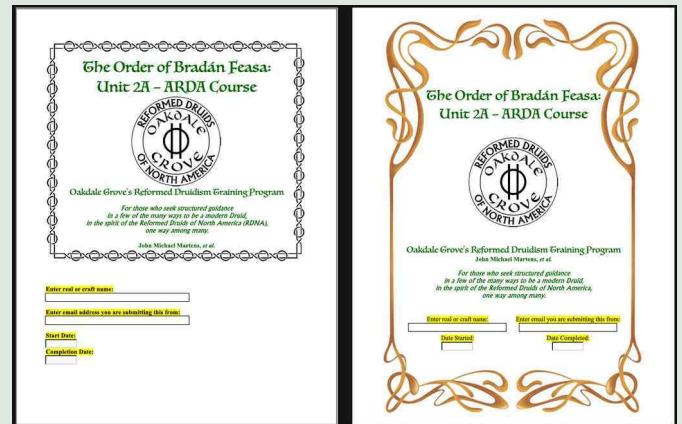
Overview

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

An RDNA Style Druid Training Program – Major Update – by John the Verbose

We have just launched Unit 2 of the Order of Bradán Feasa Druid training program! That includes the separate Unit 2B online ARDA exam, which covers factual trivia from *The Chronicles of the Foundation* through "The Isaac Affair" from *The Books of the Apocrypha*. The exam is about 100 questions long, so we don't really want to expand it into other sections of ARDA for the sake of saving everyone time and effort.

We've also given the cover page a redesign, at least for Units 2 and 3. The Unit 1 cover will be replaced the next time we make a revision to that workbook. The Art Deco style Druid Sigil frame was nice, but it felt really blocky. The program facilitators came together at a Druid hangout recently and we selected two Art Nouveau style frames: one for the certificate of completion design and the other for the book cover of the OBF courses. The organic and viny look of Art Nouveau seems more appropriate for Druidry than the more geometric and angular Art Deco does at least, and it just fits the cover better. When we update the cover for Unit 1, it will have a matching green frame, and Unit 3 will have a matching red frame.



Ahead we have the arbitrary deadline of "end of 2024" to start creating, finishing, and launching the optional Unit 3: the *Clergy Prep Course and Grove Governance Guide (GGG)*. Considering how long it took to create the first two units, I'm wondering if I should extend our deadline to Beltane 2025. We'll see!

Vivid Visions Gallery

Contributions from John the Verbose



Jay Cooke State Park, Carlton, MN



Jay Cooke State Park, Carlton, MN



Jay Cooke State Park, Carlton, MN



Ripe apples, Oakdale Nature Preserve

Augur's Intuition

Overview

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

Submission by John the Verbose

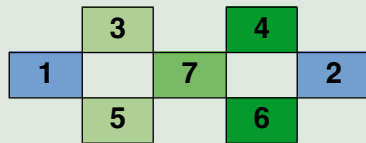
Methodology: Tarot of Druids

About this deck

This isn't your typical Tarot deck, as the major and minor arcana are different, and you need to keep them as separate stacks. Cards 1 & 2 at the left and right are always from the major arcana deck, and the five cards in the middle need to be from the minor arcana deck. Cards on the left of the minor arcana are of lesser influence, the minor on the right have a stronger influence.



Cards drawn (the Beltane spread)



1. **Mood:** Fintan mac Bochra – poetic instinct and imagination
2. **Your Influences:** Art mac Cond – illness, defeat, or famine

External Influences:

3. Knave of Anguinum – brilliant or new ideas
4. Four of Swords – escape from danger
5. Six of Chalice – nightmares, nostalgia, or regrets
6. Two of Anguinum – commercial undertakings or arriving correspondence
7. Seven of Swords – Irrationality, betrayal, unkindness, or secrets

Interpretation

Tough times can inspire the mind, bringing creativity, innovating ways to persevere, shrugging off the stresses of the past. Despite what you've been put through and how others have treated you, you're in for something better to come.

Other 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](#) (not updated as much, but still a repository of druidic content)
- TheMageiboLine's [Tumblr](#)

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 [Facebook page](#)
- Tribe of the Oak Celtic Reconstructionist (non-RDNA) Druid Grove [website](#)
- White Rabbit Grove's [Facebook page](#)
- Oakdale Grove's [Instagram](#)

Other Media

- Podcast: [Druid Dad Podcast](#)

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, but 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 Listing](#) on Oakdale Grove's website. 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 2024, the 62nd Year of the Reform (Y.R.) began on the first day of Samradh, which is one day after the 90th day of Earrach. It simply counts the days of each season as well.

- [RDNA Gregorian/Year of the Reform Conversion spreadsheet](#) can be a helpful tool.

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)

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 it was difficult to communicate with the Council 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 developing the new RDNA style Druid training program, and established an honor society for those who complete it called the Order of Bradán Feasa.

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 on the day 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
- Propose a topic; you can help make this newsletter be a success!

Thank You!

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



A contribution by *I Talk To The Trees* with the earliest vestiges of autumn.