

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

News of the Groves

News from Starved Rock Grove (Illinois) by John the Verbose

Amidst of the Season of Sleep is LIFE! Aaron of Starved Rock Grove has been ordained to the Order of Dalon Ap Landu: the Third Order of the Reformed Druids of North America! This may sound unusual to have ordinations outside the Season of Life, but it is not without precedent. Historically, David the Chronicler Vigiled in the month of April. Carleton Grove has also had Vigils and ordinations in late November during Thanksgiving break. Across the history of the RDNA, there have been a handful of other wintry ordinations conducted.

The operational condition is that off-season ordinations to Third Order are conducted in the event of a "Druid emergency." The phrase itself is tongue-in-cheek, in accordance with the lighthearted nature of Reformed Druidism. In Aaron's case however, the emergency arose that he'll be going away soon, and won't be in an area known to have Third Order Druids until the next Season of Sleep returns later this year.

These "Druid emergencies" aren't without *penalty* though. The penalty for an out-of-season ordination is *time*. Vigils are sunset to sunrise, so any Vigils in winter are almost guaranteed to be at least 12 hours long. That amount of extra sleep deprivation is guaranteed to be noteworthy for both the ordainee and the ordainer. However, the added time duration also demonstrates the level of commitment both individuals have toward the furthering of Reformed Druidism and to the fulfillment of their oaths of service.

The free time available for both the ordainer and the ordainee happened to coincide with the Blood Worm Lunar Eclipse just last week. The sky was clear through the night. The eclipse amplifies the new beginnings. As the sun rose at dawn (as it usually does), the greening grass and verdant moss was also in its new beginnings as the Season of Life emerged in tandem with the Waters-of-Life. Aaron has been instrumental in the growth and progress of Starved Rock Grove. He even served in the capacity of Preceptor for a high-profile interfaith ritual held earlier in the winter. Congratulations to Aaron (...and there was much rejoicing)!

News from Oakdale Grove (Minnesota)

In February, Oakdale Grove held its annual outing to the Como Park Conservatory in Saint Paul. It has been our tradition since Oimelc of 2014 was the time of an unrelenting polar vortex that plunged Minnesota into a deep freeze for *weeks*. In order to reconnect with nature, we met inside the conservatory to enjoy the tropical plants amidst the Season of Sleep.



This year temperatures outside were a little warmer than normal, but that's been



Nature's M.O. since 2015 (or 2016 when it was warm and rainy). It can be rather hot and humid inside the conservatory, or cool and humid in the sunken garden. Either way, the humidity almost necessitates not wearing a coat inside the building. After our casual stroll through the building's various rooms, we gathered at a local diner for a group luncheon and social time.

We had our March casual hangout at a coffee shop and had a few news visitors hang out with us. We were hoping to have the *Order of Bradán Feasa Unit 3* workbook live with a physical demonstration copy available by the time we had our March hangout. It would have been our Unit 3 release party, but the workbook was still getting wrapped up. Originally the goal was to have Unit 3 launched any time by the end of 2024, but as December started, it was apparent that it was going to take a lot longer to complete. The Vernal Equinox was the more realistic goal, with a stretch goal being the first week of March. With the completion of one project, it opens us up to taking on new projects and reveals new goals to set for the broader community.

Bardic Column

Season of the Mother Grove: Winter of Clashing Contrast by Edward Wellspring

With boreal blast, winter declared its descent. Frigid winds heralded the sting of arid snows, a dirty dusting of prairie particles. The plains' persistent gales spoke a spell of pallid chill, illusion of cold unknown by sheltered thermometers. Soon the air exhaled its truth as rain, too warm to freeze yet too cold for comfort. Ice delivered at last its Yule fringed in snow, shifty gauze of thin skin revealing murmuring mud. The restless earth heaved heavy lids and we were lost in world's dream, a mystery landscape of fragmented forms that pierced fae fog. Days passed without the sun as damp accreted into friezes of frost. In such ice, even the tread of voles through fields clamored and echoed.

At last with sharp cold snap, veils of moisture parted for sparkling nights. Forests of chandeliered hoarfrost flickered their receipt of fiery stars' sonatas, and night breathed free between still boughs. The bickering of Boreas and Eurus replaced this brief reprieve, harsh voices of ventral extremes. One week storm winds brought rain in winter and the rising river shed its solid shawl, yet another bit with such bitter chill suppressed snow nimbi that sank to hilltops under flaring sundog. Paltry flurries shook out their hourglass susurrus, yet days later stacked snow thawed down to bare ground. River's flow found frozen fortress shape, then sap-fed, limbered limbs soon sloughed snow load. In cycles of bizarre heat and sinister chill, the season nearly passed before snow fell and stayed, before river and lake relaxed into icy beds.

Momentous omens foretold much of this time of turning. The season opened when the eagle I eyed fled inside the sun's disc and disappeared there, a still silhouette of streaming brilliance. Breathtaking stability surrounded by glory bodes well for all we cannot witness yet. The Yule fire caught slowly before it surged to life. Tending one's ends needs careful dedication; attention achieves assured attainment. Crossing a panicked rabbit on the coldest day confirmed life continues, for nothing will stop the instinct to encounter experience. The silky sound of owl's wings should not be heard, yet in their sound, subtle secrets will be disclosed. Truth comes with the search, and that means sometimes the choice to get up and walk the muddy path. The subtle passage of coyote shade afoot led a shortcut across trackless prairie. Opportunity comes from openness, the courage and chance to be creative. All through the winter, whispered signs of life confirm the Earth Mother lives, though she slumbers. As the hills' shoulders are bared, early warmth and brown ground prepare for the transition to new seasons of life.

*A special note for resolution completed, having tread all the Grove's (Arboretum's) trails in a year. This included my chance discovery of the legendary Ruins of the Women's Cabin! And you, dear reader, how will you encounter the changing faces of nature this year?

"Awakenings" by Johanno Sycamore Bear

In the dark and dank den

the cub stirs and returns to sleeping

The mother, the she-bear, huffs quietly

settling the cub, returning the den to silence

The days lengthen, warmth enters the den

Mama starts preparing to venture out.

The cub curls up, waiting for her

Curiosity building, the new smells teasing.

The fallen log, new fern sprouts, and fresh diet.

A moist nose sniffing the air,

Holding close to mother's leg for safety

Guided by mama's grunts, huffs, and paw taps.

Growing, exploring, learning of dangers

Wolves, male bears, and deep water

Bigger and stronger, exploring on its own

Ears listening for danger, smelling for food

A second yearling, ready to set out on its own.

A new beginning, an adventure starting

Forests to be explored, a mate to be found

Independence, Freedom, and Living

Campfire Colloquy

Overview

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

A Slice of Nature... for your everyday

Oriana – Sunset Grove, California – March 2025

As Druids we are all pretty tuned into nature. It's 'who we are'.

After all – NATURE IS GOOD.

That said, outside of our druidic pursuits, life happens. Commuting to work, working in an office building/inside our homes etc, and it often happens that adding a slice of nature to everyday can sometimes be slightly outside of our reach.

My contribution to the newsletter this year will be to write a short piece with each edition on ideas on how to incorporate 'A Slice of Nature' into your every day.

OSTARA

As Spring heralds its arrival with new growing things, I encourage everyone in my sphere to go out into it, and enjoy it! Renewal, as displayed by the Earth Mother is one of the most inspiring ways to really embrace the wheel of the year.

A few ways to bring all that beauty into your home:

Force Blooms:

For a quick simple way to incorporate this season into your home – find a tree full of buds, and harvest a branch. Bring it in, place in water and put it in a prominent place so you can enjoy it all day every day. (For me this is my entry table, which I walk by multiple times a day.) Apple, cherry and almond are easy branches to force.



Forage a Spring Salad:

If you have a little more time – Go out into a natural area (free of pesticides) and forage for your dinner plate. Dandelion Greens, Fiddlehead Ferns, Miners Lettuce, Citrus, Herbs, edible flowers, can all make a beautiful (and nutrient rich) spring salad!

Make Dandelion Jelly:

If you have time to make a day of it – take that foraging walk – collect some dandelion blooms (again in a an area free of pesticides) and after get cozy in the kitchen and preserve the taste of spring all year with ‘Sunshine in a Jar’ by making Dandelion Jelly from foraged Dandelion flowers.

Here is a recipe I use and love (not mine): [How To Make Amazing Dandelion Jelly: Sunshine In A Jar – The Outdoor Apothecary](#) and a photo of my most recent batch.



Many blessings to you all during a lovely season of rebirth!

The Importance of Balance, by Johanno Sycamore Bear

Harmony is key. Without it, life can feel like a relentless tug-of-war, each area battling for your attention, often leaving you feeling stretched too thin or wholly consumed by one thing. Achieving life balance means that you're able to give adequate attention to each facet of your existence, nurturing a sense of well-being and contentment.

here are eight parts of our life that need to be in harmony.

Pillars of Balance:

Mental	Physical
Emotional	Spiritual
Social	Environmental
Financial	Occupational

As I look at the list, I see some pairs that go together but mostly I see eight strings that are woven into a *catball* of yarn.

How do you, my dear reader, find balance? I and many others would recommend a combination of journaling and meditation. The key is too slow down, look around at everything, and take stock of what is happening. What can we control and what is out of our control? What can we change?

Harmony is not something you just wake up and find. You have to make micro-adjustments in life and, soon, you find that things just seem to be going better. Is Harmony something that is always there? No. Life is always throwing changes at us. But Harmony is find when you realize that those changes are something you have to deal with and make those adjustments to re-balance.

C.O.R.D. Biquarterly Newsletter Wants Your Contributions for MWFYDNFUD!

Mwfydnfud is the ancient Welsh holiday that takes place every first day of April. Mwfydnfud is a single Welsh word that roughly translates to *messing with forces you do not fully understand day*. Carleton Grove rediscovered this holiday decades ago, and found that it fits nicely with Reformed Druidism. We release a special edition of the newsletter every April 1 to celebrate. For that, we would be requesting any of your druidic contributions that are whimsical, satirical, irreverent or otherwise befitting of a silly newsletter for a group that began as a bit of a college prank.

Send in any of your contributions for the Mwfydnfud issue by end of day, your time zone, March 30th. Thanks, and you'll see us again in the next issue!

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!

USA: Massachusetts: Central MA: from Avery Vreeland
Looking for others interested in establishing a RDNA/General Reformed Druidism study group in the central Massachusetts/Wider New England area, with eventual aspirations of forming a Grove. Please reach out to [gremilkin&proton/me](mailto:gremilkin@proton.me).

Order of Bradán Feasa Update: Unit 3 Launched!

Overview

The third and final installment of the Order of Bradán Feasa Druidry training program is finally live! Unit 3 is the Clergy Prep Course and Grove Governance Guide (GGG) that provides advice to aspiring Third Order Druids, and advanced tips and tricks for any Druid who is interested in running a Grove or a protogrove in the Reformed Druid movement. The Unit 3 workbook is 148 pages long, almost as long as the Unit 1 workbook. There's a lot of information that we think Third Order candidates and Grove leaders ought to know!



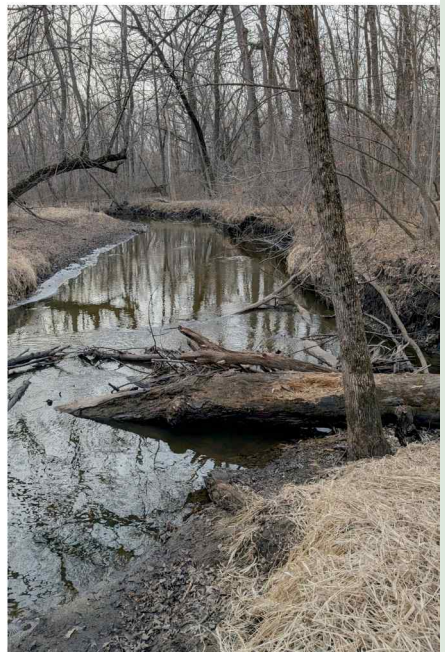
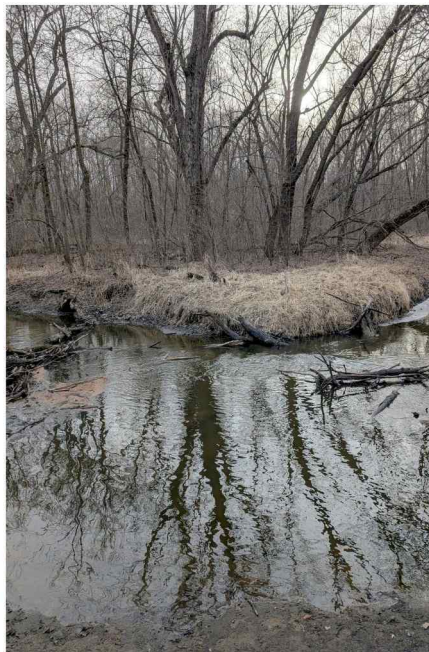
With the launch of Unit 3, Units 1 and 2 have also undergone revisions and additions that merits a major version increase. That means that the OBF training program is now available as version 2.0. However, anyone still working on a version 1.0 copy will still be grandfathered in when they complete and submit the workbooks. This means that nobody has to switch over to the new version if they don't have it yet.

Each subsequent workbook will be sent to OBF program participants after they submit the completed workbook that precedes it. The access link to download the FREE PDF workbook for Unit 1 are at Oakdale Grove's [website](#). They are interactive workbooks, and Units 1 and 2 are intended to be filled in at various points, and emailed in when complete. Unit 2 culminates in an ARDA Exam, which is an open-book test (as a Google Forms quiz) that requires 90% correct for a passing grade. As OBF participants complete the workbooks and pass the test, they are inducted into the Order of Bradán Feasa, a non-hierarchical honor society within the Reformed Druid movement, and they receive a certificate of induction.

Completing any segments of the program does not constitute any level of ordination in the RDNA. Oakdale Grove is having Second Order candidates complete the steps for OBF certification, and will have Third Order candidates complete Unit 3 in advance of their Vigil. Since not everyone wants to run a Grove or protogrove, and not everyone wants to become clergy, Unit 3 is completely optional, which is why Unit 2 completion is where certification and induction into OBF takes place.

Vivid Visions Gallery

Contributions from Johanno Sycamore Bear



Rush Creek, Eastman Nature Center, Maple Grove, MN

Videos of Interest

Inside the Sacred Circle podcast



Celtic Druidry, and Herbalism | Music, Myth & Magick – Season 2 Ep. 10



Augur's Intuition

Overview

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

Submission by John the Verbose

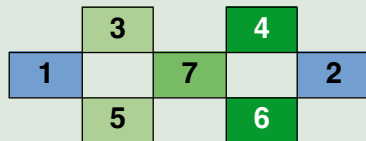
Methodology: Tarot of Druids

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:** Fin mac Cumail – Charm
2. **Your Influences:** Bran mac Febal – Comfort of friends, solidarity

External Influences:

3. Three of Mistletoe – Useful news
4. Five of Swords – Revelations and understanding
5. Knight of Chalices – Falseness or suffering
6. Three of Swords – Discernment and helpful experiences to reflect upon
7. Nine of Swords – Retaliation and provocation

Interpretation

Stick together in good company through these tough times. Life may have its annoyances biting at our ankles, but we will prevail through our applied wisdom and insight.

Other Blogs & Social Media Links

Blogs Curated By Druids (accumulative each issue)

- Jax K's [Tumblr Blog](#)
- *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 [BlueSky](#)
- Oakdale Grove's [Facebook page](#)
- The *Order of Bradán Feasa* 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](#)
- RDNA on [Discord](#)

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

We've created a [free training program](#) for the RDNA, and for those who complete the program, an honor society within the RDNA called the *Order of Bradán Feasa* (pronounced *bra-DON FOSS-ah*), named after the Salmon of Knowledge in Irish mythology.

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

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.



Photo courtesy of I Talk To The Trees.

Peace, peace, peace! ☸

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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!

The *Thank You* Photo!

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



Blood Worm Lunar Eclipse, March 14, 2025 – at the heels of constellation Leo.