

C.Φ.R.D. Biquarterly

Connexus Of Reformed Druids

A publication for the Reformed Druids of North America – RDNA

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Midsummer



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 Carleton College Grove (Minnesota) Relayed by John the Verbose

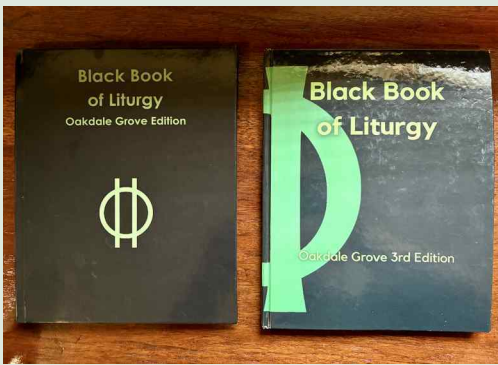
Four new Druids of the Third Order! The tradition of Reformed Druidism has been strong and inspiring under the leadership of AD Austin. Since his rise to the seat of power in the RDNA, there had been occasional collaboration between Carleton Grove and Oakdale Grove. This ranged from mentorship, to round table meetings with both the Arch-Druid and college Chaplain, to ritual collaborations at large events such as the 60th anniversary Samhain and Oimelc rituals. The latter of which actually took the place of Carleton College's annual Candlemas service *in* the chapel sanctuary (see the *C.O.R.D.* 4.4 volume/issue for details of that occasion).



AD emeritus Austin & new AD Leo,
photo by Edward Wellspring

Arch-Druid Austin and three other members of the Grove had graduated earlier this month, but the Grove is still in good hands, as a new Arch-Druid has been selected in accordance with the Carleton Grove Constitution. Edward Wellspring, a Third Order and Carleton Grove Alumnus, assisted Austin in overseeing the Vigilers, and ensuring the experience was meaningful and introspective for each candidate. Oakdale Grove provided the ordination certificates, ribbons, Druid Sigil pendants and legal documents so that the new ordainees can register as clergy with the state.

There has also been a bit of an informational revelation that there is a tendency for some Carleton Grove Druids to view Third Order Ordination as a kind of "graduation" *out of* Druidry that mirrors their graduation out of college. Perhaps this notion should inspire existing Third Order Druids to place emphasis on the notion that the Third Order rite of passage is what inaugurates the individual into a lifetime of service to the Earth-Mother and to her followers, rather than a culminating means to an end.

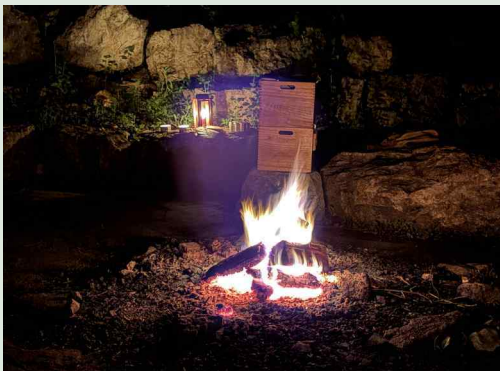


News from Oakdale Grove (Minnesota)

In early June, six members of Oakdale Grove met to review our various versions of our Black Book of Liturgy. Aside from the formatting and typographic updates between our first, second, and third editions, the most glaring current issue is that some members' copies of the third edition are somehow different from each other.

Thus we met to read through the scripts and compare it against the source file. We quickly determined that the third edition source file was updated a second time, but was not exported to PDF a second time. The other likely factor is there was probably a redundant PDF file, and the one that hadn't been updated accidentally got uploaded to Lulu Press instead. Now that we figured out what the problem is, we made a few tweaks based on recommendations of the members present, and created a 4th edition.

The most anticipated event of the year though was this weekend. In the 93°F (34°C) heat and humidity, we had 40 attendees at the Midsummer Solstice Reunion at Carleton College yesterday! The ceremony was led by Edward Wellspring who encouraged and successfully got a good amount of attendee participation in the bardic offerings section. The winds were strong with a good omen, and many Waters were poured from the pitchers. We even had about half a dozen new initiates to the First Order! We did decide to cancel our group pilgrimage to the sacred sites in the Arboretum because of how oppressively hot it was.



The next order of the day was to find an air conditioned environment for a late lunch and hydration in advance of Jax K's All Night Vigil. From lunch through dinner, we moved between different air conditioned places to rest. We enjoyed the ice-cold air conditioned space of the chapel, aided by the thick stone walls where it was a relief to lean against as it wicked heat away. A half hour before sunset, we ventured back out into the heat to return to the Arboretum and remained there until dawn.

Winds picked up overnight, keeping mosquitoes away. Fireflies danced and darted around us in the dark, blinking with their magical sciences and chemistries. The temperature came down to 78°F (25°C) by dawn, and the wind felt so much cooler for once, though more humid. All went well, and Jax K. was ordained as a Third Order Druid with very responsive winds, and there was much rejoicing; congratulations, Jax!



Season of the Mother Grove: Spring 2025 by Edward Wellspring

Spring of Dewy Dawns

Spring entered roaring like a dragon at war, warmth stirring breezes rich with the scent of fertile earth. Winter's harsh changes responded with a last surge of snow, a spell of frosting fit to every surface and limb. Notus supplied a blast of heat to strip the trees and inspired subtle signs of leaves too soon. Boreas submitted biting winds that wailed and chilled, and frost barred the blades of grass from growing. The last shaded spots of snow survived a month, washed into forgotten vestiges by weeks of light and listless drizzle.

Mild grey mornings tempted the Earth to rise from sleep, each moist measure exposed on the grass. Through weeks of rain and cloudy cloak, a sly sun sometimes teased ready buds. Farmers had to resist many muddy opportunities to plow and plant, for no window merited action. Waterfowl returned in silence, steadily inspecting spots for future nests, but nary an insect was seen all spring. The Mother luxuriated and lingered abed, stretching, ready, yet not rising.

So when spring came, she strode in burst of bloom! Lawns of nodding flowers smiled into mild skies, whose warm sun enticed the early shrubs, eager bulbs, and loamy tubers to show their sundry glories all at once. Before dawn, I passed their pale pushing forms closed for cozy nights that condensed to dew and clouds laced with arctic Aurora's diadem. The surge of first flowers faded swiftly into full foliage, for the trees all opened to touch the wind within a week. Amid the growing green that glowed within the mist of bright-lit clouds, life leapt from unified joy. Rabbits frolicked under every hedge, eagles frequented the full-mouthed river, circuses of blackbirds covered the marshes, and spangled songbirds sang in every tree. Through a stretch of nightly rain that left grass glistening, hopeful spirits paraded unrepressed.

At last the spring settled into a streak of perfect days. Shady boughs gave shelter from hot flashing sun and the tall clouds' grumbled menace. All life joined the dance, from bee-thronged clover to the cunning eyes of chewing beaver. Graceful breezes stirred and reeled through rising prairie grass, and heavy winged herons hustled on unknown errands. Even as I write, Taranis rumbles the omens of rainy days, whose cool, peaceful nights of gloom and haze leave blessings of life for the coming season.

*Dawn after Beltane also brought joyous tidings – the Druids of Carleton elected and Archdruid Austin ordained a new archdruid! For the reborn life of the Grove, for the renewed Reform, and for Archdruid Leo, there was much rejoicing!

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 by Oriana – Sunset Grove, California – JUN 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.

LITHA – Summer Solstice

Welcome to LITHA and our new season of Summer! This is the season of time outdoors, and watching things grow. It's so grounding to spend solid time outside enjoying nature (it's also great for your mental health!) as well as the many fresh fruits and produce on offer. Below find a few ideas on how to celebrate the season throughout summer months:

Make Fresh Fruit Popsicles

All you need is a bit of produce and a blender and voila! You can use purchased popsicle molds or make them in something as simple as a paper cup or recycled yogurt container.

Here is a recipe I made up this week to share with you (they were yum!)

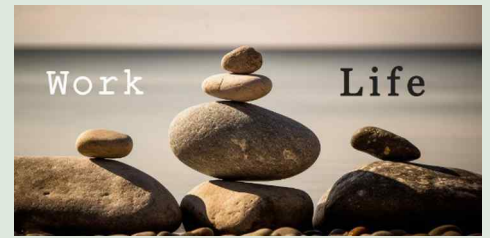
- 1 banana
- 2 oranges (peeled)
- ½ c of pineapple
- ½ c of plain greek yogurt
- 2T honey
- Blend – pour in molds, freeze – and enjoy!



Note: If you don't have molds and are using recycled containers or paper cups, Part way through your freeze (wait about 2.5 hours) insert a wood tongue depressor into each and then continue freezing.

Practice Balance!

Make some extra effort to find your balance and make efforts to balance your day between work / rest / and personal enrichment, enjoying things you love like meditating/exercising/or practicing at a hobby you love!



Host a solar noon potluck picnic!

Assign everyone to bring a prepared dish to share highlighting and celebrating the locally grown produce of the season.

As host bring a nice big jug of super cold ice water, and a few clean blankets for seating for everyone! Tip – **To keep it green (and save \$):** Have everyone bring their own reusable cup/plate/utensils and cloth napkin from home!

Clean your SOLAR panels and AC unit!

For those with them – for optimum benefits of the sun (and comfort when hiding from the sometimes intense sun) remember to clean your Solar panels and/or AC Unit!



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.

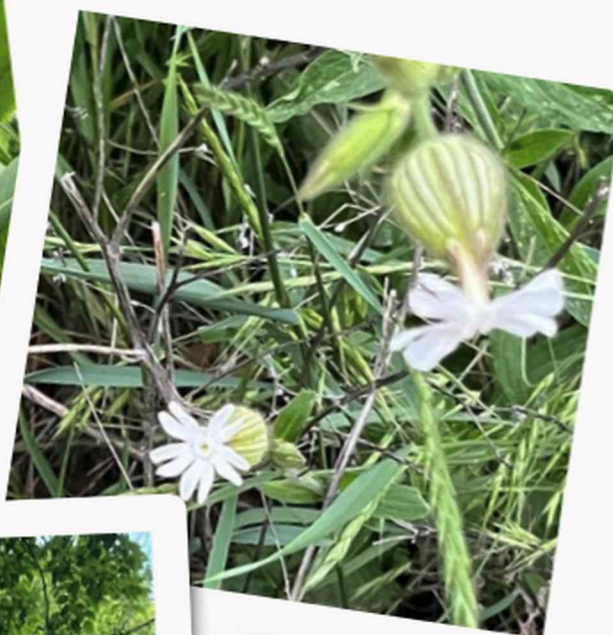
USA: Georgia: Savannah: Hey this is a PSA. There are druids in your area seeking other druids (like, at least three, and I don't think it's the same person), we just don't have names or contact info. I can't even remember where I've been seeing references to this (Probably somewhere on Discord), but 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.

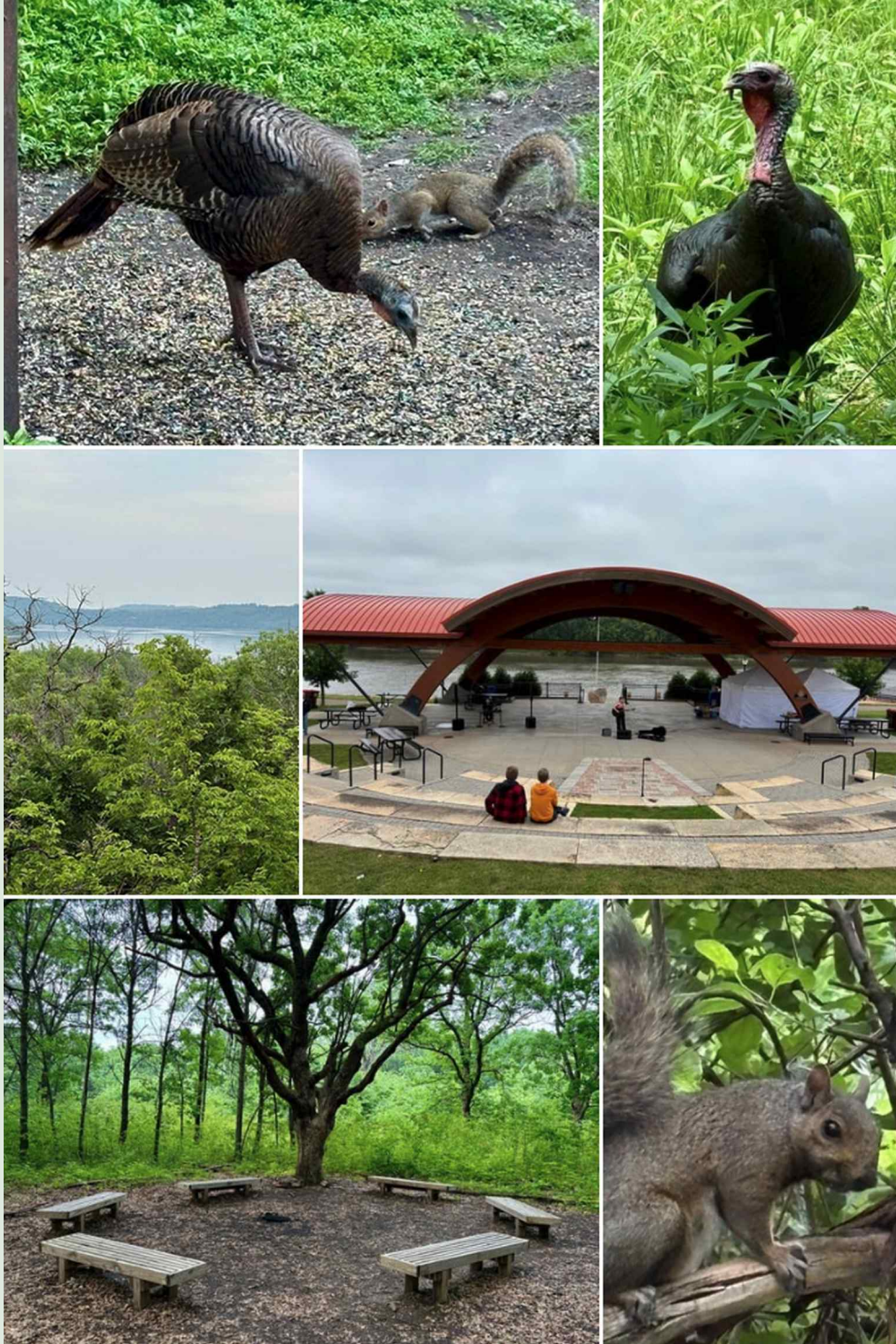
Vivid Visions Gallery

Contributions from *I Talk To The Trees*



Two photos from Silverwood Park, and one of the Kordiak Park fire pit.

Contributions from John the Verbose



Wild turkeys, Springbrook Nature Center, Fridley, MN
Afton State Park, Afton, MN and "sideways half submerged Druid Sigil" band shell, Hastings, MN
Outdoor classroom and squirrel, Springbrook Nature Center, Fridley, MN

Videos of Interest

"The Magic in You" shared by Ellen Evert Hopman



A podcast from Australia

"Song of Summer" by Falling You



A dream pop song to sip lemonade to on a vacant beach

"Rising Sun" by Covenant



An energetic EBM song to dance to while you watch the rising sun at Midsummer's tide

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)

	3		4	
1		7		2
	5		6	

1. **Mood:** Dagda – In need of protection
2. **Your Influences:** Cu Cuchulain – Superstition

External Influences:

3. Nine of Chalices – Material satisfaction
4. Four of Mistletoe – Unexpected opportunities
5. Six of Chalices – Old scores to be settled
6. Knight of Swords – Fierce struggle or an arrogant person
7. Queen of Anguinum – Envy, suspicion, and greed

Interpretation

Now that you're thoroughly out of your comfort zone, you're just about ready for a spooky showdown to turn the flippin' tides...

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! ☸

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

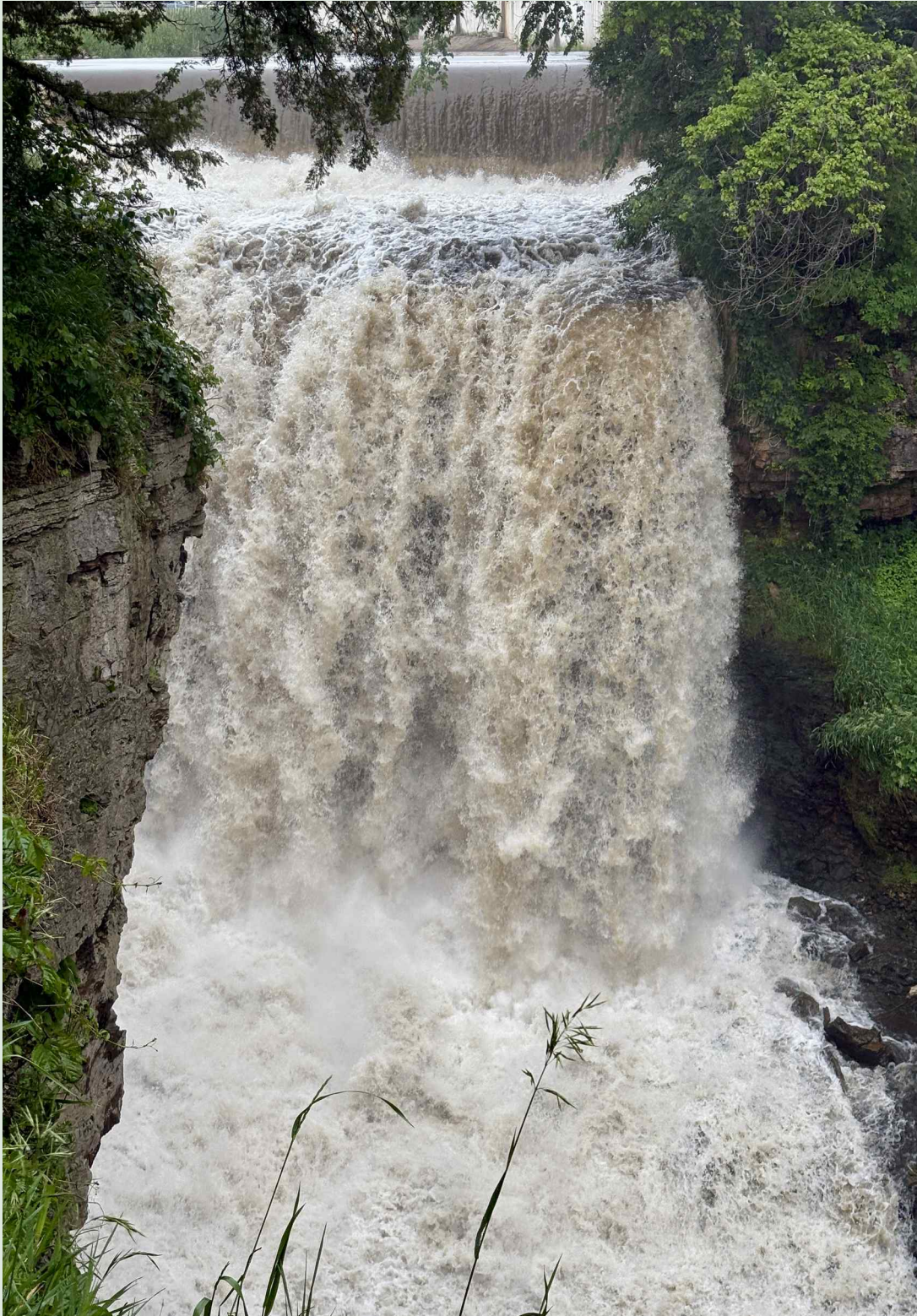
There is a [lite version of the same form](#) for those who don't have a Gmail account, which allows anyone to submit text-based contributions only.

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!



Vermillion Falls, Hastings, Minnesota