



Crane Chatter

Three Cranes Grove, ADF

Volume 1 Issue 2



Branches of the Willow Tree

Leaves from the Senior Druid of Three Cranes Grove, ADF

When I started out as the Grove Organizer for this Grove, I wasn't entirely sure what would happen. I knew that Groves sometimes have trouble finding their root, or keeping the flow of creative and new ideas coming in. Many Groves grow quickly, and then level off or experience a period of negative Growth. Some Groves never make it out of the Protogrove stage of development.

I didn't want Three Cranes to be one of those Groves. I wanted Three Cranes to draw in hard-working members whose excitement for the Grove was surpassed only by their excitement for worshipping the Goddesses

and Gods. I wanted our Grove to have Clergy that could serve not only our Grove, but any person in the Pagan Community. I wanted our Grove to be integral to ADF, our members building new portions of various training programs, helping other Groves grow and change, pub-



TCG Members at Samhain 2004

lishing articles in ADF's newsletters and on the ADF website, giving workshops at festivals, and generally helping to make ADF a better place.

In order to bring about the Grove I wanted to see, one as dynamic and diverse as we wanted, we needed to have a clear vision of where we were going before we started down the path. To create that idea, we wrote the following statement, reading it at our very first rite:

We have come together today for

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Mark Your Calendars: [Check www.threecranes.org](http://www.threecranes.org) for Updates & Details

Rituals:

Sunday, May 1—Beltaine—Blacklick Metropark, Sassafras Grove Shelter—social at noon/rite at 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 19—Summer Solstice—Blacklick Metropark—social at 2 p.m./rite at 3 p.m.

Sunday, July 31—Lughnasadh, timed to end at sundown; location tba

Sunday, October 30—Samhain—date & time tba

Saturday, December 17—Saturnalia—date & time tba

Business Meetings:

Thursday, May 12, 6:30 p.m.—Main Library

Thursday, June 9, 6:30 p.m.—Main Library

Liturgy Meetings:

Third Thursday of each month—rotating locations

Community Service:

Clinton-Como Park Cleanup (dates/time tba)

Events:

May 5-8—Desert Magic Festival—Tucson, AZ

May 27-30—Wellspring-ADF Annual Meeting—Sherman, NY

June 24-26—Short North Community Festival (Goodale Park, Columbus)

August 26-28- Summerland (ADF festival near Yellow Spring, Ohio)

September 3-5 (Labor Day weekend): PCCO Summerset (Camp Crooked Lake, Mt. Gilead, Ohio)

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the inception of Three Cranes Protogrove, ADF, and to join together in worshipping and praising the Shining Ones.

A Protogrove needs to be nurtured as it grows. It needs an influx of new ideas, a creative flow that will soak its roots and keep it strong and firm. It needs leadership to show it the heights it may attain, and dedicated gardeners to tend it and guide it to its destination. It needs the sunlight of enlightened minds to warm it and to synthesize energy and vigor. It needs faith in the Gods and Goddesses to grow straight and true.

If the flow of ideas grows stagnant, or the leadership and sunlight fail, the trees will not grow, but will wither and die. Without faith in the Gods and Goddesses, our work is in vain, for it is Their hands which guide our work. This Grove is our responsibility, for we have planted it. We must not fail it, for it will never fail us.

"This Grove is our responsibility, for we have planted it. We must not fail it, for it will never fail us."

It was important to me that our first steps on this journey be met with a firm foot forward, one that showed what we wanted the Grove to be. We need to show that this Grove is something we must take pride in, one that we need to water and tend to. I painted our future Grove members as gardeners who would maintain the Grove in our faith and in our works.

Our mission statement, passed by our Grove when we had 9 members, is a less flowery way of telling people who we are and what we're about, but it still gets to the center of what we do, in some ways better than the inception statement did:

To serve the spiritual and intellectual needs of the central Ohio community through open and inclusive public Druidic ritual, religious support of the community in a Druidic way, fostering and promoting community for Pagans in central Ohio, regardless of path or tradition.

This is a more functional idea of who we are and what we do. Our rituals are open and inclusive to anyone wishing to worship in the Elder Ways, we support our community in any way they might need, and we are interested in helping to build the Pagan community in this region of Ohio.

Over the past two and a half years, we've managed to make these visions a reality, but there is much work left to be done. We cannot rest on our laurels and look at what we've done and simply be proud: we need to improve on our past successes. The Grove we have planted is maturing and growing strongly, but it is during the time that we are growing that the most attention must be paid.

I hope this Grove never ceases to grow and change. Many of our original goals have been met: we have a member of ADF's clergy in our Grove, we hold 8 public rituals per year, our members are in demand for workshops at festivals, we have left our mark on the ADF study programs, and our members have been published in Oak Leaves and other publications. Throughout all this, we continue to avoid stagnation and satisfaction with the status quo.

This newsletter represents a whole new chapter in our Grove. It is a new tool for outreach and for creative expression. Hopefully, such a newsletter can help us serve the community in an even more creative and intimate way. The members of our Grove continue to surprise me with their creativity, and I hope this newsletter will allow them to surprise everyone else as well.

Bright blessings, and I hope to see you at our next rite!

Nechochwen,
Michael J Dangler



MJD, Summer Solstice, 2004

Lilac Bush

Luring brain-dead passersby
to blunder into its sweet foliage,
soothe with its heady fragrance
while outside, robins sing of
crisp greenness and warmth
and squirrels skip from tree to tree.

Enwrapped in its branches
curled up in its comfort,
An impressionist's bed,
Swaddled in warm, indistinct comfort,
Inside the bush, I breathe deeply
Sheltered from drizzle,
Watching fallen cherry petals
Untouched by the damp,
As they dance in circles
In unison with the wind,
Just one breath from summer.



Jenni Hunt

Ritual Omens:

Your Story Could Be Here!

Spring Equinox:



Nauthiz



Eihwaz



Thurisaz

Imbolc:



Gebo



Manaz



Dagaz

All there is standing between you and the road to fame and fortune is a few column inches of copy.

Please e-mail or send your brief articles, book reviews, poems and other submissions to scribe@threecranes.org or the address on the back of this newsletter.

(Then the editor won't have to scrape up her own poems and boring book reviews to fill the issue.)



Book Review: (from Jenni's DP)

The Romans and Their Gods in the Age of Augustus. —R.M. Ogilvie

Ogilvie's brief text on this subject has been the definitive text on Roman religion for decades. Using extensive primary sources (all in translation) as examples, he demonstrates his thorough understanding of how Romans worshipped, as well as how they thought about their religion during the Age of Augustus (covering the period from roughly 80 BCE and 60 CE).

Chapters include The Gods, Prayer, Sacrifice, Divination, The Religious Year, Private Religion, The Priests, and Religion in the Time of Augustus. Of particular interest is Ogilvie's presentation of the domestic cult, a topic many more scholarly texts seem to

overlook. His focus tends less toward a sterile look at Roman mythology and more toward a vibrant overview of what Romans believed (or not, as the case may be), as well as how they worshipped both privately and within the state religion.

Of particular interest are Ogilvie's speculations as to what he believes went wrong with Romans' religion traditions as their world expanded, absorbing countless influences and values from other civilizations, and ultimately failing to provide basic spiritual sustenance for individuals.

What I like most about this particular book -- and it is my favorite and most used of my books on Roman religion --

is the way Ogilvie incorporates so many primary sources as examples within the text. He might not always give complete footnotes for each reference, but they are included in the bibliography, and if there is a particular quote I want to examine in further detail, I can easily do so.

Also, I really appreciate Ogilvie's candidness in writing of Roman religion in order to understand what Romans really must have thought and felt about their religion -- this is not a sterile, scholarly text, as so many books on Classical religions are. I find myself returning to Ogilvie on a regular basis for reassurance, as much as information.

Visit the TCG Store at Café Press!

http://www.cafepress.com/heirons_place

All proceeds benefit Three Cranes Grove, ADF



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www.threecranes.org



What is ADF?

(from <http://www.adf.org/about/what-is-adf.html>)

The Irish words, pronounced "arn ree-ocht fane", mean "Our Own Druidism", and that's just what Ár nDraiocht Fein is - a completely independent tradition of Neopagan Druidism. Like our sisters and brothers in the other Neopagan movements, we're polytheistic Nature worshipers, attempting to revive the best aspects of the Paleopagan faiths of our ancestors within a modern scientific, artistic, ecological, and holistic context. Like our predecessors and namesakes the Druids, we're people who believe in excellence - physically, intellectually, artistically, and spiritually.

We're researching and expanding sound modern scholarship about the ancient Celts and other Indo-European peoples,

in order to reconstruct what the Old Religions of Europe really were. We're working on the development of genuine artistic skills in composition and presentation. We're designing and performing competent magical and religious



ceremonies to change ourselves and the world we live in. We're adapting the polytheologies and customs of both the Indo-European Paleopagans and the Neopagan traditions that have been created over the last fifty years. We're creating a nonsexist, nonracist, organic,

and open religion to practice as a way of life and to hand on to our grandchildren. We're integrating ecological awareness, alternative healing arts, and psychic development into our daily activities. Together, we're sparking the next major phase in the evolution of Neopaganism and planting seeds for generations to come.

ADF was started by P.E.I. (Isaac) Bonewits, known in the Neopagan community as an author (*Real Magic*, *The Druid Chronicles Evolved*, *Authentic Thaumaturgy*), editor, teacher, polytheologist, activist, priest and bard. He has been a Neopagan Druid for nearly twenty years and has dedicated his life to reviving Druidism as a modern, healthy, "Third Wave" religion capable of protecting and preserving Mother Nature and all Her children.