A Southerner’s Perspective on Living in Maine: The Wheel of the Year: Imbolc to Beltane

by Mary MoonStar

Imbolc—suddenly, the days are noticeably longer. The sun is up earlier in the morning, down later at night and higher in the sky. The days feel different—fuller and subtly more voluptuous.

Snow covers everything, reflecting the light of the full moon with an intensity I have never experienced. I’ve always been a worshipper of the moon—I am a Cancer after all. But the brilliance of the snow-reflected moonlight is almost surreal. Moon shadows are stark against the white ground and remind me that, in the world of the Goddess, sometimes things really are as simple as black and white.

Predators and prey leave their life stories visible in the snow. Tracks, large and small, criss-cross the field next to the house—fox, bobcat, coyote, squirrel, rabbit. Sometimes we hear strange cries in the middle of the night and, the next day, find disturbances in the snow and faint traces of blood. This is a more intimate connection with the mysteries of life and death than I am used to living with. The white ground makes these struggles—a part of the life cycle I am unaccustomed to seeing—impossible to ignore. Yet, during the months between Yule and Ostara, the preciousness of life and the finality of death are present every day.

Daily the birds raid the feeders with ferocious intensity. It seems trite to say as if their lives depended on it, and yet that is true. How do the birds survive the snowy days and wind-blown frozen nights? I wonder, and the next time I’m out with the dog I discover the answer to that question. Not all of them do. On (Continued on page 12)
Exploring the Sacred Tattoo

by Kat Schorr

We all display our Pagan faith in so many different ways. Some people wear symbolic jewelry and ritual clothing in their day-to-day life. Others label their vehicle with bumper stickers and decorate their office space with a mini-altar. These are all valid expressions of personal spiritual journeys, but there are some Pagans that honor their deities in a more permanent way - through the ancient art of tattooing.

Of course, tattoos are not for everyone. Yet, sacred tattoos can be a significant rite of passage in one’s spiritual journey. In this article, I’d like to share with you the stages of choosing and receiving a tattoo and suggest ways in which you can approach the receiving of a tattoo as a spiritual experience.

Commitment

It is pretty easy to say that you want a tattoo; the hard part is actually deciding on what the tattoo image will be. How do you translate your spiritual beliefs into body art? Do you want to depict an actual deity or do you want to use symbols? Do you want it to be straightforward or layer the image with meaning? These are just a few of the questions that you will wrestle with.

I recommend working directly with your deities to help you make a decision. Perform your sacred rites and ask your deities how they want you to display your faith. Meditate on their response. Consult a form of divination, if you still need clarity. Allow yourself the time to design the body art that will inspire you for the rest of your life.

Once you have chosen a design, be sure to consult with your tattoo artist and listen to their opinion on how to bring your vision to life. Remember that your sacred tattoo is an act of commitment and dedication to the Gods, so be sure to treat it as such.

Sacrifice

What was once an empty landscape of flesh will now be an artist’s palette as your vision comes to life, but you have to be willing to make a sacrifice. You need to be willing to pay the talented artist for their skill, so the first sacrifice is money. Don’t skimp on your image to try to save some money. I don’t think the Gods would be pleased about that!

The more important sacrifice is blood. As the needle pieces the skin, your blood will be shed. No, we are not talking about buckets of blood, but there is a small amount of blood that is shed from the needle’s prick. Depending on what location on your body you get your tattoo, you might not even see the blood, but it is there. Remember, it is not about the amount of the sacrifice, but the act of sacrifice itself.

Endurance

When you receive the tattoo, there will be pain. I don’t care how tough you think you are, it is going to hurt. Depending on the size and intricacy of the design, there might be a little or a lot of pain. Think of getting a tattoo as an act of endurance; it is a trial for you to overcome and prove yourself worthy of your deities. I suggest that you come up with a prayer to repeat in your mind when you receive your tattoo. It will keep you centered and hopefully take your mind off of the pain.

Metamorphosis

Once you leave the artist’s studio, you will need to properly care for your tattoo in order for it to heal. Most studio’s recommend that you carefully rinse it within 24 hours and gently apply lotion twice a day for about two weeks.

As your tattoo heals, your skin over the tattoo will start to peel and flake away. Think of this as a time of metamorphosis. During this time, you can meditate on your accomplishment and how your new sacred body art will inspire your on your spiritual journey from this day forward. This is also a good time for you to call upon the healing powers of your deities as they witness your metamorphosis.

Celebration

So, you have made a commitment, given a sacrifice, endured the trial, and emerged transformed! Once you are fully healed, I recommend having a celebration! This is a good time for you to restate your devotion to your deities. I also suggest that you have your tattoo blessed by your spiritual mentor or elder, if you work with one. If you are solitary, you can perform a rite to bless the tattoo yourself. You have completed a very special rite of passage, and you should honor that accomplishment!

Conclusion

I think it is very important to honor your deities in your own personal way. There are many people that choose to use tattoos to honor their spiritual path and deities. I know that my recent personal experience with body art was truly transformational, and I am sure that others have had similar experiences. If you are exploring different ways to honor your deities, perhaps sacred body art is right for you?

If you would like to share your thoughts about tattoos, check out mainepagans.ning.com and look for my “Body Art and Modification” group.

Bio

Kat Schorr is a practicing Hellenic Witch in Westbrook, Maine. You can contact her through her website: WiccanLife.com
Beltane Tote-Bags and EPN Shirts—STILL ON SALE!

You saw them at Beltane, but maybe you didn’t have enough money with you… Not to worry! We still have some of our incredible “Beltane on the Beach” organic cotton canvas tote bags celebrating 25 years of “Pole Dancing.” Better still, NOW they are ON SALE!

The bag is larger than a paper grocery bag, measuring 18” wide x 17.5” high x 7” deep with 13” handles. These are available for sale for only $10.00.

Also, we still have a few of our beautiful EPN T-Shirts available for sale. These are also ON SALE now for only $10.00 (existing sizes and colors only).

Don’t want to wait until Beltane? Not to worry! We can ship a bag or shirt to you for only $6.00.

If you want more than one item, just add $3.00 more shipping for each ordered more than one. (i.e. 1 costs $10.00 plus $6.00 shipping. Two would be $20.00 plus only $9.00 shipping. Three would be $30.00 plus $12.00 shipping. Get the picture?)

Send your orders now to: EPN, P.O. Box 161, E. Winthrop, ME 04343. E-mail: epn@maine.rr.com.

About the EarthTides Pagan Network

The Maine Pagan community is diverse, independent and geographically distant. We worship in groups or alone, but sometimes need contact and a shared forum to express our ideas and concerns for this community.

The EarthTides Pagan Network was established in 1989 as a support resource for Maine Pagans. All solitaries and groups are welcome to join.

A subscription to this newsletter is available for a suggested donation of $11.00 per year for the electronic version sent via e-mail and $15.00 to continue to receive the paper version (as of the Summer 2010 issue). Single copies may be obtained by sending a $1.50 donation and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: EPN, P.O. Box 161, E. Winthrop, ME 04343. E-mail: epn@maine.rr.com.

Submission deadline for the Summer edition is 6/1/10

About the EarthTides Pagan Network News

This newsletter comes out four times a year, around the beginning of the seasons. Literary, poetic and artistic contributions are welcome, as are opinion pieces. Please keep submissions to no more than two pages, double-spaced. Please submit on disk or e-mail to blacklion@felinedreamers.net.

Subscribers' names, addresses and other personal information are kept confidential except to other network members. EPN will aid in establishing contact between individuals, but accepts no legal responsibility for the results.

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Fear

by Keri Stratton Alley

Spring is a time of brilliant courageousness – shoots bursting up out of the previously frozen ground, flowers exploding in a riot of color, animal families expanding. In a time of hope and light, color and newness anyone would think an appropriate topic for an essay would be birth energy or creation energy. However there is a darker side of the birth process; the side that has impending mothers everywhere crying out or grunting with effort; that statement every birthing mother must push past in order to triumphantly bring forth the new life: “I can’t do this; I’m not strong enough.”

To those of us not members of the plant kingdom, Spring looks effortless, undemanding. On the contrary; though we can’t see it, the respiration rate of a seed increases to approximately four times the usual rate and water consumption nearly doubles just prior to germination. The tiniest of seeds must push through soil multiple times its own weight in order to reach the life-giving sun. Every miniscule amount of stored energy is exerted in an once-in-a-lifetime endeavor. For the seed, sprouting is literally do or die.

Bursting forth into bloom from out of a tight bud is also not without risk; predators might think the new blossom is a tasty treat, children might pick the flower for their loving mothers, the amount of water or sunlight available may not be adequate to ensure survival. But staying within that tight bud also carries a risk; growing too big for the space, cramping a sense of style, waiting too long and missing the opportunity to bloom altogether. “Life is a process of becoming, a combination of states we have to go through. Where people fail is that they wish to elect a state and remain in it. This is a kind of death.” – Anais Nin

Yet fear can also be a guidepost along your personal journey of self discovery. I have often found that when faced with a multiple-option decision, the option that I fear the most is the one I should pursue. For me, the fear is in indication of a greater opportunity for growth, change, and success. Fear indicates a challenge, something out of the ordinary; something new. “Going into the unknown is invariably frightening but we learn what is significantly new only through adventure.” – M. Scott Peck. To live vibrantly, you have to cultivate a sense of adventure, and face your fears as you would face the oceans waves; head on.

In the season of brilliant courageousness, courage is not defined as never being afraid. Courage is being afraid, but acting anyway. “Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not absence of fear.” – Mark Twain. This Spring, seize your adventure. Honor your fears, and then move beyond them.

As you meditate on what you want to have growing in your life this season, spend some time getting to know your fears about that goal. Then ceremonially break through that barricade and give yourself access to the light and love you need to succeed. Write your fears down on paper and burn them, draw representations on an eggshell and then smash it, write them on scraps of rice paper and mix those scraps into the soil in which

(Continued on page 13)
**GreenMan**

by Lorelei Greenwood

(To the tune of Greensleeves)

To you, my love,
who tends my soul,
Who fills me up so
pleasingly
With all good
things and precious gifts
Of your life and
your loving, unselfishly.

GreenMan, my love,
my all,
He who is my
brother, my lover, and son.
Gentle warrior,
man of men,
It is he who I
call my GreenMan.

The babe who’s
born from the Lady’s womb,
Who becomes the
Lover at Springtime’s crest,
Who’s crowned a
King in Summer’s heat,
And who lays down
his life for the harvest

GreenMan, the
woodland King
Who companions me
as we move through the Wheel;
Seasons pass yet
we remain,
The Lady and her
love, the GreenMan.

GreenMan known by
many names,
Narada, Jesu,
Apollo, and Herne;
Found within every
living man
Is a spark of the
God called the GreenMan.

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**Beltane**

by Lorelei Greenwood

Around the pole
the dancers weave,
Moving left and
shifting right,
To the drummers’
rhythm strong
Underneath the
daystar bright.
While the dancers
step and twirl,
Singers chant the
songs of old,
Ringing in the
lovely Spring
And calling out
the Winter cold.
This Beltane day,
the first of May,
We celebrate with
glee
The glory of our
Mother Earth
That makes us
Pagans free.
The dance we do,
the songs we sing
Upon this Beltane morn
Will herald in the
Summertime,
The year again
reborn.
by Eric Robbins

For several years the Immanent Grove, without much fanfare, has been raising money for a major endeavor that we’re calling the Pagan Preserves Project. The goal of the PPP is to purchase property in central Maine for various Pagan uses. Just by having our donation-pot available when we meet, and from some generous other donations, we have already collected well over six thousand dollars, more than halfway to our initial goal (more on that in a bit).

What Pagan uses do we have in mind for this land? Initially, our simplest wish is to have a nice site, not at any of our homes, where we, and others, can freely hold open Pagan events. Ultimately, we envision a property with parking, a pavilion for rainy-day rituals, more that one ritual site (including a labyrinth, a wooded grove, and an open-air circle), walking trails, and a Pagan memorial park. Many other uses are possible, but the fact remains that land, even in Maine, even in this economy, is not cheap.

We have decided that when the account reaches $10,000 we will begin to meet regularly in order to formalize the nature of the project. At that point we will start to write a clearer statement of purpose, and to explore our options with regard to the legal/financial structure of the project. One option is to form a nature preserve owned by a Pagan collective, with limited use allowed, to include rituals in designated areas. Another is to administer it as church property. Another is to create a “green cemetery” with ritual locations included, the way some cemeteries have chapels on-site. These and other options will have to be considered carefully, with an eye to continued costs, taxes, insurance, and appropriate control of the fate and use of the property and funds. Immanent Grove, while wishing to maintain a strong administrative role, does not envision the site’s use as being solely for the Grove, but rather for the use of Pagan groups and individuals in the region. With this in mind, we hope to include representation on the board of directors (or whatever steering body we decide to form) from other interested groups.

We are beginning to look at other methods of raising the necessary funds, among them encouraging individuals to pledge a regular donation, raising awareness that we welcome bequests, and holding more community-building events that bring in a little money as a benefit. Recently we raised over $200 in one evening with a mead-tasting and brewing class, and hope to have more events like that one.

The most specific needs we have identified with regard to the land we’re looking for is that it should be within easy reach of the Augusta-Waterville population center, should comprise several acres of fields and woods in a quiet area, much of it level enough for easy access for mobility-impaired people, and that our proposed uses should be permissible by local ordinance.

We welcome ideas, offers of help, and of course any donations! The Immanent Grove is a legal church, and therefore donations are charitable for tax purposes.

The Immanent Grove
(c/o Eric Robbins)
2328 Middle Road
Sidney, ME, 04330
View from the Aerie: Celebrate Earth Day and Mother’s Day…by Saving our Earth Mother

by Cynthia “Raven” Grimm

I’ve been reflecting a lot lately on the major changes in our global climate. This winter has clearly shown that global warming is a reality that can’t be ignored. February saw large amounts of snow falling in southern states while Maine saw record high temperatures and barely a flurry.

For most of us, caring for our Earth Mother is part of our religion. These climatic changes are not just part of Her natural cycle. These changes are directly related to the damage that humans have done to the environment over hundreds of years. Most of this damage has been done during my lifetime.

As a society, we have become far too dependent on fossil fuels and disposable products. We add pollutants to our air, water, and soil everyday in the course of daily living. We fill our trash cans with disposable items that will either be buried in a landfill or incinerated, further polluting our environment.

Many have already started to change the way we live to protect the Earth and the health of our families. More people are starting backyard gardens and supporting local farms. Compost bins are appearing in more yards, and alternative energies are becoming more popular. Communities across the state are expanding their recycling programs to include more materials. You don’t have to make a huge investment in either time or money to take steps to heal and support our Earth Mother. Here are some simple things you can do today to make a positive impact on the health of our planet.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

OK, so you probably are pretty good at the recycling part, but how is your family doing with the first two parts? When purchasing products, make the amount and type of packaging part of your purchase decision. Is the product packaged in recycled and/or recyclable materials? How much excess packaging have they used? Support companies that have responsible practices, and you support the Earth.

Also, question whether you need as much of a product as you normally use. For instance, the next time you wash your hands with liquid soap, don’t press all the way down on the pump. The amount dispensed is considerably more than is needed to clean your hands. The company’s marketing department wants you to push the pump all the way down so you’ll buy more of the product. By reducing the amount you use, you’re reducing the amount of packaging that needs to be produced, the fossil fuels burned both in production and shipping, and the resources to either recycle or dispose of the packaging when the product is gone.

Evaluate other tools you could use. Instead of using paper towels to clean up a spill, you can use old clothes and linens to make household rags that you can wash and use again and again. Make or buy cloth napkins instead of using paper ones and only wash them when it’s really needed. If your cats will go along with it, switch to a cat litter made with wheat or corn that can be flushed, rather than strip-mined clay litter that goes in the trash.

Whenever possible, reuse or donate items rather than throwing them away. Planning a cook-out this spring? You can purchase reusable plastic dishes and cutlery to use outdoors for years to come. If that doesn’t work, you can buy disposable plastic versions and wash them for reuse. Once they’ve reached the point of no return, they’re recyclable.

Depending on your municipality’s recycling program, you can recycle a number of items that you may not think of as recyclable. For instance, if you turn styrofoam-like packaging over, you’ll find a number. These items are no longer made of styrofoam, they’re plastics that can go straight into the recycle bin. Another item I frequently see in friends’ trash cans is ice cream containers. Paper ice cream cartons can be rinsed and recycled. If there is a plastic ring around the lid, it can be removed and recycled, too.

Fossil Fuel Reduction

We can’t all make the investment in solar panels or windmills, but every one of us can reduce the amount of fossil fuels we are burning. In your home, make sure that your doors and windows are weather-tight and find and fill any spaces creating drafts. This will reduce the amount of energy needed to heat your home in winter and cool it in summer. Strategically planted trees can also help to shade your home, reducing cooling costs. And, be responsible. Wear a sweater in the winter.

(Continued on page 12)
I’ve recently embarked on a year-long study of the elements, a group project conceived and led by a wonderful Pagan couple in my spiritual community. Our study follows the seasons. We began with the calendar year and for the first three months we’ve been exploring Earth energy. In April we’ll begin our focus on Air. This led me to thinking about the transitions between the elements and how they interact with one another. These transition points, also known as The Borderlands, are full of possibilities. We can use their unique energy to support us as we work our magick and walk a spiritual path.

Moving deosil around the circle starting in the north, the first transition we encounter is the move from Earth to Air. On the surface, it would seem that we more often change between these two elements in the other direction – first we come up with new ideas, then we bring them to fruition in physical reality. Yet the wheel is a spiral path which we traverse more than once. The transition from actualization to thought is an important part of the cycle of creation. Once we’ve manifested one of our goals, we can evaluate it using our intellect. Can it be further improved or refined? How well does it fit with our life as a whole? What comes next? What new ideas are inspired by the completion of this project?

The intersection of Earth and Air lies in the northeast. A long, cold winter season gives way to the fertile promise of a warm spring. I imagine the terrain as much like that of New England – rugged, rocky terrain that nevertheless supports trees and plants which flourish, even in a fairly short growing season. Traversing this transition is like going on a hike; we climb the mountain, up through the forest, emerging at last on a stony peak where we can feel the refreshing wind in our faces and watch the clouds sail across the sky. It is the energy of Imbolc, when the days have lengthened and our thoughts turn to planting the seeds of spring, yet the land is still caught in the throes of winter.

Where does this transition point emerge in time? The part of the day represented is the time between midnight and dawn. “It’s always darkest before the dawn,” and this time is that of a deep quiet, of taking our solitary inner contemplation and turning it slowly outward into the dawning of a new beginning. The moon cycle as we turn from Earth to Air is Diana’s Bow – a brand-new waxing crescent. Our new dream has been born, and is still a slender crescent, slowly gaining in power and energy, fed by our inspired thoughts.

The stage of life represented by the intersection of Earth and Air is rebirth. As a soul moves from death to being reborn, there is a time of limbo. We rest within the womb, helping to create our new body, or perhaps we hover nearby, exploring the energy of our new family. A plant, once it has burst forth from the seed, grows those long slow inches, readying its energy to send shoots up through the ground and emerge into the sunshine and rain. This “pregnant pause” is an important part of the ever-circling cycle of life, death, and rebirth. It allows us to gather energy for the next phase of our growth.

There are resources available to help us in exploring the Earth to Air transition, such as spiritual practices, tools, and symbols. Here are a few ideas:

- Yoga is a helpful practice for working with these energies. The combination of physical stretching (Earth) and breathing exercises (Air) bring us a more tangible awareness of how our body and mind are connected.

- In the Tarot, the card that represents “Earth of Air” is the Page of Swords. The card speaks to the grounded, or Earthy, aspect of the Air element. The Page of Swords cuts through depression and stormy thoughts. It heralds a time of activity and starting new projects.

- The mythical creature related to this transition is Pegasus – a horse, very much a creature of Earth, who has wings to fly through the Air. Pegasus embodies qualities of both of these elements and can fly over the Earth, bringing a new perspective to physical reality.

- A sample of an affirmation to use when working with this transition might be “The things I have manifested now inspire fresh new ideas.”

As we travel from Earth to Air this spring, notice how the two elements interact in your life. Take some time to ponder how you can integrate this dynamic energy into your daily experience. In the Summer edition of Starcat’s Corner, we’ll examine the transition from Air to Fire. ☀
EarthTides Pagan Network Annual Meeting Minutes

By Jane Raeburn
January 23, 2010

Present:
Eric, Leigh, BlackLion, Nikki, Aree, Fred, Marilyn, Arwen, Jane

Supporting players:
Jane's awesome iPhone, Scooby the cat

Opening:
Marilyn did that beautiful singing circle-casting thing she does. It was beautiful.

Secretary's Report:
Nikki opened the meeting and deferred the issue of the previous meeting's minutes while Jane (acting as Recording Secretary in the absence of Raven) searched for them on her awesome iPhone.

Treasurer's Report:
The treasurer's report was also deferred, as Flo is away. "We have money," said Arwen, but it is unclear how much.

TODO:
• Nikki will follow up with her to get a report as soon as possible.

Common Ground Fair Report:
Eric and Rita report that we did very well at the fair, raising about $370 for EPN while encountering no one openly hostile to our presence. The open ritual did not take place for lack of participation. Despite our request for a double booth, we were awarded only a single one, which meant Tarot readings (which were very popular!) had to take place outside the booth.

TODO:
• Rita will follow up with MOFGA requesting better communication and a double booth this year, or permission to set up a popup outside the booth if we must make do with a single.

Interfaith Coordinator's Report:
Thea reported to Nikki before the meeting that she wishes to continue as EPN's representative to the interfaith community, and Nikki has provided her with a letter affirming our support for Thea's work.

Newsletter Report:
BlackLion reports that the newsletter is up to 20 pages! This is mostly thanks to him and Starcat – they've been assiduously recruiting writers. He has also updated the Networking section and is looking at producing the newsletter in color, which would be more expensive. Jane volunteered to be ad coordinator. A discussion ensued on building our newsletter subscription list. Jane suggested that in the interest of saving paper and reaching more people, we make the newsletter available as an e-mail subscription, with a higher rate for those who still want to receive paper copies. Those present unanimously passed this plan, and the new rates will be $15/ year for print (still wicked cheap!) and $11/year for e-mail.

TODO:
• Eric will send new photos of our T-shirts and bags to BlackLion.
• BlackLion and Starcat will be in touch with Jane to consult about advertising and set rates.
• BlackLion will implement an online subscription via PayPal.
• Arwen will encourage members to use the existing "Maine Pagans" page on Facebook to promote EPN. (This was preferred to setting up a separate fan page for EPN.)
• Nikki and BlackLion will encourage writers to promote their own work online and in Maine Pagan community generally.
• All members are encouraged to tell their Pagan friends about EPN and encourage them to become members.

Web Site Report:
BlackLion has updated us to a Google calendar. There was a pause while those present admired said calendar on Jane's awesome iPhone. BlackLion has also updated the networking page and added cute little Maine maps to the site so visitors can locate events and networking members. Eric mentioned that some out-of-state friends had told him that Maine's Pagan community seemed remarkably close-knit and cooperative, and credited EPN as one of the public resources that helps create and sustain that. Nikki mentioned further online possibilities including an EarthTides presence on WitchVox and linking to The Wild Hunt blog. There followed some reflections on the swift advance of the electronic age.

(Continued on page 15)
by Starcat and BlackLion

We lean on our shovels, slippery with mud and sporting big tired grins. It’s not quite noontide, yet we’re done our work for today. The new pond is coming along swimmingly. The gazebo construction will be left for another time. Our blueprints are posted in the barn, near Maude’s stall, and the lumber from Old Saul’s Mill is stacked and ready. The only thing missing is the ducks.

We squish up the slope to the cottage, the two black cats dodging the puddles as they follow. The orange cat still sprawls on a rock by the pond, tail twitching, daydreaming of fish. He has apparently decided he likes it here, and hasn’t strayed far. The hill is slippery, so we use our shovels as walking staves. The sun is shining and the grass is getting greener, though the breeze still holds a bit of a chill. It feels refreshing after all our morning’s toil.

Now it’s time to get cleaned up. Shucking off our muddy boots, we haul out the big clawed copper tub for our bath. The water has been heating over the woodstove, and it’s just right when we mix it with a pail or two of cool spring water. We quickly disrobe, then release delighted sighs as we slowly sink deep into the tub, lavender and oatmeal soap near to hand. As we lather and scrub and rinse and repeat, we look forward to this afternoon’s big gathering. Bubble Faeries gather round us to hear all about our upcoming fest. The orange cat slinks in through the newly installed kitty door, not wanting to miss anything. He purrs and finds a place nearby on our clean garments. When our tale is told, our grumbling bellies let us know it’s time to end the bath. The cooling water also urges us out and into our big fluffy towels.

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After drying off, we put together a light lunch, offering tidbits to the three cats circling underfoot. We enjoy our brown bread with apple butter, greens with a honey mustard dressing, and sliced pears. After washing his face, the orange cat exits once again. The two black cats settle in their spot by the banked woodstove. We fill our picnic basket with our contributions to the afternoon’s festivities: a jar of dried beans, some festive cloth napkins, and a few clay pots (fired this winter) to be filled with fresh maple syrup. As we prepare ourselves to leave, our orange friend peeks in to see if we’re ready yet, then waits for us on the porch.

Along our way down the hill, the orange cat follows us in a meandering path for a time, then stops to preen and loses interest in our doings. We are headed to the home of the Maple clan: Mabel and Martin Maple and their many and various offspring. We anticipate an exciting afternoon and evening, helping turn gallons and gallons of sap into the season’s first maple syrup!

Soon we arrive, and after a warm greeting we quickly become involved in stirring the Maple Faeries, getting the beans baking in the fire, and helping set up the long trestle table where the evening’s dinner of breakfast will be served. We use long wooden spoons to keep the sap moving in the big cauldron over the bonfire. We are bundled in thick aprons to shield ourselves from the heat. Our musician friends are here to serenade the smiling workers. Later they will be called on for merry jigs to help everyone dance off the big meal.

Before we know it, we can smell the delicious aroma of our repast. There are stacks of pancakes: buckwheat, blueberry, chocolate chip, walnut, buttermilk, cranberry, whole wheat, and flapjacks. Towers of waffles compete for table space. There are jugs of fresh spring water and fruit juices, a big cauldron of maple baked beans, crocks of butter and jam, and fruit compotes made of raspberries, strawberries, and blackberries. And of course, many pots of the fresh, steamy-warm maple syrup that has been the focus of today’s celebration. The Maple Faeries are in ecstasy! We all eat until we roll off the benches, then get up and ready ourselves for the dancing. Before long, the night is filled with lively music, twirling bodies, flickering firelight, and the sweet scent of maple. 🎉
Habitat for Humanity Interfaith Events

by Cynthia “Raven” Grimm

In late 2006, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Portland began work on the first-ever Interfaith Habitat house. The concept was to have people of all faiths work together to fundraise and coordinate volunteer support. The Pagan community was welcomed with open arms and Cynthia Collins of Maine Pagan Clergy Association took the seat at the table for our community.

As part of the fundraising, in 2008, the interfaith committee planned and staffed a walk to raise awareness and funds. I volunteered at the 2008 walk and then joined the committee to plan the walks in the following years. The house funded by the interfaith committee’s efforts was dedicated a few months ago and the Munye family is living happily in their new home.

The interfaith committee worked so well together that we’ve decided to continue working as a community to continue raising funds and awareness for Habitat. This year’s interfaith walk will be held on Sunday, May 23rd at St. Pius Catholic Church on Ocean Avenue in Portland. Registration begins at noon, with the core group of walkers heading out at 1 pm to walk around Baxter Boulevard. Funds raised from this event will benefit a home being built in Westbrook for a single mother and her three children.

If you would like to help, there are a number of ways to participate. You can collect donations, walk with members of your community, or volunteer to assist at the event. To participate in the walk, you can register online at www.firstgiving.com/habitatme. In the center of the page, under “Want to raise money?” click the Join a Team link. You’ll need to select the Interfaith Walk, then register. You can then share the link to your site with family and friends via email, Facebook, or Twitter. Forms will also be available at Beltane on the Beach and other community events this spring.

To volunteer for the event, please email me at mtngoddess2001@yahoo.com. Volunteers are needed for a variety of duties in 1 – 1.5 hour shifts between 10:30 am and 3:30 pm. You could assist with set-up, clean-up, staffing one of the tables for walkers, staffing a rest point on the walk, helping with the barbecue, or assisting with children’s activities.

Other events are also planned for Habitat including the annual YOUth Can Build at the Maine Mall on Saturday, May 1st from 12 – 5 pm. There will be various family-friendly activities and the opportunity to build a house with Legos! For more information, visit the Habitat website at www.habitatportlandme.org, email the youth coordinator at youth@habitatme.org, or call 772-2151. An adult Lego build is also planned for Saturday, May 15th at Empire Dine & Dance in Portland. Details will be available by web or phone soon.

A volunteer day is also coming up at one of the work sites on April 10th between 9 am and 3 pm for the interfaith communities. If you would like to be part of this work crew, for a full or half day, please email me for more information. A Youth Interfaith volunteer day is scheduled for April 21st from 9 am – 3 pm. Youth must be 16 or older to volunteer at a work site. Interested youth should contact the Youth coordinator at youth@habitatme.org or 772-2151 no later than April 14th.

Other volunteer opportunities are available for both adults and kids. Groups of children of any age can volunteer in the Habitat workshop, learning building skills and helping their community. Activities will be tailored to the ages and abilities of the kids in the work group. For more information, contact the Youth coordinator. Volunteers ages 16 and older can work at building sites, help in the ReStore, or work in the office.

Habitat is a great organization that helps families find the security and stability of owning their own homes. I hope you’ll help in whatever ways you can to contribute to their success.
A Southerner’s Perspective on Living in Maine (cont’d)

(Continued from page 1)

to bring it inside and let the warmth of the house caress it back into life. I’ve had a lot of death in my life this winter—two friends since Yule—and seeing this tiny, precious life stolen by the cold seems to bring those deaths home in a visceral manner. But wiser heads prevail. I say a prayer and gently place the bird back where we found it, on the frozen grass. The life energy of this tiny being will feed many other creatures.

Yet, despite the bitter cold, all around me the trees and bushes know that the sun is returning. Some days they seem to be straightening up their trunks, relaxing their branches just a tad, and preparing themselves to begin to awaken from their winter sleep. Preparing to awaken, but not awakening yet. The ground is still frozen, the snow is still deep, and extreme cold can return without warning. Indeed, some nights are bitterly cold, with an icy wind that splits between the layers of clothing to find every tiny piece of exposed skin and caress it into numbness.

I notice that the seed pods on many trees and bushes—full and bursting last fall—now hang empty and dry—stripped by the birds and squirrels. Evidence of buds—the potential of new life—becomes faintly visible in some places. Just the suggestion of swelling at the end of a branch—like a woman in the first three months of pregnancy when the new life within her is visible only to the discerning and knowing eye.

This is a season we don’t really have in the part of the South where I lived for so many years. The transition from winter to spring happens in a heartbeat along the Gulf Coast. Few things are really dormant during the winter—indeed, camellias and poinsettias bloom all winter long. And then, sometime in late February, the temperatures shift from highs in the 50s to highs in the 70s and there is no looking back. Spring rushes in like a sprinter and flowers and new growth begin their headlong dash to summer.

What happens in a week on the Gulf coast takes 3 months in Maine. The whole process is ever so much more gradual and paced. Living here is an exercise in patience. I’m coming to understand that the experienced New Englander is an expert in reading subtle signs and signals. Survival here requires a more discerning and discriminating eye than survival in the deep South—a deeper attunement and connection to the sacred body of the Earth—a more sophisticated knowing than I am familiar with but that I am acquiring season by season.

Ostara—the days are longer still, the nights increasingly short, the air ever so slightly warmer. The rising sun has moved—once visible through the leafless branches in the woods behind the house, it is creeping north and now shines in the window next to my bed. While I know this change is not the result of the Sun’s movement but rather the Earth’s, the magnitude of the shift amazes me. I stand in the yard and, drawing on all my powers of imagination and sensitivity, try to feel the movement of the Earth—dancing through space at unimaginable speeds, following steps that have been in place for billions of years. I strain every sense and still cannot feel that movement. I now understand why our ancestors believed that the movement was the Sun’s—it seems so very clear from my place on this planet.

Taliesin and I stand on the back deck on clear, moonless nights and he points out the other planets visible in the dark sky—Mars, Jupiter, Saturn—and I wonder. Is Earth visible in the sky to whatever other beings might inhabit our near neighbors? Do we shine with a bluish green light or is our light as white and glowing as Venus at night?

View from the Aerie (cont’d)

(Continued from page 7)

so you can turn the thermostat back a bit and use fans instead of air conditioners on moderately warm summer days.

When you leave your home, carpool or use public transportation whenever possible or you can go under your own power on foot or on a bike. Combine trips rather than running out every time you think of something you need. Do your grocery shopping on your way home from work, and visit the bank, post office, and hardware store in one trip. Keep your car tuned up and don’t speed to reduce the amount of fuel you burn.

Happy Earth Day and Mother’s Day

There are a million little things that each of us can do each day to reduce the negative impact our species has on our Earth Mother and to increase our positive impact. When walking through your neighborhood, bring a bag to pick up trash you find along the way. Plant a garden, whether it’s in a container on your back step or on an acre of land. Compost your food scraps, dryer lint, garden and yard clean-up leftovers, and pet hair.

We can also share our energy, both in healing our planet and in educating others about the importance of nurturing our Earth Mother. Each one of us can make a significant difference and help ensure that future generations of Mainers enjoy all of our seasons: Winter, Mud, Spring, Blackfly, Summer, and Fall. ☯
Fear (cont’d)

(Continued from page 4)
you plant your symbolic seeds. Understanding the fears that keep you separated from your goals will help you to break free of that shell, and hatch.

“And the day came when the risk to remain tight in a bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom.” – Anais Nin.

Let that day be today. The fertile earth of creation is waiting and willing. Your season is now. The seed of possibility germinating inside you has your heart pounding with excitement and your breath quickening with exertion. Follow your fear and let it guide you. Purpose driven, you can push through the shell of fear that surrounds you. You can do this! You’re strong enough! Unfurl and reach your tender tendrils to the sky. Come out – come out, and sprout!

Blessed Be! 🌿

Oak Tree

by Lorelei Greenwood

First, the seed, small and green, capped like an elf’s beret. As the season progresses, the acorn dries and shrinks; the cap is lose. The acorn sits for the Winter under a blanket of snow, cushioned by leaves and moss. Then, at last, the Spring sun returns, warming the soil and stirring the song of life. With a sharp sound, the shell splits, and a pale, questing tendril emerges from within. Downward it moves, seeking the rich brown soil in which to take root. A second shoot comes out, this time pushing upward, seeking the sun. Slowly it grows; the naked stem begins to get covered with a thin bark and the first tiny leaves appear. As the years go by, the stem gets taller and the leaves full-sized, looking like oversized puppy paws. Eventually, after decades, the tree fully matures, grand in size and stature, and begins to grow and release its own acorns. Most of these will never sprout; many will become food for squirrels and raccoons. Others will take root and compete for the sunshine, so limited in the dense forest. And then, some day far in the future, age will overcome this might oak and it will fall. Then the forces of death and decay will take over, reducing the once majestic tree to dust and debris, becoming food for future generations of plant life. The endless cycle of life, seen here in the birth and death of an oak tree.
The imminent arrival of spring is now visible on every front. Flower beds that seemed doomed to be forever barren show miniscule signs of erupting green shoots. Once they have broken the ground, the shoots grow visibly every day—tangible evidence that the hope and promise of the season between Imbolc and Ostara is about to be fulfilled. Plants I had forgotten existed in my garden suddenly reassert their identity in unmistakable terms.

The nights are still pretty cold by my standards, but the animals don’t seem to care. The mating calls from birds vibrate on the air, driving my cats and dog crazy. Seeking a mate has replaced haunting the feeders as the primary bird activity. Birds chase potential mates across the deck, up and down the trees, and into the rhododendron. There is still some traffic at the feeders, but less and less as the melting snow reveals other sources of food and the prime imperative of all creation—to mate and reproduce—makes itself felt.

The imminent arrival of spring gradually gives way to her firm presence. The promise of every slightly swollen tree branch fulfills itself as, slowly but surely, each and every leaf on each and every tree unfurls itself and begins absorbing sunlight. I watch the trees in our yard and try to sense the energy involved in reaching deep below the ground into your roots and pulling the vitality stored there back up into your trunk, and then out your branches and into your emerging new life. I am reminded of the Tree of Life grounding, which is one of my favorites. Only this is not metaphorical—not something created by imagination to help me connect with our Mother Earth. This is real—actual—life reborn before our very eyes. Wow.

My first spring in Maine, and indeed every spring since then, I’ve been astonished and humbled by the sheer power and force of spring. The nature and quantity of energy stored underground during the winter months and then released, at just the right time, is a continuing miracle. Like a well-orchestrated symphony, each living thing watches the conductor—the ever returning Sun—and comes in exactly on its cue. Movement by movement, the Earth turns green again, year after year, from time immemorial. I am deeply moved by this and by the opportunity to observe and be part of this process. The presence of Divine energy—of the Goddess and God united in love and passion—is palpable in the air.

Now spring does happen on the Gulf Coast. Taliesin and I were in New Orleans in late February and the maple tree in my yard was putting out its new leaves. The differences are largely a question of degree and contrast. On the Gulf Coast, winter temperatures rarely fall below freezing and most trees do not shed all their leaves. They shed some, but the stately oaks, magnolias and palms for which the Gulf Coast is noted mostly remain green all winter. There is some new growth in the spring, but it is more difficult to see as it is masked by the existing greenery. There is not the sense of sending energy to the underworld for the duration of the cold times which feels so visceral to me here in Maine. Winter survival is rarely an issue on the Gulf Coast and the plants which do freeze in the occasional cold snap almost always return, with little human help and generally with renewed vigor.

Spring here in Maine seems to last forever, and fades slowly into summer. On the Gulf Coast, spring is compressed into a month or maybe two. Everything seems to pop at once, instead of emerging in a measured and timely fashion. Azaleas, magnolias, tulips—all bloom within days of each other and by the time Beltane arrives, spring is over and the summer heat is beginning. Life there seems backwards from life in Maine as spring rushes into summer—the harshest season of the year.

Since I grew up in Florida, I had no other experience of seasonal patterns and how they could affect one’s personal and spiritual life. I accepted the short cool winter, the compressed spring and fall, and the long intense summer as normal. But now I find that I much prefer the seasonal parade I’m learning to love here in Maine. My personal energy emerges from hibernation, just as the chipmunks and skunks do. I like having a season for deeply introspective work, followed by a season of burgeoning life. The synchronicity of my personal life and the life I see in the world around me is deeply pleasing and satisfying.

Mary MoonStar can be reached at: marymoonstar@yahoo.com.
EPN Meeting Minutes (cont’d)

(Continued from page 9)

TODO:

• BlackLion and Nikki will be in touch with Jane about Witchvox and other possible ways to use and abuse her expertise as a Web/social media person.

Jane moved a vote of thanks to Nikki and BlackLion for their work on the newsletter and Web site. This was passed by adoration. (That's like acclamation, but better.)

Beltane on the Beach at Popham Report:
BELTANE ON THE BEACH IS MAY 2. MAY 2, EVERYONE. BE THERE OR BE A GEOMETRICAL SHAPE OF SOME KIND.

Statement of Ethics:
This will replace the "Community Standards" section of the Web site. There was a brief discussion of past history around this issue, leading to the current version which is deliberately phrased in a positive fashion and encourages rather than binds. The key issue behind this document is the affirmation of the legal and ethical right of parents to raise minor children in their own religion. With some changes (including condensing the seven recommended behaviors to five), this passed unanimously.

Corresponding Secretary:
Nikki had planned to hold a vote to name Eric to the empty position of Corresponding Secretary. Arwen mentioned that this might violate the bylaws, which mandate that candidates be called for and voting conducted through the newsletter. Jane looked up the bylaws on her awesome iPhone and found that Nikki as president is empowered simply to name someone to the job. Unsurprisingly, she chose Eric.

TODO:

• Rita will draft an amendment to the bylaws to modify the election process.

Old Business:
The idea of a public ritual after Common Ground Fair has been dropped for lack of enthusiasm on the part of both fairgoers and EPN members. There was a brief discussion of conference calling technologies available for meetings, but it was agreed that if we could hold brief meetings at Beltane and Common Ground, this would make for three meetings a year which appears to be enough for now.

TODO:

• Nikki will contact Kevin to see if there is anything EPN can do to support his work with Pagans in prison.

New Business:
Books: Aree has two boxes of Pagan books given to her by an Immanent Grove member who moved out of state. She would like to find a good home for them. Options for this were discussed, but it was agreed that little could be done unless we knew what the books were.

TODO:

• Aree will compile a list of titles and consult Marilyn and Arwen to discover whether any of them are valuable.

Cherry Hill Seminary: Jane suggested a donation to Cherry Hill Seminary. Arwen suggested that this instead be a scholarship offered to an EPN member or at least a Maine Pagan. After wide-ranging discussion touching on EPN's mission and varying sets of values regarding Pagan education, it was moved that Jane be authorized to come up with an outline of such a scholarship program. This passed with two abstentions.

TODO:

• Jane will first draft a program along the lines discussed at the meeting and post to the EPN list for discussion.

• (AMENDMENT) BlackLion will add a donation button to the website specifically for scholarships to be sponsored by EPN.

Pagan Preserves Project: Jane then suggested a donation to the Pagan Preserves Project being organized by Immanent Grove. This is intended for the eventual purchase of Pagan land to be minimally developed (including access for people with disabilities) and made available to multiple groups for use as a gathering place, ritual location, and memorial park. After some discussion, it was decided to table this item pending accurate information on EPN's financial situation.

TODO:

• Eric will write an article about Pagan Preserves for the newsletter.

• (AMENDMENT) BlackLion will add a donation button to the website specifically for donations to the Pagan Preserves Project on behalf of EPN.

Adjournment
Marilyn took down the circle. Brief social time followed. For further entertainment, Jane delayed the departure of many of those present by getting stuck in a snowbank in the driveway.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Raeburn ☺
**Untitled**

by Lorelei Greenwood

Little snowflake in the sky,
Please do tell me, why oh why
Are you aiming for my eye?
And yet I have to share
Grateful, I, that you are not
A passing pigeon’s chamber pot,
For larger looms this falling spot
And * oomph! * has hit me square.

The chill air makes us sniff and blow –
You can’t decide which way to go,
Halfway rain and halfway snow,
You’re caught twixt thaw and freeze.
The pollen soon my nose will vex.
It always makes me most perplexed –
    Every time that I have sex
    Why don’t the flowers sneeze?
Earth will burst in greenish beauty,
Shorter skirts will showcase booty –
    You can bet your sweet patootie
    All men will be goggle-eyed.
The birds and bees will soon be doing
    Acts of nature, acts of wooing
While we’ll all be Springtime flu-ing
    Coughing, sniffing, sleep-deprived.
Thru the endless shov’ling will we
    Ponder this, our plight, ’til we
Yell “Winter sucketh mightily!”
And for the Summer, whine.
Brand new leaves will soon be popping,
    Robins red shall start their hopping
As we’re told, “There’s 326 shopping
    Days ’til Christmas time!”
Imbolc says it’s Winter’s end --
    Clearly they have never been to New England!
So now we quit this silly poem because I’m running out of rhymes.
    So there. 😊

**Midsummer**

by Lorelei Greenwood

O Glorious Sun,
how strong you shine
Rising above hills
of flowers and fields of ripening grain.
Your day has come,
deepest of stars,
And your vibrancy
is unmatched.
Though from this day
on your strength wanes,
Today we celebrate
and praise you.
From you comes the
life-giving heat,
    So welcome after
Winter’s cold and dark.
Because of you,
leaves bud on the trees
And new plants
unfurl from the warming soil.
    All life owes its
existence to you
And for this we
give thanks. 😊
Networking

The people and groups listed here have volunteered to serve as points of contact for those seeking Pagan community. Any person or group may be listed here by contacting EPN to arrange such a listing.

EPN has no interest in serving as the "Pagan police," and explicitly supports the autonomy of each person and group in matters of faith, belief and worship. The Maine Pagan community encompasses a wide variety of people and practices, and seekers are cautioned that any person or activity that makes you uncomfortable is probably wrong for you.

For more in-depth information on many of the groups and contacts in the network, see the EPN website at earthtides.org.

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<th>BANGOR AREA</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Eastern Maine Pagan Pride Day (EMPPD).</strong> Monthly meetings and additional fundraisers, leading up to EMPPD. Bangor. Keri Alley, (207) 947-7290. Keri Alley, <a href="mailto:coyotewalkingtree@gmail.com">coyotewalkingtree@gmail.com</a> or Teresa Cassinelli, <a href="mailto:asetmoonglow@gmail.com">asetmoonglow@gmail.com</a>. <strong>Temple of the Feminine Divine.</strong> Legally recognized “church” with ordained clergy offering public Sabbat rituals, library, meditation space, ordination program, rites of passage, and religious counseling. Bangor. (207) 941-0261. <a href="mailto:TOFDBangor@aol.com">TOFDBangor@aol.com</a>.</td>
<td><strong>Leslie Linder.</strong> Public rituals, classes, and workshops (including online), handfastings and Wiccanings. Ellsworth. <a href="mailto:leslielinder@hotmail.com">leslielinder@hotmail.com</a>. <a href="http://www.universalclass.com/i/crn/13095.htm">www.universalclass.com/i/crn/13095.htm</a>.</td>
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<th>KENNEBEC VALLEY</th>
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<td><strong>Red Tail Alliance.</strong> Twice-monthly open traditional Native American Sacred Circle meetings and Full Moon Ceremonies (Shoshone). Starks. Carmen Gauthier, (207) 696-6262. <a href="mailto:redtailali@peoplepc.com">redtailali@peoplepc.com</a>. <a href="http://www.redtailalliance.org">www.redtailalliance.org</a>.</td>
<td><strong>Snowhawke/Kevin E. Emmons.</strong> An active Druid priest offering public classes, one-on-one mentoring, prison ministry, press contact, Druid sweat lodges, and free training material including a year-long course in Druidry. Casco. (207) 655-1211. <a href="mailto:snowhawke@gmail.com">snowhawke@gmail.com</a>. <strong>Kerry of Forest Sanctuary.</strong> Clergy services include rites of passage, coordination between hospitals and prisons, formal or informal training, and therapy. Jay. <a href="mailto:forestsanctuary@yahoo.com">forestsanctuary@yahoo.com</a>. <a href="http://www.forestsanctuarymaine.org">www.forestsanctuarymaine.org</a>. <strong>Ananta Androscoggin/ Rev. Peter W. Jokinen.</strong> Offering use of the Groves of the Greene Man’s Denne facilities for ritual, private or public events, handfastings, and weddings. Contact person for Pagan Newswire Collective. Greene. (207) 946-7732. <a href="mailto:greenerman@fairpoint.net">greenerman@fairpoint.net</a>. <a href="http://www.fairpoint.net/~sirpeterj">www.fairpoint.net/~sirpeterj</a>. <strong>Silver Circle.</strong> Open Sabbat and Esbat rituals and instruction in eclectic Wicca and Pagan paths. Lewiston, Livermore, Bath-Brunswick. (207) 897-9673. <a href="mailto:angashash60@yahoo.com">angashash60@yahoo.com</a> or <a href="mailto:elfmanofnemedd@yahoo.com">elfmanofnemedd@yahoo.com</a>. <strong>Lorelei Greenwood of Cynwyd (KIN-wood) Circle.</strong> Teaching basic Wicca with Shamanic leanings, offering occasional public rituals and gatherings and rites of passage. Lewiston/Auburn. (207) 577-5946. <a href="mailto:firebornspirit@yahoo.com">firebornspirit@yahoo.com</a>.</td>
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**BE A PART OF EPN**

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## Calendar of Events

NOTE: If you'd like your event included in our calendar of events, please send us an e-mail, with Calendar Listings as the subject, to grove@ctel.net before the deadline for the issue in which you'd like it listed. Each issue of the newsletter lists the next deadline on the front page.

If you would like an extra copy of this calendar to post on a public bulletin board, please feel free to photocopy it freely. If you know a business in your area which would like to post one, please send the information to the above e-mail address and we'll add it to the mailing list.

As a service to the Pagan community, we seek to list as many events as possible that would be of interest to Maine Pagans. You need not be a member of EPN, or even a subscriber to this newsletter, to list an event here. All we ask is that events be non-profit -- that is, that any fees for participating not exceed the reasonable cost of putting on the event -- and submitted to us by e-mail or post by the publication deadline. (Those planning for-profit events are welcome to avail themselves of our very affordable advertising opportunities.)

We make no claim as to the value or safety of any of these events, and caution our readers to rely on their own best judgment when assessing any situation, particularly those involving strangers. That said, we also encourage you to participate in as wide a spectrum of the Pagan community as you can, both for your own enjoyment and because our community needs your positive energy and good fellowship.

For up-to-date calendar events, see the EPN website at earthtides.org.

### March

- **20 Spring Equinox**
- **21 Oestara open circle Silver Cauldron Coven in Saco.** RSVP and Details at Directions@silvercauldroncoven.com.
- **27 Bacchanalia and Naughty Pagan Calendar Release Party** in Bangor benefit for EMPPD. 6:00-10:00 at 128 Hammond Street. Calendars, prints, and posters will be available. For details contact Keri at 947-7290 or coyotewalkingtree@gmail.com or Teresa at asetmoonglow@gmail.com.
- **28 13 Moons Coven Ritual to Heqet in Kennebunk.** We ask those attending to begin showing up at 5 PM. Ritual will begin around 6 PM. All are welcome to attend so far as our space will provide. Children are welcome so long as you feel that they will be able to stand still for a 30 minute ritual... Those under the age of 18 will need to attend with a parent or guardian or work out arrangements with us beforehand. Please bring an item for the potluck meal that will follow ritual. If you have any questions or need directions, please contact us at 13moonscoven@gmail.com. You can also check out our MySpace page at: www.myspace.com/13moonscoven and we are on Facebook as well.
- **29 Full Moon** — April —
- **9 Day of Jarl Hakon**
- **14 New Moon**
- **18 Mercury Retrograde**
- **21-22 Lyrids Meteor Shower**
- **22 Earth Day**
- **24 Arbor Day event** in Bangor with EMPPD. For details contact Keri at 947-7290 or coyotewalkingtree@gmail.com or Teresa at asetmoonglow@gmail.com.
- **25 13 Moons Coven Ritual to Khnum** in Kennebunk. We ask those attending to begin showing up at 5 PM. Ritual will begin around 6 PM. All are welcome to attend so far as our space will provide. Children are welcome so long as you feel that they will be able to stand still for a 30 minute ritual... Those under the age of 18 will need to attend with a parent or guardian or work out arrangements with us beforehand. Please bring an item for the potluck meal that will follow ritual. If you have any questions or need directions, please contact us at 13moonscoven@gmail.com. You can also check out our MySpace page at: www.myspace.com/13moonscoven and we are on Facebook as well.

### April

- **28 Full Moon** — May —
- **1 Beltane**
- **2 27th Annual Beltane on the Beach at Popham Beach State Park.** This is an all-day event, with many activities. Bring 9 yards of strong ribbon for the maypole ceremony and something for the potluck lunch. There will also be a Bike Blessing for any motorcyclists who come, the 12th Torch Race Honoring Pan, and the EMPPA will have the 2011 Kilted Oestara open circle Silver Cauldron Coven in Saco. RSVP and Details at Directions@silvercauldroncoven.com.
- **3 Beltane open circle in Kennebunk with Silver Cauldron Coven.** RSVP and Details at Directions@silvercauldroncoven.com.
- **5-6 Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower**
- **11 Mercury Direct**
- **13 New Moon**
- **16 Maine Pagan Clergy Association quarterly meeting in Casco.** Board meeting 2:30, general meeting 3:30, educational programming (Singing Through the Portal, on hospice care and facilitating transitions, presented by Jim Lawer) at 4:00. Potluck afterwards. E-mail snowhawke@gmail.com for details and directions.
- **27 Full Moon**
- **30 Saturn Direct**

### May

- **30 13 Moons Coven Ritual to Set in Kennebunk.** We ask those attending to begin showing up at 5 PM. Ritual will begin around 6 PM. All are welcome to attend so far as our space will provide. Children are welcome so long as you feel that they will be able to stand still for a 30 minute ritual... Those under the age of 18 will need to attend with a parent or guardian or work out arrangements with us beforehand. Please bring an item for the potluck meal that will follow ritual. If you have any questions or need directions, please contact us at 13moonscoven@gmail.com. You can also check out our MySpace page at: www.myspace.com/13moonscoven and we are on Facebook as well.

- **31 Neptune Retrograde**
Calendar of Events (cont’d)

— June —

12 New Moon

14-16 Lyrids Meteor Shower

21 Summer Solstice

26 Midsummer Revel At Midsummer, we gather to celebrate the Sun at his height of power, and to create a wicker man, the SummerKing, who shall stand in this sacred place until his burning at Samhain (Final Fire). We shall adorn his body with ribbons and flowers, bedecking him as fits a monarch. Then we shall take papers and write our thanks and prayers, adding them to his form to energize in the summer sun. There he shall stand, under the blazing daystar’s heat, energizing our wishes until Final Fire at Samhain when he shall be set to burn. Midsummer Revel will be hosted on Saturday, June 26, from 10AM - 4PM in Greene. For information and directions e-mail firebornspirit@yahoo.com.

26 Full Moon

27 13 Moons Coven Ritual to Heqet in Kennebunk. We ask those attending to begin showing up at 5 PM. Ritual will begin around 6 PM. All are welcome to attend so far as our space will provide. Children are welcome so long as you feel that they will be able to stand still for a 30 minute ritual... Those under the age of 18 will need to attend with a parent or guardian or work out arrangements with us beforehand. Please bring an item for the potluck meal that will follow ritual. If you have any questions or need directions, please contact us at 13moonscoven@gmail.com. You can also check out our MySpace page at: www.myspace.com/13moonscoven and we are on Facebook as well.

— July —

11 New Moon

23-25 Harvest Revel We will gather at a fellow Pagan’s land in central Maine on July 23-25 to join in the celebration of Lammas. Friday will include a meet-and-greet, an opening circle with a Water Sharing ceremony, and a Fire Drum Circle. Saturday is full of amazing activities with workshops and demonstrations, vendors and music. This will include the Lammas ritual, a Bardic Circle, and a fire spinning performance. Sunday morning will feature a breakfast, including pancakes, scrambled eggs, OJ and donuts. For those of you unable to be with us for the entire weekend, Saturday-only registration is available! For information and directions e-mail firebornspirit@yahoo.com.

25 13 Moons Coven Ritual to Ma'at in Kennebunk. We ask those attending to begin showing up at 5 PM. Ritual will begin around 6 PM. All are welcome to attend so far as our space will provide. Children are welcome so long as you feel that they will be able to stand still for a 30 minute ritual... Those under the age of 18 will need to attend with a parent or guardian or work out arrangements with us beforehand. Please bring an item for the potluck meal that will follow ritual. If you have any questions or need directions, please contact us at 13moonscoven@gmail.com. You can also check out our MySpace page at: www.myspace.com/13moonscoven and we are on Facebook as well.

26 Full Moon

28-29 Southern Delta Aquarids Meteor Shower

Monthly & Weekly Events

Abrahadabra Oasis Social Hour Every second Tuesday. Come join us for our monthly social! Abrahadabra Oasis is an official body of the Ordo Templi Orientis (O.T.O.) located in Portland, Maine. Its mission is to provide and support the growth of a Thelemic community in northern New England. 276 Woodford Street in Portland, 6:00 PM. See www.abrahadabra-oto.org for more info.

Acorn Circle: 5:30 – 7:00 PM the fourth Wednesday of each month @ Sam’s Restaurant in Lisbon Falls. Acorn circle is an eclectic American Wiccan group with degree training & worships at Sabbats and Equinoxes. All training is free and done entirely on a voluntary basis. To join the group and/or to get more info, e-mail vermalnox1@yahoo.com. Adults only.

Beans, Leaves & Deities: Pagan Coffee Chats – 2nd Saturdays, New Portland Church, Portland. Coffee, tea and meet other Southern Maine Pagans. All Pagan paths are welcome. Our goal is to provide a safe, fun and welcoming space for local Pagans to meet, network, share ideas and enjoy a cuppa. One hour topical discussion followed by social time. FMI: call 671-4292, jgrandbois@gwi.net, or www.beansleavesdeities.blogspot.com.

The Groves of the Greene Man’s Denne, 31 South River Road, Greene. Available for group or individual worship. FMI: www.fairpoint.net/~sirpetej or greenerm@fairpoint.net.

Healing Circle on the last Tuesday of the month from 7-9pm at 584 Maple Ridge Rd in Winslow. You can find more info by calling (207) 692-4957 or via the web at www.becomeonewithspirit.com or www.becomeonewithspirit.com/news_letter.htm.

Lewiston Auburn Pagans presents... LAP Meet and Greet. Every Sunday at Governor’s in Lewiston from 7-9pm. We meet to network with other Pagans and spread education of our paths. See www.witchvox.com/vn/vn_detail/dt_ev.html?a=usme&id=52018 for more info.

The Magick Closet presents... Free Weekly Seminar. Which Witch is which? Every Monday night from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM at The Magick Closet, 995 Forest Avenue, Portland, ME. Must call for admission, (207) 221-6820.

Pagan Home-schoolers. Each Wednesday before the full moon, a group meets in Standish from 9:00 to Noon. Call 207-642-5045.

SpiralScouts Moonrise Circle #218 Meeting First Sunday of every Month in Sleep Falls at 2pm. We are looking for other families interested in sharing this Scouting experience. Children ages 3-18. Registration Required. Please contact Carolyn_lh@yahoo.com for directions and more information.

USM Pagan Chaplaincy sponsors regular rituals open to USM students, faculty and staff as well as the wider community. Stress-relieving meditations are at noon on Wednesdays at the Interfaith Chaplaincy office (“old farmhouse” on the Portland campus). For more information, e-mail cynthia.collins@maine.edu.

Wisdom House Shrine Discussion Group/Open Ritual. Sundays at 1:30pm in Presque Isle. For more information see www.witchvox.com/vn/vn_detail/dt_ev.html?a=usme&id=62236.
Beltane on the Beach at Popham will be held on May 2nd!

Come celebrate and enjoy friends, family, food and festivities!