

Stone Creed Grove A.D.F.

Stone Facts – The Stone Creed Grove Quarterly Newsletter

Fall 2015 – Serving the Gods, the Land, and the Folk for 25 years

Stone Creed Grove, ADF is a congregation of neo-pagan druids located in the Cleveland, OH metro area. As a chartered grove of *Ár nDraíocht Féin: A Druid Fellowship*, an international organization for public neo-pagan druidry, we hold public rites regularly throughout the year to honor the religious rituals of our Indo-European ancestors. Our public rites are open to all regardless of background or current religious belief.

Upcoming Rite: Eleusinia

Sunday, Sept 20, 4:30 PM at Tredara Retreat Center, Madison

As the year turns towards darkness, we gather to celebrate the growth and the center of the harvest season! The veil between worlds is thin, and as our ancestors did we turn our attention to the Greek deities Dionysos and Persephone, who have been recently unlocking their mysteries of their worship at Eleusis. We gladly give them a part of our harvest and carefully purify ourselves so that we can begin to discover their secrets of life and death.

After the rite, we will share in our customary pot-luck feast as we celebrate our fruitful summer.



Upcoming Rite: Samhain

Sunday, Nov 8, 4:30 PM at River Grove, Willoughby Hills

As the nights grow longer, we light the Fire of Blessings in remembrance of all our honored ancestors and call for the Waters of Life! The Feast of Samhain is the beginning of our cycle of the year, as established by our Celtic ancestors, and we take this time to honor the Morrigan, Donn, and those who lived before us. We encourage the folk to bring photos or mementos of any of your personal ancestors you wish to honor.

We will have our usual pot-luck feast following the rite. In addition, our younger folk share in the breaking of a piñata. Folk are asked to bring dishes for all to share and enjoy.



Monthly Blessing Rites

Our first Friday blessing rites for 2015-6 begin September 4 at Spirit Apothecary in Bedford, and will continue on the first Friday of each month through June. Also, starting on September 11, we will be holding blessing rites on the second Friday of the month at Goddess Elite in North Olmsted.

The Reaping

*The gold stands tall, to reach to sky
But rooted low, its doom is nigh
For human strength will still apply*

*One swipe, the wealth is gathered in
The blade cuts down the high where thin
For that becomes the strength within*

*Each year the felling must be done
On season's turn to setting sun
Another generation won.*

- Thexalon

From the Senior Druid – By Keith “Darius” Madden

It has been a very busy summer and a lot of work has been accomplished by all. Stone Creed Grove members attended a lot of Pagan Festivals this season and made a strong showing through out the Pagan Community. Good job everyone for representing us in a good light and thank you for your service.

Our Summer continues into the next season. So, please take some time to sit back and be thankful for all the gifts that were given to you by your family, friends, and kindred spirits. Enjoy the moment of rest with those that you love. Be safe and have a wonderful rest of the season.

Sincerely,
Darius

Introducing the Hearth Culture – The Irish Celts by Dave “Thexalon” Kleinschmidt

One way to deepen your experience of ritual and learn more about why Stone Creed rituals take the steps that they do is to study the cultures that surrounded the deities being honored. This is the second article in a series intended to provide some basic information about the culture, the deities, and religious practices of various Indo-European peoples. Since half of our rites honor Irish deities, they will be the subject of our next look.

Where did they live? Ireland, of course, but as part of a much larger Celtic culture that once covered about 1/3 of Europe. According to current archaeology, Celts started in the Danube River valley in southern Germany and Austria, and expanded to dominate what is now France, Spain, Britain, Ireland, and even areas of Turkey. Celtic languages are still being spoken and written today in Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the Isle of Man, and Brittany (northwestern France).

When did they stop practicing paganism? Christianity first came to Ireland as early as 400 CE, but paganism was actively practiced in Ireland until roughly 750 CE.

Who did they worship? The major deities were part of the Tuatha de Danaan (literally, Tribe of the Goddess): Danu / Aine, Nuada, Dagda, Ogma, Lugh, Brigid, Manannan mac Lir, Aengus Og, and Morrigan are some of the most familiar characters. Also very common was the worship of the *sidhe*, nature beings that were believed to live under the mounds of earth found all over Ireland.

What writings describe their mythology? There are three major collections of stories: The Mythological Cycle, which tells of the exploits of the Tuatha de Danaan and their competitors and predecessors, the Ulster Cycle, which focuses on the hero Cu Chulainn, and the Fenian Cycle about the exploits of Finn macCumail. All were first written down by Irish monks in the 11th through 14th centuries CE.

What elements of their religion are used by Stone Creed Grove? Celtic symbols are found on many of our ritual items and sacred spaces, from statues of deities to tile patterns on our fire altar. Gaelic and Irish deities take center place at many of our High Day rites.

What changes for rites honoring deities of the hearth culture? Divination is typically performed with *ogham*, a system of tree-symbols used in early Irish writing. Irish words and phrases that you can expect to hear in ritual include *sidhe* (“shee”, or nature spirits), *Bíodh sé amhlaidh* (“Bee shay ow-lay”, meaning “so be it”), and *Tag o ma* (“tog oh mah”, meaning “blessed be”).

Tredara Retreat Center Development Continues

Thanks to the hard work and donations of grove members and other friends of the grove, the Tredara Retreat Center, our summer site in Madison, has continued to expand and develop. This summer has seen important additions both large and small. The biggest changes include a large permanent pavilion and rain-fed shower stalls near the upper crossroads, and pavilions in the main nemeton to shade and shelter the folk during ritual. We also expect to have a new parking lot near the northern entrance in the near future.

Sue and Ian are excited to welcome the Grove and ADF community to their improving facilities.

Schedule of Events, Fall 2015

September

- **Monthly Blessing Rite 9/4** 8:30 PM. Spirit Apothecary, Bedford
- **West Side Blessing Rite 9/11** 8:30 PM. Goddess Elite, North Olmsted
- **Monthly Business Meeting 9/18** 8:00 PM Tredara Retreat Center, Madison
- **Fall Equinox Celebration 9/20** Gather at 2 PM, ritual at 4 PM. Tredara Retreat Center, Madison

October

- **Monthly Blessing Rite 10/2** 8:30 PM. Spirit Apothecary, Bedford
- **West Side Blessing Rite 10/9** 8:30 PM. Goddess Elite, North Olmsted
- **Monthly Business Meeting 10/16** 8:00 PM.

November

- **Monthly Blessing Rite 11/6** 8:30 PM. Spirit Apothecary, Bedford
- **Samhain Celebration 11/8** Gather at 2 PM, ritual at 4 PM. River Grove (near Squire's Castle), North Chagrin Reservation, Willoughby Hills.
- **West Side Blessing Rite 11/13** 8:30 PM. Goddess Elite, North Olmsted
- **Monthly Business Meeting 11/20** 8:00 PM.

SCG ADF
P.O. Box 19261
Cleveland, OH 44119-0261

