

# Stone Creed Grove A.D.F.

## Stone Facts – The Stone Creed Grove Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2015 – Serving the Gods, the Land, and the Folk for over 20 years

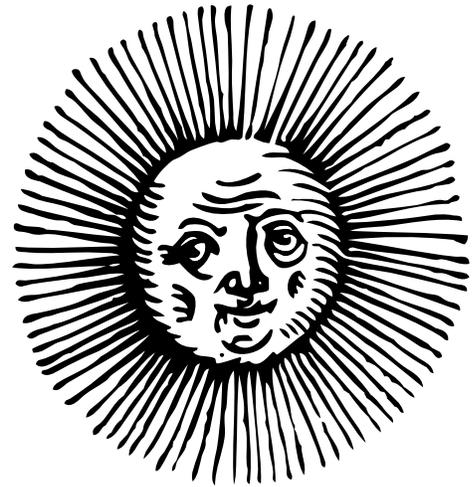
**Stone Creed Grove, ADF** is a congregation of neo-pagan druids located in the Cleveland, OH metro area. As a chartered grove of *Ár nDraíocht Féin: A Druid Fellowship*, an international organization for public neo-pagan druidry, we hold public rites regularly throughout the year to honor the religious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

### ***Upcoming Rite: Midsummer***

**Sunday, June 21, 4:30 PM at Tredara Retreat Center, Madison**

On the longest day of the year, we gather to celebrate the growth and early harvest of the summer! The veil between worlds is thin, and we give particular honor to the Norse Vanir deities Freyr and Freya, who have been agricultural patrons of our Grove for many years. We gladly give them a part of our first harvest, that our later harvest may be more bountiful and joyous.

Midsummer is still a popular celebration in Scandanavia, and we may enjoy some of their customs outside of the rite itself. After the rite, we will share in our customary pot-luck feast.



### ***Upcoming Rite: Lughnassadh***

**Sunday, Aug 2, 4:30 PM at Tredara Retreat Center, Madison**

In late summer the warriors set aside their feuds and gather to celebrate the day of peace! This is the day of turning, where spear-wielding Lugh defeats the burning eye of Balor and thus saves the world from destruction by fire. After that success, he is married to the sovereignty of the land as represented by Morrigan, patroness of heroes.

Prior to the ritual itself, grove members are encouraged to try their skill in the Warrior Games as they are physically able. We will also have our usual pot-luck feast following the rite.

### ***No Monthly Blessing Rite in July or August***

On the first Friday of most months, we gather to honor the kindreds and work magic for the folk of the grove. However, in July and August, we take a break, because many of our members are travelling and organizing festivals around the region, including Wellspring and Starwood.

### *A Beltaine Night*

*The sidhe come out to dance about.*

*The Earth is warm and green.*

*Anything seems possible,*

*Upon a summer's dream.*

*Life's beauty is eternal,*

*But it changes day to day.*

*Now is the time for bonfires.*

*Come out to dance and play.*

*And if you hear the faintest voice,*

*Come whisper in your ear.*

*Pay it heed. It knows the path,*

*So follow without fear.*

- Charley Saratoga

### *From the Senior Druid* – By Keith “Darius” Madden

Now that the cold winter season is behind us and we are looking forward to the warm season ahead as we return to our summer home at Tredara. There are many festivals happening this spring and summer with several of which are our own events. The biggest event that we are planning is the Wellspring Gathering, where we will be hosting many Druids for all over, for the Annual ADF International meeting. If you are able to attend, please join us for this wonderful event that our organizers are putting together. It will be filled with classes, warrior games, music and a Bardic competition.

I would like to mention that the new Nemeton at Tredara looks wonderful. I would like to thank everyone who was involved in making that happen. Also, keep in mind that we are technically renting the site and we need to treat it like we would treat River Grove or Brushwood and that means we need to leave site cleaner than we found it. There is no reason why the owners of Tredara have to clean up after one of our events. So, please pitch in and help clean up.

Thank you everyone for a wonderful second quarter and for making Stone Creed Grove a place to call home. Have a wonderful summer and stay safe.

### *Introducing the Hearth Culture – The Norse* 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 our next rite is honoring Norse deities, they will be the subject of our next look.

**Where did they live?** Norse culture was centered in Scandinavia (modern Sweden, Norway, and Denmark). It had important colonies in Iceland and Britain, and at its height had a presence along most of the major rivers of Europe, including the Danube, the Rhine, and the Volga.

**When did they stop practicing paganism?** Between 850 and 1000 CE, in a slow process taking over a century. Rulers usually converted first, and only later did Christian belief spread to the countryside.

**Who did they worship?** The major deities are in two groups, the Aesir and Vanir. The Aesir: Odin, Frigga, Thor, Sif, Loki, Sigyn, Baldr, Nanna, Tyr, Heimdall, Vidar, Bragi, Idunn, Skathi. The Vanir: Njord, Freyr, Freya.

**What writings describe their mythology?** The most critical sources are the *Prose Edda* by Snorri Sturleson, and the *Poetic Eddas* collected by Snorri.

**What elements of their religion are used by Stone Creed Grove?** Elements of Norse religion used in Stone Creed's rituals include: The Tree (Yggdrasil) that forms the pillar of all the world, and the Well that reaches the primordial waters beneath the earth.

**What changes for rites honoring deities of the hearth culture?** During the opening phases, the *hammer rite* invokes the protection of Thor on the ritual space. Divination is done with the runes.

### *Tredara Retreat Center Activities for 2015* by Ian Corrigan

Tredara Hearth Sacred Center is growing. The land long owned by Ian and Liafal is beginning, this summer, the transformation into a Pagan center for worship and fellowship. Expect more Grove program along with other new events. Keep an eye out for notifications of work-weekends if you want to pitch in physically. Likewise, there will be opportunities for financial support and donations as well. Our goal is to build a place where future generations can meet the gods and spirits, and join together. We need your help to make it happen.

