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**EARTH TIDES**  
**PAGAN NETWORK NEWS**  
**PAGAN PRIDE STATEWIDE! IMBOLC 1998 \$1.50**  
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**About EARTH TIDES PAGAN NETWORK**

The EARTH TIDES PAGAN NETWORK was established in 1989 as a support resource for Maine's Pagan community. This community is diverse, independent and geographically distant. We practice earth-based alternative religions. Most of us worship in existing groups or as solitaries, but feel a need for contact and a shared forum to express opinions and concerns over issues bearing on the Pagan Community in general.

The EPN keeps names, addresses and phone numbers confidential except to other network members. Individuals who are under 18 years of age must submit written parental approval to attend gatherings or study with members. The EPN will aid in establishing contacts between individuals if asked to do so, but accepts no legal responsibility for the results.

This newsletter comes out eight times per year around the Sabbats. Literary, poetic and artistic contributions are welcome as well as letters, articles, book reviews and editorial pieces. Please keep submissions to no more than two pages, typed and double spaced. You may also send your submission in ASCII, MSWord or WordPerfect format on disc or submit it by e-mail to [mugwert@ime.net](mailto:mugwert@ime.net) or [wachel@wa2000.winarea.biddeford.com](mailto:wachel@wa2000.winarea.biddeford.com)

Submissions will be edited for grammar, spelling and to fit available space. The EarthTides Pagan Network News is copyrighted 1998 by The EarthTides Pagan Network. All submissions remain the property of the authors and may not be reproduced without their permission.

Memberships are available for a suggested donation of \$11.00 US funds per year. Single copies may be obtained by sending a \$1.50 donation and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to EPN, PO Box 161, East Winthrop, ME 04343. The next EPNN will come out just around Eostar. We hope to hear from more of you before then. Blessed Be!

EPNN STAFF: Elkwing, Harper Meader, and Mugwort



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**E.P.N. P.O. Box 161, EAST WINTHROP. ME 04343**



The calendar section is a service to our members. It is intended for events that are either free or have a nominal donation. Several of these places have more extensive workshops; please call them for info. Support our supporters!

- Feb.2 IMBOLC
- Feb 2 First Quarter Moon 5:53 PM
- Feb 8 1:00 PM Pagan Coffee House at Apple Valley Books in Winthrop. A workshop on making corn dollies is tentatively scheduled. For more info call 377-3967
- Feb 8 1:00 PM Pagan Coffee House in Portland call 828-2032 for more info
- Feb. 11 Full Snow Moon 05:23 AM
- Feb. 17 Dowsers Gathering in Gardiner. Meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Call 582-8615
- Feb. 19 Last Quarter Moon 10:27 AM
- Feb 21 Dowsers Gathering in Bangor. Meetings on the 3rd Saturday of each month. For info call 963-5801
- Feb 26 New Moon 12:26 PM
- Feb 28 7:00 PM Pagan Coffee House at Silo 7 in Bangor. Please bring a small donation to cover costs and/or a donation to the Pagan Pantry. For info call Silo 7 942-5590 or Mugwort 848-2850

- Mar 8 Pagan Coffee House at Apple Valley Books in Winthrop. For more info call 377-3967
- Mar 5 First Quarter Moon 3:41 AM
- Mar 12 Full Sap Moon 11:34 PM
- Mar 20 Eostar 2:55 PM
- Mar21 Last Quarter Moon 2:38 AM
- Portland Pagan Coffeehouse. Meets Monthly. Call 828-2032 for more information.
- Monthly Dowsers Gathering in Falmouth. Contact Richard McKenzie 797-2513.
- Mark you calendars: EPNN is holding a Beltane retreat and Festival April 24,25,and 26. Ritual, feasting, and fellowship! Cost is \$15 for EPN members; \$25 for non-members. Write EPN PO Box 161 East Winthrop ME 04343 or email mugwert@ime.net for info.

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## EARTHTIDES CONTACTS

*NOTE: The EarthTides Pagan Network does not screen the contacts listed below. We are not the "policemen" of Paganism in Maine and would frankly resent such an authority. Everyone should be able to follow their own path. But the downside to this freedom is that You must exercise GOOD JUDGEMENT when using this list. Anyone who makes you uncomfortable or asks you to do anything which makes you uncomfortable is probably wrong for you. Individuals who are under 18 years of age must submit written parental approval to attend gatherings or study with members. EPN will aid in establishing contacts between individuals if asked to do so, but accepts no legal responsibility for the results*

### EarthTides Members:

#### Augusta Area:

*Bill and Johanna Chellis* - 685-3860 Pantheists working with the circle, wheel, and labyrinth.

*Immanent Grove*: a fellowship of practicing pagans of all persuasions. All are encouraged to pursue their own world views & personal relationships with the Gods. Contact: Harper or Evenstar, The Immanent Grove, PO Box 233, Readfield, ME 04355.

*Wahtonah Grove* - A Pagan circle honoring a variety of traditions, newly founded, April 11, 1997. Dedicated to seeking knowledge and understanding, as well as to good friendship. Contact: Wahtonah Grove, PO Box 257, East Winthrop ME 04343-0257 or e-mail: QGCY88B@prodigy.com

#### Clinton Area:

*Nemeton Community Center Celtic Spirituality* - 426-2964 We are rediscovering and practicing the nature-centered spirituality of the Celtic tribes. We observe and celebrate agrarian festivals, and holy days based on a celestial calendar and lunar cycles.

#### Jay—Farmington:

*Circle of the Jade Tiger* - *Kerry Phillips* 645-9570 (after 5:00) - Goddess-oriented Shamanism, with a definite splash of Green Man energy. Simplistic and creative rituals that allow for growth and the understanding of death, change, and personal healing.

#### Lewiston—Auburn Area

*House O' The Greenwood* - Lorelei - 783-5148 or [loirelei@ime.net](mailto:loirelei@ime.net) Focusing on using our spirituality and Eclectic Wiccan concepts to help us cope with daily life. While there is no formal coven at the moment, Lorelei is available to teach.

#### Portland—York County Area:

*Jane* 885-0424 Wiccan Priestess: networking, community, and ritual.

*LaWRENce and Seshet* - We are the Iseum of the Hidden Pathways and a member of the Fellowship of Isis. We worship the God and Goddess in their many forms. We are an eclectic group focusing on the development of the higher consciousness of the hidden realms. 207-727-5844 or [anubis@mix-net.net](mailto:anubis@mix-net.net) or <http://www.ime.net/teristar/Iseum>

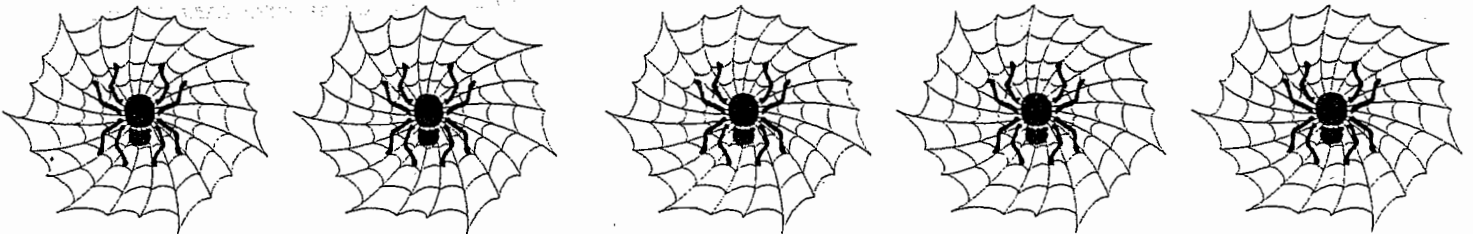
#### Waterville Area:

*Melissa Moon* - 873-0528 Eclectic Wicca and Woman's Spirituality - Networking with all in the area online: [comptutr@maine.com](mailto:comptutr@maine.com)

### Cyberspace Resources

*The Maine Pagan Mailing List* All Maine Pagans with e-mail capability may join in the lively conversation. Send e-mail to [pjane@maine.rr.com](mailto:pjane@maine.rr.com) to sign up.

Bulletin Board: *Circular Logic* - 873-4981 Data line



## CONTACT PAGE TO BECOME THE NETWORKING PAGE

**D**ue to the lateness of the Yule Issue and the ice storms that disrupted the lives of all of us living in Maine we have delayed the changes to the contacts page scheduled for this issue. However, next issue this page will undergo a major change. It will be called "Networking" and will be just that. Totally revamped, it will carry notices of groups and individuals seeking to network with each other. If you are a group or individual that wishes to accept new members, begin a discussion group, accept new students or hold open rituals, please contact us at the EPN address before each issue that you wish your event or opening published. Conversely, if you are an individual that wishes to find a teacher, a group, or ritual, please send us a notice for publication in the following issue. (send by mail to E.P.N. P.O. Box 161, East Winthrop, ME 04343 or by e-mail to [mugwert@ime.net](mailto:mugwert@ime.net)). Be sure to check out the various events and calendar sections for open events. Listings on this page will be FREE to all EarthTides members. Check out our new "Unclassified Ads" section (please see the announcement on page 4) if you are a non-member wishing to advertise. It is our hope this change will make weaving the web easier and more meaningful.

If you wish to be listed in the next issue be sure to send your copy in. DO IT NOW!

## UPCOMING FESTIVALS IN NEW ENGLAND

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4/17-19 1998 **CraftWise** Danbury Hilton Danbury, CT Workshops, rituals, music, Oberon Zell, Janet & Stewart Farrar, Robin Wood, etc. \$70 (\$80 aft 1/1, \$90 aft 2/21) CRAFT WISE, P.O. Box 457, Botsford, CT 06404 (203) 874-6963 e-mail: [fdalton367@aol.com](mailto:fdalton367@aol.com)  
<http://www.mhv.net/~tsheeley/craftwise.html>

May 1998 **Rites of Spring** W. Massachusetts Rituals, workshops music, cabins, camping, drumming, bonfires, etc. \$170 EarthSpirit, P. O. Box 723, Williamsburg, MA 01098 (413) 238-4240 <http://www.earthspirit.com>  
e-mail: [earthspirit@earthspirit.com](mailto:earthspirit@earthspirit.com)

An international Pagan Events calendar is published by Larry Cornett, 13347 Caves Road, Chesterland, Ohio 44026. Six issue, one year hardcopy subscription: \$11.00 U.S. \$16 Canada. You can get a frequently updated calendar on the Worldwide Web at: <http://members.aol.com/lcorncalen/CALENDAR.htm>

## OTHER PAGAN PUBLICATIONS

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*EarthTides Pagan Network News* has subscription exchanges with the following Pagan publications. They are all worth your interest:

*Horns and Crescent* P.O. Box 540622 Milieu MA 02054

*Our Pagan Times* New Moon New York P.O. Box 1471 Madison Square Station New York NY 10159

*PAEAN* P.O. Box 635 Farmington NH 03835

*That Bonny Road* P.O. Box 857 Bath ME 04530

*The Northern Grove* P.O. Box 5363 Portland ME 04101

## THE PAGAN PANTRY

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Maine has it's own "Pagan Pantry"! It is here to help people and animals in need, Pagan or not. Those who are in need should call (207) 296-3482 and ask for "Star". You may also write to her at PO Box 10, Stetson, Maine 04488

Donations of non-perishable food, money, and non-food items such as cleansers, pet food, toilet paper, shampoo, etc. can be dropped off at Silo 7 in Bangor, Dragon of the Mist in Waterville or with Star in Stetson - call for directions.



## ANNOUNCING: UNCLASSIFIED ADS

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The next issue will contain a new section "UNCLASSIFIED ADS"

Here you can advertise *anything* you want: goods and services, personals, etc. Non-EarthTides members may advertise for Pagan contacts here (Members will get their contact listings free on the new "NETWORKING" page - see the notice on page 3)

Cost is \$1.00 per 15 words., in \$1.00 increments. ie both a 16 word ad and a 30 word ad will cost \$2.00. Maximum ad size will be 150 words.

Send you ad copy, along with payment to E.P.N. P.O. Box 161, East Winthrop, ME 04343

While we will allow great freedom of expression, we reserve the right to reject ads too indecorous or illegal or for other reasons.

## EARHTIDES PAGAN NETWORK NEWS

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By the time this is published, the second annual meeting of EarthTides will have been held at the CPR retreat. News from that meeting will be published in the Eostar issue. Some of the items to be discussed at CPR included a slate of officers for the coming year, adoption of bylaws, and a continuing discussion of standards for EPN members to adopt.

We are still moving rapidly ahead. If you wish to join with other Maine Pagans in these exciting times, please write to our PO Box or e-mail [mugwert@ime.net](mailto:mugwert@ime.net).

Beltane

The weekend of April 24 will be the start of a new tradition. EPN has again reserved space at a retreat, this time for a Beltane celebration. Since it is a warmer time of year, camping will be allowed and a few extra people can squeeze in. The highlight will be the Beltane ritual. This is the first time that we will be able to host a Beltane ritual that is open to all Pagans but closed to the general public. Please come and join us for this exciting event. To contact EarthTides, write to our main address or e-mail [mugwert@ime.net](mailto:mugwert@ime.net).

Bruce Roberts Fund

Not strictly EarthTides, but thanks to the generosity of Maine Pagans, we donated \$156.70 to help needy kids this holiday season. The donation was listed in the Portland newspapers under 'Maine Pagans'. Thank-you to everyone who helped. Jane of Jane's Tidings was responsible for this effort; she is also an EPN's Solitary Representative.

EarthTides Submissions

We are always interested in the work of our readers. This newsletter is published around every Sabbat; please send all contributions around that time.

## STARCAT'S CORNER

The recent ice storms have unquestionably affected beings throughout the state of Maine. However, I noticed that in the media the focus was almost exclusively on the effect on humans and our "property". If the effects of the heavy ice on the trees (who I would argue were the ones most hurt by it) were mentioned at all, it was only in the context of "damage to property" or the fact that limbs fell on electric lines or houses. Animals and birds were only mentioned, to my knowledge, in the context of pets who may not have been welcomed in Red Cross shelters.

Now without a doubt we humans were inconvenienced by the storms, some much more severely than others. But as pagans, I think we must look at the bigger picture.

I am no forestry expert by any means, but one perspective on the devastation to many trees is that it will make the forests healthier in the long run. The weaker trees would have been the first to fall, making way for younger, healthier trees, and trees of different varieties, to grow. Fallen trees will become homes for wildlife. Nature is adaptable, especially over long periods of time. The tree community will eventually be revitalized.

However, on an individual basis, consider the shock to the trees that lost limbs and perhaps life. Time runs much slower for long-lived trees than for humans, so the speed with which ice built up and broke or shattered the trees was like a lightning bolt. In the days after the storm, as I traveled around I could feel a sense of sadness mixed with disbelief from areas where many trees had been hurt and killed. It will no doubt take months or years before many of the survivors will return to their usual way of being.

Animals and birds were, if anything, more affected by the ice than humans. Those without caves or burrows, such as herds of deer, must be having a really hard time finding shelter. Food was (and is) hard to come by when by a thick impenetrable layer of ice covers the ground and trees. Birds were cold and wet, and many surely died as a result of the ice storms. Again, taking a long-term view one can argue that species of animals will thrive as a result of their diminished numbers, and the ice storms are certainly a phenomenon of nature. But I have a hard time getting beyond the sorrow I feel for the individual creatures in their pain and suffering to truly embrace this view.

One reason that our selfishness in describing how the crisis affected Maine as a whole disturbs me is the cause of our shifts in weather. Having lived in Maine my whole life, I have noticed changes in our weather patterns. I believe global warming due to our pollution of the ecosystem plays a large part in the changes taking place. We shouldn't be so surprised and almost insulted by what comes of it. Karma, anyone? Of course, if as a society we're ignorant and selfish enough to pollute our home to this extent and then deny it, I shouldn't be surprised that we focus on our own survival to the exclusion of other equally valid life forms.

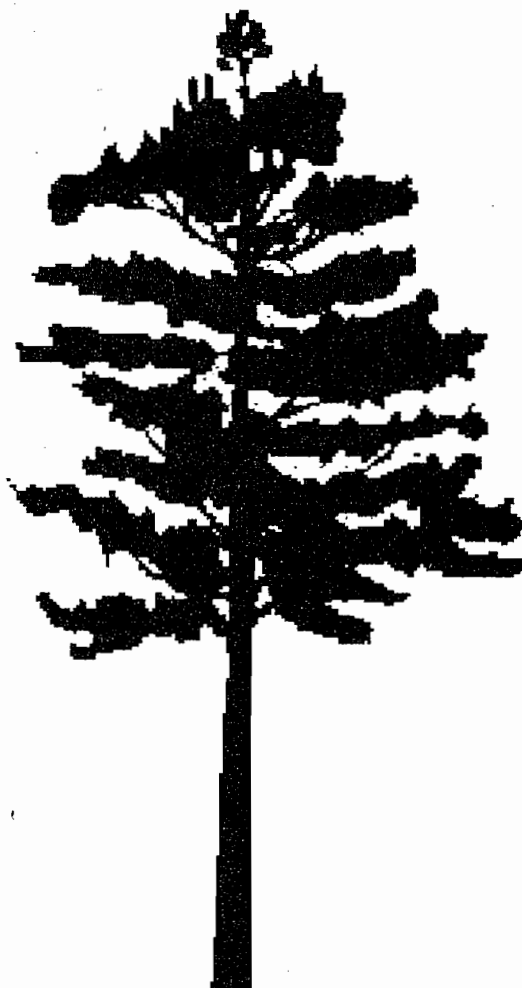
Speaking of other life forms, I wonder how the nature spirits were affected by the recent weather. No doubt there were ice faeries frolicking in joy; the ice was very beautiful even in its destruction. But what about dryads who lost their homes? (I must mention here, with



this talk of homeless tree nymphs, an excellent and hilarious novel that Quester and I just read. If you haven't read *Tex and Molly in the Afterlife* by Maine writer Richard Grant, you should!)

I guess it will take time to examine the changes made and damage done. In the spring, as we are able to hike out into the woods, we can see and feel for ourselves how the extreme weather has affected the greater reality around us.

- Starcat



**H**otter than Kabbalah, cooler than an outdoor Yule in Maine, it's Jane's Tidings! And as always, Jane is deeply grateful to those who sent in the news that helps make this column what it is. What is it? You decide - and send Pagan- and Wiccan-related clippings to Jane, P.O. Box 64, Portland, ME 04112, or e-mail [pjane@maine.rr.com](mailto:pjane@maine.rr.com).

### **Freedom from persecution?**

Katha Pollitt, feminist and columnist, wrote about the Freedom From Religious Persecution Act, a proposal which would limit U.S. aid to countries that deny religious freedoms: "Nor need women fleeing genital mutilation, domestic violence, rape and other oppressive customs fear that they'll be pushed to the back of the refugee queue, which according to the bill must favor victims of religious intolerance over other sorts of victims. After all, no less an authority than Pat Robertson has famously labeled feminism a form of witchcraft--and witchcraft, that is, Wicca, is definitely a religion." (The Nation, 10/13/97)

### **Hide the gargoyles**

A merchant who sold gargoyle and troll figurines and African art was evicted from the Town Center Mall in Cobb, Ga., after some patrons objected to his merchandise as satanic. Jim LaTorre, the proprietor of the Mystico store, said mall managers had no trouble with his product line when he opened the store, which is similar to others he's owned in the area. One Saturday, however, a group of fundamentalist Christians began harassing his saleswoman; soon afterward, mall management ordered LaTorre to get rid of his entire product line or lose his lease. (Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 11/6/97)

### **Marilyn Manson is not the Goddess**

In Bellingham, Wash., the local paper made gratuitous references to Witchcraft after a bunch of teenage Marilyn Manson fans broke into a tomb, opened a grave, got stoned, sprayed Satanic slogans and symbols in fake blood, and had one girl dance nude for the mostly-male group. In reporting this witless event, the Bellingham Herald quoted an "expert" as saying there were "at least three" covens in the area. Not only do local Witches have no connection to this kind of juvenile behavior, but there is a thriving community of Pagan shops, magazines and many more than three groups. (Bellingham Herald, 11/8/97)

### **Speaking of Satanism**

Anton LaVey, founder of the Church of Satan and author of "The Satanic Bible," died Oct. 29 at age 67. While his brand of Satanism emphasized rational free-thinking, his performance in the role (black cape, big scary Victorian house, pet tarantula, taste for eerie organ music) led many to believe he was evil incarnate. Many more confused his attention-getting path with Witchcraft, leading to all sorts of trouble that persists to this day. (Associated Press, 11/1/97)

### **Timber temple**

A widely reported discovery this fall was the traces of a Neolithic timber temple twice the size of Stonehenge. The temple at Stanton Drew, Somerset, was detected with high-tech instruments designed to reveal ancient remains without disturbing the land. The newly discovered henge is a near-perfect circle with an outer diameter of about 443 feet. Within the Great Circle are at least nine concentric circles that are thought to be burial pits. English Heritage said it will examine only the remains of the temple posts, which may have stood up to 30 feet above ground. The rest of the site will not be extensively excavated. Even though the site is located on 37 acres of private farmland, it will be open to the public, English Heritage said. (Associated Press, 11/10/97)

### **Saxon burial**

Meanwhile, on a U.S. air base in England, archaeologists have discovered dozens of pagan Saxon graves containing more than 170 bodies of men, women and even babies. They also discovered the first horse to be found buried with its master in Britain, complete with decorative harness. The artifacts found on the site date from about the year 550. (Associated Press, 12/2/97)

### **Labyrinth Grove**

Pagans who pressed their case after being denied the right to perform a wedding at a "non-denominational" New Hampshire site are now planning a service in memory of members of Earth-centered religions, especially those who served in the military. The proprietors of Cathedral in the Pines have donated an undeveloped space in which the Pagans will plant a Labyrinth Grove, and are soliciting donations of rocks, crystals, and herb seeds at AppleMoon / WADL-New England, c/o 38 Fitch Bridge Road, Groton, MA 01450-1253. (AppleMoon press release)

### **Pagans on BBC**

A British Broadcasting Corp. show in October examined paganism, "claimed by some to be the fastest-growing religion in Britain." For some reason the BBC doesn't come in very well in Maine, but the program note advertised "a visit to a witches' coven and meetings with a druid musician and members of an Odinic rite." It was narrated by Jenny Agutter, the actress who starred in "Equus" and "Logan's Run." (BBC, 11/30/97)

### **Pagan projects**

In Massachusetts, the Sacred Paths Alliance Network raised more than \$2,000 for AIDS charities with its Witches' Ball. The band Aerosmith, which owns the Mama Kin nightclub, donated the club facilities for the night, and Janet Farrar and Gavin Bone were special guests for the evening. This year's proceeds went to the Children's AIDS Program. (SPAN press release)

## JANE'S TIDINGS CONTINUED

### Drawing down the book ban

In Wichita Falls, Texas, a group of Witches offered to provide information when parents from an Assemblies of God church challenged Witch-related books in school libraries. School board members reviewed the books and removed four of the nine from the shelves; "Drawing Down the Moon" remains, and the parents are still angry. (Wichita Falls Times Record News, 12/3/97)

### One of the crowd

The Washington Post included Wicca and the Winter Solstice in a roundup of religious holidays that also included the beginning of the Muslim observance of Ramadan and the anniversary of the death of Zarathustra (Zoroaster). (Washington Post, 12/6/97)

### Happy Solstice, Your Eminence

The Archbishop of Canterbury, leader of the Church of England, broadcast messages of Christian faith throughout shopping malls in Britain. The date of the broadcasts? Dec. 21, the day of the Pagan Yule. (BBC News, 12/8/97)

### They met in D.C.

A couple hundred Pagans danced and drummed at the Jefferson Memorial on Samhain for the "Blessed Be and Meet Me in D.C." event. The Washington Post quoted a member of a Virginia coven as part of its roundup of Halloween events. (Washington Post, 11/1/97)

## HINTS FROM HEKATE, TIPS FOR THE PRACTICAL PAGAN\*

I'm sure everybody knows about turning off the telephone before circle, but have you ever forgotten to turn it back on afterward? I have, and Arwen from the I.G. has the ideal solution. Simply write a note with permanent marker on the bottom of your cakes plate reminding yourself about the telephone ringer. When you go to wash the plate after circle, you'll see the note and save yourself some embarrassment!

There's nothing more distracting during a ritual than to have the fire alarms go off just when you're burning up those pieces of paper with last year's troubles written on them, or when you're just centering after having lit that new batch of dragon's blood incense. Aree from Wahtonah Grove has an elegant solution: shower caps! You just stretch one over every smoke alarm in the building (sometimes a step-ladder is needed when working in your local U.U. church or anywhere with high ceilings), and you can cloud up the place to your heart's content!

Speaking of smoke, and the burning of paper in circle, if you want the paper in the cauldron to go up quickly, Harper says to try tossing in a little gunpowder before you light it. Unrestricted gunpowder doesn't explode; it just burns very quickly, and if you use smokeless powder (available at sporting goods stores) it will be easier to breathe during the rest of the ritual. Don't use too much though--just a couple of tablespoons will do the trick!

Don't forget, if you have an elegant solution to a pesky Pagan problem, share it by sending it to me, Hekate, care of EPNN. Bye for now, and happy celebrating!

- Hekate



## ON THE GARDEN PATH TO ENLIGHTENMENT

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**T**he time that spring makes it promises. Lady's Day, when the world begins to move toward Spring. Bah! It's a frozen wasteland out there and won't even think about being spring for several months.

This has been a difficult winter, but, ironically, I suspect that the garden is doing very well. There has been constant snow cover since the first freeze. Under all that frozen stuff the perennials are snug and happy. Spring, when it does arrive, will be glorious!

In the meantime there are seed catalogues to peruse. I seem to be on the last of every nursery in the country. My resolution is generally to get the seed order out the same time as the tax returns; I'm almost ready. I'm going to try and do a more planned garden this time, with an emphasis on old-fashioned favorites. Theoretically, this means that my garden will grow lushly without help and these particular plants will be just as hardy as

the weeds, which they'll out compete.

Staying ahead of the weeds may not be a great idea. I have a friend who is a professional head gardener. Her job consists mostly, these past years, with directing the other gardeners on what to do. She is paid to do things like design and landscape and repair. Not to weed. She complained to me that she feels less grounded than she should and can't seem to find time to meditate and do internal repairs. I know what she means; that's kink of how I feel all winter.

I've managed not to kill any houseplants this year. Some I've never attempted to raise and can find no information about. The Patchouli plants have become rather alarming; ugly plants, really, with a beautiful scent. I suspect that they are actually bushes in their natural home. I wonder just how much spreading they plan to do or how big a pot they'll eventually need. It's somewhat frightening to contemplate. Mugwort keeps trying to convince me to give up on the Hyacinth that we obtained at Yule. He says it's dead; I say it's just slow. I don't give up on plants. Or the hope that spring will arrive.

Elkwing

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**EPN**  
**P.O. Box 161**  
**East Winthrop, ME 04343**