

Ostara, 2006



# EarthTides Pagan Network News

*Living in Maine, Celebrating the Earth*



## Awakening at Ostara

As a verbivore, I have always envied the Spanish their word, *madrugar*, which means to rise at dawn. It is such a poetic word with a wealth of implied meaning in just three syllables. I thought *una madrugadora*, she who rises at dawn, was a rich image, and that English was poorer for its lack of a corresponding word. Then I discovered the English word, *matutinal*, which means belonging to the morning. Although it has no verb form (i.e., to *matutinate* – to belong to the morning), it is a word closely related to *madrugar* because both words have the same root: mother. *Madre* is mother in Spanish, and also means womb, root, origin, and river bed, and *mater* comes from the Latin. Our words “matter” – the stuff of which life is composed – and “matrix” – the point of origin – both derive from “mother.” But what has “mother” to do with rising at dawn? Dawn as a symbol of birth or new life could naturally be associated with “mother,” both metaphorically and linguistically. Remembering the German (Anglo-Saxon) word for morning, *morgen*, and the Welsh fairy queen, Morgan LeFey, I became curious to learn if there was a relationship between Goddess and dawn. And, of course, there is.

The Roman goddess, Mater Matuta, was the Morning Mother – She Who



**Mater Matuta**

Shines for All. A variation was Dea Matuta – Light-Bringing Mother. Both equate the birth of daylight with material creation, making dawn a sacred moment of rebirth. An even earlier goddess from Mesopotamia, Têe Ceivune, suggests the lineage of these dawn mothers, for she was Dawn-Walking-Woman who make each day anew. And certainly it is no coincidence that Venus, the Morning Star that shines so brightly in the dawn sky, was the Roman goddess of love and sexuality – the

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## Awakening at Ostara—Continued

human magic of procreation.

Many cultures had dawn goddesses, and often they combined images of light and animal fecundity. Albina of Roman culture was a dawn goddess personified as a white sow, a symbol of material fertility and abundance. Likewise, the Greek goddess Iole was a dawn goddess who mothered the Ionians in the form of a white cow. Hindu tradition featured Asokakanta, a golden yellow dawn goddess covered with jewels and riding a sow. Later, Buddhist imagery depicted the dawn goddess Marici as a diamond-covered sow.

Closer to our own cultural heritage, one incarnation of the Welsh goddess Cerridwen was as a white sow of dawn. The Celtic dawn goddess Dawen was seen as a sacred white cow, and also as the guardian of the herds of heaven – the clouds – that each dawn let down their “milk” or dew to nourish the new day. And Eastre, the Germanic goddess of spring, is also

called Radiant Dawn, she who brings the return of fertility to the earth. Her traditional symbol, the egg, and her avatar, the rabbit, both represent fertility and rebirth.

It is fitting, then to see the sabbat of Eastre or Ostara as a celebration of Goddess in her dawn aspect, bringing new light, new life, rebirth, and renewal as the Wheel turns at the Equinox. It is also interesting to note that at Easter, the most holy of Christian holidays, is still called by the name of the dawn goddess, and furthermore that the central image of Easter, the death and resurrection of Christ, so closely mirrors the essential image of this Pagan sabbat – the eternal cycle of rebirth as bestowed by Goddess.

In daily practice, we can focus on this image of rising at dawn as a symbol of rebirth. When we arise from our beds each morning, we can see it as a way of honoring the Light-Bringing Mother. We can see the dawn itself as a bright manifestation of Goddess, and as a gift to be revered and enjoyed. To rise at dawn – to *madrugar* – means we are awake. We have awakened and we have realized (made real) our one-ness with Goddess and our own perpetual role in Divinity. May we arise and be awake at Ostara.

This is the dawn that Goddess has made. Let us arise and be glad in it.

Marigold

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## 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. 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.

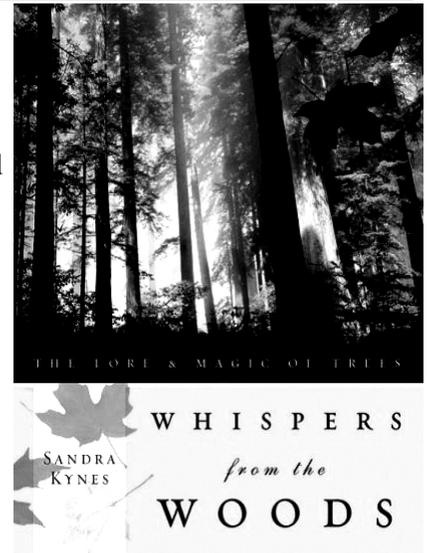
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**Submission deadline for the Beltane, 06  
issue is March 24, 2006.**



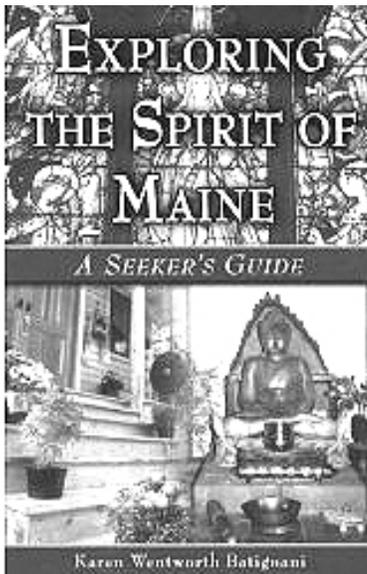
## Aesir to Zeus

**Whispers from the Woods**, by Sandra Kynes, is exactly what you need to develop that feeling of sacredness you feel when walking in the woods. The author explores tree mysteries in the Celtic/Druid tradition. She offers information on using trees and their products--respectfully--for magical work, correspondences and attributes for fifty kinds of trees, Ogham and the tree calendar, and much more. Recommended reading. Llewellyn, \$17.95. (Review by Arwen Evenstar)



**Exploring the Spirit of Maine: A Seeker's Guide**, by Karen Wentworth Batignani. This book is a good general overview of the Spiritual practices one can find in Maine, from an ashram or a theological seminary, to a Spiritualist church or an Amish community. What you won't find are your "typical" New England churches, except for the Catholic and Episcopal churches under Sacred Architecture in the back of the book, (the only "Sacred Architecture" thought worthy of note).

The book is divided into seven sections. Each section has a piece at the end entitled "By The Way" which focuses on an event, series or Spiritual place where one can find more information, experiences, lectures, etc.



The well written topics cover the history behind the belief or venue and include contact information such as address, telephone, e-mail, website, prices (if applicable), and general info about the area (where applicable). The coverage seemed a little uneven revealing more or less than I would have liked, which may reflect topics I found of interest.

The section which includes *EarthTides* is six pages long. The first five pages give a fair overview of mostly Wiccan based Paganism. The last page looks briefly at *EarthTides*, *the Iseum Musicum*, *the Maine Pagan Clergy Association*, *the Circle of the Silver Cauldron*, the e-mail lists, and our own Jane Raeburn and Cynthia Jane Collins.

All in all, the book is well planned and a wealth of information. It is not the type of book I would normally grab for bedroom reading, but I have found out some very interesting things about the Spiritual possibilities right here in Maine.

Whether you are just curious about what is out there, or looking for something specific, this book is worth picking up. Down East Books, \$14.95

Reviewed by Leigh Griffith

## About the EarthTides Pagan Network News

This newsletter comes out eight times a year, around the Sabbats. 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 [anu\\_dudley@umit.maine.edu](mailto:anu_dudley@umit.maine.edu)

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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## Starcat's Corner: Tending the Spiritual Garden

Ah, Spring! Although the landscape may still be a bit wintry in your backyard, the longer days, and the changes peeking through as the land slowly awakens, are delightful. And as the Wheel turns, we continue our steady progress toward the goals we set at Yule or Imbolc.

Here at the Vernal Equinox, the days and nights are in precise balance. But we are poised on the edge of a turn towards greater solar light and energy. And though we can't yet plant our physical seedlings in the chilly ground, we can certainly take the time to tend to our spiritual gardens.

Begin by reflecting on the goals you've made for this year. If you haven't made any yet, it's certainly not too late! Once those seeds are in the ground, it's time to do the work of a gardener. Watering, fertilizing and weeding the spiritual garden, as well as making sure it's getting enough sun, will reward you with a healthy harvest later in the year.

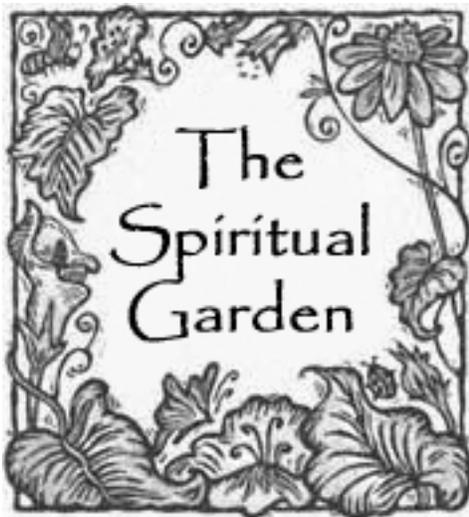
First, the watering. Water signifies emotions. We should all

know, when we're working magick, not to cling to the emotional ups and downs of a project, because we may just sabotage it. However, healthy emotions poured lovingly onto the garden will help the plants to grow. Take joy in the work you're doing toward accomplishing your goals. Share that joy and excitement with a close friend, or express it through writing or drawing in your journal or Book of Shadows. If you feel discouraged about your progress (or lack thereof) toward your goal, allow those feelings to flow through you without judging them or letting them get stuck

You'll also want to fertilize your spiritual garden, adding important nutrients to the soil in which your projects are grounded. Make sure you have the physical-world things you need to pursue your aims. If your goal is to paint pictures, you'll need plenty of paint, good brushes, the right canvas, and a work space with adequate light. If you're looking for a new home, real estate listings and transportation to potential houses

will be essential. As you pursue your goal, having the support of people close to you can help nurture your spiritual garden. It can be physical support, like watching the kids or pets while you're out taking a class, or the moral support provided by encouraging words.

As the garden continues to grow, you'll want to be sure you keep it weeded. Some goals can appear daunting, but if you break them down into gradual steps, they become much more manageable. A good calendar with plenty of space to write lists is a useful tool. Be sure to



take time periodically to evaluate where you are on the path toward the goal. Sometimes the goal will change a bit. Or perhaps it will create lots of other exciting tangential ideas as it grows—you can “weed” those out, writing them down so you can save them for later. Keep your mind clear and focused by making sure your project notes and materials are organized, and taking time to get out in the fresh Spring air.

Be sure that your spiritual garden gets plenty of sun, so it will have the

energy it needs to grow and thrive. In order to put energy into your project, or to invoke the energy of Divine assistance, you'll need to be sure you are recharged. Take good care of yourself in the basic ways: eat healthy foods, get plenty of sleep, and exercise regularly. In fact, doing your exercise outside will boost your spirits as well as keeping your metabolism working. Take regular breaks from your projects to pursue other activities that recharge your batteries: get a massage, have great sex, read a book, hang out with friends. Your project will still be there when you get back, and you'll have more energy to devote to it.

One of the crops I'm tending this year in my own garden is my spiritual creativity. This means, in part, doing more writing. That in itself has been bringing me joy and pleasure, and I'm learning to “let go” and not be upset when I get too busy to give it the amount of time I'd like.

*(Continued on page 6)*



## Minutes of 2006 Annual Meeting

The 2006 annual meeting of the EarthTides Pagan Network was held on Sunday, Feb. 19th in Sidney, Maine. The meeting was called to order promptly at 2 pm and we reviewed activities from the past year.

It was noted that EarthTides has done the following in the past year:

- Beltane @ Popham Beach;
- Booth at Common Ground Fair;
- Open Circles/Meetings in: Bar Mills, Freedom, Gardiner, Hollis, Houlton, Jay, Lisbon Falls, Phippsburg, Portland, Readfield, Saco, Sidney, Waterville, Wells and West Gardiner;
- Coordinated with Maine Pagan Clergy Association; and
- Been well represented at Interfaith Maine.

At the same time, we have noticed that the total number of members has been declining. This was a concern that we elected to focus on for the year.



Before progressing further on the agenda, we digressed to a couple of other topics. First, the 24th Annual Beltane at the Beach will be held at Popham Beach State Park on April 30th. Due to a very early low tide, we will do the poles around 10—11 am, to be followed by the pot-luck lunch. If anyone has a pole they could bring, it would be appreciated since we don't have enough room around two poles for the number of participants. We will also likely have a separate pole for the "Spiral Scouts" to decorate. This will be arranged by Nikki.

Our Treasurer then reported that the EarthTides Pagan Network has \$1,428.27 in savings, \$703.84 in checking and \$1,027.79 currently in CD's. The Treasurer suggested and was directed to transfer the remainder of the savings into CD's as well. In addition, due to financial considerations, the checking account will be moved from T.D.. Banknorth to the Winthrop Credit Union.

The Common Ground Fair Committee reported that the fair continues to be a very successful activity in which we continue to introduce people to Paganism in a positive light, see people we otherwise don't see throughout the year, and raise money that helps us with our yearly expenses.

We brainstormed a bunch of ideas for things which we thought might make the fair even more successful, and might help us to better serve the Maine Pagan community. These include:

- Obtain two adjacent spaces at the fair, one for our "education & sales" area, and another to use for a "Sharing Wisdom Circle" space;
- Put up a large map of Maine and let Maine Pagans put pins or stickers on it to roughly show what part of Maine they are from;
- Pass our cards to survey the public to ask what the network can do for them;
- Offer a special "Fair Issue" of the newsletter to those

who come to our booth;

- Invite those who come to the booth to become members of the EarthTides Pagan Network;
- Arrange to have members make presentations in different topic tents (Whole Life, Folk Arts, etc) to share ways in which Pagans can help others;
- Do more presentations on specific topics at the fair;
  - ◊ Joie offered to do a presentation on Urban Paganism;
  - ◊ Ask other members if anyone would like to speak on other topics such as Tarot, Ritual Format, Past Lives, etc.
- Do a "craft" as a demonstration on Sunday;
- Be more visible, and valuable to younger Pagans; ask how the network can help meet their needs;
- Include an article in the "Fair Issue" that asks readers what they want in the newsletter.

In discussion about the newsletter, some additional

*(Continued on page 9)*



## Starcat's Corner: Tending the Spiritual Garden—(Cont'd)

*(Continued from page 4)*

I'm a Virgo, so keeping my writing projects organized and well "weeded" has been easy thus far. As long as I remember to get out and exercise regularly, I have plenty of energy to shine on my spiritual garden.

And as to fertilizer, I'd like to share with you one of my new "nutritious" venues. I've started a weblog, or "blog," called Starcat's Study. If you get a moment to lean on your hoe and take a break from your gardening, come on by and take a look. It's at

<http://www.starcat.freakwitch.net>

(many thanks to my favorite band, Freakwitch, for sharing their cyber space). Leave a comment if you'd like, or a link to your own web page. And may your spiritual garden flourish this Spring.

Blessed Be.

## GreenWitch: Herbal Allies for Regaining Youth

To honor the rebirth that Spring and Ostara promise, there are several herbs that deserve a place on our Ostara altars and in our Ostara practice. If you have a rosemary plant in your house,\* you can add a handful of fresh plant trimmings to a ritual bath to restore youthfulness, or at least a youthful perspective, and prepare for the new beginning that Ostara offers.

The vervain you picked and dried last summer to use in altar purification can be used now in rituals to become "awake" or to rededicate yourself to the next cycle of the Tarot fool's journey for the coming year. If you have access to fiddle heads, break a frond for good luck at this "dawn" of the Spring season. If you can get enough fern fronds to produce some fern sap, drink some as part of a ritual of renewal.

Be Well, Marigold

\*There is really no reason why anyone should not have this lovely and endlessly useful herb as a house plant. It is easy to grow, and it has dozens of magical, as well as culinary, uses throughout the year.

*[Ed. Note: Where can you find fiddleheads in Maine before Beltane? :-)]*

## Discover Spiral Scouts!

Looking for a different kind of scouting experience for your kid?

We are an eclectic, nature-based Pagan Circle. We seek to help boys and girls cultivate a holistic spiritual worldview as they learn, work and play together. Children are actively involved in creating and directing their own learning in an inclusive, accepting and nurturing environment. We have openings for girls and boys ages 5-12.

For more information, contact: Lisa Marie: 423-5184, [lminden@usm.maine.edu](mailto:lminden@usm.maine.edu)  
Nikki: 929-3574, [nikmat@psouth.net](mailto:nikmat@psouth.net)  
Hope: 799-1912, [beckers@gwi.net](mailto:beckers@gwi.net)  
[www.spiralscouts.org](http://www.spiralscouts.org)



## EPN T-Shirts

In case you missed it, EPN still has a few more of our beautiful T-Shirts available for sale. This design sports the original EPN logo and is available in Birch, Sand and Natural. \$15.00 S,M,L,XL \$17.00 2X Order now! Please add: \$3.80 shipping E.P.N. P.O. Box 161, E. Winthrop, ME 04343.





## Beltane, 2006



Come one, come all to the 24th annual Beltane celebration at Popham Beach State Park, south of Bath, Maine. For several years now we have had well over 100 Pagans from Maine and neighboring states and/or provinces in attendance.

Popham Beach State Park is about 20 miles south of Bath off of state route 209. (See map on exterior cover). The park has fairly good access for handicapped users, and usually charges a \$1.00—\$2.00 per person entry fee.

You want to be sure to bring at least nine yards of cloth ribbon to wind around the pole! In fact, our numbers have long outgrown the two maypoles we have supplied so, if you have a handy pole 20 to 30 feet long that you can bring, please do!

Other things you will want to bring include weather appropriate clothing (sorry—skyclad isn't allowed in the park) and remember, out along the shore, it is much colder than it is inland! The event does not get cancelled due to rain, although we once just did a "virtual pole" while huddled around a BBQ

grill!

You also want to bring musical instruments, medications, water, items to barter or sell, food to share at the potluck lunch, and eating utensils. The park has a bunch of wood and charcoal fired BBQ grills—be sure to bring fuel and matches! There are primitive toilets, but you may need to bring toilet paper.

Due to a very early low tide, we will need to do the poles around 10—11 am, and then have our potluck lunch.

The event will run until people want or need to leave. Please be sure to bring a bag for trash so we leave the park at least as clean as we found it!

For more information, please call Fred and Leigh at: 207-532-2455 or email: [griffith@mfx.net](mailto:griffith@mfx.net) See you there!



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## Court Watch-The Coming Challenge

The confirmation of Samuel Alito as an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court turns the Supreme Court over to the radical right. With this move, the United States enters another era in which honor and civil liberties in this country will be disregarded.

Our history is littered with similar occasions: the Salem Witch Trials, slavery, treatment of Native Americans, internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, and the McCarthy Hearings are but a few examples of times when human rights were trampled by our own government..

In the past, such challenges have been faced in different ways. Some meekly accepted the fate handed them. Some people went renegade, fighting the abuse. Some went underground to avoid capture.



Some hid by pretending to be like the abusers. Others still took a stand, refusing the “fate”, yet also refusing to become like their tormentors.

The Pagan community of the United States is one

of many groups which will soon face such challenges. The Pagan movement is beginning to become recognized and accepted in the United States. Therefore, the radical Christian right feels that they must do more to disarm and discredit us.

Their weapons include ignorance, fear and apathy. Who among us has not, in the past, been guilty of making a choice, doing something, or not doing something because of one or more of these factors? The rest of the country is no better.

Each of us will meet the challenge in our own ways. Some of us have begun already, hiding in our broom closets or as members of more established religions. Perhaps some are stockpiling weapons for “defense”. Each will do what their own karma requires. Let’s consider some of our options, however.

Those who meekly accept the fate handed to them will be among those left without jobs, homes, and children. Those who go renegade, will likely end up in jail or dead, and provide the radical Christian right with prime reasons to call us terrorists.

Those who go underground may avoid being “outed”. At best, however, they will still lose their freedom to be themselves. At worst, to maintain their “cover”, they may start “outing” others.

What about those who take a stand? This may combine the best and worst of each of the other choices.

Certainly there is a chance of losing one’s job, home or children. There will be a chance of ending up in jail, or dead at the hands of some religious zealot. By being one’s self, one may feel like a missionary invited to a cannibal’s feast.

At the same time, taking a public stand as a group and/or organization may be the best way to effectively counter the propaganda spread by the radical right. Such misinformation best succeeds when it is the only information out there.

Now may be the time to network with more Pagan and other pro-civil rights organizations and present a more unified front against tyranny and oppression. Sad to say, no freedoms come for free.

Not all of us will be in positions where we can take public stands. Let those of us who can take a stand, do so, and those who can not, not be criticized or ostracized for it. We are all in this together.





## Minutes of 2006 Annual Meeting—Cont'd

*(Continued from page 5)*

ideas were shared including:

- Take names and addresses/invite attendees at Beltane to become members of the network;
- Post an offer on WitchVox and/or other national Pagan Websites to give a copy of the EarthTides Pagan Network News to the first 50 people who emailed with their name and address, and requested a copy of the newsletter;
- Joie will begin writing a series of articles on “Urban Paganism”;
- Susan offered to write a series of articles on craft ideas related to holidays/sabbats;
- Talisin offered to write a series of articles about “Sacred Places”;
- Arrange to sell the newsletter at different stores across Maine, splitting the proceeds and using the honor system for shop owners to send our share to us. Nikki will call Enchantments in Bar Harbor, Joie will take to Magic Closet and Leaping Lizards in Portland. Fred will talk with the Healing Arts Center in Houlton;
- Fred will update the Website to include more recent issues of the newsletter and include a calendar page on the Website as well;
- Another topic for the newsletter is to consider long range plans for “issue themes”, not just about the Sabbats.

Harper will write out the guidelines to be used for distribution of newsletters at stores. Each newsletter will be sold for \$2.00 with half going to the store. He will also contact our newsletter mailperson for her input on the subject of sending newsletters to “first 50 responders”.

We also established due dates for the next year’s newsletters. For “Calendar” events, the due date would be four weeks prior to the newsletter. In an effort to be more of a statewide hub of information, Harper will also check with PJane regarding calendar events sponsored by other groups as well.

Other articles, poems, etc should be to the editor six weeks prior to the Sabbats, with the following dates: Beltane, March 24th; Litha, May 5th; Lughnasad, June 23rd; Mabon/Fair Issue, August 4th; Samhain, Sept. 29th; Yule, November 3rd; Imbolc 07, December 29th, and Ostara 07, February 9th.

Our Interfaith Coordinator was not present, but it was determined that she is doing a great job.

We then discussed the effectiveness and relevance of the network in Maine, and the future of the network. Given the current political situation in the nation, it was felt that the need for public education and a supportive network may be more important now than ever.

With the growth of other Pagan groups around Maine, it was suggested that the EarthTides Pagan Network should, perhaps, become more of a “hub” that networks information and ideas with other groups, not just for individuals.

We discussed the possibility of educating the public about Paganism through handouts, workshops and Press Packets. We especially would want to present to college-age Pagans and police. A Press Packet would want to be sent to media and libraries.

Next we discussed the possibility of having retreats again. Anu offered to host a retreat at her isolated property near Unity. The network would be able to cover the cost of porta-potties. We could also check into using the “Quaker Friends Camp” during the off-season. Harper, Arwen, Joie, and Talisin will research other locations for a retreat.

With the growth of the “Spiral Scouts” in Maine, it was determined that the scout leaders should check with the scouts’ parents regarding their feelings about the possibility of skyclad participants at retreats.

The next annual meeting was decided to be held on a date between Yule, 2006 and Ostara, 2007 at a yet to be determined location.

The meeting adjourned at 5 pm.

Submitted by Susan Leavitt, Recording Secretary



## 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](mailto: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

### March

- 14 Penumbral Lunar Eclipse
- 18 Ostara open circle at Forest Sanctuary in Jay. Arrive after 5:00, circle at 6:00, details from [forestsanctuary@yahoo.com](mailto:forestsanctuary@yahoo.com).
- 19 Ostara open circle at Silver Cauldron in Saco. Details from [oldewtch@maine.rr.com](mailto:oldewtch@maine.rr.com).
- 19 Ostara Service, Houlton Unitarian-Universalist Church, Houlton, ME 10am - For info: [griffith@mfx.net](mailto:griffith@mfx.net)
- 20 Spring Equinox
- 29 New Moon and early morning solar eclipse (Visit Turkey to see it.)

### April

- 13 Full Moon
- 16-25 Lyrids Meteor Shower, peaking on the 22nd.
- 27 New Moon
- 30 24th annual Beltane at Popham Beach State Park (see article). Open circle, pot-luck lunch at BBQ pits. May-pole ritual late morning. Drumming, music, the 8th annual Torch-race honoring Pan (<http://www.ctel.net/~applebooks/torch-race.htm>), ephemeral labyrinth, much more! This is the best way to meet other Pagans!

### May

- 1 Beltane
- 4 Jupiter at opposition, best time to view!
- 5 Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower
- 13 Full Moon      27 New Moon

### June

- 11 Full Moon
- 17 Tentative date open Summer King ritual with Immanent Grove in Sidney, 4:00 PM. Details from [grove@ctel.net](mailto:grove@ctel.net).
- 17 Open Litha circle at Forest Sanctuary in Jay. Arrive after 5pm circle @ 6pm, details: [forestsanctuary@yahoo.com](mailto:forestsanctuary@yahoo.com).
- 21 Summer Solstice
- 25 New Moon

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.

### September

- 22-24 Common Ground Country Fair—Unity, ME. Join us at our booth to meet and talk with other Pagans, and to educate the public. Great books, bumper stickers and MORE!
- 30 Norse Blot at Ironwood Hollow in Sidney. Drinking age only. Norse all-night toasting/blessing mead ritual. We'll need firm early RSVP, in order to supply sufficient beverages, so that's why the early announcement. Not restricted to Norse practitioners! For details and directions, e-mail [grove@ctel.net](mailto:grove@ctel.net).

### Monthly Events

- Open Circles in Lubec, Third Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. Circle meetings are open to all like-minded individuals. Different subject each month. For details & directions, call 733-4999.
- Druidry/Pagan Practice and Training, Bar Mills. For further information, contact Kevin at [shazthod@sacriver.net](mailto:shazthod@sacriver.net). These are two-hour sessions, held one Sunday afternoon per month, and open to beginners and more advanced practitioners; participants of all Pagan paths are welcome.
- Pagan Coffee Klatch, Quilting Bee and Clothing Swap. Gardiner. For further information, contact Jani at [fritti.cat@verizon.net](mailto:fritti.cat@verizon.net).
- 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 workshops at Sabbats and Esbats. All training is free and done entirely on a voluntary basis. If you are interested in joining the group and/or learning more, e-mail: [vernalnox1@yahoo.com](mailto:vernalnox1@yahoo.com). Adults only.
- Monthly Full Moon rituals in Phippsburg. Whispering Grove Labyrinth of Spiritual Community is an open community not affiliated with any particular tradition or religion. Contact: 207-389-2423 or [labyrinth@whisperinggrove.com](mailto:labyrinth@whisperinggrove.com)
- Portland Pagan Meet-up Group, third Sundays at Boarder's Cafe in South Portland, 6:00 PM. Interested people please sign up on the Meet-up website, <http://pagan.meetup.com/361/> or <http://groups.msn.com/MysticalMaineMoon>



## Networking

The people and groups listed here are mentioned because they have done two things: They have volunteered to serve as points of contact for those seeking Pagan community, and they have agreed to follow a set of basic rules of ethical conduct. Any person or group may be listed here by subscribing to this newsletter and agreeing to those expectations; please contact 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.

Groups and individuals who seek networking opportunities but are reluctant to sign the Standards are encouraged to take advantage of our advertising columns.

### AUGUSTA AREA

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

Immanent Grove. A fellowship of practicing Pagans of all persuasions. Members pursue their own personal relationships with the Gods. We're interested in corresponding with experienced Pagans who would like to work with us. Harper and Arwen, Immanent Grove, Box 2328 Middle Road, Sidney, ME 04330

### OXFORD HILLS AREA

Khyrohn Ni Mara. Eclectic Wiccan focusing on healing through herbs and drumming. RR1 Box 2606, N. Waterford, ME 04267. 583-4215.

### PORTLAND/YORK COUNTY

Temple of Brigantia. Wiccan group honoring the Goddesses and Gods of Britain and Rome. Offering open Full Moon rituals and accepting selected candidates for apprenticeship. Jane/Cassius, 646-6634 or temple@janeraeburn.com

Circle of the Silver Cauldron, Atlantic. Eclectic Wiccan coven emphasizing creativity and self-development. Great

Day celebrations open to the community. Contact Thea or Harry, 282-1491 or oldewtch@maine.rr.com

### SPECIAL INTERESTS

Deaf Pagans. I would love to meet Deaf adults who are Pagan and other Pagan parents of Deaf children. Ede, 353-6202 (V/TTY) or ede@clinic.net

PanCraft. Pagan artists, musicians and others beloved of the Muses get together to share their work and honor the Deities who inspire them. Harper and Arwen, Box 2328 Middle Road, Sidney, ME 04330

### ONLINE RESOURCES

**EPN website** <http://www.earthtides.org>

**Maine Pagan Resource Page,**

<http://www.janeraeburn.com/maine>

**Maine Pagan Clergy Association website,**

<http://www.mainepaganclergy.org>

**Maine Pagan Mailing List**, to join send blank e-mail to [mepagan-subscribe@egroups.com](mailto:mepagan-subscribe@egroups.com)

**EPN Mailing List** (open to newsletter subscribers only), to join send blank e-mail to: [earthtides-subscribe@egroups.com](mailto:earthtides-subscribe@egroups.com)

**Maine Pagan Politics List**, to join send blank e-mail to [meppolitics-subscribe@egroups.com](mailto:meppolitics-subscribe@egroups.com)

### BE A PART OF EPN

Stay connected with the community! Annual subscription is \$11.00 for 8 issues of this newsletter.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

This is a (check one):

New membership       Renewal

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: EPN, P.O. Box 161, E. Winthrop, ME 04343.**

**See Information about gathering at Popham Beach  
State Park on Page 7!**

**EPN  
P.O. Box 161  
E. Winthrop, ME 04343  
www.earthtides.org**

### **Map to Popham Beach State Park**

See Page 7 for details.

