

YAPN

Yet Another Pagan Newsletter

A publication of the Pagan Community Council of Ohio (PCCO)

Vol. 2, No. 1

Mabon 2008

Summerset Review

by the PCCO Steering Committee

Thank you to all who attended Summerset 2008 -- for you are the reason for the existence of the Pagan Community Council of Ohio. It was very heartening to see so many families there.

Although the festival was more intimate than we had hoped it to be, it provided a truly wonderful and supportive base for Summerset. Reviewing the feed back sheets, speaking with several attendees, and discussions among the board, we can stand firmly and say that Summerset 2008 was a true success.

A special thank you goes out to those who donated the groceries for our kitchen were donated in the name of Louis Deisz. Thank you so much. Also, a special thank you goes out to the Staff, Officers and Presenters.

Finally, a special mention and proud acknowledgement to Heather Killen of Violet Flame Gifts who is this year's recipient of the Leslie Dauterman Award. Congratulations Heather. You have done a lot for the Pagan Community in general, very often going above and beyond what is expected of you.

This truly was one of the best events the PCCO has ever put on, great music, food, dancing, drumming, and rituals! We were able to do A LOT of good for the community with this festival and Camp Clifton was an amazing site! We wish more of you could have been there, and those of you who were, we would like to say something to all of you:

Remember the energy and the purpose behind Saturday night's main ritual. I put a challenge to all of you in circle "If you're not willing to do the work to revive the PCCO -- please leave circle." No one left. We had an amazing ritual -- we can tell because there weren't too many people awake after it!

What is Pagan Pride Day?

Information from the Pagan Pride Project

All over the world, local coordinators host public Pagan Pride celebrations. In 2008, the window for celebrations is August 9 to October 19.

Nobody really knows who first used the term "Pagan Pride". In name, it owes its origins to the Gay Pride movement, and certainly it is a term that reaches far beyond any single organization. There are rumors of single, local events using the name of Pagan Pride as early as 1992, though no documentation of these events has been found. We can, however, safely identify and document the first organized movement to support and encourage public celebrations of Pagan Pride in communities all over the world -- the Pagan Pride Project.

The history of the Pagan Pride Project starts with Cecylina Brightsword's -- now Cecylina Dewr -- participation in the Pagan Awareness League, or PAL, the organization founded after the Witches' League for Public Awareness eliminated their state representative program in 1997. During her time as a member of PAL, Cecylina proposed a formal program to the PAL membership and director to facilitate celebrations of Pagan Pride on a local level to be called Pagan Pride Day.

From the beginning, Cecylina's vision of what Pagan Pride Day should be included several departures from the celebrations common to the Pagan community. Her proposal included the central core of what has become the Pagan Pride Project, three elements designed to increase community good will and public relations towards Paganism: a public ritual or celebration open to Pagans, non-Pagans,

passersby, and onlookers; press releases and public relations activities designed to encourage positive media portrayal of Pagans and Paganism; and a food and materials drive for a local charity, food bank, shelter, or refuge, to symbolize both Pagan responsibilities to their town, city, or state and in honor of the various Thanksgiving holidays common to most Pagan traditions held around Fall Equinox. While many Pagan Pride Day celebrations have included more than this, every celebration ever held as a part of the Pagan Pride Project has included at least two, if not all, of these elements. (Two of the celebrations in 1998 were food drives only.)

Since its inception 11 years ago, the Pagan Pride Project has grown to over 100 Pagan Pride Day events with a projected total combined attendance of 30,000 people.

At a minimum, the Pagan Pride celebration in your area will involve three main activities:

1. Public ritual:

A public gathering where Pagans can network with each other and celebrate an Autumn Equinox ritual.

2. Food drive:

A food drive or other charitable activity, to share our abundant harvest with others in need, and to make a clear statement to those who have misconceptions about Paganism. We know that our ethics, based on concern for ecology, personal responsibility, and individual freedom, mean that we feel strongly called to actions of social responsibility. It is important for us to highlight our similarity to other religions in that regard.

3. Press releases:

Press releases and media coverage of our events in order to present the truth about Paganism to our communities, refute common misconceptions, and draw political attention to Paganism in order to try to prevent legislative discrimination against Pagans.

Other possible activities:

Along with these three primary activities, many areas have chosen to add other events and make the gathering a full festival, with merchant booths, music, book-signings, workshops, and other activities.

For more information, please go to the Pagan Pride Project website at <http://www.paganpride.org/>.



Witches Balls, Pagan Pride Days and Pagan Night Out or How to meet the local metaphysical group by Michael Dorn

Witches Balls are an annual costume party usually organized by the local witches covens or some other metaphysical group. These events are organized to provide a social opportunity to meet and mingle with others of similar interests while giving license to indulge in behavior outside their norm (or so one might think). Generally more adult than Pagan Pride Days, Witches Balls are a form of Costume Parties that are especially popular in the United States around Halloween, when teenagers and adults who may be considered too old for trick-or-treating attend a costume party instead. Larger scale 'parties' are often related to organized societies or conventions.

Pagan Pride Days are explained in a separate article, needless to say, they do provide a good place to meet similar minded individuals.

Pagan Night Outs are regularly scheduled events, often on a monthly, occasionally weekly basis that are more casual than the Witches Balls and often provides a way to meet the base group who hosts the Witches Ball and/or Pagan Pride Day.

Every group has their own rules of expected behavior. Take time to learn the group dynamics and you will find yourself accepted by your local group.

As always, this is a simple guide to these events, please check with your local group for specific information.

Emerald Ash Borer Update

by Jim Poltrone

Many of us like to build fires this time of year -- for camping, for rituals, for warmth. If you live in Ohio, know that it is illegal to transport firewood outside of certain counties in Ohio. This is due to the appearance of the emerald ash borer beetle in these areas.

The emerald ash borer beetle first appeared in this country several years ago. It is believed that it embedded itself in firewood or wood palleting that was brought in from Asia. It has since spread to six US states.

As far as I know, the emerald ash borer beetle goes after live ash trees, but will bore itself into any type of dead wood. Hence the ban on transporting any type of firewood.

I live in a county that has been put under a firewood quarantine. About a mile away from the county's borders, there are signs warning motorists that it is illegal to transport firewood beyond that point, or risk a \$4000 fine. I've seen these signs on several state routes leading out of my county. Your county may have these signs as well.

If you have ash trees, here's what to look for.

- 1) The bug is dark green in color, 1/2 inch long, and 1/8 inch wide. (See picture below.)
- 2) The larvae develop underneath the bark of ash trees.
- 3) When emerging, they leave D-shaped exit holes in the bark.
- 4) Infestation starts at the top of the tree and works its way down.
- 5) Total destruction of the tree occurs in 3-5 years.

The list of firewood-quarantined counties in Ohio as of September 2008 is as follows: Allen, Auglaize, Butler, Champaign, Crawford, Cuyahoga, Darke, Defiance, Delaware, Erie, Fairfield, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Huron, Logan, Lorain, Lucas, Mahoning, Marion, Medina, Mercer, Miami, Montgomery, Ottawa, Paulding, Portage, Preble, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca, Shelby, Union, Van Wert, Warren, Williams, Wood, Wyandot.

Also note that the entire states of Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois are under a federal firewood quarantine.

I found an FAQ on the emerald ash borer beetle and infestation here:

<http://www.ohioagriculture.gov/eab/plnt-eab-faqs.stm>

Other helpful and informative web sites are as follows:

<http://www.emeraldashborer.info/>

<http://www.ohioagriculture.gov/eab/>

<http://www.ashalert.osu.edu/>

Finally, here's an ash tree identification and EAB symptom checklist:

<http://www.ohioagriculture.gov/plant/ppc/eab/faqs/fs-ashtreeidentification-032304.stm>



Pagan Headstone Campaign Update

by Jim Poltrone

As many of you may already know, the Veterans' Administration has approved the Wiccan Pentacle for use on Government-furnished headstones. This was the result of several years' work by many individuals. However, there is still much work to be done to recognize fallen military members who follow other pagan paths. This battle has been won, but the war is not over.

The next steps are to approve symbols for Druids and Heathens (Asatru) – namely, the Awen and Thor's hammer, respectively. Unfortunately, before the symbols can be approved, a serviceman who follows one of these paths must die before their application can be submitted. Once the application is submitted, it's my belief and fear that the Veterans' Administration will likely use their stall tactics to delay the approval of the symbols, just as they did with the Wiccan Pentacle. We must not let this happen.

I am aware of two organizations that are working this issue: the Lady Liberty League, and the Pagan-Headstone-Campaign group on Yahoo! Groups. I encourage each of you to check them out and support their efforts by joining either one of them.

Phases of the Moon Data

Information from the US Naval Observatory

All times listed are Universal Time, and are in the format Month, Day, Hour, and Minute. Subtract 4 hours for Eastern Daylight Time, or 5 hours for Eastern Standard Time.

<u>New Moon</u>	<u>First Quarter</u>	<u>Full Moon</u>	<u>Last Quarter</u>
Aug 30 19:58	Sep 7 14:04	Sep 15 9:13	Sep 22 5:04
Sep 29 8:12	Oct 7 9:04	Oct 14 20:02	Oct 21 11:55
Oct 28 23:14	Nov 6 4:03	Nov 13 6:17	Nov 19 21:31
Nov 27 16:55	Dec 5 21:26	Dec 12 16:37	Dec 19 10:29

Your Article Can Go Here!

Help us fill up the blank space in this newsletter. *YAPN* is **your** outlet to other pagans in the state of Ohio. If you have written an article or short paper, given a presentation at a pagan event, or would just like to see your name in print, *YAPN* can be your outlet. Support the PCCO by sharing what you know with the rest of the membership. For more information, contact the editor at jim.poltrone@gmail.com.



Violet Flame Gifts feed the magical fire within
www.violetflamegifts.com



Pagan Presence
www.paganpresence.com



COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sat 9/20/08, 10am –10pm

Akron Area Pagan Pride Mabon Festival. Highland games, vendors, workshops, speakers, readers of various types, raffles, food, artist, thanksgiving feast (bring your favorite covered dish to share), fire spinners show (after dark). Patricia Telesco will be speaking and signing books. Entertainment by Feyfire, Revelry, and more.
Yusef Kahn Grotto, 619 Northwest Ave., Tallmadge, OH.

Sat 9/20/08, 10am-8pm

Three Cranes Grove, ADF, would like to invite you to celebrate **Columbus Pagan Pride Day** and the **Autumnal Equinox** with us! The event will be held at Blendon Woods Metropark in the Dogwood Reservable Area. The entire event is free and open to the public. The main ritual will be at 6 PM, and a potluck will follow the rite. We do ask that you please bring a canned food donation. All donations are given locally, and for suggestions on what to donate, please check out the Mid-Ohio FoodBank's suggested donations page.

Blendon Woods Metropark, Columbus, OH

Info: <http://www.threecranes.org/>

Sat 9/20/08, 7pm

Mabon Ritual. Ritual, potluck, drumming.

Aradia's Garden, 34510 Lakeshore Rd., Eastlake OH

Info: <http://www.aradias-garden.com/>

Sun 9/21/08, 2pm

Silver Falls Protogrove, ADF is excited to invite you to our first ever **public rite**. We will meet at the Hilltop Shelter at Cascade Valley MetroParks in Akron. Pre-ritual briefing at 4:30. Ritual at 5:00.

This event is free and open to public. Please no blades and no alcohol. Children are welcome.

Hilltop Shelter at Cascade Valley MetroParks, 1061 Cuyahoga St. Akron, OH

Info: <http://silverfallspg.googlepages.com/>

Mon 9/22/08, 3pm

Mabon celebration. Wiccan ritual, workshop, potluck.

Hollow Ash Park, Piqua OH

Info: <http://www.heritagetemple.freewebsites.com/>

Fri 9/26/08-Sun 9/28/08

Earth Warriors Festival: Return of the Guardians is an Earth centered multi path Pagan Festival. Honoring the many paths of pagan warriors. Wiccan, Druidic, Asatru, Voodoo, Shamanism, Ceremonial etc. This is a gathering of the Earth's Guardians. Coming together to celebrate our similarities and our differences. Learning from each other and having a primal great time.

Admission limited to ages 21 and older only. Cost \$65 at door.

Camp Clifton, 2256 Clifton Rd., Yellow Springs OH

Info: <http://www.earthwarriorsfestival.com/>

Sat 10/11/08-Sun 10/12/08

Universal Light Expo. 150 New Age lectures, healing, vendors, Raymond Buckland, Tibetan Monks.

Cost \$10/day.

Veterans Memorial, 300 Broad St., Columbus OH.

Info: <http://www.universeexpo.com/>

Sat 10/18/08

Dayton Pagan Pride Day

The Quad at Wright State University, Fairborn OH

Info: <http://www.daytonpaganprideday.com/>

Sat 10/18/08, 2-10pm

Enchantment of the Blue Rose Covenant presents the **Earth Path Fall Unity Witches' Ball 2008**. Samhain ritual, costume contest, karaoke contest, broom riding contest. Special guest M. Rev. Lord Donald Lewis High-Correll.
Mote Park Community Center, Piqua OH. \$10 adults and teens, \$5 children 6-12, free for children 5 and younger.
Info: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BlueRosesEarthPathUnityGatherings>

Sat 10/25/08, 11am–dusk

Samhain Cincinnati Pagan Pride 2008

We invite the Greater Cincinnati Pagan community to our Samhain Cincinnati Pagan Pride Day celebration. Come join us for a day of workshops, ritual, children's activities, and fellowship.
Sycamore Park, Batavia OH
Info: <http://www.cincinnati paganpride.com/>

Sat 10/25/08, 2-9pm

Samhain on Square. Ritual, vending, etc. At the public square in Cleveland.
NW Quadrant of Public Square, Cleveland, OH.
Info: <http://kindredspiritsanctuary.org/>

Sat 10/25/08, 12 noon–11pm

North East Ohio Witches' Network is proud to announce their first annual **Witches' Ball**. Costume Contest, Music, Workshops, Auction, Drumming, Vendors, Readers, Snacks, Dinner and Drinks, Samhain Ritual and lots of fun.
Admission limited to ages 18 and over only. Tickets \$15 advance; \$20 at door.
Nazir Grotto Hall, 1717 6th St SW, Canton OH
Info: <http://www.neowitches.net/>

Sun 10/26/08, 1:30-5pm

Samhain Celebration

Middletown Public Library, Middletown OH
Info: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/middletownpagans>

Fri 10/31/08, 4-9pm

Samhain Celebration. Ritual, party, picnic, etc.
Veterans Memorial Park, Kenton OH

Sat 11/1/08, 5:30pm

Samhain Gathering. Wiccan ritual, workshop, potluck.
Mote Park, 635 Gordon St., Piqua OH.
Info: <http://www.heritagetemple.freewebsites.com/>

Sat 11/1/08, 7pm

Samhain Ritual. Ritual, potluck, drumming
Aradia's Garden, 34510 Lakeshore Rd., Eastlake OH.
Info: <http://www.aradias-garden.com/>

ONGOING REGULAR COMMUNITY EVENTS

Monday of every week, 6-9pm

Tea Time at Muggswicz

137 Walnut Ave, Canton OH. Social event designed to create a closer knit Pagan Community. Sponsored by the Canton Area Pagans (CAP).

Second Wednesday of every month, 6:30-9pm

Springfield Pagan Night Out

Perkins near the Upper Valley Mall, Springfield OH. Hosted by the Miami Valley Pagan Alliance.
Info: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MiamiValleyPagans>

Second Wednesday of every month, 7-9pm

Pagan Gathering

Panera Bread, 2751 Fairfield Commons, Beavercreek OH.

Info: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Dayton_Pagan_Gathering/

13th of every month, 7-9pm

Dayton PNO (Pagan Night Out)

Donato's Pizza, 5600 Airway Rd., Riverside OH. Hosted by the Dayton Pagan Alliance. Themes of PNO change monthly; check website for details.

Info: http://www.daytonpaganalliance.org/Site_2/Pagans_Night_Out.html

Third Thursday of every month, 7-9 pm

Tarot Gathering

Panera Bread, 2751 Fairfield Commons, Beavercreek OH.

Info: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dayton_tarot/

Fourth Tuesday of every month, 7-9 pm

Witches Gathering

Airway Billiards, 2611 Needmore Rd., Dayton OH.

Info: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Dayton_Witches_Gathering/

Fourth Tuesday of every month, 7pm

Belmont Witches. Food, witches, networking, occasional classes, games.

Denny's, 4020 Belmont Ave, Youngstown, OH

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Witches_Belmont_Ave_Dennys_in_Youngstown

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