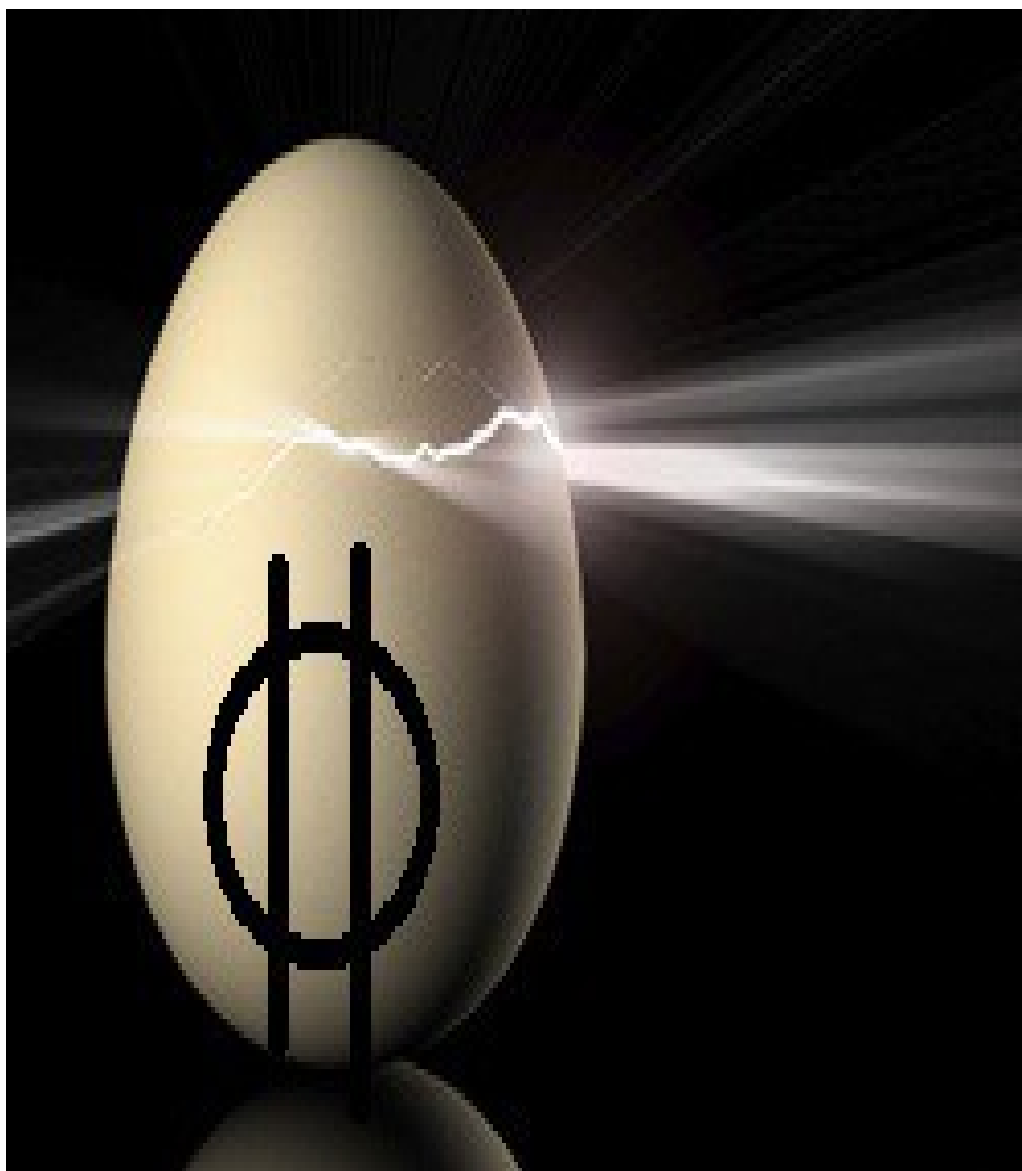


# The Nestling Druid

Introductory Issue: Mabon 2012



## **Table of Contents**

Letter from the Editor	Pg 3
Mabon – What's in a Name?	Pg 4
Happenings of The Reform	Pg 6
List of Reiki Practitioners	Pg 8

## **Letter From the Editor**

Hail and Welcome All to this introductory issue of The Nestling Druid!

This introductory issue seeks to be the first of (hopefully) many publications for the Reformed Druid Community. It will be the primary publication of the Circle of Flowing Truth, from whence I'm currently writing you, but also seeks to fill the void left in the Gaian branch of the Reform's publishing due to the hiatus of the Druid's Egg.

I know those of you whom are reading this will join me in offering ArchDruidess Ceridwen the brightest of blessings during this period of rest.

I thank you, the reader, for this opportunity to provide you with news from around the Reform.

Brightest Blessings All & May You Never Thirst,  
Rev. Jeffrey Carlier II, AD  
RDG, OMS, MOCC, & CNT

For questions, comments, concerns please write to [The.Nestling.Druid@gmail.com](mailto:The.Nestling.Druid@gmail.com) or post at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Nestling-Druid/349179838490926>

## **Mabon – What's in a Name?** From Crystalinks

Mabon is one of the eight solar holidays or sabbats of American Neopaganism. It is celebrated on the autumn equinox, which in the northern hemisphere is circa September 21 and in the southern hemisphere is circa March 21.

Also called Harvest Home, this holiday is a ritual of thanksgiving for the fruits of the Earth and a recognition of the need to share them to secure the blessings of the Goddess and God during the winter months.

Among the sabbats, it is the second of the three harvest festivals, preceded by Lammas and followed by Samhain.

Mabon was not an authentic ancient festival either in name or date. The autumn equinox was not celebrated in Celtic countries, while all that is known about Anglo-Saxon customs of that time was that September was known as haleg-monath or 'holy month'.

The name Mabon has only been applied to the neopagan festival of the autumn equinox very recently; the term was invented by Aidan Kelly in the 1970s as part of a religious studies project. (The use of Litha for the Summer Solstice is also attributed to Kelly).

Previously, in Gardnerian Wicca the festival was simply known as the 'Autumnal Equinox', and many neopagans still refer to it as such, or use alternative titles such as the neo-Druidical Aban Efed, a term invented by Iolo Morgannwg.

The name Mabon was chosen to impart a more authentic-sounding "Celtic" feel to the event, since all the other festivals either had names deriving from genuine tradition, or had had names grafted on to them. The Spring Equinox had already been misleadingly termed 'Ostara', and so only the Autumn Equinox was left with a technical rather than an evocative title. Accordingly, the name Mabon was given to it, having been drawn (seemingly at random) from Welsh mythology.

The use of the name Mabon is much more prevalent in America than Britain, where many neopagans are scornfully dismissive of it as a blatantly inauthentic practice. The increasing number of American Neopagan publications sold in Britain by such publishers as Llewellyn has however resulted in some British neopagans adopting the term.

The Druids call this celebration, Mea'n Fo'mhair, and honor the The Green Man, the God of the Forest, by offering libations to trees. Offerings of ciders, wines, herbs and fertilizer are appropriate at this time. Wiccans celebrate the aging Goddess as she passes from Mother to Crone, and her consort the God as he prepares for death and re-birth.

At this festival it is appropriate to wear all of your finery and dine and celebrate in a lavish setting. It is the drawing to and of family as we prepare for the winding down of the year at Samhain. It is a time to finish old business as we ready for a period of rest, relaxation, and reflection.

Other names for this Lesser Wiccan Sabbat are The Second Harvest Festival, Wine Harvest, Feast of Avalon, Equinozio di Autunno (Strega), Alben Elfed (Caledonii), or Cornucopia. The Teutonic name, Winter Finding, spans a period of time from the Sabbat to Oct. 15th, Winter's Night, which is the Norse New Year.

Mabon is considered a time of the Mysteries. It is a time to honor Aging Deities and the Spirit World. Considered a time of balance, it is when we stop and relax and enjoy the fruits of our personal harvests, whether they be from toiling in our gardens, working at our jobs, raising our families, or just coping with the hussle-bussle of everyday life.

There are those who believe the equinox solar affect produces a reduction in the magnetic field of the Earth, providing easier access to other dimensions beginning around 24 hours before, and ending around 24 hours after the exact Equinox point.

Doorways or thresholds into the mysteries are more easily accessed during equinoxes and when we consciously engage this timing we are taking advantage of the opportunity to further activate our own experience of these sacred timings and what they have to offer us. This is a great time to be on the land, in a power spot that calls to you, whether that is in a forest, near a body of water, on a mountain, in a sacred site or in your back yard. What is important is to create the time and space that supports a direct experience of the mysteries that are ready to reveal themselves to you.

## Happenings from around The Reform

For the most up to date information and happenings you can always visit:

**Reformed Druids Gorsedd** - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/reformed.druids/>

**Reformed Druids of North America (RDNA)** - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2455316244/>

**Cylch Cerddwyr Rhwng y Bydoedd**

*AKA: "Eureka Grove, aka," "Mother Grove of the RDG"*

*Humboldt County CA USA*



MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE RDG MOTHER GROVE

As of this coming Satyrday (Sept. 29,2012), at 8:19 PM PST,(Full "Harvest" Moon) you have a new Interim Matriarch for Order of the Mithril Star. You might know her already, as she has been active in the Mother Grove and the RDG for many years now, and except for the age factor, has all of the other attributes on my laundry list:

Rev Archdruid Ceridwen Seren-Ddaear, OMS

As you already know, Ceridwen is Chairperson of the NoDaL, Archdruid of the Mother Grove and Founder of RDG. She is also only one of two people to be ordained to the 3rd Order by Dalon ap Landu Himself.

For my part, I will retain the title of Phatriarch Emeritws, OMS. I will also retain the positions of Webmaster and Clerk of the Eureka Grove.

Other than that, I'm just one of the chickens here on the ranch.

Cluck,cluck.

mynt -- el /\

# Earrach Dreollin Reformed Druid Grove

*Harris County, TX USA*



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POSSIBLE NEWS:

Earrach Dreollin Reformed Druid Proto-Grove now exists in Spring, Texas. Spring, Texas is a northern suburb of Houston. They have six local members and 34 online at their group Facebook page, Earrach Dreollin Reformed Druid Community. There are three 1st Order OMS Reformed Druids and the Arch Druid, Rev. Joe Sroufe, DPhil.

The group is involved in tree planting, community pagan awareness, and conducting an annual charity event for cystic fibrosis. They also conduct ritual, training, mentoring, and community activities. You may contact Joe at [moondragontx@gmail.com](mailto:moondragontx@gmail.com)

May you never thirst for the Waters of Life. May the FOREST be with you always!

In the Mother,

/\ Reverend Druid Joe Thomas Sroufe, DPhil, CFLE(r), 3rd Order Priest OMS/RDG and Arch Druid of Earrach Dreollin Reformed Druid Proto-Grove in Spring, Texas. /\

## **Circle of Flowing Truth** **Bullhead City, Mohave County, AZ**

The Circle of Flowing Truth has been lightly active as of late offering classes and Reiki through the local community. The classes and working be administered in Bullhead City have been spearheaded by Rev. Jeffrey Carlier II, AD with assistance from the Coven of the Canyon and River (a local, open pagan group to which AD Jeffrey serves as Assistant Priest & Co-organizer). Druid Isarma Spellinger & Druid Atrius Daystar have also been branching out and offering some pagan oriented class in the postal designation of Golden Valley.

In other news, Rev. Jeffrey Carlier II, AD was accepted as clergy in the Missionary Order of the Celtic Cross being initiated to the grade of Apprentice Ovate on August 30,2012 by Br. Thomas Harris.

For more information about the Circle of Flowing Truth visit us at:

[circleofflowingtruth.webs.com/](http://circleofflowingtruth.webs.com/) and/or

on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/CircleofFlowingTruth](https://www.facebook.com/CircleofFlowingTruth)

May You Never Thirst,  
AD Jeffrey /\

## **Listing of Reformed Druid Reiki Practitioners**

Rev. Jeffrey Carlier II, AD – [circleofflowingtruth@gmail.com](mailto:circleofflowingtruth@gmail.com)  
Bullhead City, AZ  
Beginning to offer teachings works with various modalities.

AD Ceridwen

Rev. Starr Loki

More info can be found at:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/379623025440033/>