

## *Next High Day: Lughnassad*

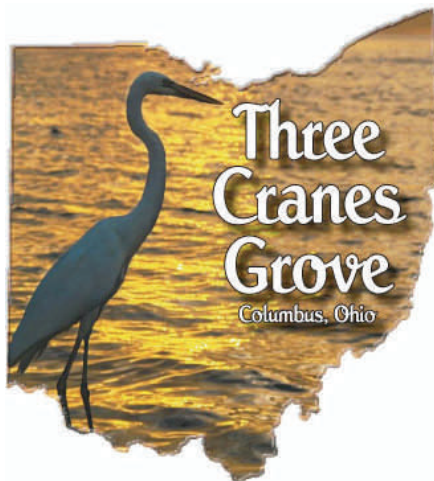
*(August 3rd)*

Neo-Pagan name: Lughnassadh  
Gaulish name: Aidrinijā

This feast is focused on the reaping and harvest traditions. It's a time of much work, and much joy, as the lean summer months are ending and the bounty of fall is expanding. This time of the year is strongly focused on women: their heroism and their strength. It is also focused on marriage and sovereignty.

In Gaul, August 1 was a festival of sovereignty, the marriage of the king to the land. In Ireland, it was the funeral games held for Lugh's foster mother.

Our Grove celebrates the harvest by holding games and crowning a champion, who receives special honour. This festival is a time to look back and see how what was planted in spring came to fruit in the late summer.



**Three Cranes Grove, ADF**

*Three Cranes Grove, ADF*

*Midsummer*

*Edition*

*Crane Chatter*



*June 2008*

## Around the Fire



Hello again dear friends. This is our Com-fest edition of Crane Chatter and it celebrates our fourth year of fun, friends and fellowship and Com-fest. I always love the people watching and great comments that come up during the weekend.

I know our grove priest is participating in a multi-denominational service this Com-fest and we all look forward to that. It's a great way to build relationships with the greater spiritual community and allow others to see us do what we do in a ritual format.

In other news it has been a busy spring for me and the Cranes. I was honored to be asked to attend Desert Magic this year where I gave a workshop on the Warriors Guild Training Program, I also set in on a few other wonderful workshops including one by Mike on Vedic cosmology, Emerald did a Greek workshop and ritual, and Carrion did one on Ancestors and the beloved dead. There was more but I just didn't make it to them all. Mike led the Unity Rite and I think I handled out-dwellers a few times that weekend. All in all it was a wonderful time and Sonoran Sunrise Grove were awesome hosts.

I came home to do laundry only to head off to

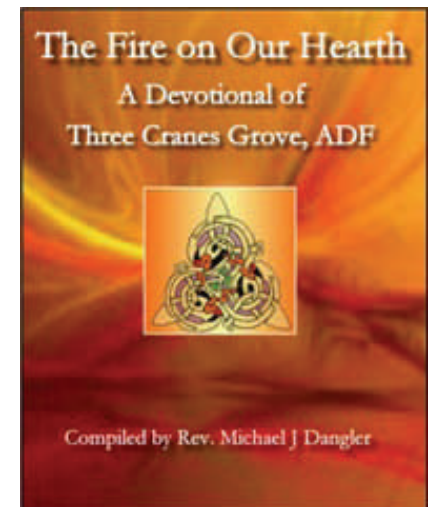
## Available now on Cafepress:

### The Fire on Our Hearth - A Three Cranes Devotional

At the center of all things, a fire burns brightly. This fire is where we gather with our friends and family, where we offer hospitality to strangers, and where we make sacrifice to the Kindreds. No matter where it is kindled, the fire draws us together, as a good guest might draw together the family who hosts him at their hearth. Our ancestors kindled fires in their own homes, and when we gather for ritual, we kindle a fire as well. This hearth upon which we kindle this fire becomes the center of the cosmos, and the heart of our Grove. This book is the devotional book of Three Cranes Grove, ADF, in Columbus, Ohio. As we have walked the Elder Ways in a modern world, we have found guidance from the Kindreds and joy in each other. From this joy and guidance, our voice has grown and developed in ways we never expected. This book is the essence of our work: filled with rituals, prayers, meditations and daily devotionals that resound with the unique voice of Our Druidry. Join us at our fire as we celebrate more than five years of tradition and worship!

You can own a copy of this wonderful example of druid prayer and fellowship by going to:

<http://www.cafepress.com/3cgshop.246478012>



Three Cranes Grove, ADF

those home improvement projects continue to be forgotten. Economy of force is understanding balance and time management. My wife has a great program called "Fly Lady" that helps with this. It shows how just 15 minutes a day dedicated to an activity can create a world of difference. Whether it is going through the piles of mail or a daily devotional it is worth it. What one must remember is to use enough force to get the job done and no more. You strike beyond the target but just beyond. Make sure you leave time to do the things you need to, or want to. Most importantly take time for you.

I'll see you next issue where we will look at the last three lessons. Until then may you walk in honor, balance and service!

Seamus  
ADF Warriors Guild  
Guild Chief /Council of



2008

August 21st - 24th  
CAMP CLIFTON

YELLOW SPRINGS, OHIO Honor

<http://www.6thnight.org/summerland.html>

▶ [www.threecranes.org](http://www.threecranes.org)

Wellspring where I once again did a warrior workshop and judged the annual Warrior Games. I attended the international meeting, Norse Kin meeting, Gael Kin meeting, Brewers Guild meeting, Warriors Guild meeting, Senior Druids meeting and went to four rituals. (No wonder I'm tired). Other than the cold nights huddled in the tent it was a busy but fun time. Stone Creed Grove were equally wonderful host. I rekindled old friendships and built new ones and walked away with even more work to do.

The one thing I take away from all my travels is no matter how wonderful other ADF groves are, I really love what we have built here at Three Crane Grove. I realize that I am biased. That doesn't change the fact that we have built something wonderful here. I really want to congratulate our Grove on successfully publishing our first book. We sold out at the festivals. I must admit it was weird having people come up to me and ask me to sign their copy of our book.

I also want to praise the work we have done in regards to community service. We were awarded our second "Founder's Award" from Isaac for our work with the Mid-Ohio Food-bank, Ohio Red Cross, Park and Trail Clean Up, Ohio Kidney Foundation and the list grows longer everyday. I always say you get what you give and the rewards and honor we have been given are a reflection of this grove's love for each other, the kindreds and the community.



Hail the Cranes!  
Seamus  
Senior Druid

Three Cranes Grove, ADF

## A Message of Thanks—Farewell from a Crane

I just want say thank you to the BEST GROVE EVER for making Columbus my loving home. It could have just been a city I lived in, but you made it a place of hospitality and family. Columbus became my land – our land – and stewarding it with you while reaching out to its folk meant more to me than all the jobs and academic accomplishments I fought for COMBINED over the years.

Even though my sights are now set for the sun-drenched, wind-blown beaches of the Pacific, I will always be a part of 3CG and the mud I got on my feet in Ohio. There is no place on Earth that is far away enough for me to become distanced from you. You are my Grove, my family. You watched me find Cernunnos (and Cernunos find me), you watched me nearly fail out of college and then come out of it with honors and a big stupid grin, you watched me move around making friends and enemies, you watched me dance and trip along the Dedicant Path. You were companions along the journey the whole time. You were my fellow Warriors, community servers, and ritual participants. There aren't enough words to thank you for that...

I LOVE YOU GUYS!!! OUR PATHS WILL CROSS AGAIN BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!!!

Until We Meet Again,

Anna Messinger



any activity takes 21 days to become a habit. Need to lose weight (Gods know I do) then start working out. Need a better job? Start by evaluating your skill set and improving your marketability in the job market. Then get a resume together and begin the process. Need to eat better, start one meal at a time. Every act you do resonates out to the world around you. You have tremendous influence on people and your environment. So don't complain about things; make an effort to change things, start with yourself, influence those around you, and make a commitment to better the world.

### Lesson Six:

#### *Economy of force*

I know this make sound contradictive to some of the other lessons but it really comes down to balance. Yes we need to be aggressive in life and strike through the target but we also need to listen to the rhythms of nature and our bodies. You have all heard the saying about "all work and no play". It's easy to get caught up in something and have tunnel vision but it's not healthy. I see it in ADF daily, where the person's entire world is wrapped up with their grove. I know because I too have this problem. Then I look around and realize that I haven't seen my relatives for weeks, or that the garage is a mess and all

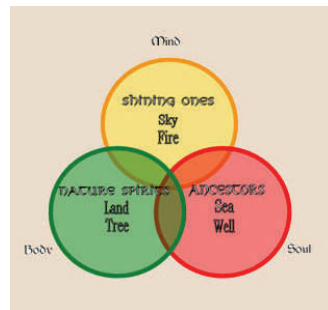




## Lesson Five:

*Change yourself, change the world.*

Oscar Wilde once said "If not me who, if not now when?" That's a sentiment that I try to live by and goes along with last issues lesson two. I know this lesson is a variation on the quote by Gandhi and it really hits to the core of a warrior. As warriors we are agents of change. We cannot sit and talk about changing things without action, you cannot do spell work to help find a job then not get out and put applications in and get your resume out. You want to change something, you, your situation, your job, relationship, then again I say take inventory, develop an action plan and do it. You have the power to change everything. First you should take a good, hard look in the mirror, does the situation call for change or do you need to change your attitude and perception about it? I cannot express enough how important attitude is in shaping your life. I know this first hand because I struggle with negativity. I fight the inner demons and try to remain positive. It makes a big difference. Like attracts like and if you are wallowing in negativity then you will most likely have self fulfilling prophecies. So change yourself,



## Running With Trees Part 5

Now, we move on to the next two trees in our Ogham forest, the Ash and the Hawthorne. The Ash is the last ogham of the first aicme (or set of five) and the Hawthorne is the first ogham of the second aicme.



The first of these trees, the Ash (genus *Fraxinus*) or Nion (pronounced nee-un) is a few of some complexity. On one hand, it is interpreted often as "a check on peace". This is probably due to the fact that many implements of war

are made from the ash. The wood is both flexible and strong and as such is used for hafts of spears, arrows and axes. On the other hand, it is also the wood used for the weavers beam in the loom and so is bound up in images of weaving, connection, the web of fate, transformation etc.

The ash tree is one of the last to leaf in the forest and one of the first to lose its leaves in the fall. Its leaves are compound. In this case, this means that seven to nine, toothed, lance shaped leaflets are arranged on a rachis or leaf stem to form a single leaf. The fall color can be either purple or yellow depending on the species. The bark on older specimens can be described as "netted" in pattern with corky fissures coming together in diamond patterns resembling a net. The wood is indeed flexible and strong. I carry an Ash walking stick that was "given" to me at the Great Serpent Mound. On a visit to the mound in the 1070's, during a sudden squall, a thirty foot long limb broke from an ancient Ash and fell at my feet. (I took the fact that it didn't fall on my head as a good omen!) I carved my walking stick from the last four feet of this limb.

Here in Ohio, the ashes make up about one in four of our

trees in most of our forests. Unfortunately, an foreign and voracious insect known as the emerald ash borer has been introduced into our Ohio forests. Originally from Asia, this bug doesn't appear to have any local predators. Thus our beautiful ashes are, in all likelihood, doomed to decline. To slow this, it is imperative that no one move ash firewood from location to location. Since split firewood might be difficult to identify, I would recommend not moving any firewood from site to site. To do so would risk speeding the spread of the borer to areas not already infested.



Additionally Ash is the Norse World Tree, Yggdrasil. Uisnech, the sacred center of Ireland, was said to contain a mighty ash. In our Druidry, the ash stands "rooted deep, crowned high" connecting all the worlds. Because of these later images, I often interpret this few as "as above, so below" or "connections of the land, sea and sky and the three kindred". The ogham for Nion is formed by five strokes to the right of the vertical stemline.

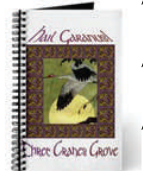
The next tree that we take up is the Hawthorne (genus Crataegus) or Huath (pronounced oo-uh). Hawthorne flowers, known as "the May", are traditionally linked to the Beltaine rites. In our climate, the tree usually flowers after May 1<sup>st</sup>. These white flowers have an unusual musky scent which some say acts as an aphrodisiac. Other people think that its odor is of that of carrion and that perhaps the tree is attempting to attract flies as pollinators. I will leave it up to you to decide what your nose tells you. Whitethorne, the trees alternative name, refers both to the white flowers and to the large thorns borne by many species of this genus.



Here in our Ohio forests, our native Hawthorne is a smaller, understory tree. In addition to its previously mentioned thorns and white flowers, the tree can be

Three Cranes Grove, ADF

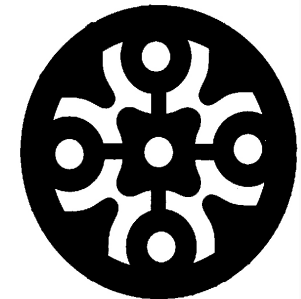
## Crane Swag



Visit our store at:  
[http://www.cafepress.com/heirons\\_place](http://www.cafepress.com/heirons_place)

*Three Cranes Grove will have our own booth at Comfest again this year. We will have small rituals off and on each of the three days with a main Summer Solstice Ritual on June 29th for the public to attend and participate. Come by our booth and say hello to the crew. Volunteer and assign the hours to Three Cranes and we can get our booth for FREE! See you then!*

COMMUNITY  
 FESTIVAL  
 ::  
 JUNE 27, 28, & 29, 2008



Three Cranes Grove, ADF

the Boston marathon they don't just enter the event. It takes months, maybe even years to properly prepare. You would need to start with smaller goals. To run a mile a day for 2 weeks, then work up to 3 miles, 5 miles etc. So once again it's about knowing your target and preparing yourself to strike though it and then working to go just a little beyond the goal. If I strike a board and I focus on hitting the board it may very well stop me, if I train and focus on striking through the board then my success rate jumps up considerably. So set goals, work to achieve them and strike through them. How many times does growth come just on the other side of pain or discomfort? Think in terms of working out. You want a better body you must put the effort in. When working out do you stop at the first sign of discomfort? Discomfort not pain (that could be a problem and one would stop and consult a doctor). So you are working out, doing chest, let's say bench press. You want to grow and shape your body you must put on enough weight to challenge yourself and you can't stop at the first signs of struggle, you must push past that if you want results. If you can press the weight 6 times without effort then it is the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> times that pushes you towards new growth, of striking beyond the target...same with college classes, DP program, etc anything that challenges you to strike beyond the target.

recognized by its small triangular shaped, toothed leaves and silvery young bark. Its older bark is flaky and often reveals some orange under bark. The tree often adopts an umbrella like canopy. By this I mean it is more or less flat underneath and rounded on top. The fall color of hawthorns is usually a transparent yellow. The clusters of small fruits are red/orange in color. They often persist after the leaves have all fallen.



The ogham is formed by a single stroke to the left of the vertical stemline. This few is often interpreted as cleansing, purification and the release of potential fertility. Another complex few, alternatively Huath is interpreted as obstacles or misfortune. Because of its connections with the Sidhe, it is

considered unlucky to cut the tree or to bring it into the home except on Beltaine. Hawthornes growing alone and apart from the rest of the forest are especially considered home to the Sidhe and should be approached as such. Of course, all trees should be treated with reverence and respect IMHO!

In my own personal working, my very first wand was made from a piece of Winterking Hawthorne (*Crataegus crusgalli* Var. *Winterking*). The wand was obtained on Beltaine many years ago during a fierce lightening storm. I use it most when working with the landscape devas and the sidhe.

Bless Everyone/Stick the  
Landing,

Shawneen



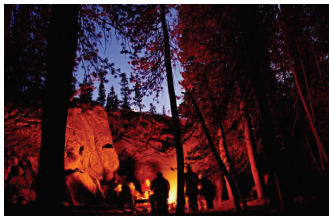
## COMFEST MEMORIES

My favorite Comfest memory has nothing to do with our times at the booth, although those have all been fun and special. Eight years ago, my husband and I had our first `date' at Comfest.

We arranged to meet near what I think is now the Live Arts stage. The woman I had taken belly dancing from was doing a demonstration, and I was pulled up to help out. Seamus walked up as I was "dancing" (I wasn't really that good) and sat under a tree. I wondered what he could have been thinking! After I was done embarrassing myself, I walked up to where he was sitting, and we began walking around, looking at booths.

Many people will tell you to not talk about things like religion and politics when you first meet someone and start dating. Such things are too sensitive. So, for a first date, Comfest would be a definite no-no to people who espouse this philosophy. Nearly every booth is an opportunity for political discussion.

In that one day walking around, Seamus and I learned more about each other and our viewpoints than in months of dating and "following the rules." We discovered we had similar political and spiritual outlooks, things that are very important for a successful relationship. And we've been together nearly every day since!



~ Tanninia

## Lessons for the Modern Day Warrior Lesson 4 through 6

Hello again and welcome to the second installment of "Lessons for the Modern Day Warrior" last issue we talked about living in the now, how we should be aggressive in life and the life itself is difficult. This issue we talk about three more life issues. First we look at goals, next we look at change and lastly we look at balance. So let us begin...

### **Lesson Four:**

*Strike through the target.*

Whether you are striking a board or setting goals you must go beyond the target. The power is in executing through the target. Set goals in life that challenge you and take you out of your comfort zone. And push to exceed them. We must constantly look to improve ourselves. We didn't stop in grade school once we learned our ABCs or simple addition and subtraction. We took what we had learned and applied them as tools for our next goal/challenge/lesson. Nothing has changed since the class room. I think many times in life we have dreams but we fail to turn those dreams into goals with solid action plans that help us breakdown the larger goal into smaller road-sign goals which in turn help us achieve the overall desired result. If one wants to run