



## Alban Eilir

A point of balance approaches in the form of the Vernal Equinox. Alban Eilir, the light of the earth, is a teetering time for light and dark. It marks the equipoise between what was and what will be, one side remanded to the past, and the other coming into play in the light of the future.

Often, we're taught to look forward to some milestone or another without regard for what went on before. Yet those shadowed and shaded memories play an important part in shaping our path to the desired future. It's no joking matter when we say that the magic rests in the journey rather than the goal. In one sense, we always stand at an equinoctial point where our current location, in whatever sense, is the product of where we've been, and the future stands ready to morph as dictated by where we've been coupled with where we are. The past shaded in partial darkness; the future kissed by an unquenchable light of expectation.

So we celebrate Alban Eilir; a reminder of sorts, a time for reflection and anticipation in equal measure. Get on your glad rags and dance in the shadows of yesterday, and the growing light of tomorrow.

—Art Scarborough



## March



March 7	Worm Full Moon 6:40 a.m. CST
March 11	HON Grove Meeting 3:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.
March 11	Garden Discoveries Main Library at Goodwood–Pg. 5
March 16–19	7 <sup>th</sup> Annual Gulf Coast Gathering
March 20	Alban Eilir



## Grove Happenings



This month's grove meeting will be at La Madeleine Restaurant, located at 7615 Jefferson Hwy in Baton Rouge from 3:00 pm–5:00 pm on Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. We meet in the private dining room, and we hope everyone will be able to join us.

One of the main topics of discussion will be the Gulf Coast Gathering, which begins on Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> and goes on through Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. We will also discuss new book titles for the grove to read.

If you are unable to join us in person, we invite you to join us in Zoom. To join Zoom, go to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88338465418?pwd=TjFJb1h6NmhzSzUrN0czTzFuRVlvQT09>  
Meeting ID: 883 3846 5418  
Passcode: 319206



Artwork by: Jen Delyth

For more information on this wonderful Welsh artist and her designs, please visit her website at <https://www.celticartstudio.com/>



## The Worm Full Moon

Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 6:40 a.m. CST

The full Worm Moon makes its appearance on the night of Tuesday, March 7, 2023. What is a Worm Moon? Here are the real meaning and origins of March's full Moon—and when you can see this Moon at its brightest!

### When to See the Full Moon in March 2023

The final full moon of the winter season will appear on the nights of Monday, March 6, and Tuesday, March 7. Specifically, March's full **Worm Moon** reaches peak illumination at **6:40 A.M. CST on Tuesday, March 7, 2023**.

Of course, you don't have to wait until the middle of the night to see the Moon! Look for the spectacularly bright Moon as it rises above the horizon on Monday evening. If your weather is poor on Monday night, try again on Tuesday!

This March Moon will look especially large to us when it's near the horizon because of the "[Moon illusion](#)," when it looks bigger when near comparative objects than it does when it's high in the sky without any references.

### Why Is It Called the Worm Moon?

The full Moon names used by *The Old Farmer's Almanac* come from a number of places, including Native American, Colonial American, and European sources. Traditionally, each full Moon name was applied to the entire lunar month in which it occurred, not only to the full Moon.

### The Surprising Truth Behind the Worm Moon Name

March's full Moon goes by the name **Worm Moon**. For many years, we thought this name referred to the earthworms that appear as the soil warms in spring. This invites robins and other birds to feed—a true sign of spring!

However, more research revealed another explanation. In the 1760s, Captain Jonathan Carver visited the Naudowessie (Dakota) and other Native American tribes and wrote that the name Worm Moon refers to a different sort of "worm"—beetle larvae—which begin to emerge from the thawing bark of trees and other winter hideouts at this time.

### Alternative March Moon Names

There are quite a few names for the March Moon that speak to the transition from winter to spring. Some refer to the appearance (or reappearance) of certain animals, such as the **Eagle Moon**, **Goose Moon** (Algonquin, Cree), or **Crow Comes Back Moon** (Northern Ojibwe), while others refer to signs of the season:

- The **Sugar Moon** (Ojibwe) marks the time of year when the sap of sugar maples starts to flow.
- The **Wind Strong Moon** (Pueblo) refers to the strong windy days that come at this time of year.
- The **Sore Eyes Moon** (Dakota, Lakota, Assiniboine) highlights the blinding rays of sunlight that reflect off the melting snow of late winter.

This year, March's full Moon (March 7, 2023) occurs before the [spring equinox](#) (March 20, 2023), making it the Lenten Moon. April's full Moon (April 6, 2023) will be the first full Moon to occur after the spring equinox and will therefore determine the date of Easter this year.

*Image and excerpts taken from The Farmer's Almanac 2023 Edition*  
<https://www.almanac.com/content/full-moon-march>





## Y Gornel Gymreig "The Welsh Corner"

The Post ran an article recently expounding on the idea that Welsh should be the official language of the UK. While that idea is not without merit, the chances are pretty slim given the fuddy-duddy attitude of all those Anglo-Norman-Viking-Saxon Britons.

Yet Welsh is a lovely language and, quite frankly, there is no accent in the UK quite as soothing as that of a *ty merch* from the *cwm*. (What the hell did I just say? Quite as soothing as a small girl from the valley). Whew! Welsh actually means "others" and the real name of the language is *Cymreag*, which is the language of Cymru, or...Wales.

Over the years, the English have attempted time and time again to squash the language and in doing so squash the cultural implications for the Welsh people. Yet, as a popular protest song says, "*Yma O Hyd*" or "Up yours, you English pricks, we are still here!" Actually, the song means, "In spite of everything, we are still here" but the colloquial meaning is as previously stated.

Much of the history of contemporary Druidry revolves around the folklore and legends of Wales, all of which is wrapped up in a blanket of *Cymreag*. With that in mind, we will look at some Welsh in the coming months in this newsletter.

A phrase or two to tickle your uvula and roll off your "r's." While we may never all learn to pronounce

*Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogoch*, we can have a little fun and learn a little bit along the way.

Common greetings:  
*Bore da!*...Good Day!  
*Prynhawn da!*...Good Afternoon!  
*Noswaith da!*...Good evening!  
*Nos da!*...Good night!

Be sure to visit the YouTube channel listed!  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjFHqMxLGjg>

—Art Scarborough

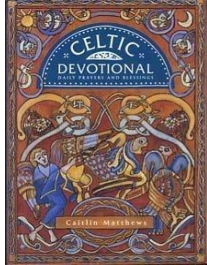


<https://www.bhmpics.com/welsh-scenery.html>



Bryn Celli Dhu, a late Neolithic chambered tomb on Anglesey  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wales>





By: Caitlin Matthews

### *Greeting to the Spring Equinox*

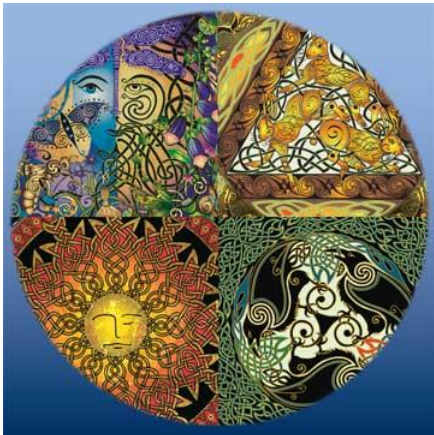
Glad Bringer of Brightness, hail!  
Maiden of Grace, Lad of Laughter.  
Gifts of Vigor are returning,  
Spring's sunrise, rainbow's embrace.  
Quicken be the heart within us,  
Opened be our souls to grace,  
May the blessing be abiding,  
Welcome sit in every face.

### *~Activity for Spring Months~*

Practice your craft, art skill with dedication,  
drawing on the inspiration of your heart.

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Create a shrine to focus your spiritual intentions.



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### **OBOD Gulf Coast Gathering**

Some years ago, a handful of members of Highland Oak Nemeton had a wild idea to host an OBOD gathering. Honestly, we had no clue how it would go, but thankfully, it went pretty well. And over the years, we've learned so much from the experience; what works, what doesn't—and seven years on, we are still growing and learning.

And, along the way, we have formed such close relationships with so many wonderful, enthusiastic and interesting folks from all over, representing not only the US and Canada, but Ireland, United Kingdom, and Wales!

And so, once more, we'll gather at Tickfaw State Park for our annual gathering. This year's theme is "Druidry: Embracing the Light...and the Darkness." We will be welcoming back Pat Booker, Irish Bard, who we had the honor of meeting in 2019 when she accompanied our then-newly named Chosen Chief, Eimear Burke.

Some of our other presentations will include talks by Art Scarborough and Salvatore Culotta, as well as many other activities around the park, such as a guided meditation, grade break-out sessions, fireside Eisteddfod, and, of course, the Alban Eilir ritual.

But we will also be performing another, very special ritual. This year, Highland Oak Nemeton is very excited to officially welcome our newest (and youngest) member Beatrice Alia Thibodeaux, and we invite all of our attendees to join in this very beautiful naming ritual, gifting her with peace, light and blessings!







## Garden Discoveries

The Baton Rouge Garden Foundation will host a FREE Garden Discoveries event, "Crash Course on Growing Bromeliads at Home" led by Mark Mese, at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 11 at the Main Library at Goodwood.

Mark has been growing and breeding rare plants for over 40 years. He will first give a brief survey of the bromeliad family and provide practical information on how to grow bromeliads at home. Learn how to prepare soils, water, fertilize, and provide proper lighting for various types of bromeliads. Mark will also give a brief demonstration on how to mount plants on driftwood and have a collection of live plants for you to view.

A tour of the Botanic Garden will follow.

Register here or call 231-3750 for registration assistance. Learn more at [ebrpl.co/garden](http://ebrpl.co/garden).

<https://ebrpl.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=74669&lib=0&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2023/03/01>



For more information on the artist, Peter Yankowski, please visit his website at <https://peteryankowski.co.uk/> or his Etsy store, [https://www.etsy.com/shop/EvolutionbyDesignArt?ref=simple-shop-header-name&listing\\_id=654401300](https://www.etsy.com/shop/EvolutionbyDesignArt?ref=simple-shop-header-name&listing_id=654401300)