



## Alban Elfed



*"I am the Mabon; I am the child.  
 I am Yr., The Golden Bough.  
 I am the Dart That the Yew lets fly,  
 Three pure Rays, The Pillars of Life.  
 I am the Wren, The King of Birds.  
 I am Bard and Teller of Lies.  
 I am the Song Within the Heart.  
 I am the Light That will never die.  
 I am the Stars Within the Void.  
 I am the Eye of the Aeon."*



## SEPTEMBER



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|---------------------|---|
| <b>September 10</b> | <b>Full Harvest Moon</b><br>Peak illumination at 4:58<br>a.m. CDT<br>Page 2                     |
|                     | <b>HON Grove Meeting</b><br>Page 2  |
| <b>September 18</b> | <b>Ovate Circle Meeting</b><br>11:00am–12:30pm<br>Grandfather Oak<br>Highland Road Park<br>Page |
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"Light of the Water", or Alban Elfed as we have come to know it, it is a celebration of equal day and night, leading into the dark half of the year and preparing for the final harvest. As we focus on the many things that have taken place in our lives throughout the course of this year, it is a good time to take stock and to reflect. What does this time of harvest mean to each one of us on a personal and/or spiritual level and what lessons can be garnered from it?

Are we mentally prepared for the dark half of the year and any challenges that it may present? What are we reflecting upon and what does it mean to personally harvest things in our lives; from the day to day, to personal relationships or even our professions? Now is the time for grounding and meditation to establish that deep connection that we have with the Earth, with our personal guides and ancestors, a time of lessons and wisdom passed on, and of strengthening relationships within our families, both close and far away.

### Alban Elfed Ritual

Marsha and Markaus Fowler are hosting our upcoming Alban Elfed ritual on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m. We'll send a reminder email early in the week of the gathering. Please bring a food item for our hosts' table, and an abundance of peace and blessing in your hearts!



## 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. We meet in the private dining room, and we hope everyone will be able to join us.

We will finish discussing *Braiding Sweetgrass* and also introduce the next book choice. We will also discuss any new business, announcements, including the upcoming Alban Elfed ritual.

If you are unable to be there in person, you can still join in by Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88338465418?pwd=TjFJb1h6NmhzSzUrN0czTzFuRVlvQT09>

Meeting ID: 883 3846 5418

Passcode: 319206



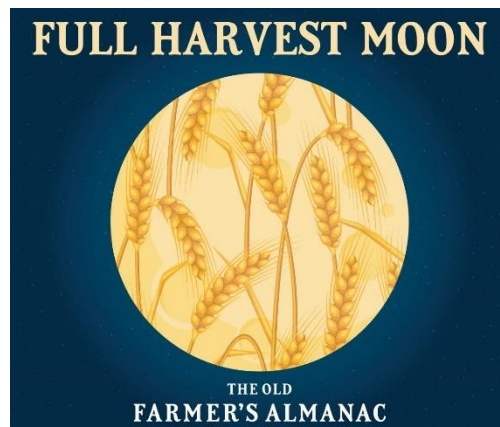
## Ovate Circle



September's Ovate Circle meeting will take place in the shade of Grandfather Oak out at Highland Road Park from 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. Please remember to bring a snack; water and a folding chair is recommended.

## The Harvest Full Moon

Saturday, September 10 at 4:58a.m. CDT



This year, look for September's full Harvest Moon to appear just after sunset on Friday, September 9. It then reaches peak illumination at 4:58 a.m. CDT on Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup>, drifting below the horizon shortly thereafter.

The full Moon that happens **nearest to the [fall equinox](#)** (September 22 or 23) always takes on the name "**Harvest Moon**." Unlike other full Moons, this full Moon rises at nearly the same time—around sunset—for several evenings in a row, giving farmers several extra evenings of moonlight and allowing them to finish their harvests before the frosts of fall arrive.

### Alternative Names for August Full Moon

The behavior of animals is also a common theme, with **Child Moon** (Tlingit) referring to the time when young animals are weaned, and **Mating Moon** and **Rutting Moon** (both Cree) describing the time of year when certain animals, like moose, elk, and deer, are looking to mate.

Other Moon names for this month highlight how September is the transitional period between summer and fall:

- **Autumn Moon** (Cree)
- **Falling Leaves Moon** (Ojibwe)
- **Leaves Turning Moon** (Anishinaabe)
- **Moon of Brown Leaves** (Lakota)
- **Yellow Leaf Moon** (Assiniboine)

Excerpts taken from *The Farmer's Almanac 2022 Edition*

## ***In Our Backyard***

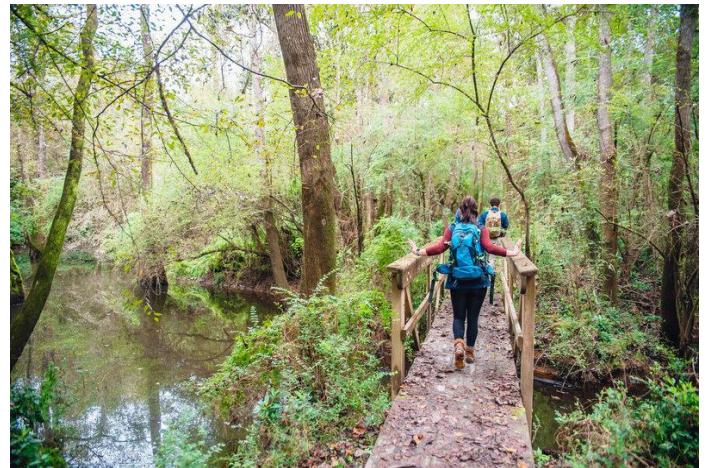


### **Frenchtown Road Conservation Area**

The Frenchtown Road Conservation Area is roughly 497 acres of bottomland hardwood forest located in Central, Louisiana. It is home to Small Stream Forest and Spruce Pine Hardwood-Flatwood Forest habitats which are listed as imperiled and rare habitats both locally and globally. It is home to one of the most diverse areas of flora and fauna, including several species of state conservation concerns, in our area and is home to countless migratory birds and other wildlife.

Frenchtown currently has over 3 miles of trails which wind around the north and central parts of the park including access to the Amite River's beach, several Amite River outlooks, and access to countless Cypress-Tupelo sloughs.

For more information, please visit <https://www.brec.org/index.cfm/park/FrenchtownRoadConservationArea>



Excerpt from BREC.org

## ***Stone of the Month***



**Agate**

The agate is a common rock formation, consisting of chalcedony and quartz and is readily found throughout the United States.

Agate stones are often referred to the crystals of strength and courage, enhancing our mental functions, keeping us sharp of mind and clear of heart while soothing, calming and healing our inner anxieties and anger.

In meditation and in common everyday life, the agate helps our analytical abilities when it comes to sifting through problems and transforming negative energies into positive energy.

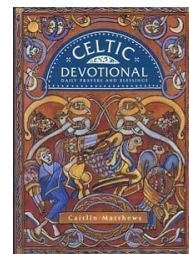


## ***Prayer for Abundance & Renewal***

*True Taker of the Ebbing Tide,  
Receive what's spent and can no more.  
Make space by waves' mysterious turn.  
Outgoing tide, cleanse this, my shore.*

*Good giver of the Flowing Tide,  
Send what I need upon this shore.  
Knowing my lack, your long wave send.  
By tide's rich gift, I'll want no more.*

— Caitlín Matthews



By Caitlín Matthews

## LUGHNASADH QUARTER



As we continue through the Lughnasadh quarter of the Celtic Devotional, we enter into the heart of it: the time of Harvest. But what does that really mean? The obvious, of course, is the harvesting of the crops and livestock, as well as readying the homestead for the cooling months ahead, seeing the impending close of the year, and in preparation for the Celtic New Year or Samhain (November 1<sup>st</sup>).

(For the weeks between August 1 and October 31)

Each solar and lunar activity, invocation, prayer and meditation that I have listed stands as tools that can be used by all of us and it is my hope that you find some of these as useful and I do.

### Activities for the Autumn Months

~Be Aware of the leaders and guardians who have protected the pathways of compassion by their sacrifice or action, and incorporate aspects of their example into your own lifestyle.

—Kate Kane Laborde

~Follow the inspirational pathways that lead you to the heart of your art or skill.

~Harvest fruit and vegetables and prepare the garden for winter.

~Walk and meditate outdoors for at least fifteen minutes daily.



Awaken by Peter Yankowski

### Solar Questions

What soul food nourishes you?  
What is transforming within you?  
How is truth served in your life?  
What needs liberating in your life?

### Lunar Meditations

The freedom of a decisive action you must take.  
The harvest of your soul.  
The alchemy of Autumn.  
The companionship of animals.





## Salvatore's Corner

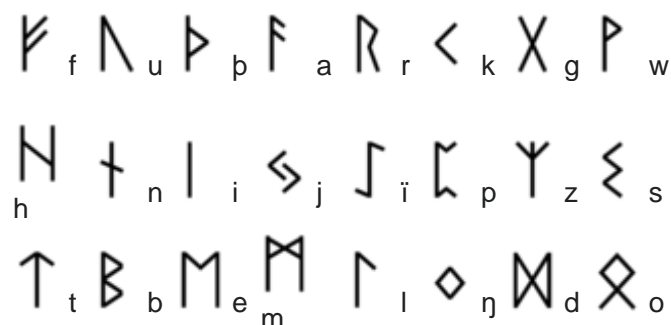
In this series, Salvatore Culotta will introduce us to Runes, their history, meanings and uses. I hope you enjoy!

### History

From: [Runes: World History Encyclopedia](#)

Runes are letters in the runic alphabets of Germanic-speaking peoples, written and read most prominently from at least c. 160 CE onwards in Scandinavia in the Elder Futhark script (until c. 700 CE) and the Younger Futhark—which illuminated the Viking Age (c. 790–1100 CE)—as well as in England and Frisian in the Anglo-Saxon Futhorc (also known as Anglo-Frisian Futhorc) writing system. In England, runes were in use from the 5<sup>th</sup> century CE until perhaps the turn of the 11<sup>th</sup> century CE, while in Scandinavia the use of runes extended well into the Middle Ages and beyond.

Designed to be inscribed first into wood and metal, during the Viking Age large numbers of inscribed runestones were erected predominantly throughout Scandinavia; these runestones, despite being tough to decipher, are of absolutely critical value to us, as they are the only written source contemporary to this period. Germanic Runes are found in areas with a history of Germanic-speaking peoples, from Iceland to Scandinavia, through England, through Central Europe to Constantinople—basically places Germanic tribes on occasion called home, plus any place the Vikings touched.



### How Runes Are Read

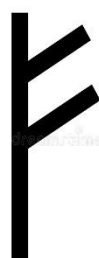
Runes are generally made up of vertical lines—one or more—with “branches” or “twigs” jutting out diagonally (and very occasionally horizontally) upward, downward, or in a curve from them. They can be written both from left to right and from right to left, with asymmetrical characters being flipped depending on the direction of writing. Each rune, of which major and minor versions existed, represents a phoneme (speech sound) and had a name that was made up of a noun, that started (and in one case, ended) with the sound the rune was mainly associated with. Lots of regional and temporal variation existed in the shapes of the letters.

~ ~ ~

Here is where I began in my learning the Runes at the beginning of Covid.

*In the beginning, there was Ginnungagap—which means “nothing.” But there wasn’t complete nothing, for on one side of the Ginnungagap was fire and the other side was ice. The realm of ice was once called Niflheim and the realm of fire was once called Muspelheim.*

*From the Fire emerged Auohumla, a great cow, who, finding nothing to eat or drink in Muspelheim, reached across the nothingness to lick the ice of Niflhiem. As she licked, the ice melted and revealed Buri, the father of the Aesir. And the heat of Muspelheim also melted the ice of Niflhiem and the drops created Ymir, the first giant.*



How does this relate to the runes? The first rune of the Elder Futhark is Fehu and it encompasses the history of creation of the Norse world. Fehu represents the fires of Muspelheim and the cow who created the gods. It also

represents Freya, goddess of magic, fertility, beauty, and gold.





As mentioned in previous newsletters, Honora Buras has shared her adventures in England, including attending the official installment of our new Chosen Chief, Eimear Burke in Glastonbury. But as Honora's activities stretched far and wide, I'm unable to fit the whole report here. So, this will be one of three parts from our roving Bard. I hope you enjoy!

—Kate Laborde / \



## **Glastonbury Summer Gathering 2022 ~Part One~**

This narrative only touches the surface of my week in Glastonbury—a delightful, magical place—and all the wonderful times spent with old and new friends celebrating together, and creating new stories to tell. Although it lacked the intimacy of our GCG, the size of the gathering and the vibe of the town amplified the sense of community. If there ever was any doubt that Druidry had chosen me, this experience vanquished all such foolish thoughts! I am so grateful to have been blessed with this wonderful worldwide connection to so many awesome people, and look forward to many more gatherings in the future.

—Honora Buras



As the Tor rose from the plains in the distance, the chatty taxi driver asked me why I was coming to Glastonbury. "To attend the Druid Gathering!" I cheerfully replied. "Which one?" he asked. That was when it really began to hit me that this was going to be a special place, adding to the anticipated experience of this long-

awaited event among hundreds of fellow druids. My arrival date on Thursday happened to coincide with

the start of the four-day National Holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, and therefore the only bus normally on this route from the train station in Castle Carey was not running that day.



Queen's Platinum Jubilee parade—Glastonbury

I had already spent the previous week navigating around Southwest England by train and bus, but this was a potentially serious complication had I not realized this the day before and made last-minute arrangements online for the final 20-mile journey. Although I did happen to catch the brief parade through town in the Queen's honor that weekend, it was a very different celebration that brought me here. The *Confirmation of the Installation* of the OBOD Chosen Chief, Eimear Burke, celebrated this weekend for our honored and beloved leader, was finally being held this weekend after a 2-year delay of the festivities due to COVID 19.

I was excited to finally connect with other OBODies at *Sing-Along-a-Wickerman*—a hosted participatory showing of the Pagan classic (which I had never seen), with many fellow druids (some in costumes), commentary by our hosts, goodie bags, and a Pagan Hymn Book to sing along.

I met up in the bar ahead of the event with several of our good friends from past Gulf Coast Gatherings—Pat Booker, Kristoffer Hughes, Eimear Burke, and Philip Carr-Gomm (my first time to meet him). I also met Penny Billington, with whom I had been corresponding prior to the event, and several of Pat's friends in the crowded bar. After traveling solo for a week, it was nice to be with friends for a fun-packed evening with hints of the week ahead.

## Glastonbury Summer Gathering 2022 continued

Friday was a free day with nothing official scheduled, but Pat had arranged for me to fill the one spare seat in Bronwyn, her British chum Big Merv's Land Rover, joining her and other friends, Olwen (from Ireland) and Dany (from France) on an afternoon trek to Avebury. Although it was on my bucket list, I had already given up trying to get there by bus, so was thrilled to be squeezed in. I explored the grounds of the Abbey ruins that morning and then met Pat at the market to grab lunch supplies before we hit the road.



It was a beautiful drive through the countryside to Avebury, filled with laughter and stories. After a quick picnic in the parking lot, we all went off to commune with the stones, each in our own way. Avebury is a giant stone circle with a small town included. Sheep and people mingle freely among the

huge standing stones. It was a magical place. Just as a brief shower passed over, I came upon one special stone that had a built-in seat that protected me from the rain. I pictured ancient druids sitting in this same stone as I contemplated the elements.

As the rain diminished, I noticed the others had found shelter nearby under a big tree, and were drumming softly. I joined them until the rain passed.



Then Olwen took the stone seat while I attempted to use Pat's dowsing rods (incorrectly), which seemed to keep rising to point at this special stone when I was pointing them at the ground. Alas, we had to leave before any of us were ready because the others had prior evening commitments back in Glastonbury.



This concludes part 1 of Honora's Glastonbury trip. Look for the part 2 in the October newsletter!



## Leiana's Art Picks



Here are Leiana's September art picks for everyone to consider visiting!

### Art's Musings

I'm often asked why we don't have priests and the answer is quite simple. The very term priest is defined as "someone who is authorized to perform the sacred rites of a religion especially as a mediatory agent between humans and God." In other words, someone who is elevated above the people. It can be very tempting to overload an ego with a job description like that.

As Druids, we believe that each of us is entirely capable of reaching out to and interacting with the Divine. The voice of Awen, Divine inspiration, may touch the youngest, or the oldest, the longest practicing, or the newest. Thus, while we have facilitators of ritual who have been round long enough to know the ropes, and we have folks who have delved into the mysteries enough to offer pastoral care, and we have people who can answer questions, we do not have priests.

As it stands now, our November Grove meeting will be in conjunction with a Pagan Information Day being held at the UU Church in Baton Rouge! Several groups and vendors from the local area will be there to answer questions and give a cocktail wiener overview of our different approaches to skinning the spiritual cat. The event is scheduled for four hours and will present an opportunity for our folks to visit, interact, and join in some old-time fellowship.

There will also be an opportunity to help with our information table, so bone up on your general knowledge of Druidry and of the Order! To help with that, we will have short fun quizzes at both our September and October grove meetings...we might even have prizes!

As one of the many Earth-centered spiritual traditions, we hold a special place in the grand scheme of things so remember, each of us is a part of a magnificent whole, colored with metaphor and myth and shaded with ladybugs and elephants!

Blessings!

—Art Scarborough /\

**Market at the Oasis** hosts a Farmers and Artisans market every Saturday from 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Located at 13827 Coursey Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70817

<https://themarketattheoasis.com/>

### **Baton Rouge Arts Market at the Red Stick Farmers Market**

September 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.  
501 North 5<sup>th</sup> St, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

<https://www.artsbr.org/market>

### **Free First Sundays at the LSU Museum of Art**

September 7<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. located at 100 Lafayette St, Baton Rouge, LA 70801

<https://www.lsumoa.org/>

### **First Wednesday at the Baton Rouge Gallery**

September 7<sup>th</sup> from 6 p.m.–9 p.m.

(Opening of the new exhibition)

Located at 1515 Dalrymple Dr, Baton Rouge, LA

<https://www.batonrougegallery.org/>

### **New Orleans Art Market in City Park**

September 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

<https://www.artsneworleans.org/event/arts-market-of-new-orleans/>

### **Pancakes and Booze at the Howlin' Wolf**

September 10<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 p.m.–12 a.m.

907 S Peters St

New Orleans, LA

<https://www.thehowlinwolf.com/>

### **New Orleans Art Market in Marsalis Harmony Park**

Sept 24<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

<https://www.artsneworleans.org/event/arts-market-of-new-orleans/>







## Highland Oak Nemeton Elections

At our August grove meeting, the nominating committee presented its proposed slate of officers. A quorum of active members being present, the slate was elected by acclamation. The following officers will serve until May 2025:

- Art Scarbrough—President*
- Kathleen Harrington—Vice President*
- Kate Laborde—Preceptor*
- Vanessa Thibodeaux—Secretary*
- Wendy Bourg—Treasurer*

## Gulf Coast Gathering 2023



On Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, the GCG board met to continue discussion of our plans for the 2023 gathering at Fountainbleau State Park. And while Pat and Sue Yglesias were unable to attend, we did discuss some items concerning the menus. We also discussed our 2023 theme, "Druidry: Embracing the Light...and the Darkness."

Registration will open on October 1, 2022, at 12:01 a.m., and we will continue to pass along more information as it comes available. Meanwhile, be sure to visit our website for continuous updates of featured guests, workshops, and presenters!  
<https://gulfcoastgathering.druidry.org/>



*We swear by peace and  
Love to stand,  
Heart to heart, and  
hand in hand;  
Mark! O Spirit, and  
hear us now,  
Confirming this,  
our sacred vow.*

