



*The Season of Beltane  
(Bealtaine)*

May 1<sup>st</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup>

The summer quarter of Beltane brings the gift of increased confidence and is a time of growth and greater sociability as the weather grows fine and hot. It is traditionally the time for celebrating the essential eros of the year, the vitality of Summer and the joys of youth.

In the human growth cycle, it corresponds to the period of young adulthood when the blood is hot, when ideas are, sometimes, impetuous, and ambitions pursued with vigor and ardor. Beltane is a good time to celebrate the lives of all heroes and heroines, all protectors of the land, all who were involved in innovative and resourceful means of help, all holy ones, whose great love complements their spiritual practice with human grace.

*Greeting to the Summer  
Solstice*

June 21<sup>st</sup>

Glory of the Day-Star, hail!  
Lifter of the Light, Burnisher of the Sky.  
Gifts of love to Earth are bringing,  
Summer's shimmer, dew's delight.  
Dancing be the heart within us,  
Open be our souls to bliss,  
Courage vanquish every shadow,  
Greet Midsummer with a kiss.

Excerpts from the *Celtic Devotional* by Caitlín Matthews

**June**



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**Some thoughts...**

Sometimes the quest for spirituality is much like sailing. You quickly learn not to have a firm date for your arrival. You may wind up somewhere other than your intended destination, and chances are you're going to make more side trips than you anticipated before you get there.

Organized religion, however, in many cases is more like traveling in a motorboat. It can be noisy, you're told where and when you will arrive, somebody else is always at the helm (whether you know it or not), and the gulls prefer to poop on your deck!

There will be more about this in an upcoming blog post on our website.\* The idea for now is to remember to enjoy the journey and not press the impatient button simply because you haven't arrived at a state of bliss. Even the most enlightened guru has a touch of gas from time to time.

The gwersi are excellent tools for helping to navigate your own personal journey. They do not stand like railroad tracks keeping you on the straight and narrow but open the way to a shaded, leaf-strewn path through the forest of what can be.

Have fun with your journey, and don't worry if you don't reach the goal you've set in the time you expect. There are marvelous creatures and adventures calling to you along the way.

— Art Scarbrough

\*HON Blog: [Musings from the Grove](#)



## Grove Happenings



### Magical Spring Market

On Saturday, May 27, 2023, members of Highland Oak Nemeton took part in the inaugural Magical Spring Market held at the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge.

The market celebrated the magic of spring with a focus on spirituality. It featured over thirty local art vendors who incorporate natural elements into their work and HON member Leiana Loveday Funck, whose surreal digital art is always a hit at arts markets, was among them!

The market also offered energetic readings of various kinds, and the local herb society, the Herb Society of America, Baton Rouge Unit, was there selling herbal teas of various kinds.

Members of the Sixth Source Sharing Circle, chaired by HON member Salvatore Culotta, were on hand to talk with visitors about the UU Church's Sixth Source, the spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions.

And Highland Oak Nemeton had an informational table staffed by Art Scarbrough and Ashley Rodriguez, with help from Kate Laborde and Honora Buras. Several people joined our mailing list from this event, and we hope to see some of you at our meeting next weekend!



Art Scarbrough and Ashley Rodriguez at the HON table at the Magical Spring Market

This month's grove meeting will be at La Madeleine Restaurant, located at 7615 Jefferson Hwy in Baton Rouge from 3:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>. We meet in the private dining room, and we hope everyone will be able to join us.

Discussion will include upcoming Alban Hefin ritual, where it will take place, a new book to read, and other various updates. And members, don't forget that annual dues are due!

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=TjFJb1h6NmhzSzUrN0czTzFuRVlVlQT09>  
Meeting ID: 883 3846 5418  
Passcode: 319206



### *Y Cornel Cymreig* "The Welsh Corner"

#### By Art Scarbrough

This month we'll keep it light with a link to a Welsh site revealing unpronounceable place names!

[https://www.inyourpocket.com/cardiff/a-collection-of-unpronounceable-welsh-town-names\\_75992f](https://www.inyourpocket.com/cardiff/a-collection-of-unpronounceable-welsh-town-names_75992f)





## The Full Strawberry Moon

Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, 10:43 p.m. CDT

On the evening of Saturday, June 3—just after sunset—look towards the southeast to watch the full Moon rise gently above the horizon. There, it will appear large and golden-hued. June’s full Moon will reach peak illumination at 10:43 p.m. CDT.

### Why Is It Called the Strawberry 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. Historically, names for the full or new Moons were used to track the seasons. Today, we think of Moon names as “nicknames” for the Moon.

June’s full Moon—typically the last full Moon of spring or the first of summer—has traditionally been called the **Strawberry Moon**. While strawberries certainly are a reddish-pink color and are roundish in shape, the origin of the name “Strawberry Moon” has nothing to do with the Moon’s hue or appearance, despite the evocative imagery (shown in the artist rendering above). A Moon usually appears reddish when it’s close to the horizon because the light rays must pass through the densest layers of atmosphere.

This “Strawberry Moon” name has been used by Native American Algonquian tribes that live in the northeastern United States as well as the Ojibwe, Dakota, and Lakota peoples to mark the ripening of “June-bearing” strawberries that are ready to be gathered. The Haida term Berries Ripen Moon reflects this as well. As flowers bloom and early fruit ripens, June is a time of great abundance for many.

### Alternative June Moon Names

Many cultures over time have used different names for the 12 full moons experienced each year. Usually, they’re not based on a color, but on a common activity that takes place that time of year.

**Blooming Moon** (Anishinaabe) is indicative of the flowering season, while **Green Corn Moon** (Cherokee) and **Hoer Moon** (Western Abenaki) suggest that it’s time to tend to young crops.

Other names highlight that this is a time of new life: The Tlingit have used the term **Birth Moon**, referring to the time when certain animals are born in their region (the Pacific Northwest). **Egg Laying Moon** and **Hatching Moon** are Cree terms that also hint at a time of many animal babies.

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



### Bardic Circle Meeting

At the conclusion of grove on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, the Bards will meet at a grove member’s home for Alban Hefin ritual work with open discussion and fellowship to follow. If you are a Bardic member of the Order and HON Grove and would like to join in, please contact Bardic Co-coordinator Ashley Rodriguez at [acrodriquezwrites@gmail.com](mailto:acrodriquezwrites@gmail.com) for more information. Those who plan to attend are asked to bring food and/or drink for the hostess’s table!



### Ovate Circle Meeting

We will meet out at Highland Road Park on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. underneath Grandfather Oak. We will discuss the current season, where everyone is in their studies, other business, and will close with a meditation. Please bring a folding chair and something to eat and drink. For more information, please contact the Ovate coordinator (me!) at [k.laborde@druidry.org](mailto:k.laborde@druidry.org).

**The Sixth Source Sharing Circle**, Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, will meet at the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge, located at 8470 Goodwood Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70806 at 12:45 p.m. For more information, please contact Salvatore Culotta at [salcc99@gmail.com](mailto:salcc99@gmail.com).



## **Final Thoughts**

As previously mentioned, I'm keeping this newsletter to a minimum as Honora Buras and I prepare for our trip to Glastonbury, UK, to represent Highland Oak Nemeton at this year's OBOD Gathering in honor of and to celebrate Alban Hefen. I'm looking forward to seeing familiar faces from years past and meeting and making new friends along the way. I'm also excited to visit Avebury and attending a sunrise ritual at Stonehenge.

Afterwards, we will be heading to Ireland, working on genealogical research and other fun stuff. Don't worry, I will take plenty of pictures for next month and the month afterwards, as there will be much to share!

On another note, the OBOD discussion forum (<https://messageboard.druidry.org/>) is a great resource for OBOD members and I strongly encourage you to use it. There are so many forums to choose from, including a poetry section. Each grade also has a forum in which members can discuss their gwersi, which is the only place on the internet sanctioned by OBOD for these discussions. Information on how to register for and request access to the forum is sent in a welcome pdf to all OBOD members when they join. If you are a member and don't have the pdf, please contact [Kathleen](#) for help (she and Art are both admins) getting going. So be sure to check it out!



*Grant, O Spirit, thy protection;*

*And in protection, strength;*

*And in strength, understanding;*

*And in understanding, knowledge;*

*And in knowledge, the knowledge of  
justice;*

*And in the knowledge of justice, the*

*love of it;*

*And in that love, the love of all*

*existences;*

*And in the love of all existences, the*

*love of Spirit,*

*Gods and Goddesses and all goodness!*