



Summer Solstice Issue Y.R. XLVI

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Editor's Notes

This publication is a transitory one. A Druid Missal-Any publishing house had been ailing for a while, so this issue will be released while the other one is resting for a few solar cycles. While I was apprenticing to A Druid Missal-Any I learned a thing or two, and certainly have forgotten two or three, so please do not blame my predecessor for the shoddy nature of this rag. –Mike the Fool



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News of the Groves

Carleton Grove: News from Minnesota

I had a long talk with Daniel, AD of Carleton, who had just finished a rocky sophomore year as ArchDruid with little training, as usual. Apparently he has a were-wolf among his membership, a few local townfolk, and the usual odd coterie of dreamers, wiccans, Christian mystics and eco-spiritualists. I sent him some summer reading, www.geocities.com/mikerdna/uwp.doc, which I recommend for you too, basic arm-chair advice from a non-practicing arch-druid on how to run a grove. Apparently, the grove is trying to revamp its e-mail system and also lost most of their sweatlodge tools and paraphernalia. Contact him at lessind@carleton.edu

Mango Mission: News from South-East Asia

I'm going on R&R from June 25 to July 10th-ish to Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Laos. Riding the "Orient Express" up and down the tracks. I'll be out of pocket during this time, hanging out at beaches, going up a few mountains, fishing in the Pacific and possibly exploring jungle-vine-strewn exotic temples while carrying a torch and dodging poison darts and large rolling rocks. Ah the life in the foreign service!

Poison Oak Grove: News from California

The earth medicine training we are taking is preceding apace. The AD spent Summer Solstice Day doing the earth workshop in 95+ degree heat on Mt. Hamilton near San Jose. (Here is about the workshop if I haven't shared the link already: <http://www.ancestralmedicine.org/page/page/4896804.htm>).

Got Sunburned. Dripped with sweat. Picked up pizza and Caesar salad on the way home, got home, ate pizza and salad, took shower, ate popsicle. We connected with the animal each of us is working with this year and did an "Oracle of Delphi" thing where other members of the training could ask the animal questions about their lives. It was pretty neat.

Morag and I have become the resident experts in identifying the native plants at the earth medicine training gatherings. It has become a running joke that the leader will question the group, "Can anyone tell us what kind of plant this is?...Except Stacey and Morag..." It's good to be a druid!

The AD will be taking part in the 2008 vision quest but this year will be a supporter whereas last year she was a questor herself. Though there is not the preparation of making 707 prayers ties this year, being a supporter still has its share of "getting worked" leading up to the quest. Once the quest starts the supporter role entails checking on his or her questor while s/he out in the woods, doing daily sweat lodges, and tending at intervals a four-day long fire. One of the questors is a member of ADF. Even though I am not his supporter I will be looking out for him as well. He is a new member to this particular shamanic practice community and it has helped him know there is another druid in the group. In the next week or so I hope to take him out to a spot not far to collect his willows, and teach him something about trees in the process.

Nine Oaks and Mystic Well Grove: News from Nevada

Greetings in the name of the Earth Mother!

Ahhh the endearing desert heat begins early this year,yet we had an oftimes missed 'nice spring'.Much growth in the SW desert,as a lack of necessary rain gives way to much needed weeding,in what gardens we produce,yet the cycles of 'life' seems to always flourish here.

Soon we begin our 'meets and classes' shortly after the Midsummers gathering,as this year,yet again will be in a southern elevation of Mt.Charleston in a grove area' we created on a members 'land'.Soon we will be accenting the altar stone,placing new 'trees' about the ring as a perimeter,keeping the troth' as it were.

The Nemeton (and as a Wih-stead) will be shared with occupancy of both 3 local Asatru Kindreds and 2 local Groves,and we as a Protogrove,as our intention is this to be a 'place of peace,life and learning'.Many of us had placed 'hard work and sweat into this area of blissful attributes' and pray that,the Mother blesses the 'all' here as well as local areas about!

The Nine Oaks n Mystic Well (NRDNA) is a proud sponsor and contributor to this 'much needed' ring of life,as the Protogrove has still chosen to follow our own 'path' by staying a Protogrove as we yet see the need to course forward of carrying our own banner within the time honored traditions of the RDNA.As we now proceed to the strands of Wyrld and the futures to come,we wish all RDNA the 'well best' we can give...

Yours in the Mother!

Acting AD Finegas

Triple Horse Grove: News from Oregon

First, please change our contact email for both me, Aigeann/Cathy to Triplehorses@gmail.com (using free accounts saves a few pennies doncha know) Here is our grove's submission. Blessings to you and all those you love!

Take some time away from the stress and concerns of your everyday life and journey to your center by walking the labyrinth with the Clan of the Triple Horses Grove.

We will meet at the beautiful outdoor labyrinth at Rogue Valley Medical Center, Medford Oregon, the first Thursday of each month at 5 p.m. Each participant will walk the labyrinth at his or her own pace and privacy and time for reflection will be honored.

After everyone has walked, we will adjourn to a local restaurant to have a bite to eat, talk and relax. Those who wish to join our Grove for the first time are warmly welcomed!

Celebrate the power of the Summer Solstice with the Clan of the Triple Horses Grove! Our Grove will welcome Sean, Northwest Regional Druid, for a celebration of this ancient, powerful rite, as well as a workshop on modern Druid liturgy and worship Sunday, July 6, at a private residence in Medford, Oregon USA. The Grove will provide vegetarian spaghetti and wild boar sausages on the side for all you carnivores!

Clan of the Triple Horse Grove is a co-sponsor for the 2008 Sequoia Pan Pagan Gathering. Get away to camp, be with the Nature Spirits, and celebrate the festival of Lunasadh, the first harvest.

For details about this special annual event, open to all Pagans, please see: <http://gathering.reformed-druids.org/>

Our Southern Oregon events are open to the public and welcome children. Donation requested but no one is ever turned away for lack of funds.

For a background on our Grove, see our website at- <http://triplehorses.weebly.com>

Or our live journal at- <http://triplehorses.livejournal.com/>

For more information, please contact- triplehorses@gmail.com

North Valley Grove: News from Quebec

Well, we officially have our own real sacred grove now. It is actually a little valley surrounded by beautiful hills with two nice clear running streams joining together just in front of our ritual area. The Grove is a good 20 minutes hike from my friend's house. We consecrated it on the eve of the Beltane and we called it the "North Valley Grove". After the ritual, we enjoyed a good evening beside the sacred fire until midnight. We shared a few good bottles of red wine, a beautiful and fresh crusted bread, cheese and plenty of French Canadian crouton. It was a wonderful clear and chilly spring night. Amazingly, just a week before Beltane, the area was still covered in two feet of snow. We were lucky that the snow melted just in time for us to be able to have our ritual. But again, we had an exquisite night, bright stars above our heads, no moon and in the back of us, in the forest we could hear an owl, a bit further, we could hear a playful family of coyotes and once and a while further up the streams, probably near one of the little lakes in the hills, we could hear two wolves hauling to each other. It was a night that we will remember.

For our summer solstice ritual, we will be lighting a smaller fire at the sacred grove around lunch time. I will be heading the ritual as usual. Then after the ritual, with our families this time, will be enjoying a good picnic in the Grove.

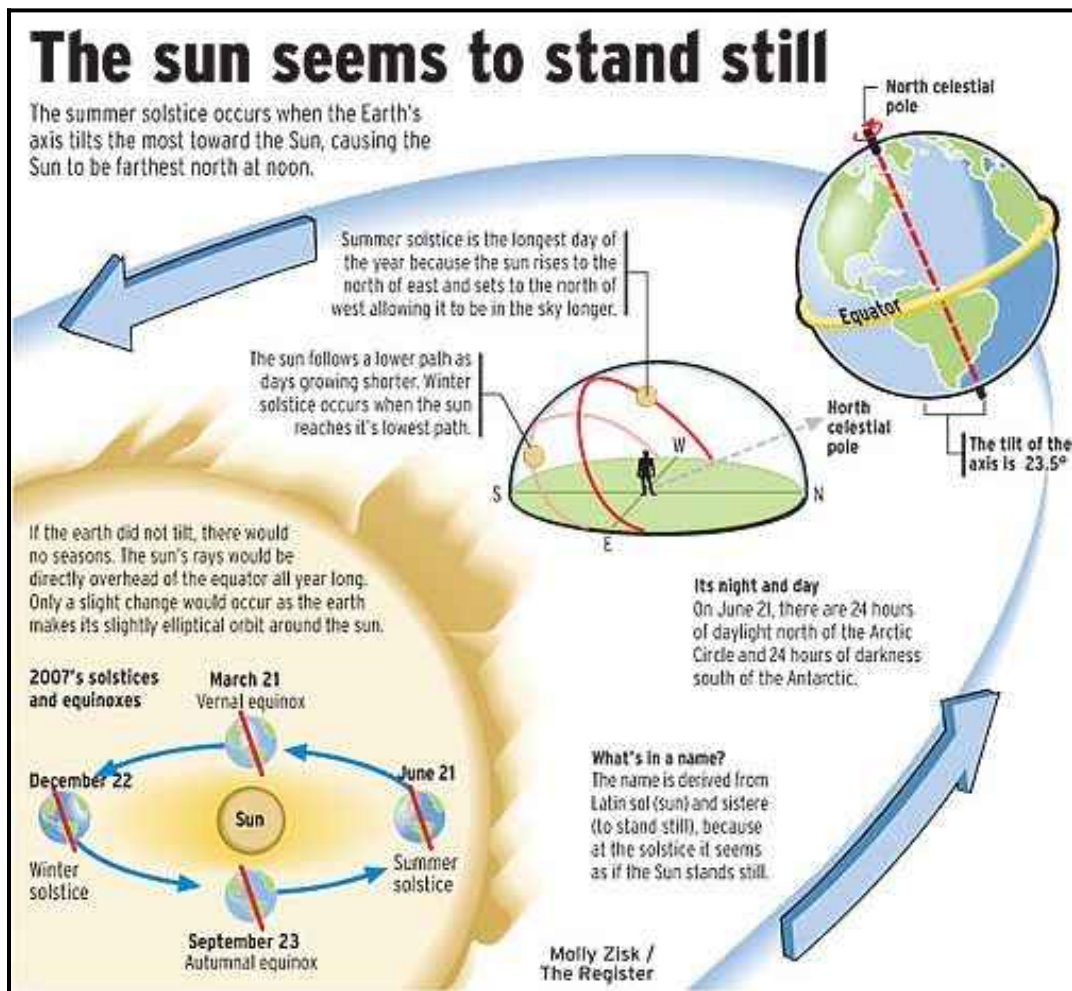
So, even if we are far apart, we are still under the same sky, so I wish you all a great summer solstices to all RDNA Druids out there!

Under the same sky, in honor of our great Mother, Blessings to you all!

Sébastien Beaudoin

From West-Québec- Canada,

The Grove of the Local woodland Druids (proto-grove)





Summer Solstice Factoids

From Clan of the Triplehorses Grove (OR)

<http://triplehorses.weebly.com>

Aigeann@earthlink.net

"There's beauty in the sunrise in the sky." - Bob Dylan

The start of summer is a long story - about 14 hours and 30 minutes long.

Friday will be the summer solstice, the year's longest day. It was a huge event in ancient times, when people's survival depended on predicting the seasons.

These air-conditioned days, the summer solstice blurs into the much easier to understand "first day of summer." The wall calendar probably says Saturday is the first day, meaning the first full day of flip-flops and snow cones. But Friday is one of the solar system's best tricks.

"Summer solstice is the time of year in which the sun is the farthest to the north that it gets in its rise and set positions," Joe Guenter explains as director of the University of Arkansas at Monticello's Pomeroy Planetarium.

At noon Friday, the sun will seem to pause midway in its arc, almost straight overhead. It will be the way it was for Gary Cooper in the classic Western, High Noon.

At sunset Friday, the sun will drop behind Mound B at Toltec Mounds Archaeological State Park - a sure sign of summer to the prehistoric people who built the mounds east of Little Rock.

Their earthwork calendar still keeps time for today's visitors, and the park will celebrate the summer solstice with a busy day that builds to viewing Friday's sunset as if through ancient eyes.

"It's kind of special," park interpreter Robin Gabe says. The sunset gives a sense of connection to the people who lived there more than 1,000 years ago. Besides, the event is a reminder to stop and appreciate a really fine sunset.

So often, "we don't even think about it," she says.

"It's no good. I've got to go back." - Gary Cooper, High Noon.

Summer solstice rites and celebrations used to be "very common," according to the Holidays, Festivals and Celebrations of the World Dictionary, a reference book of special occasions.

People still gather at England's Stonehenge monument to celebrate the summer solstice. Theories differ on the site's meaning, but one idea is that mystical Druids arranged the stones as a way to track or worship the heavens. New Age ceremonies recall the blessings the ancient Celts might have asked from the sun.

Today's version: The Celebrity Solstice is a cruise ship. The Pontiac Solstice is a sports car. Solstice Sunglass Boutique is a place to buy fancy shades to keep the sun from causing un-fashionable squints.

Solstice celebrations are "comparatively rare" in today's high-tech society, according to the festivals dictionary. People tend to ignore anything so old-fashioned as the sun. But here's how to trip the light fantastic Toltec

Mounds State Park's celebration starts at 3 p.m. Friday, with demonstrations of primitive-style weapons, tools and games.

The site was for ancient ceremonies but also a marketplace and early-day fun spot. Visitors will make pinch pots and arrowhead necklaces. At 6 p. m., the park's resident archaeologist, Jane Anne Blakney-Bailey, will explain the alignment of the mounds with Friday's setting sun. At 7 p. m., a guided tour of the mounds will head to the low remains of Mound H to watch the sunset. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$3 for children. Address: 490 Toltec Mounds Road, Scott. More information is available by calling (501) 961-9442.

OTHER BRIGHT IDEAS: In Alaska, the sun shines nearly around the clock for days surrounding the summer solstice. Nome parades, Skagway dances in the street and Fairbanks plays baseball at midnight. "There are strange things done in the midnight sun" is the classic rhyme in "The Cremation of Sam McGee" by Robert Service. Finland's celebration is the medieval-style Feast of St. John, with bonfires and dancing. Ornaments made of birch branches are supposed to bring good luck. Denmark's St. John's Eve is a late night of bonfires, fireworks and singing. England's St. Barnabas Day comes with an old rhyme: "Barnaby bright, Barnaby bright, the longest day and the shortest night."

"Leave all the afternoon for exercise and recreation." - Thomas Jefferson.

The summer solstice heats a can of history and folklore. The Romans saw how the sun seemed to have a lazy, hazy, crazy moment in the sky. "Solstitium," they said, meaning sun; and "stitium," meaning to stop - as in, "Stop and smell the sunflowers, Titus." The Latin words brewed awhile like sun tea, and the combination came out, "solstice." The summer solstice brings out the magic in everything - a belief known to Shakespeare, whose play *A Midsummer Night's Dream* shows what can happen when the fairies and hobgoblins warm up to mischief. Break an egg into a glass of water Friday morning, according to a superstition from Shakespeare's time. By sunset, the mess will look like something in the future - a lover's profile, maybe (from *Midsummer Magic*, a children's library book of charms).

SOLAR FLARES No wonder the summer solstice seemed like magic to people long ago. It turned the dark and cold winter months - in the north of Europe, especially - to summer like a wizard's spell. People didn't have science to explain the phenomenon. Even now, science only sharpens the wonder.

Here is one of the day's seeming mysteries, for example: The sun is way, way out there. It seems to have gone off in a cold snit to keep from having to work all summer. How come summer is hot?

"The sun reaches its farthest point north of the equator" at 6: 59 p.m. Friday, the Old Farmer's Almanac predicts the solstice for new-fangled farmers online at www.almanac.com. Meantime, the Earth is headed toward its aphelion, or farthest point from the sun.

The alignment sounds like good news for Frosty the Snowman, but he wouldn't last a hoppity-hop-hop in Arkansas. June's temperatures already have topped 90.

"It isn't distance [from the sun], it's the tilt of the Earth's axis that gives us our seasons," Guenter says.

The Earth's 23-degree tilt toward the sun is like angling yourself under a sun-lamp for maximum burn. The Earth's slant makes for longer days, more sunlight, more pool parties.

Up here, that is - in the Northern Hemisphere.

"It's the opposite in Australia," he says. "They're having their winter." The tables will turn along with the axis when the winter solstice happens on Dec. 21. Aussies will throw a shrimp on the barbie; Arkies will throw a log on the fire.

Other celestial dates to come include fall equinox, Sept. 22, and spring equinox, March 20, when day and night are about equal.

Each phase marks another season. The winter solstice traditionally calls for fires and feasts to bolster shivering spirits against the cold. Summer solstice is the merriest.

Guenter has his celebration planned - a project common to many Arkansans, even those who hadn't thought of it as a festivity.

"I'll probably work out in the yard," he says.

"What a nice night for an evening." - Steven Wright.

Another puzzler to ponder Friday while the sun sets: Is the summer solstice really the year's longest day? Maybe not. There's a modern pretender to the title.

Counting hours of all kinds, the year's longest day will be Nov. 2, the end of daylight-saving time. People set their clocks back an hour. Nov. 2 will be a 25-hour day, according to the government.

Counting hours of daylight, though, Friday will have most - and that's according to the sun, the higher authority.

The sun will rise at 5: 56 a.m. Friday and set at 8: 26 p. m., according to the nation's precision timekeeper, the U. S. Naval Observatory.

Saturday probably will be just a wink and a sunbeam shorter than Friday. It can take an expert to tell the difference, and even the expert is apt to have gone fishing.

But then, Sunday, the new summer already starts to slip away. Sunday will have about a minute's less daylight than Friday, by the observatory's calculations.

July 20 will have 21 minutes less daylight than Friday.

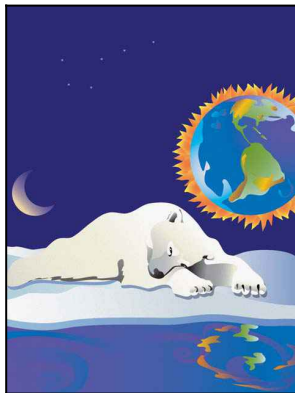
Aug. 20 will have an hour and 13 minutes less.

Sept. 20 will have an hour and 42 minutes less, and then fall nips the air.

Ow !

Summer is like a quart of Arkansas strawberries. It looks like a lot at first, but a person has to jump in and savor it right away.

Next thing you know, summer's sweet taste is gone.



A CALL TO ACTION

PREPARING FOR AND ADAPTING TO A CHANGING CLIMATE WILL BE ONE OF THE CENTRAL TASKS OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FOR THE REST OF THIS CENTURY.

BY TIMOTHY E. WIRTH

from The Foreign Service Journal, February 2008

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Timothy Wirth has been the president of the United Nations Foundation and Better World Fund since those organizations were founded in 1998. He began his political career as a White House Fellow under President Lyndon Johnson and was later deputy assistant secretary for education in the Nixon administration. Wirth then returned to his home state of Colorado and successfully ran for the U.S. House of Representatives, representing the 2nd Congressional District from 1975 to 1987. In the House, he concentrated his efforts in the areas of communications technology and budget policy. Elected to the U.S. Senate in 1986, he focused on environmental issues, particularly global climate change and population stabilization, until 1993. He then served in the U.S. Department of State as the first under secretary for global affairs from 1993 to 1997.

When extreme weather, intensified by climate change, causes floods, people die. When the rains fail in Africa because of climate change, people die. The tragedy of Darfur is partly due to climate change — as rainfall diminished, herders and farmers fought over the remaining arable land. As sea levels rise, deserts spread and glacierfed rivers dry up, many millions of people must move or perish. Preparing

for and adapting to a changing climate will be one of the central tasks of international relations for the rest of this century.

That is why Vice President Al Gore and the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change won the 2007 Nobel Prize for Peace, not for biology or economics. The Nobel Academy recognized that

environmental degradation is a precursor to impoverishment and conflict. Changing the climate puts human civilization at risk.

The Need to Act

Twenty years ago, in an historic act of foresight, two United Nations agencies — the World Meteorological Organization and the U.N. Environment Program — created the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. A scientific intergovernmental body, the IPCC has delivered increasingly clear and forceful reports about the growing threat of climate change. The now-authoritative science underscores the urgent and overdue need to act: every year that goes by increases the risk of harm and makes more difficult the task of stabilizing global temperatures at a tolerable level.

This action must take at least three forms: negotiation, investment and adaptation — negotiation to reduce global emissions, investment to bring about a complete transformation of the world's energy systems, and country-by-country adaptation to the inevitable effects of climate change.

Negotiation is now front and center as the world prepares to negotiate a new implementing agreement for the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change. This treaty, signed in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 by President George H.W. Bush and immediately ratified by the U.S. Senate, defined its objective as “stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.” The 1997 Kyoto Protocol and the December 2007 negotiations in Bali represent ongoing efforts to implement the convention and make it effective. The first commitment period under the original Kyoto Protocol comes to an end in 2012, so the critical task is to negotiate what comes next — preferably a new and comprehensive global agreement that puts the world on a path to achieve the Framework Convention's objective. The negotiations leading to the Kyoto agreement were prolonged and extremely difficult, and the ambitions then were relatively modest compared to the challenge today. It will therefore be even more difficult and complex to reach agreement this time. But world opinion has shifted over the past decade toward full recognition of the scale of the threat and the urgency of action, sparking optimism that common ground can be found. To have a new climate agreement in place by 2012, however, negotiations must be completed by the end of 2009 to allow time for ratification and implementation.

To initiate development of a post-2012 framework for international cooperation on climate change, 187 countries met in Bali, Indonesia. On Dec. 15, 2007, they adopted a negotiating roadmap for 2008-2009. That agreement calls on nations to complete within two years a comprehensive agreement for preventing catastrophic climate change. The Bali roadmap calls for creation of a long-term global emissions reduction goal consistent with the U.N. Framework Convention's goal of preventing “dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.” It calls on developed nations to take the lead on emissions reduction targets, while recognizing that *all* nations have an obligation to reduce emissions, consistent with national development objectives and the convention's principle of common but

differentiated responsibilities. Finally, the Bali roadmap calls for negotiation of concrete steps the international community can take to foster progress on adaptation, technology and finance.

Toward a New Agreement

The upcoming negotiations must be guided primarily by what the science is telling us: We must stabilize atmospheric concentrations of heat-trapping gases by massively cutting current and future emissions. Imagine that the atmosphere is a bathtub, and the tub is half-full. We're rapidly pouring (emitting) carbon into that bathtub, the spigot is wide open, and the water level (concentration) is increasing. The job of the international community is to figure out how to turn down that spigot — slow down the amount of carbon going into the atmosphere — before the bathtub overflows. This is an enormous challenge, but also an economic opportunity. The question for diplomats and politicians alike is: How do we get there?

The 1992 Framework Convention established the principle that countries should address the climate challenge “on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.”

Developed countries should take the lead because over many years they have contributed the most to the buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Meaningful engagement of developing countries, especially the rapidly industrializing economies, is also needed. But requiring all countries to achieve the same percentage reduction in the same time period would be unfair and, frankly, impossible. The developed countries put the carbon into the atmosphere to start with; they were the first to use the atmosphere as a carbon garbage dump. Thus, it is first and foremost the developed countries' task to change their own behavior and help the world to adapt, while encouraging others — like China and India — to avoid the same bad habits and embark over time on a low-carbon path. This key issue — who has what responsibility, and when do those obligations kick in — is at the heart of the climate negotiations. It will also be critical to the Senate's future ratification of any new climate protocol. We must be flexible enough to recognize and accept the value of diverse approaches to the climate challenge. In the interest of developing flexible new approaches for international cooperation on climate change, last year the U.N. Foundation and the Club of Madrid — a group of 66 democratic former heads of state and government — convened a distinguished task force known as Global Leadership for Climate Action. The objective of this diverse group (facilitated by the highly effective former CEO of the Global Environment Facility, Mohamed El-Ashry) was to develop and propose the outlines of a broadly acceptable global climate agreement. The task force's September 2007 report, *Framework for a Post-2012 Agreement on Climate Change*, breaks the complex subject of climate change down into four “pathways”

to agreement: mitigation, adaptation, technology and finance. It recommends that parallel negotiations proceed along each pathway during the next two years in order to move toward a new agreement and make further progress in implementing the 1992 climate treaty. This general framework helped to organize U.N. Secretary-General Ban

Ki-moon's high-level session on climate last September and the Bali discussions.

The climate agreement to be negotiated in 2008 and 2009 must be comprehensive. It should include all countries, all sectors, all sources and all sinks. However, "comprehensive" does not mean "one size fits all." Rather, targeted agreements — for example, on industrial energy use, energy efficiency, renewable energy and technology cooperation — should be encouraged and incorporated within a new comprehensive framework. These pacts could encompass a much broader array of countries than those who immediately commit to an emissions cap.

Sectoral agreements — also developed within the global U.N. framework — should also be encouraged: the auto industry, cement, steel and utilities should be on everyone's early lists.

China may not accept an immediate cap on its emissions, but should be encouraged and credited with the important actions it has already taken: setting a target of improving its energy efficiency by 4 percent per year, imposing fuel economy standards that are stricter than those of the U.S., and moving to double its renewable energy capacity (to 15 percent) by the year 2020. Those steps will significantly reduce Chinese emissions, while putting the PRC on a path toward a lower-carbon economy. Like the U.S., China is learning how to cope with the looming climate crisis; but unlike America, it has made a relatively small contribution to the level of carbon in the atmosphere.

The PRC is also emerging as a global leader and, in dealing with the climate crisis, should become our partner, not our adversary. While Washington can and should lead in such fields as technology, economic transformation and sectoral modernization, Beijing can serve as a model and challenge, especially to other nations in the rapidly developing world. Together, we can demonstrate that the climate crisis is also an opportunity, so addressing it advances everyone's self-interest.

The Need and Opportunity for Investment

The transition to a low-carbon energy path, which will utterly transform the world's energy systems, will require the investment of trillions of dollars in energy-efficiency and clean-energy technologies. Understandably, prospective investors first want certainty that this massive change will, in fact, occur. The irony is that, while climate change brings huge, unprecedented and urgent risk to the globe overall, its very scale provides the basis for greater certainty for innovative technologies and investment opportunities. The greater the climate risk, and the greater humanity's understanding of that risk, the more important these technologies are, and the more attractive these investments become. The world is already poised to act, and more and more governments and individuals recognize the urgency of a response.

The first and most important step to convey certainty and generate the necessary investments is to put a price on carbon. This was one of the key observations made by economist Nicholas Stern to the British government in his October 2006 report, *The Economics of Climate Change*. Another, even more significant, conclusion was this: "The costs of stabilizing the climate are significant but manageable; delay would be dangerous and much more

costly." The debate prior to that intellectual breakthrough asked: How much is action on climate going to cost? The debate now centers on the cost of inaction, which grows sharply the longer we delay.

The Stern paradigm reminds us of the mutually reinforcing nature of economic and environmental progress. Ecological systems are the very foundation of modern society — in science, in agriculture and in social and economic planning. Yet the biggest obstacle to the pursuit of sustainable development, both in the U.S. and elsewhere, has been the misguided belief that protecting the environment is antithetical to economic interests.

Unhappily, for far too long concern about the environment has been regarded as a peripheral issue that can be treated as a luxury in the context of prosperity. And far too many people still say, "Yes, I'm for the environment ... as long as it doesn't cost jobs." The fact is that the economy is inextricably tied to the environment and totally dependent upon it.

Five biological systems — croplands, forests, grasslands, oceans and fresh waterways — support the world economy. Except for fossil fuels and minerals, they supply all the raw materials for industry and all our food:

- Croplands supply food, feed and an endless array of raw materials for industry, such as fiber and vegetable oils.
- Forests are the source of fuel, lumber, paper and countless other products.
- Grasslands provide meat, milk, leather and wool.
- Oceans and fresh water produce food and drink for individuals and resources for industries.

Those resources constitute the foundation for all economic activity and all jobs. Stated in the jargon of the business world, the economy is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the environment. And when the environment is forced to file for bankruptcy because its resource base has been dissipated or irretrievably compromised, then the economy will go down with it.

American leadership to avoid a bankrupt future by setting the right example and bringing the world along remains central. The most important step we can take at home is putting a price on carbon that reflects its true cost to the environment and society. One way to do this is through a carbon tax. The other is a "cap and trade" system that draws on the power of the marketplace to reduce emissions in a cost-effective and flexible manner. The purpose of such measures, it is important to note, is not to impose higher energy costs on consumers. Rather, it is to set the rules of the game in such a way that clean technologies can compete with dirty ones and, indeed, over time outcompete them. This will lead to a great wave of innovation, investment, economic development and job creation — all of which the U.S. has historically done better than any other nation in the world. U.S. leadership on technology development and deployment is also essential to lowering the cost of reducing carbon emissions. Yet spending on energy research, development and deployment today is a small fraction of what it was more than 25 years ago. The federal government should make a major commitment to restoring investment in research, development and dissemination. There should be an immediate doubling of resources to accelerate the deployment of high-priority technologies in such areas as

carbon capture and sequestration, second generation biofuels and a modernized electric power system.

Then the U.S. and others should find ways to collaborate effectively with developing countries on the development and deployment of new sustainable energy technologies.

Preparing for the Impact

Technology change alone will not be enough, however; spending on adaptation will also be needed. Since there is enormous inertia in the climate system, significant effects of our climate-forcing pollution are already inevitable and largely irreversible, and they will be felt first and most keenly in the poorest countries. The United Nations Development Program's 2007/2008 Human Development Report, *Fighting Climate Change: Human Solidarity in a Divided World*, warns that the world is drifting toward a tipping point that could lock the poorest countries and their poorest citizens in a downward spiral, leaving hundreds of millions facing malnutrition, water scarcity, ecological threats and a loss of livelihoods. As John Podesta and Peter Ogden explain in their excellent paper, "Global Warning: The Security Challenges of Climate Change": "In the developing world, even a relatively small climatic shift can trigger or exacerbate food shortages, water scarcity, destructive weather events, the spread of disease, human migration and natural resource competition.

These crises are all the more dangerous because they are interwoven and self-perpetuating: water shortages can lead to food shortages, which can lead to conflict over remaining resources, which can drive human migration, which, in turn, can create new food shortages in new regions. Once under way, this chain reaction becomes increasingly difficult to stop, and therefore it is critical that policymakers do all they can to prevent that first climate change domino — whether it be food scarcity or the outbreak of disease — from toppling."

Exacerbating the stresses on the poorest countries is the exponential growth of the human population. World population has doubled since 1950 and now stands at 5.6

billion. Every year, the world gains another 91 million inhabitants — the equivalent of another New York City every month, another Mexico every year, another China every decade. Ninety-five percent of that growth is taking place in the impoverished countries of the developing world, which are already struggling to provide jobs and sustenance for their people.

The largest populations in the history of the world are now entering their child-bearing years. Will these women be able to make decisions for themselves about the size of their families and the spacing of their children, and will we meet the commitments that we made in Cairo to reproductive health, rights, services and commodities? On this, the jury is out. We know that the social and economic return from empowered women and stable families is one of the most important variables, and we know what to do to reach this opportunity.

Early in 2007, with support from the United Nations Foundation and under the banner of the scientific research society Sigma Xi, a distinguished group of some of the best scientists in the world put out a report titled "Confronting Climate Change, Avoiding the Unmanageable and Managing the Unavoidable."

That's where we are. We are working to avoid the unmanageable and to manage the unavoidable. Our first obligation as human beings is to preserve our species. That means not fouling our nest beyond repair. We are gambling with a global climate system that we do not fully understand. It is capable of abrupt shifts, and those shifts are not reversible. If the Arctic ice cap, the engine of our weather systems, disappears, reducing our emissions will not put it back. If Greenland melts and Miami disappears, reducing our emissions will not put it back. We have to act now before it's too late.

We have the tools and the technology. Moving our energy systems into the 21st century will be a great challenge but also a great business opportunity, an opportunity for leadership and innovation. All that we lack, as former Vice President Al Gore says, is political will — and that is a renewable resource. _

Druid Media



The Story of 'Norma'

Hulton Archive / Getty Images

Composer Vincenzo Bellini in 1830, one year before the premiere of Norma.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=90495326>

[NPR.org](http://www.npr.org), May 16, 2008 –

ACT ONE: The action takes place in ancient Gaul, under Roman occupation, where the Druid priestess Norma has fallen in love with a Roman official named Pollione and has secretly borne him two children. Norma is also the daughter of the Druids' leader, Oroveso.

As the action begins, Oroveso instructs his followers to go into the sacred forest and wait for Norma, who will signal the start of a planned revolt against the Romans. When the Druids leave, we find Pollione talking with the centurion Flavio. Pollione

admits that he's no longer in love with Norma. His new romantic interest is the young acolyte Adalgisa, one of Norma's temple virgins. In the forest, a brass gong sounds. Pollione and Flavio leave, and a chorus announces the arrival of Norma. As she cuts the sacred mistletoe, Norma sings the classic *bel canto* aria "Casta Diva," a prayer to the goddess for victory over the Romans. The Druids follow Norma off, leaving Adalgisa alone to struggle with her emotions. She's torn between her love for Pollione, and her loyalty to Norma and her sworn duties. Pollione joins Adalgisa and begs her to elope with him to Rome.

The second scene takes place at Norma's home. She tells her friend Clotilde to hide her two little boys — the sons Norma had with Pollione. She's afraid of her ambivalent feelings toward them: "I love, and at the same time, hate, my children," she says.

Adalgisa pays a visit to Norma, asking to be released from her vows. She admits she's found love, though she doesn't say with whom. Norma is touched, remembering her own early days with Pollione. She agrees to release Adalgisa from her vows. But when Pollione arrives, the truth comes out. Norma realizes that he has betrayed her with Adalgisa, and Adalgisa learns that Pollione had pledged himself to Norma.

The act closes in a fiery confrontation. Norma curses Pollione, saying "My burning fury will engulf you like the wind and the waves." She orders Adalgisa to go with him. Adalgisa tells Pollione she'd rather die than desert her people.

ACT TWO: So far, Norma has come across as an unpredictable and even dangerous woman. Now, we find her sounding vulnerable and filled with doubt — and with a knife in her hand. She's still angry with Pollione and contemplates killing their two young sons. She raises her dagger over the sleeping children, but at the last moment backs down.

Norma calls for Adalgisa, and tells her to take the children and go live with Pollione in Rome. In a spectacular duet, Adalgisa says she won't do it. Instead, she'll tell Pollione of Norma's suffering, hoping that will move him to come back to Norma.

The scene changes to the sacred forest. Oroveso tells his Druid warriors to keep their anger for the Romans in check. They must wait for just the right moment to attack. They leave, and Norma is alone with Clotilde, who tells Norma that Adalgisa has failed to change Pollione's mind. He still loves Adalgisa, and plans to carry her off to Rome.

Norma is furious. "The traitor will go too far," she says, "but I will strike first, and Roman blood will flow like water." She runs to the altar and strikes the ceremonial brass shield, summoning the troops to battle.

In the commotion, an intruder is discovered within the Druid temple. It's Pollione. The punishment for any outsider entering the temple is instant death, and Norma is poised to kill him with the sacred dagger. But she hesitates, admitting to herself that she can't go through with it.

Taking Pollione aside, Norma offers him freedom if he will leave Adalgisa. But Pollione refuses, saying he'd sooner die. Norma says she'd be delighted to arrange for that and for the death of their two young sons, plus the death of his beloved Adalgisa. Pollione begs Norma to spare Adalgisa's life.

Suddenly, Norma calls for her people, announcing that Pollione won't be killed after all. Instead, there's a new victim, one who has betrayed her country. "I am the guilty one," she says and then calls for the sacrificial pyre to be prepared. The crowd tries to bring Norma to her senses, but she won't budge. She's determined to go down in flames. In her final words to her father, Norma admits that she is the mother of Pollione's children and asks the shocked Oroveso to protect them. Meanwhile, Norma's bravery revives Pollione's love for her. He steps to her side, and the opera closes as the two walk into the flames together.





Institute of Druidic Technology

<http://druidtech.org/>

For your entertainment - Editor

The Institute of Druidic Technology (or IDT) is a not-for-profit organization devoted to increasing man's understanding of ancient technologies.

The current goal of the Institute is to conclusively prove that the ancient inhabitants of Britain had access to advanced computer technology. A subgoal of the Institute is to acquire grant monies and tax-deductible donations to help us in our efforts to conclusively prove that the Ancient inhabitants of Britain had access to advanced computer technology

The institute was founded in 1959 by Dr. F. E. Tunalu, an acknowledged expert in computer science, and a noted archaeologist specializing in British artifacts from before the Roman Invasion.

"The obvious links between ancient British culture and computer science have heretofore gone unnoticed due to a lack of expertise in these seemingly unrelated fields," says Dr. Tunalu. "Sadly, a lot of so called 'experts' have mislabeled many important finds, which sit gathering dust in the natural history museums of the world, waiting only to be discovered by one as insightful as myself."

Dr. Tunalu has attracted a world-class corps of archaeologists, ethno-linguists, computer scientists and legal scholars to the Institute.

Our archaeologists, led by the indefatigable Dr. Tunalu, are finding impressive new evidence that the prehistoric Iberians and ancient Celts had access to advanced mathematical knowledge and advanced software. Among their recent discoveries are the Walton Heath rod memory containing the early computer game, "Osric the Stoat," and the Desborough mousepad, a bronze Celtic artifact which contains a fractal pattern copied from an ancient screen saver. A flint mouse was also found near this site.

Our ethno linguists are analyzing both ancient and modern languages for the likely etymology of computer-related terms. A recent discovery is that the word *sega*, assumed to be of Asian origin, is actually derived from the Medieval Gaelic for "hedgehog" - Dr. Tunalu believes this word to have been transmitted to the Medieval Japanese thru a powerful hidden transmitter in a secret location in Ireland.

Our computer scientists are embarking on two projects, currently. Firstly, they are attempting to prove Dr. Tunalu's theories by using a supercomputer to find the correct location in the Mandelbrot set of the fractal depicted on a particular Celtic mousepad. It is believed if the correct coordinates are found, they will not only confirm Dr. Tunalu's theories, but also reveal the quantity of the irrational number *D*, which was prized by Druid mathematicians, but has been lost to Antiquity.

A second computer-science related project is the reconstruction and simulation of the Iberian computer game, "Osric the Stoat," which has been recovered in incomplete form in a wooden rod memory. Our goal is to have both a Macintosh and Windows emulator of this game available within the next ten years, given sufficient grant monies.

Our legal experts are suing to overturn a huge number of software patents for which Dr. Tunalu believes the Celts can claim prior art. Unfortunately, many of these patents are held by companies and individuals who cannot claim Celtic ancestry. "Sadly," says Dr. Tunalu, "our efforts have been hindered by a vast conspiracy of mainstream academics who are trying to refute the undeniable evidence. It is my belief that these so called 'experts' are in fact funded by a large software cartel which is masterminded by an American monopolistic billionaire who shall go nameless. Obviously this nefarious individual will have a lot to answer for when my theories are proven!"

Click [here](#) if you are interested in joining the Institute and participating in our many volunteer activities.

Events

THREE REALMS

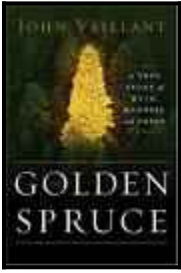
A Pacific Druid Festival

October 9-12, 2008

Presented by Raven's Cry Grove, ADF
and Awen's Breath Grove, ADF

<http://threerealms.org/index.php>

Book Reviews



Golden Spruce: A Story of Myth, Madness, and Greed

By John Vaillant
2005, W.W. Norton & Company

Review by Sarah Gartland

This work focuses on various lives that cross one night in 1997 – the lives of the mythical forests of the Pacific, a native tribe called the Haida, a man named Grant Hadwin, and a tree as unique and singular as a fingerprint. The book takes quite some time looking at the logging industry in North America's Pacific Northwest region. The specifics on how and why logging has been done over the centuries would be tedious except that it is so fascinating. Instead of skipping ahead, readers learn the sacred presence and intrinsic value of these great forests by learning about their demise.

But the story leads up to an event that nature spiritualists will find particularly discussion-provoking. How to feel about a man who commits eco-terrorism by cutting down a magical tree to illuminate people's fascination with that one tree while the whole forest around it is systematically destroyed?

The book does a fantastic job revealing who is this one man, the one amazing tree, and the community in which this takes place. It's a great case study of the interconnectivity of humanity and nature as well as its tragic disconnect.

I highly recommend this book to any tree enthusiast, or anyone interested in preservation, protest, and the price of advancement. The photos alone are worth picking this up at the library and flipping through, this is a story that is so well constructed that it seems fictional. It's amazing to think – all this really happened 10 years ago.

News Articles



Iron Age mystery of the 'Essex druid'

Grave near Colchester could be the first burial site of an ancient mystic ever to be discovered in Britain

By Andrew Johnson
Sunday, 20 April 2008

[Independent.co.uk](http://www.independent.co.uk)

As sacred priests, their duties included teaching, law enforcement and possibly even burning people to death in giant wicker men. Druids dominated British culture with their mysterious magical rites in the centuries before the Roman invasion.

For such an important band of men, however – it could take 20 years to train to be a druid, according to some sources – hardly anything is known about them. That could be about to change now, though, after what is thought to be the first discovery in Britain of a druid grave.

The extraordinary find was made at the Essex village of Stanway, near Colchester. It is among a number of graves of eminent people interred around the time of the Roman invasion of Britain in AD43.

Following Queen Boudica's uprising in AD61, Emperor Claudius ordered the druids be wiped out. Their Anglesey stronghold and sacred groves were destroyed, along with their entire history.

In the grave, archaeologists uncovered a board game with the glass counters laid out, medical equipment – the earliest ever found – a tea strainer still containing some kind of herbal brew, and some mysterious metal poles.

The first find at the site was made in 1996. But now, after 12 years of painstaking digging and research, the final report into the unearthing suggests that the grave could be the only one of a druid ever found. The clues are not just in the objects buried with an obviously important man, but also in the way they are laid out. The metal rods, possibly used for divining, are in a specific order and near the surgical equipment – scalpel, surgical saw, hooks and forceps. There is also a jet bead, believed to have been seen as magical.



Writing in this month's British Archaeology magazine, the team of excavators from Colchester Archaeological Trust say: "It is hard to avoid the conclusion that he belonged to the stratum of late Iron Age society that comprised druids, diviners and healers. It is conceivable that this grave was the final resting place of a British druid."

Philip Crummy, director of the trust, remained cautious, adding that there may be other explanations. "In the report we draw the possibility that this man or woman was a druid," he said.

"The so-called druid could have been a doctor. The tea strainer contains artemisia pollen, which is commonly associated with herbal remedies. Healing is an attribute given to druids. We don't know what the metal rods are for, but we think they could have been used for divining. The question is whether all that stacks up to him being a druid. It could be – it was certainly somebody special."

Publishing Information

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Editor: Michael the Fool

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Submissions Policy: Give it to me! If you have news about your grove, written a little essay, like to write up a book or move, have a poem, saw an interesting news article in the paper, or have a cartoon, send it in to mikerdna@hotmail.com

I'll try to give credit to whoever the original author is, and they retain the copyright to their works, and we'll reprint it one day in a future binding also. Nasty works will not be published. Although my standards are not sky-high, incomplete works will be nurtured towards a publish-able form. Submissions are accepted from other publications and organizations, so you need not be a formal member of the RDNA to have your items published.

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