

# GOAT TRACKS



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## New Beginnings

By NEWPaN Board of Directors

As the year comes to a close and a new one opens bright and beautiful before us, it was the time to unveil a project that had been in the works for years. Our newsletter. The focus of this issue is on new beginnings because, as you'll see throughout the pages, changes are coming to the Northeast Wisconsin Pagan Network.

Since this is our first issue, we are looking for feedback: both positive and critical, so that we may grow to better serve you. We are looking for submissions for future editions and encourage you to send artwork, articles, recipes and the like us. See the submission guidelines on page 5 of this newsletter for specifications on length and content.

The newsletter will come out quarterly and the deadline for submissions is the end of the month prior to the quarter. So for the Yule edition, we'd

### IN THIS ISSUE

New Beginnings	1
What a Long, Strange Trip It's Been	1
Candlemas - The Festival of Lights	3
Charming of the Plow	4
Ostara Cookies	4
Upcoming Events	5
Submission Guidelines	5

need submissions by the end of November. For Ostara's edition, we'd like submissions by the end of February. For Litha, the end of May. For Mabon, the end of August. If there's ever any question, information can be found on our website or in our submission guidelines section, always found on page 5 of the newsletter.

So here is, for your enjoyment, the final product of a project that has been near and dear to many of our hearts.

We hope you enjoy it.

## What a Long, Strange Trip It's Been

By Dawn Murray

That lyric says it all. Robert Hunter was a genius, but that's neither here nor there.

Since its inception on August 8th 2003, when the founding members returned from Pagan Spirit Gathering optimistic for their local pagan community, the Northeast Wisconsin Pagan Network has become a roller coaster ride worthy of the best theme parks. We've had our ups and our downs. We've grown in size and we've shrunk and we've grown again. Through it all we've stuck

by our core values and managed to trudge forward even when the worst was upon us.

The worst hit in December of 2007. We were at our lowest in terms of attendance at events, things were quiet on the discussion board and above all it seemed like everyone was hibernating for the winter. Until then we were a relatively quiet organization that occasionally hosted open rituals, celebrations and did minor things in the community. We weren't exactly hiding, but weren't

*Strange Trip* from page 1

exactly advertising in the newspaper either. Enter the Christmas display on Green Bay government land.

A big no-no when it came to the separation of Church and State and before the Board of Directors even had a chance to come up with a plan we were doing damage control. The phone was ringing off the hook, our inbox was overflowing and we didn't know what in the name of the Underworld was going on.

Someone had apparently put a pentacle on the property as well. Needless to say, there was much misunderstanding all around and after a great many phone calls with Selena Fox at Circle Sanctuary, things calmed down and the Directors decided that since we were now more visible in the community to use that to our advantage.

We still do clothing and food drives. We still send

boxes overseas those serving in the military. We still do outreach for understanding with local churches and other groups and we have big plans for the future. We'd like to host rituals and events, and have them conducted by various groups in the area. We'd like to do more community outreach. We'd like to obtain our 501c3 status. We'd like a lot of things and we have learned from the past that we can make it through it.

The founders of this group decided that we were going to reevaluate the group in five years. That in August of 2008 we were going to decide where the organization was going to go. That decision came earlier, by about eight months, and ever since we've been pressing the organization toward its goal. Those goals are stated openly in section 1 of our Bylaws. Have a read and offer up suggestions for taking this group here it needs to go.

We Look forward to hearing from you.



*"We'd like to obtain our 501c3 status. We'd like to do a lot of things and we have learned from the past that we can make it through it."*



*NEWPaN member, Vicky Schneider, claiming her prize at the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual NEWPaN Pagan Picnic "Crazy Hat" Contest held on September 6<sup>th</sup> 2009.*

## Candlemas

In 2010, the Northeast Wisconsin Pagan Network will be hosting their first Candlemas celebration. This event will take place on Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup> and festivities are scheduled to begin at 3 pm.

As this is our first public festival in nearly four years, we will be holding the event at the NEWPaN sted, which is the private residence of Dawn and Scott Murray located in west Green Bay.

Due to space constrictions, registration is limited and we are requesting advanced registration to account for the food being prepared.

The cost of registraion is \$10, payable in advance. The registration form can be found on our website or a paper copy can be received at January's NEWPaN Coffee night. Registration can also be done over the phone. We only have the capabilities to take cash or check at this time.

Otherwise you can mail your registration by January 15<sup>th</sup>, bring it to one of January's NEWPaN events or contact one of the Directors.

Included with your registration cost is a post ritual feast created especially for the holiday by our resident Kitchen Witch, Caitlin Tackmier. There will be ritual, a vote on Board of Director's positions for the year, a bardic circle and a winter-crafts contest.

This means anything you've made by hand, anything at all, that you'd like to enter into the craft contest, bring it along. This can be something of a yarn craft, something photographed, something held together with glue and glitter or anything of the like. There will be a vote on the best craft and the winner will receive a prize.

For the bardic circle, bring along if you so choose, a song, a story, a poem or a musical instrument of your choice. Dawn will probably be cracking our her guitar and share a couple of folk songs with the group.

Join us, it is certain to be a wonderful time. Questions on the festivities can be directed to the [newpagan@gmail.com](mailto:newpagan@gmail.com) account.



*Paul Tackmier spinning fire up in Marinette County.*

### *Candlemas List of Activities:*

- *Ritual*
- *Bardic Circle*
- *Winter-crafting Contest*
- *Board of Director's trustee position vote*
- *Feast*

## Charming of the Plow

By Caitlin Tackmier

Although Wicca is the predominate group in the American Neopagan movement, not all pagans are Wiccan. Members of our group follow diverse paths such as Asatru, Native American, Druidic, Hellenic, and Pantheism. In the spirit of education and equality, here is a little food for thought about a less well known holiday in the coming months.

### Charming of the Plow

The Charming of the Plow, or Disting, is a holiday that comes to us from Scandinavia. It is celebrated on February 2 or the first New Moon in February.

Offerings of bread and cakes are made to honor and charge the fertility of the soil. Earth goddesses and sky gods as well as the land wights, or land spirits, were honored and invoked. In some towns, ploughshares were pulled out of storage and doused



*Bonfire from a NEWPaN camping event.*

with mead or beer to charge them and recognize that all are dependant on the soil for the simplest of pleasures and the greatest parts of sustenance.

## Ostara Cookies

By Teresa Daul

3 ounce box regular flavored gelatin (NOT instant)

3/4 C butter

1/2 C sugar

1 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon vanilla

1 teaspoon baking powder

2 eggs

2 1/2 C flour

Colored sugar (optional)

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Cream the gelatin, sugar, eggs, vanilla and butter. Add the flour, salt, and baking powder, mixing well. Roll into 1 inch balls, and using a fork or a glass dipped in sugar to flatten the balls. Sprinkle with colored sugar if desired.

Bake for 6–8 minutes. Each batch makes 24–30 cookies.

A cute alternative is to use lime gelatin, making the balls slightly smaller and letting them overlap slightly. These make fun little shamrocks for Irish celebrations!



# MADS

Role Playing Game

Looking for a new role playing experience?  
Try MADS, the game designed to convert characters from any RPG into a common system. Got a character? Then you can play!

<http://www.lulu.com/poigamestudio>

## Upcoming Events

Starting January 1<sup>st</sup> we will begin taking nominations for positions on the NEWPaN Board of Directors. Positions currently up for vote are our trustee positions, of which there are five.

The position on the Board enables the member to join in on making decisions on behalf of the organization. With this position you will be required to meet with the Board of Directors bi-monthly to discuss matters of business and vote on any changes



## Submission Guidelines for Goat Tracks

Submission guidelines are as follows:

1. Keep it family friendly.
2. Avoid negativity toward others through language or art.
3. Articles should be between 200 and 450 words. Longer articles may be edited for space.
4. Be original. No plagiarizing. If we discover plagiarism or are alerted to it by an outside source, you may be banned from future submissions.
5. Artwork or photographs should be high quality.
6. Include how you want yourself credited... legal name or pagan name. Whichever.

Send all submissions to [newpagan@gmail.com](mailto:newpagan@gmail.com) with the subject of Newsletter Submission

to the organization.

All Board of Directors members are required to pay a yearly due of \$20.

If you are interested in being on the Board or have someone in mind who you think would be a good candidate for this position, send your nominations from January 1<sup>st</sup> to January 30<sup>th</sup> to [newpagan@gmail.com](mailto:newpagan@gmail.com). Voting will be done at the January 31<sup>st</sup> Candlemas celebration.

Starting in January, the Introduction to Paganism classes will begin again. These are great classes for the beginner to attend, or even as a refresher for an practiced pagan. It challenges your way of thinking and encourages discussion.

Classes will be held on Thursday's starting on January 14<sup>th</sup>. For more information or to enroll in these free classes, contact Dawn at [dawnmurray@gmail.com](mailto:dawnmurray@gmail.com).

Submission ideas:

The next newsletter is going to span from Ostara to Litha. Think of things that remind you of this time of year. We'll accept artwork, photographs, poems, short stories, articles and calendar submissions.

Submission Deadline is March 1<sup>st</sup>.



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**Making tracks towards  
tolerance since 2003.**



## Ongoing Events

### **Pagan Coffee and Chat**

First Friday of Every Month, 7pm  
The Attic Books and Coffee  
730 Bodart St, Green Bay, WI 54301

### **Pagan Discussion and Education Evening**

Third Friday of Every Month, 7pm  
Festival Foods Conference Room  
1001 Main Ave, De Pere, WI 54115

### **Pagan Study Group**

Every Tuesday, 7pm  
Dawn's Home, Green Bay  
Contact for more information

*All events are subject to possible reschedule or  
cancellation . Please see the website or email list for  
confirmation.*

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