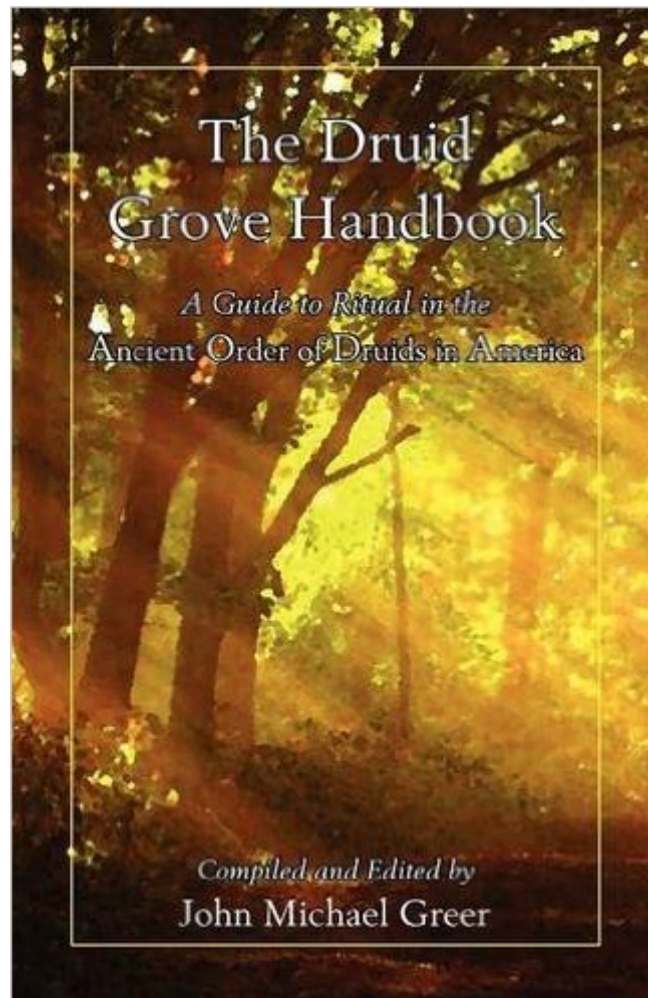


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The Druid Grove Handbook



Synopsis

Since its origins in the early eighteenth century, Druidry—a modern movement of nature spirituality drawing much of its inspiration from Celtic tradition—has evolved a rich body of ceremonial and collective practice. Celebrated privately within groves, this body of lore provides a ritual framework for the celebration of the seasonal cycle and the spiritual development of the individual. To this wealth of tradition, *The Druid Grove Handbook* is one of the few publicly available sources. Compiled from the records of the Ancient Order of Druids in America (AODA), and edited by the AODA's current Grand Archdruid, widely read author and environmental blogger John Michael Greer, it provides a detailed survey of the evolution of AODA's ceremonial traditions, and the complete rituals for opening and closing a Druid grove, initiating candidates for membership, and celebrating the solstices and equinoxes, the four primary holy days of the traditional Druid year.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

My initial reaction to the book was surprise at how small it is. While Amazon.com has it listed at 96 pages, there's actually only 88 pages of readable material from the Introduction in the beginning to the address and website for AODA at the end of the book. Upon further analysis, I recognized that this was simply because the book is rather succinct and stays true to the topic at hand. It is purely a handbook for Grove/group ritual and leaves out a lot of the history and theory that has already been covered in the other two books. Instead it covers the evolution of ritual work which has led to the present AODA Grove format and the symbolism found in group work. Otherwise, it describes actual

rituals for the Solstices & Equinoxes, the Opening and Closing a Grove in a group setting (as opposed to the description in the "Druid Magic Handbook" for doing this solitary), and an Initiation ritual. There are also descriptions for the Sphere of Protection and Opening/Closing a grove as a solitary practice, with some slight alterations from the instructions in the "Druid Magic Handbook", which yet again lend towards the evolution of the practices. As the number of AODA members continues to grow, the likelihood of Groves springing up around the country increases. With that in mind, this book is very timely; almost preempting the inevitable or, at least, making the information available in case unofficial bodies are also in need of a format by which to do group work. It definitely rounds out the corpus of practical AODA information that has come into publication over the last few years. If anything, it would be nice to see some measure of explanation for the alterations made in the descriptions of practices that were previously described in other books.

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