

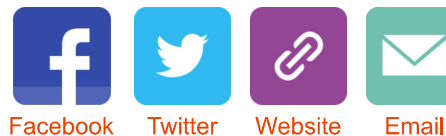
Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice



Your input is needed to make *The Voice* a publication filled with events, photos and news. Please feel free to submit any events, news or photos to [thevoice@runestone.org](mailto:thevoice@runestone.org).

Hail the AFA!  
Channcie Bean

### Donate to the AFA





Every AFA gathering is spectacular, and if you didn't make it to California for the Mother of All Moots, then come to our BIG East Coast event at Camp Netimus in Pennsylvania.

### Winter Nights in the Poconos

In stark contrast to the balmy springtime weather and verdant trees at MoM, Winter Nights is all about autumn. Pumpkins, crunching of leaves, bonfires, and rituals that bring forth the mysteries of the women. In particular, it's about Freya and the Disir — our loving ancestral mothers whom we honor at this time.

This Winternights is shaping up to be even better than last year's. As well as having music from Knotwork and Changes (just back from their European tours), we are welcoming Tears of Othila all the way from Italy. We will have an early morning Galdr workshop with Brad Taylor-Hicks, like the one which was so well received at our moot in May. Brad will talk about the benefits of meditation and Galdr, and how to work these practices into our rituals and daily lives. We look forward to our

Allsherjatgothi, Stephen McNallen, as well as standing with him as he holds blot to Odin. We will witness as Clergy and Folkbuilders take their Oath of Office in the AFA, and look forward to a special Disir Blot from David James and Becky Radcliffe. For those of you who have never met David James, he is one of the most respected elders of Asatru, having been at Althing One; his liturgy and wordsmithing have won him great respect from all who meet him. Of course we will have some great activities planned for our younglings and there will be plenty of chances to meet and mingle with new friends and old.

Please remember to get your registrations in ([www.runestone.org](http://www.runestone.org)), and bring plenty of blankets. We are also accepting donations of items for our auction, and donations of mead for the blot and sumble are always gratefully received. See you in the Poconos!

See our Youtube slideshow called ["Winter Nights in the Poconos"](#) it features the music of the band *Changes* and it will give you an idea of last year's gathering.

Join us under canopies of gold, for a series of talks and workshops by our AFA leadership, powerful rituals, and an evening of wonderful music. Lodging and all meals are included. Registration forms are available, [Members](#) and [Non-Members](#). Return forms to [afa@runestone.org](mailto:afa@runestone.org) today.

Write to us at [afa@runestone.org](mailto:afa@runestone.org) if you have questions.

\*NOTE\* Please bring checks or cash. The use of credit cards might be limited!

### Note from Steve McNallen

I noted early in the month that our web site traffic is very high when compared to similar organizations. Also, the time spent per visit, the number of pages viewed, and the bounce rate are all extremely favorable. This traffic is reflected in a record number of new memberships in September. Meanwhile, the attrition rate for September was no higher than normal - about two members dropped away this month. In short, people are coming to the AFA web site, sticking around to read what is there, and a healthy number of them are joining. Considering our size and subject matter, we are having awesome impact!

The AFA made a fine showing at the *Stella Natura* music festival - which in itself had record attendance; our good luck is rubbing off on everyone around us! Our booth was packed with visitors, and we gained some very promising new members. I gave the invocation to Odin for the band *Changes*, to the sound of applause and cheers from the audience. We made tons of new friends.

Events outside the AFA worked in our favor, too. I've already mentioned the unprecedented turnout at Stella Natura, but there are other good signs: Joseph Bloch wrote several blog posts relating directly or indirectly to the AFA, and Northern Runes Radio interviewed AFA Folkbuilder and author Bryan Wilton (They also upgraded their format to become an actual internet radio station, not just a podcast! Visit them at <http://northern-runes.blogspot.com/2013/09/new-things-at-nrr.html> to find out more about what's happening there!)

We had an incredible month. Now it's October, and time to gear up for our East Coast extravaganza, Winter Nights in the Poconos!

Steve McNallen,  
Alsherjargothi AFA

**Runeppele**

**Focus:**

Since the next issue will also be the Yule issue, the theme will be on family and community, both in relation to the holiday season, but also in general. Family games, trips, traditions (including different European cultural traditions in general), as well as ideas for bringing the family together, gift ideas, etc.

**What you can do:**

Use your imagination with this one. When we are talking about family and community relations, the sky's the limit. It need not relate to traditions at all, but symbols, flags, and crafts through the ages. This is a pretty open theme, so go with what you'd like to write about. If you're not sure it will tie in with the theme, don't worry about it! The whole issue need not focus on the same thing the whole way through.

**Deadline:**

Submissions will be accepted until midnight on Wednesday, October 30th.

### Denmark Moot - Part 2/Brad Taylor-Hicks

I emerged from the burial chamber into the Danish sunlight. Those who know me will testify that I'm not often lost for words, but I was quiet as we drove away from the farmer's field, still coming to terms with the experience I had inside that tomb, and trying to place it within the framework of all the various notions of death and rebirth.

I walked into the room at the National Museum, and my eyes immediately focused on one object out of perhaps half a dozen, many of which were larger or more colorful. It was only about three feet tall, but to me it stood high above the others...

As many of you know, the Snoldelev runestone is of special interest to the AFA. The triple-horn motif which we adopted as our emblem appears on this monument, signifying the three containers of mead Odin drank to win the gift of wisdom, of the divine ecstatic

Our magical mystery tour continued (being truly magical and mysterious), and in short order we arrived at our next destination. If the burial chamber was the place of stasis and contemplation, then this was a place of action and abundance. The Trelleborg at Slagelse was a massive Viking age ring fort, used as a staging post for raids into other lands; it was built under the auspices of the King, Harald Bluetooth, son of Gorm. We were welcomed with the laughter of joyous children as we made our way past the museum's playground, complete with miniature God poles, a felled tree in place of a climbing frame, and a miniature long house.



The Long House (the full sized one) was something to behold, huge in its scale. Reconstructed in 1948, it stands as one of the earliest efforts to reconstruct our ancestral halls. Modern historians debate the reconstruction as new information has come to light, but that did not dim our pleasure as we took our lunch there, sitting like ancient kings under the high shingled roof.





We crossed the bridge over the moat and started to make our way toward the entrance through the 16-foot-high dirt walls. Steve leapt up the wall charging as if into battle; I think a part of him wanted to know how it would have felt to have scaled the walls, sword in hand. And what a view greeted him from the top of the wall! Laid out in a sun wheel, the massive fortification was breathtaking. There were concrete markers that showed where the various houses would have stood and one could imagine the place filled with warriors where now there were only sheep grazing freely. Alongside the fort ran a river; perhaps there had been ships laden with goods, well earned or well won, their oars pulled by men coming home to a glad Jarl and a full horn. A more sobering place was near the exit where we walked past the numerous small burial mounds. We paid our respects to the 157 ancients who lay there; most had been Christianized, though some were buried with grave goods.

We drove again through the Danish countryside; this time our goal was the small village of

much larger stone in commemoration of the original, which now sits in the National Museum in Copenhagen. The younger futhark runes read in Old Norse "Gunwalds sten, sonaR Roalds, Ã¼alaR a SalhÃ¼gum," which is rather poorly translated on the stone as "Gunnvaldr's stone, HrÃ³aldr's son, reciter of Salhaugar." The word translated as "reciter" is Thulr, which has a connotation of a priest or Gothi.

We raised a horn in honor of Gunnvaldr, and it was impossible not to feel the connection made in that place, that sense of the old and new, of the carrying of that Gothi's work into the future, of remembrance of our Gods and Kings, of honoring the strength of our people and pushing back against a thousand years of Christianity. I left a small gift at that site, a token of thanks: a round pin, with a tri-horn on it.

*Continued in next month's issue*

## AFA Folkbuilder Program

Folkbuilders might be described as "AFA Representatives" but in actuality they are much more than that. Quite simply, Folkbuilders build the Folk! Under the able leadership of Matt Flavel, they put a regional and local face on a much larger organization that spans the United States and indeed the world. In concert with members of the AFA Clergy, they serve our members and prospective members in a myriad ways - informing, advising, organizing, reaching out to those who reach out to us. They put people in touch with each other, building the AFA's sense of community from the ground up. They are the interface between AFA members and the AFA Family Safety Program which looks after our members in times of hurricanes, fires, or other disasters.

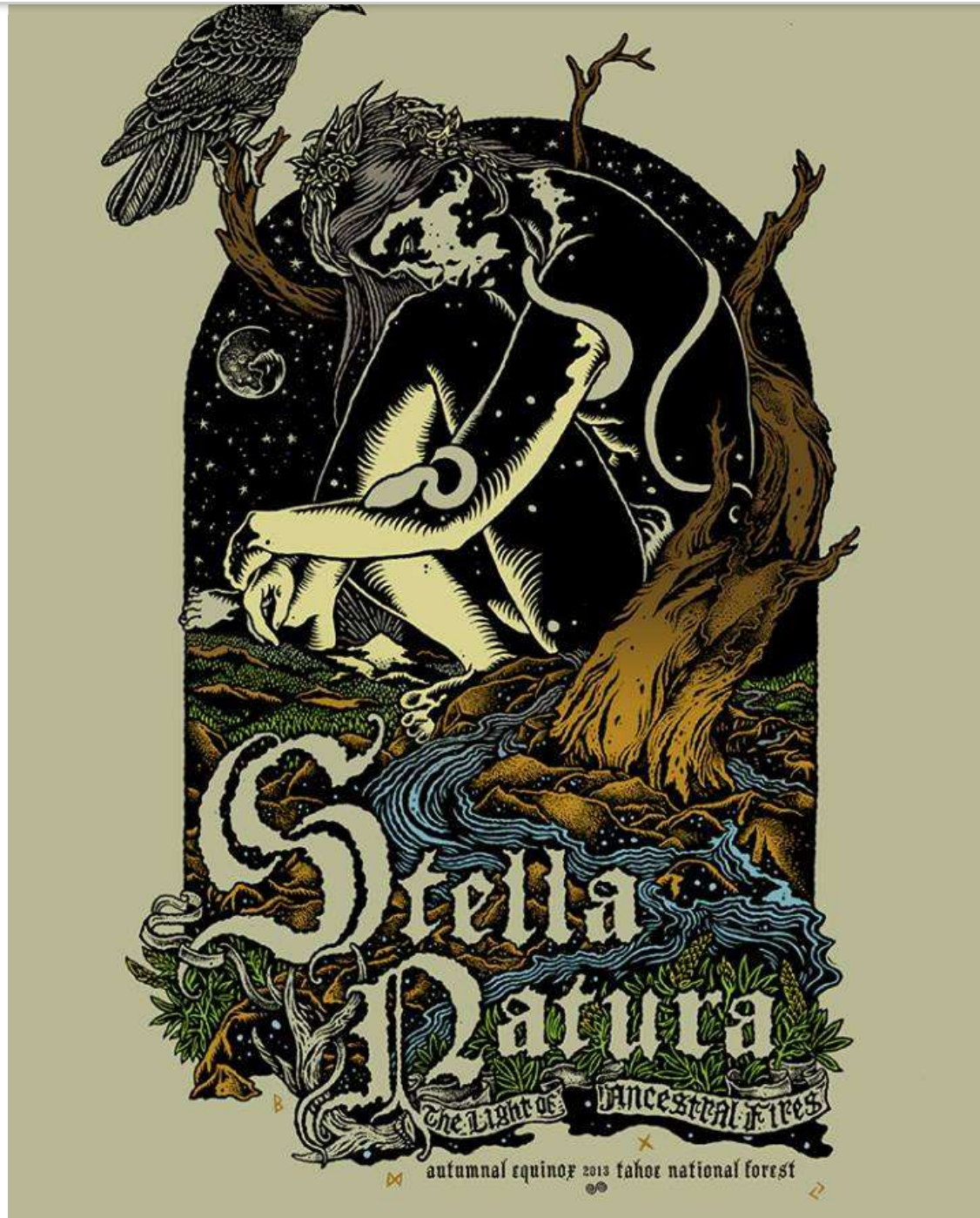
Folkbuilder start off as Apprentices, and become full-fledged Folkbuilders after a period of mentoring and evaluation. They are a very important part of the Asatru Folk Assembly.





The AFA is proud to welcome Blaine Qualls, Jr. as the new Apprentice Folkbuilder for the Northern Plains Region.

**Stella Natura - 2013**



#### Steve McNamee's Note on the event -

Stella Natura is an alternative music festival, not an Asatru event...but it was definitely the place to be this last weekend if you are a follower of our Gods and Goddesses!

Friday was hectic - setting up our books and other merchandise, meeting people, finding out what bands were playing where and when. I had time for a casual visit with Michael and Annabel of Knotwork, and with Ian Read of Fire and Ice. I had seen Robert Taylor and Nicholas Tesluk of Changes earlier in the day. Jan and Lothar of the Rune Guild were there, and many, many faces I remembered from last year even if I couldn't always put names to them. Sean Saindon and the other men of the Viking Brotherhood were doing a great job of providing security and generally making themselves helpful.



As far as numbers go, I think we were had about two hundred more attendees than last year. It's great to see Stella growing!

The rain began that night and continued into the next day. Adam, creator of Stella Natura, improvised as well as anyone could with the difficulties. The schedule was scuttled, but we built fires, rigged a performance area, and continued to function. Then the snow started to fall, and Caltrans closed Donner Pass. Some people left to avoid getting stranded, but the great majority of us stuck it out.



us sharing the cabin we had rented a few miles away - but we ended up with twelve AFA brothers and sister plus their kin! Everyone brought food and drink, not to mention a good humor. We gave blot, feasted, and had a great time!



The next morning the skies were clear and the sun was shining. The temperatures were mild. We drove back to the site, set up the AFA booth, sold lots of stuff and talked to many, many people. The AFA picked up a few new members, too, which is always nice. Early that afternoon, at the request of Changes, I stood on the stage, hoisted a horn, and gave an invocation to Odin which was received with applause and cheers. We were among friends.

This was the third Stella Natura, and I am proud to say I've been at each one. I plan on



**Paganfest in Poland**



Poland's Folkbuilder, Wiktor Domgala, hosted the 2nd Annual Paganfest. He also spoke in workshops about Asatru and the AFA. More details and photos from this event in the following *Voice*.

## Happenings in the Deep South

Back in August we held a small, yet wonderful Freyfaxi event at Jacksonville's Betz-Tiger Point Nature Preserve. We enjoyed an enormous feast, great company, and some of North Florida's natural beauty, completely away from the sounds of the city. Brad Taylor-Hicks led us in a powerful blot. Also Calen Smith and his fianc   Johannah



Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, we held an open meet and greet at the Stardust Video and Coffee in Orlando Florida. Though there were only five of us (all AFA members!) we had an excellent time visiting with each other.



Lastly, on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, John Fountain and Eric Brunhoeber organized an open meet up in Fort Payne, Alabama. They discussed ways to help build the folk, and answered questions that people had in regards to Asatru and the AFA.

**Har's Hall and NRR**

to showcase Asatru, and the AFA at the Edmonton Pagan pride Day. We had a good Kindred turn out, and also had printed information available to the public that came to see the event.

In October we are holding a pub moot and Symbel on the 6th, which already has a good number of Kindred members, and a count of 4 guests (possible another 2 or 3 as well not confirmed yet) going to be in attendance. Our Winter Nights Blot is also scheduled this month on the 19th. There is a great deal of excitement for this already building among members.

Near the end of September we held our first successful Canadian AFA member online meeting, which was a first for us in Canada! More of these meeting will be scheduled, and our hope is to see this tool help unite our AFA members in Canada.

The Northern Runes Radio (NRR) has made a major switch from being a podcast aired once every 2 weeks, to a full 24/7 internet radio station called simply NRR. The write up that appears on the station website is:

“NRR-A station that discusses current events, as well as interviews and questions! Music, talk and discussion! We also take the time to look at our history, delving into the lore of the Vikings and other ancient European Tribes!”

There is a variety of music played on the station ranging from pagan/heathen music, folk music, and of course Celtic Rock, and secular rock. There is also the station core broadcast, which will never change, and new shows that talk about current events, understood by modern Asatruar. It is our hope to use the tool NRR is becoming to reach those of our greater folk that are not even aware of what Asatru is, while still providing the good broadcasts for Asatruar that NRR has always done. It is my conviction that breaking out of traditional circles with our message is the only way to reach those folk successfully.

\*Those who have heathen podcasts, or blogs that talk about our ways, feel free to contact us at [runesradio@gmail.com](mailto:runesradio@gmail.com) as we would love the opportunity to broadcast your podcast, or interview you about your blog on the NRR! The more Heathen content we are able to



hoursâ€ we have, the higher we rank in the search results in search engines.

NRR schedules are posted weekly (on Sundays) on the NRR Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/NorthernRunesRadio> and on our blog at

<http://northern-runes.blogspot.ca>

## Happenings in the Northern Plains

Blaine reports - "Things continue to go well here in the Dakotas, seems to be alot of interest in the AFA and in Asatru in general. We are holding a Winter Finding Blot here on the 28th of September, looks like 8 or 9 people attending 3 or 4 of them AFA members. Next weekend a group of us are going up to the annual Norsk Host Fest, the biggest Scandinavian heritage festival in the country (or at least that's how they advertise it). Should be a fun time for all with traditional food, music, etc."



## Northwest Events



"The Northwest celebrated Freyfaxi in August with a Bláð and 2-day campout at 'New Salixheim' in Centralia, Washington. Folk began arriving the morning of Saturday the 24th, some making the drive down from the Seattle area, one person braving public transit all the way up from Portland, Oregon. When everyone had arrived, we made our way through the field and forest to our ritual area, where we held our Freyr Bláð. As we passed the horn, each person shared an example from their own lives of plans or endeavors that had begun to show success; as a modern-day equivalent to how our ancestors may have celebrated a successful planting season and the beginning of harvest. After Bláð, we feasted on roast pork in honour of Gullinbursti, and the Folk shared laughter, kinship, and frith.

The next Northwest event is our Winter-Finding Bláð, to be held Saturday, September 28th at 'New Salixheim' in Centralia. For details on this event or any future Northwest events, send email to [esalix@runestone.org](mailto:esalix@runestone.org)

Folkbuilder Elizabeth Salix, and KrÃ¸stof MacBrÃ¸ghde.

## Far North Events - Alaska



On the 9th of September Alaska AFA members and friends gathered at Matt Flavel's home to honor Hermann and celebrate his victory over the legions of Rome. We had shared a powerful victory blot to Odin and Nerthus, followed by a meal. We met at his home again a week later at the moment of equinox to celebrate Winter Finding and welcome Ullr and Skathi with blot. Probably our most delicious feast this year yet was held following blot with a stand out dish of turkey-pumpkin chili trimmed with goat cheese and cilantro prepared by AFA member Christina Platt. Feast was followed with a special sumble where oaths were taken and good words were said. Both events had great attendance.

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