

Beltane 2026



Spring has arrived but still plays hard to get with warm days and chilly nights, more like her sister Autumn. But the softening landscape and flowering trees are a welcome sight after a brutally cold winter. Winter hasn't quite left my soul however, we lost our little mare Lily unexpectedly in April. I find myself craving the summer heat for the first time in my life, hoping it can warm my spirit out of its sorrow. We lavish extra love on her brother Ali, and I have been thankful for the bare earth that invites gardening and healing earth magic.

There is solace to be found by grounding your hands in fertile soil and small magics have been present...the owl “visiting” Ali, a chance shooting star, the Ravens greeting me in the morning, the intrepid chickadee who lights in my hand for seeds like an old friend.



This spring brought endings but also beginnings – new paths and connections. Cu Ruadh’s sister organization, NorthSAR Working K9 is re-booting in new ways, including a guest appearance on a podcast with The Passionate Leader, presentations about hiking safety, working dogs and scentwork at fairs and schools and providing harp music for a symposium. There are a lot of colorful threads here - enough to maybe stitch life back together again (or at least patch it up like the Velveteen Rabbit).

Life goes on...

“To live in this world you must be able to do three things: to love what is mortal; to hold it against your bones knowing your own life depends on it; and, when the time comes to let it go, to let it go.” - Mary Oliver



2026 Events and Appearances

Mountainside Bakery and Café Mother's Day Fair, May 9th

Bolton Orchards Artisan Fair, July 18-19th

Tales, Tails and Ales, September 19th

Bolton Orchard's Artisans Fair, November 14-15th

Mountainside Bakery and Café Holiday Fair, December 5th



In the News....

I had the pleasure of a guest appearance on The Passionate Leader, a podcast that explores and discusses leadership in Emergency Services. My colleague and I had a lively conversation about K9s in the field, leadership and personal accountability. The link to this episode is here:

<https://youtu.be/9O4wHCMgdkI?si=QSsyqjF7BkDEMRRM>

Big Nights (spring amphibian migrations to vernal pools) have been...well...BIG. The Harris Center for Conservation Education in Hancock NH reported large numbers of our amphibian friends assisted to their vernal pools, with a whopping 1,512 at one location in Keene alone. 64 dedicated Salamander Brigade volunteers helped 8, 207 frogs, salamanders and toads to their breeding grounds this year so far. This is what stewardship is all about and the Harris Center is a driving force behind the welfare of these delicate creatures in the Monadnock region. To learn more about volunteering with a Salamander Brigade and the many other opportunities for Citizen Science visit the Harris Center at:

<https://harriscenter.org/programs-and-education/citizen-science/salamander-crossing-brigades>



Turn on, tune in and drop out...step away from the endless barrage of social media and news with <https://tree.fm/> a site that has recordings of forests from around the world.

It is a matter of taking the side of the weak against the strong, something the best people have always done.

—Harriet Beecher Stowe



Recommended Reading:

Entangled Life - Merlin Sheldrake

Take a peek into the fascinating world of fungi and learn how their intricate networks make life on earth possible.

Playing Possum: How Animals understand Death - Susana Monso

What does death mean to different species and how do they mark it compared to us?

Reading the Forested Landscape - Tom Wessels

If you love to hike take your experience to the next level by learning how to interpret the landscapes around you - from identifying old cellar holes and pasture trees to the way trees can help you figure out which direction you are going in, this book opens the observer up to a deeper immersion in, and understanding of, natural environments.



"Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent" - Victor Hugo