

Spring 2023

A.S. LVIII

Volume 41, Issue 2

# *the* Moonstone



*Malagentia's Quarterly-ish Publication*



*Dear Malagentia,*

I'm writing this missive just after an amazing weekend for the province, during which we brought back Spring's Inspirations on Saturday and hosted a Regional Thrown Weapons practice on Sunday.

Spring's Inspirations was wonderful. We had about 100 attendees, with amazing classes and energy indoors and outdoors – a true return of a keystone Malagentian event. Thank you very much to Mistress Mickel for organizing and to everyone who helped with setup, classes, gate, dayboard and more – it was all wonderful.

And the regional practice was an unmitigated success, with roughly 25 people from all over New England showing up to throw pointy things at targets! Hosted by Doyon Crowe and family, it too was a laudable group effort in setup, running ranges, breakdown and getting provincial gear to and from the site.

Everywhere you look in the province, and indeed across the East, we all have more and more opportunities to take part in new and different aspects of the SCA. Foresters are taking garbed hikes on a weekend afternoon, craft nights are a regular occurrence, martial practices are drawing dozens of folks – and more!

And that brings me to two points.

The first was eloquently written on the wall of the gathering hall at Spring Inspirations – not by Scadians, but by the parish: “Many Hands Make Light Work.”

The SCA is, at its core, driven by volunteers – your officers, the folks coming up with and planning events, marshals, teachers, folks doing pretty much every task at events and practices – all volunteers.

No volunteers = no SCA.

How can you help? By helping.

Volunteer. Pitch in. Take small steps or jump in. Do what you can. Also, please thank those who are volunteering, and be gracious to them, always.

The second is this: As we have more and more opportunities for involvement with “all the things,” please be kind to yourselves. Go to the events that work for you. Give yourself permission to have down-time, to take weekends off from not only work, but your hobbies. As much as we want to do everything, we just can't – at least not always.

So give yourself a break, and remember that balance in life is key. We'd rather have you at a few less events and be happier, than on a burn-out path that will steal the magic from your SCA.

Looking to see you all at upcoming events – just not all the events....!

YiS,

*Wyck*



Matt Wickenheiser photo



# On the Diverse Arts and Sciences: the Province Awakens

Malagentia may be the land of the Bad People, but beyond any doubt we are good when it comes to pursuing arts and sciences!

In recent months we have resumed our monthly meet-ups with vigor; both newcomers and established members contributed to a record attendance at a recent dance practice, and brought with them a continuing enthusiasm towards scribal practices and craft nights. Add to that growth a surge in interest of the outdoors-crafts pertinent to what the Foresters study, and it seems that wherever one casts their gaze, the passion to build and to learn and to teach is evident. Some of our members brought tangible proof of that love and intensity to out-of-area events, for others to witness and partake.

I am cheering on all this Provincial joy of creativity, and I will do what I can to help fan the flames. I encourage you all to add fuel to that fire.

## Spring's Inspirations XIV, Recap

Fair skies and mild weather heralded the return of Malagentia's little A&S event. Whether by design or by chance, attendance for the day set a new record and exceeded the wildest dreams of the event steward.

Planning for the event easily covered that possibility; an abundance of dayboard food coupled with a multitude of classes and workshops ensured that everyone present could dine and learn, sometimes simultaneously.

The eagerness to share knowledge or put to use new skills showed itself in various ways, including the event steward touring the site while spinning with a drop spindle. Outdoors by the firpit, indoors in the classrooms and the community hall; wherever people were gathered, enthusiasm and camaraderie accompanied them.

The event came to life through the efforts of: Octavia (the dayboard coordinator); Anna Serena (the gate coordinator); Mat, Christian, Max, Mickel, Marie, Griet, Lydia, Tiffan, Camille, Collette, and Colette (the teachers), and the setup and takedown assistants.

A hearty Vivant to all who helped bring the event to life!

- Mickel



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# ◆ Archery Season!

Buck Dragon... Rabbit Dragon... Buck Dragon... Rabbit Dragon...

Well,, maybe not today, but if you want to get started before the ground dries out, there are some options. Magnus found that Lakeside Archery (55 Cumberland Road, N. Yarmouth 04097, 207-829-6213) has a good number of lanes (16) and a 20 yard indoor course. They charge \$13/hr and you do need to wait for the entire line to finish before retrieving. They also have an outside course with about 80 yards maximum range. <https://lakesidearchery.com>

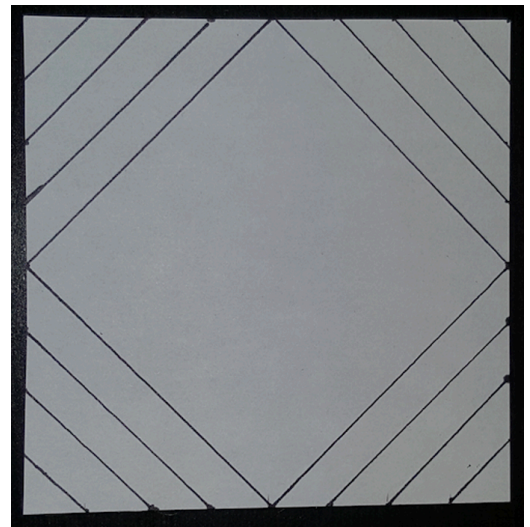
There's another place in Gray, Howell's Indoor Range and Gunshop, (81 W. Gray Road, Gray 04039) which does have an indoor archery range, it's \$10/hr but there's only room for about 2 people at a time. This shop is more firearm oriented than Lakeside Archery, and you can find them on the web at <https://howellsgunshop.com>. Both places have archery supplies, so if you need something and don't want to visit Bean's or Cabella's, this might be right for you. Because of the nature of both places, we think it will be easier for interested archers to visit on their own to shoot should they choose.

One part of SCA archery you might not be aware of, is that there's another site for scores and challenges, besides the East's <https://archery.eastkingdom.org/>. Send your mouse on a journey to <https://scores-sca.org/> - you'll find a list of SCA Kingdom scores, information about the Inter Kingdom Archery Competition, which you may have heard of as IKAC, and a community with a newsletter – Quivers & Quarrels. There hasn't been a new newsletter released since October 2021, but the content there is still good. Well, hopefully it will be, as soon as SCA.org figures out how to get old newsletter archives back up again.

But the newsletter isn't the main point.

On the left side of the site, under "Shoots" you'll see SSAC. It lists a pretty hefty list of different novelty shoots.

There's Anti-FITA, which looks like the square below. It's intended for a 20 yard shoot, and scores like this: Starting at the smallest triangle out at the outside corner: 8 pts, 6 pts, 4 pts, 2 pts for the longest stripe, and that big space in the middle is worth nothing. The catch is that each corner must be kept with the same number of arrows, monopoly style. That is you must have one scoring arrow in each corner before a second arrow may be scored in any corner.



There are other shoots like the Quarterly & Saltire, which uses two targets, one divided quarterly (vertical and horizontal divisions) and one divided diagonally, with circles in the various divisions. Another is a Golf Shoot, where you score the points un-hit on a tic-tac-toe grid with numbers.

Why are there all these shoots? Well, partly because people get bored just shooting concentric circle FITA targets, but also because this is a way to compete with yourself and the community, by having the shoot at home or a local range, and then submitting the scores to the SSAC scorekeeper. All the rules and information you need is on the page. Take a look, see if there's something you like, we can try it at a future practice.

- Aloysius

# A Spring Brew

The moon was full, the winter was long, and I am unsupervised (with adult money). And last year spent far too much time on the internet where I discovered someone's claim to having made wine from peeps. Easter season has returned and with it 7 boxes of blue peeps made their way into a carboy with some warm water, some champagne yeast, and a smattering of feral cackling. Time passed, the brew burbled, and I started to ponder....

The moon was dark, the spring was warming, and Auntie Arwen's is ever so helpful. Passing the unnatural concoction on my counter as the light grew and the days lengthened, I came to feel it needed a counterpoint, or perhaps a counterweight. Marshmallow root is used medicinally in fine and tasty teas. But humans can be clever creatures, and if it tastes good we will find a way to use it for more than the fixing of a sore throat. A little digging uncovered that it is possible to make candy directly from the root. A little further digging turned up that ancient Egyptians were turning it into sticky treats 4000 years ago<sup>[1]</sup>. Helpfully, the internet served up several recipes for making marshmallows directly from the root. Thus, for science, a new experiment was brewed to keep company with the first.

A 1 gallon carboy, an appropriate mix of honey and water, roughly 3oz of marshmallow root, champagne yeast, and a quantity of vanilla extract (to test another theory about how extract will fair in the fermentation process vs the bean). Remember, like garlic, vanilla extract is measured from the heart with enthusiasm. Everything brought together, my kitchen smelling pleasant in a very odd manner, or odd in a very pleasant manner, the wait begins<sup>[2]</sup>. A murky vividly yellow concoction burbles happily next to one that is of the most eye-searing blue and a few more cackles fill the air. If anything, the peep blend seems happier and more active with its new friend beside it.

Now there is naught to do but research old, possibly eldritch, confection recipes to use for the last ounce of root while I wait for the yeast to do its work. Who knows what will happened when the moon is gibbous, the summer is muggy, and research has been conducted?

-Aureliana Laskarina

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<sup>[1]</sup> National Confectioners Association <https://candyusa.com/marshmallows/#:~:text=Ancient%20Egyptians%20were%20the%20first,that%20grows%20wild%20in%20marshes> 2023.

<sup>[2]</sup> 1 gallon of water, 2lbs honey (ish), 3oz of marshmallow root by eyeballed, a sufficient quantity of vanilla extract sufficient unto making the heart happy, boil for the time it takes to brew the tea, steep the tea, take up your book, forget the tea, remember the tea, and drink the now cool tea. Strain, pour strained liquid into the carboy and wait until it cools to happy yeast temperature. Add roughly 1/4 - 1/3 packet of champagne yeast, give it a good bit of side eye to make sure it starts reacting, and cap with an air lock. Cackle for good measure.

# Calendar of Events

Jun 15 - Scribal Class  
Jun 17 - Portland Pride  
Jun 19 - Archery Practice, Bowdoin  
Jun 24 - Cook's Guild gathering  
Jun 26 - Archery Practice, Bowdoin  
Jul 5 - Craft Night  
Jul 6 - Province Meeting  
Jul 10 - Archery Practice, Bowdoin  
Jul 13-16 - Great Northeastern War/  
K&Q Thrown Weapons Champs  
Jul 29-Aug 13 - Pennsic  
Aug 2 - Craft Night  
Aug 10 - Dance Practice  
Aug 16 - Scribal Class  
Sept 7 - Province Meeting  
(Tuesdays: Fencing, C&T and Heavy Weapon Practices)

**Province Meeting will be on hiatus for  
August - Happy Summer!**

Visit <https://www.eastkingdom.org/>



Elizabeth Hunter image

This is the Spring 2023 issue of The Moonstone, a quarterly publication of the Province of Malagentia of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). The Moonstone is available by request at no charge from Kim Ballard, [chronicler@malagentia.eastkingdom.org](mailto:chronicler@malagentia.eastkingdom.org). It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies. Copyright © 2012 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. For information on reprinting photographs, articles, or artwork from this publication, please contact the Chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors.