

**Blackbird Times**  
**Presented by Nettle Press**  
**Läaf**  
**Bi-Monthly Newsletter**  
**So you can follow the antics**  
**Of your favorite Blackbird**

Moon Report as of August 2nd: Full  
Anglo Saxon Season Report  
August: Weodmonað

Who is submitting, what is being submitted:

We give a warm welcome to all our new authors, artists and designers:  
Michelle Morlan of Indianola, Alan Hetherington of Altoona,  
Benjamin Spick and Riley Spick of St. Mary's, Moses Eckstein of Ankeny,  
Läaf of Ankeny, Джорджіана Пісок from Osceola, Kasey Jones of New Virginia,  
Jenna Henry of California, Corey Cook from Des Moines, and guest submitter  
Eleanor Bennett of England.

Submissions for the August Issue include poetry, photography, comics, articles  
and various pieces of artwork. This issue is also our first issue containing ads.

Magazine plans for the future, changes being made and why:

Black Bird is currently embracing work with a darker, gothic flavor to it and  
includes art and graphic design, typography, manga, collage, graffiti, fashion, photography,  
poetry, short and long stories, plays, how-to articles on topics such as secret writing, graffiti,  
glow lamps, herbs, music, Anglo Saxon gothic culture, etc. Whoever submits art each month  
has a chance of their artwork being chosen for the cover page of Gothic Blackbird.  
We are currently looking for more variety in our submissions in order to expand and cover all  
the desired categories in each and every issue we put out. For more details check out our  
submission guidelines at <http://gothicblackbird.tumblr.com/submission%20guidelines>

Submission Deadline Change!

Note that the Submission deadline is now every month on the 20th at 12 AM. This change is  
being made to ensure that we can produce your magazine in a timelier manner and have it  
out to you at the beginning of each month.

Goals:

Create Facebook advert by September 2012  
Launch Blackbird Network by mid to late September  
Create app by November 2012

Website updates

Our website is active but is currently still under major construction and daily changes and  
improvements so please bear with us as your site is maturing. Moses Eckstein is currently the  
webmaster, and both he and Läaf are involved with the web design. More updates are foreseen  
to occur in September when Moses returns from Washington State.



### **Misc. Updates:**

**We have a deal with the Ankeny Kirkendale Library who is going to start purchasing our magazine on a bi-monthly basis.**

**Michelle Anne Morlan carved a Blackbird logo for us which can be seen on most of our social media sites, and will soon be available on our website.**

**All rights are reserved to Black Bird and Nettle Publications for its use.**

### **As of August, 2012 we started charging subscription fees:**

#### **Online:**

**Issue by Issue: 4\$**

**A year subscription: 25\$**

**A year bi-monthly subscription: 15\$**

#### **Hard Copies:**

**Issue by Issue: 6\$**

**A year subscription: 60\$**

**There is also an option to go bi-monthly at which point the cost for a year subscription would cost: 30\$**

### **Social Media Updates**

**Check out Gothic Blackbird on Twitter, Facebook, and Tumblr for posts of interest, and other news; they are updated daily.**

**Also, if you are a user of Googleplus Pages Black Bird will soon have a Googleplus account so be sure to follow us and add us to your circles!**

**The web address is:**

**<https://plus.google.com/u/0/b/106304471470025463244/106304471470025463244/posts>**

### **Black Bird Network**

**Congratulations and a warm welcome to Miss Kristina McCormick of Des Moines, our new director of Black Bird Network Radio, our new internet radio station (to be officially launched sometime in September). She handles submissions, promotions, film directing, the Black Bird Network Facebook page, and lots more. Look for a special introduction spread explaining Black Bird Network in our September issue. We are currently accepting submissions for Black Bird Radio To submit or ask Kristina a question, email [Kristinambblackbird@gmail.com](mailto:Kristinambblackbird@gmail.com) .**

**Meet Kristina!**

**Sup everyone!**

**People call me Kristina, that's the name the parental unit decided to give me. I'm a student at DMAcc, and my major is business**



management. I'm the director of Blackbird Network Internet Radio, so send me your submissions (skits, plays, songs, videos, etc.) so we can share 'em with others.

Micho Gracias, future amigos.

To view our Black Bird Network Radio submission guidelines, go to our website.

They are also shown below:

**Black Bird Network Radio Submission Requirements:**

To submit you must be at least 18 years of age unless you can provide a signed parental agreement that permits you to publish with us.

**Job Positions available:**

Script-Writers

Play-Writers

Directors

Producers

Singers/Musicians

Director's assistant

Actors/Actresses

Voice Actors/Actresses

Comedians

Costume Designers

Set Designers

Filming Crew/Cameramen

Photographer

Ad Writers

**We currently Accept:**

- Plays
- Audio Music/Readings Files
- Music Videos
- Produced shows (limit to 45 min. in length)
- Tutorial Videos
- Skit/Routines (Comedies, nerdy humor, etc.)
- Fashion Show/Design Footage

Concert Footage.

**Genres we accept include:**

Music:

Metal

Folk

Grunge

Emo

Goth

Pop

Chants (gothic, etc.)

Classical/Celtic/Instrumental: Harp, Guitar, Violin, other strings; Piano

A cappella (Private Voices)

Plays:

Gothic/Emo (or darker) themes

Dark Humor

Nerdy, Quirky Humor

Fairytales/Nordic and Anglo-Saxon Legend/Lore



**Shows:**

**Interesting Facts on mythology, science, lore, travel, culture etc.**

**How-to Videos, for instance, recipes, art & science projects, etc.**

**Travel Videos**

**Witty Humor**

**Fashion Show and design footage**

**If you are an actor or comedian with talent but need a film crew and director, contact us and we can arrange to schedule shooting dates, but if you provide us with video footage we can also work with that.**

**We do all of our own video trimming and editing, and once you submit a video or other footage/work to us, we have the rights to air it for as long as we like, and in as many places as we like including our internet hubs, our website, etc. You retain rights to your work to publish it elsewhere but we reserve the right to caption your work as we choose (provided we give you credit) and put our branding on your work. We reserve the right to refuse any work from you at any time and change our mind to publish anything at any time. You will sign a work release form when you agree to publish with us stating the above rights.**

**We take submissions daily. Video and Audio Submissions should be in the form of playable files that are compatible with both Windows and Mac operating systems. To Submit or ask a question, email [KristinaMblackbird@gmail.com](mailto:KristinaMblackbird@gmail.com)**

**Word on the next upcoming club meeting and the last meeting, what happened, etc.**

**The next upcoming meeting for the Creative Writing Guild is tentatively planned for Friday, September 21st at DMACC in Ankeny, building 5 dining lounge at 5:30 PM, where we will be discussing the CWG website and Gothic Blackbird, and the group's latest writing and art projects.**

**Do not miss this meeting, because the election for Fall of new officers for the CWG will also take place.**

**Also about a possible art and writing contest, Black Bird Network Radio and the prize for the winner of the contest.**

**News on upcoming events and how to get involved**

**Upcoming events:**

**Proceedings are pending for the Ankeny Kirkendale Library to purchase a subscription to the Black Bird Magazine.**

**Discussion with Tonya Wheeler and CWG advisor Marc Dickonson is still pending regarding how to create awareness and buzz about Gothic Blackbird on the DMACC website and by creating a blog, a blurb in the DMACC Daily and the Stall Street Times, and making a link to the Black Bird website from DMACC's homepage.**

**CWG meeting. (See above)**

**Submissions coming due for August Issue of Gothic Blackbird July 20th by 12 AM**

**Private endeavors of the club members and submitters**

**Kristina McCormick, our new Black Bird Network Radio Director, is currently involved in creating awareness for the radio station, and updating the Black Bird Network Facebook page. She will also be attending Fall classes at DMACC in Ankeny.**

**Paige Rothfus has finished summer classes and is enjoying a break until Fall classes start on August 22nd. She is enrolled in an Acting class, voice lessons, fashion design concepts, and small group and interpersonal communication.**

**She currently also pursues the beginnings of an Anglo-Saxon club called The Fellowship (Féolagascipe) which aims to devote its time to language study the language and culture of the Anglo-Saxon**



people as well as engage in lifelong friendships with its members and activities to benefit others through service and fundraising. This club will be affiliated with Black Bird and the Creative Writing Guild but not directly part of either. We may add some information about it on the Black Bird website in the near future. Offices are now available for the club, including Secretary (Unwriter) SAC Representative (Gesith), Treasurer (Mathmhurda) and two optional offices, Squire and Scop. For more information about the club, officers and to join, contact Paige Rothfus at 515-943-2131, paigerothfus@ymail.com, or visit our group page on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/259364620849519/>

Paige has also recently undertaken a similar project, she is writing an Anglo-Saxon language and culture course which should be available for purchase by early February, 2013. Its major focus will be on building translation skills and vocabulary through multiple forms of media such as hands-on, audio, video, and others. She is currently taking questions and suggestions about this project. Moses Eckstein went to Washington State some time ago to attend to some family business, and his return is hopefully expected at the end of the August, when he will continue to reconstruct the website and assist with layout and design of Gothic Blackbird, as well as returning to classes at DMACC where he will pursue Web Design. He is also currently at work on more projects for Box Art Studios game company, which involve creating aliens for their newest survivor horror genre game.

#### **On the agenda:**

Creating awareness and interest in Gothic Blackbird around campus and online through posts on social media platforms, word of mouth, and creating buzz through posters and bulletins around campus.

Building submitters and subscribers to the magazine

Revamping the website: Sneak Peek! Here are just a few of the pages and features you can expect in the upcoming weeks and months:

- Submission guidelines page
- Visitor/Subscriber suggestion page
- Events page (that highlights all the holidays and how Gothic Blackbird will be celebrating them, by festivals, contests, and giveaways)
- FAQ page
- A mobile app for Gothic Blackbird
- Gothic Blackbird e-mag available for download into kindle, nook, ipads, etc.

#### **Staff Contact list:**

**Paige Rothfus (Leaf)**

Temporary President of CWG, Co-CEO, Editor-in-Chief, submissions and promotions director, manager of social media

Email: [gothicblackbird@ymail.com](mailto:gothicblackbird@ymail.com)

Personal Email: [paigerothfus@ymail.com](mailto:paigerothfus@ymail.com)

515-943-2131

**Moses Eckstein**

Founder and President of CWG, co-CEO, layout and editing manager, webmaster

Email: [gothicblackbird@ymail.com](mailto:gothicblackbird@ymail.com)

Personal Email: [Mpeckstein@dmacc.edu](mailto:Mpeckstein@dmacc.edu)

515-423-8518

**Benjamin Spick**

Assistant Manager of social media

[gothicblackbird@ymail.com](mailto:gothicblackbird@ymail.com) (put 'To Ben Spick' in subject line)

**Kristina McCormick**

Director of Black Bird Network



**personal email: kristinablackbird@gmail.com**  
**phone: 515-556-2568**

**Want to get more involved? Contact Lëaf or Moses at gothicblackbird@ymail.com for information about how you can help. If you have questions about social media contact Ben Spick at gothicblackbird@ymail.com with 'To Ben Spick' in the subject line. If you have submissions or questions regarding Black Bird Network Radio, contact Kristina McCormick at Kristinablackbird@gmail.com**

**We always need volunteers for website and social media, community promotion, managing emails to remind people about submissions, redeeming pop cans and replacing plastic bags in the donation containers and various other tasks. If you prefer to speak to someone on the phone call 515-943-2131**

**What's in it for me?**

**Benefits of helping out:**

**Opportunity to serve and help Black Bird promote fine art and design and share it with the community**

**Meeting new friends and contacts**

**It looks fantastic on a resume! (We usually give out titles for our volunteers so you can stick that on your resume)**

**Our future: We are looking ahead to the future and quickly expanding, and you never know how far we'll go, so if you want to be in our future paid staff, now is the best time to get in!**

## **Want to subscribe?**

**Let us know! Shoot us an email and introduce yourself.**

**We encourage you submit under a pen name if you wish to keep your identity a secret.**

**Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BlackbirdMonthly>**

**Follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BlackbirdMag>**

**Follow us on Tumblr: <http://www.tumblr.com/blog/gothicblackbird>**

**Check out our new website: <http://www.gothicblackbird.com>**

**If you wish to stop receiving this newsletter please hit 'reply' and type 'unsubscribe' in the subject box. That's all it takes. It's not our goal to annoy you with spam.**

**If not, please pass it along to your friends and contacts!**