

GOTHIC Blackbird Times

JULY 2012

Presented by Nettle Press

Lëaf

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

So you can follow the antics of your favorite Blackbird

Moon Report as of July 2nd: Waxing Gibbous

Anglo Saxon Season Report

July: Afterra Liða

Who is submitting, what is being submitted:

We give a warm welcome to all our new authors, artists and designers
for this month and thank the old ones:

Ethan Polson of Ankeny, Kat Taylor of (Weldon) Osceola,

Alan Hetherington of Altoona,

Benjamin Spick of St. Mary's, Moses Eckstein of Ankeny,

Lëaf of Ankeny, Charlie Cheek of Mt. Pleasant,

E. Kim of Boone, Джорджіана Пісок from Osceola,

Kasey Jones of New Virginia, Jenna Henry of California,

and our special guest artist Richard Smythe,

accomplished illustrator from Devonshire, England.

Submissions for the July Issue include poetry, photography,

short stories, articles and various pieces of artwork.

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

Gothic Blackbird 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>

Goals:

Create app by November 2012

Charge subscription by August 2012

Create Facebook advert by August 2012

Launch Blackbird Network by late August

Staff Contact list:

Paige Rothfus (Leaf) Temporary President of CWG, CEO Editor-in-Chief, submissions and promotions director, manager of social media

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Moses Eckstein CEO, Founder and President of CWG, layout and editing manager, webmaster

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Benjamin Spick

Brands:

There has been some confusion about Blackbird and the CWG (Creative Writing Guild) and their relationship to one another, so I am providing the following list of brands in question and the people they belong to:

- **CWG (Creative Writing Guild) Guild/brand is the property of Moses Eckstein who founded it. CWG is the mother brand, it produces the brand/magazine Gothic Blackbird and continues to be an independent DMACC guild for writers to share and improve their work.**
- **Gothic Blackbird (magazine/brand created by Lëaf and owned by Lëaf and Moses)**
- **Nettle Press (Publishing company created and owned by Lëaf, publishes Gothic Blackbird Monthly and Blackbird Times Newsletter)**
- **Freya Unfettered (stage name of Lëaf for musical and theatrical endeavors)**
- **Blackbird Network (Lëaf's brand for presentation of the Blackbird radio stations)**

Website updates

We are pleased to announce that the website was launched Monday, June 26th, and is now up and running at the address www.gothicblackbird.com. It is active but still 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 Lëaf are involved with the web design and if you have questions about the website you are free to ask.

Lëaf, temporary President of the CWG has appointed Benjamin Spick as assistant manager of social media which includes Facebook, Twitter, and Tumblr. It is his job to update those sites twice a week and to build subscribers and followers. Congratulations are in order for Ben who volunteered for the position.

Plans for Twitter and Facebook, blogs, future, etc.

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

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

The next upcoming meeting for the Creative Writing Guild is Friday, July 20th 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 will also take place.

Also about a possible art and writing contest and the prize for the winner of the contest.

Upcoming events:

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 Gothic Blackbird website from DMACC's homepage. CWG meeting. (See above)

Submissions coming due for August Issue of Gothic Blackbird July 30th by 12 AM

Private endeavors of the club members and submitters

Paige Rothfus currently pursues summer classes in HTML and CSS, Biology, Psychology, and Adobe Illustrator, while Moses Eckstein has since returned from his annual training in Kentucky and now is working to reconstruct the website and assist with layout and design of Gothic Blackbird. Moses has also been officially signed on as a designer and member of the Box Art Game Studio team, an indie game design firm. He is currently working on designing characters for a new game in the survival horror genre. This game is planned to be released for the Xbox.

Modeling for the initial design of one of the game characters is Paige Rothfus, photo-shoot was on Tuesday July 3rd. **4**

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.

Social Media Network Plan- Plans are in progress for

'Blackbird Network' Youtube channel

(also considering for other online movie platforms) which will include three main stations:

An educational station that will include informational shows of different art and techniques,

cool projects, recipes, etc. The second station will be the music station,

and is expected to include goth/metal music by Loke

(death metal artist) Freya Unfettered (goth songstress),

and various other miscellaneous music such as classical guitar singles.

The third station will be the comedy station, and will include shorts, skits, parodies and humorous material.

(The completion is hoped to be in the somewhat near future

(expected launching between November 2012 and February 2013)

We welcome a professional graffiti artist to our affiliates, who will shortly be designing a wall and some art for Blackbird.

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.

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 Gothic Blackbird 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>

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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!

If this newsletter needs an edit, please email paigerothfus@ymail.com