

May Day 2008
Sassafras Grove, ADF
Valley Heights Grove, South Park
Saturday, May 3, 2008, 3:00 PM

TIER ONE: BEGINNING THE RITE & ESTABLISHING THE GROUPMIND

Consecration of Time

Opening Prayer **Maria**

Let us with gladness sound the horn and drum!
To honor all the blessed ones we come!

Musical Signal (Nine Knells) **Onyx** with Drum & **Earrach** with Horn

Consecration of Space and of Participants

The Processional

Walk With Me Now Within Our Sacred Grove... (by Crystal Groves)

Purifications : We will process between two firepots at the top of the hill.
Women lead, each carrying a flower. Once we enter ritual space, we lay the flowers around the hole waiting to receive the May Pole.
Men, follow, carrying the May Pole. Artos, Earrach and Men will erect the May Pole in the waiting hole.

The Warding of the Site/the Acknowledgment of the Outsiders

Maria:

Who now comes forth the Sacred Grove to ward
That all may worship in peaceful accord?

Onyx:

Hail Puck, merry wanderer of the night.
We see your shifting shadow dancing bright
Beneath the trees, whistling as birds would do
A bargain we mortals would strike with you!
All who would oppose our rite
All unwholesome and unblessed
All unhallowed vengeful wights
Confound their antics with your jest
Over hill, over dale,
Thorough bush, thorough brier,
Over park, over pale,
Thorough flood, thorough fire,
You must lead them everywhere.
Up and down, up and down,
You will lead them up and down:

You are fear'd in field and town:
Goblin, lead them up and down.
Take this gift as bond of trust
'tween mortal folk and thee
As you are an honest Puck
We make this gift to thee
A holy bargain here is struck
To guard this company.
And if this duty you attend
Better will follow at ritual end.
(William Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*,
with additional bits by Maria Stoy)

Bardic-Venus - Rowynn

Upon this happy day of green leafed trees
Of bright hued flowers on this park's grove floor
We call to you, O Venus, hear our pleas

That you may join us, Goddess, Beauty born.
Venus! Lovely One! Guide our words and songs.
Make them things of beauty, well spoken art
That flows with inspiration bright and strong
To honored guests, fair honor take to heart.
Venus! Queen of Beauty, lend to us grace
Of well formed poetry and sweet sound
For the purpose of our rite. Sacred space
Becomes a place of beauty, new love found.
Some roses now I bring to thee.
In our hearts and grove, most welcome be! (by Rowynn CleerDawn)

Blessings of Brighid – Michelle

Hail fair Brighid, Mistress of the sacred flame!
By your grace and your blessing our grove grows
And prospers in the ways of old! Your name
Is our shield! Within our hearts your fire glows
Healing our injuries, calming our fear,
Inspiring our poems, song and art.
The waters of your holy wells run clear
And strong through loyal blood and steadfast hearts.
You are the soldier's strength and mother's love,
First breath of babes and children's guiding hand
You are the lark at dawn and ev'ning dove
Through birth, death and life our beacon you stand.
Look kindly as we here our vows renew,
Remember us as we remember you. (by Maria Stoy)

Honoring the Earth Mother - Lassair

Earth, Divine Goddess, Mother Nature
Who generatest all things and bringest forth anew the Sun
Which thou hast given to the nations;
Guardian of sky and sea and of all gods and powers;
through thy power all Nature falls silent and then sinks in sleep.
And again thou bringest back the light and chasest away night
Thou coverst us yet most securely with thy divine shades
Thou dost contain chaos infinite, yea and wind and showers and storms.
Thou sendest them out when thou wilt and causest the sea to roar;
Thou chasest away the Sun and arousest the storm.
Again, when thou wilt, thou sendest forth the joyous day
And givest the nourishment of Life with thy eternal surety.
And when the soul departs, to thee we return.
Thou art duly called the Great Mother of the Gods;
Thou conquerest by thy divine name.
Thou art the source of the strength of nations and of gods,
Without thee nothing can be brought to perfection or be born;
Thou art great, Queen of the Gods.
Goddess ! I adore thee as divine;
I call upon thy name; be pleased to grant that which we ask thee,
so shall we give thanks to thee, Goddess, with due Faith. (traditional)

Song: "Earth Mother, We Honor Your Body"

Centering, Grounding and Establishing Groupmind -Onyx

Song: *Unite and Unite and let us all unite For summer is a-comin' today
And whiter we are going, we all shall unite On this merry morning of May. (3x)*
(Chorus-Padstow May-Traditional)

Declaration of Intention & Historical Precedent -Earrach and Deana

Earrach Against May, Whitsonday or other time, all the young men and maids, old men and wives run gadding over night to the woods, groves, hills & mountains, where they spend all the night in pleasant pastimes, & in the morning they return bringing with them birch & branches of trees, to deck their assemblies withall, and no mervaile, for there is a great Lord present amongst them, as superintendent and Lord over their pastimes and sports, namely, Satan prince of hell: But the cheifest jewel they bring from thence is their May-pole, which they bring home with great veneration, as thus. They have twenty or forty yoke of Oxen, every Ox having a sweet nose-gay of flowers placed on the tip of his horns, and these Oxen draw home this May-pole (this stinking idol rather) which is covered all over with flowers, and herbs bound round about with strings from the top to the bottom, and sometime painted with variable colours, with two or three hundred men, women and children following it with great devotion. And thus being reared up, with two handkercheefs and flags hovering on the top, they straw the ground round about, bind green boughs about it, set up summer halls, bowers and arbors hard by it. And then fall they to dance about like as the heathen people did at the dedication of the Idols, where of this is a perfect pattern, or rather the thing itself. I have heard it credibly reported (and that, viva voce) by men of great gravity and reputation, that of forty, threescore, or a hundred maids going to the wood over night, there have scarcely the third part of them returned home again undefiled. (by Philip Stubbes, *Anatomie of Abuses*, 1585)

Deana:

Four hundred years and more have past since
First these hateful words were writ. Centuries
Of Science and of Learning all have sought
To banish these quaint fancies and entomb
Our ancient magic in a crypt of Reason.
Yet time has proven reason cannot rule
Alone. Between our hearts and minds a link
Unbreakable was forged when first the world
Was made. We live on bread but mystery
Is food for mortal souls. And so we come
Again. Young men and maids, old men and
wives

In great devotion gather, ancient ways
To keep. And we will deck our bowers fair
And raise our sacred idol! Ribbons gay
Adorn our tree and whisper to the winds
Our promise to remember. We come to
Honor all creation, Earth and sky and sea,
And in remembering, renew the bonds
That join the wild world to human hearts.

We honor seasons' change as once again
The wheel of life turns spring-tide into summer.
We rejoice in the birth of all new things-
The fertile fields, the budding branch, children
Growing strong. Our music, poetry and art
Find inspiration in these fecund sights.
Our bodies and our senses yearn to join
With all sweet life in harmony and love.
We meet in sacred space to honor once
Again the Fair Folk, our immortal kin
With dance and song we celebrate the glad
Reunion of the Mighty King and Queen
Of twilight and the wild haunts. Through their
Union to each other and our unity with them
May we find again Earth's rhythm and add
Our voices to the music of the spheres.
As it was done of old upon this day
We gather to keep the Rites of May!
(by Maria Stoy)

TIER TWO: RECREATING THE COSMOS & PRELIMINARY POWER RAISING

Maria:

In the midst of chaos, we the world renew
As did our ancestors in ancient days.
Recall when first the worlds were born, and through
Songs and offerings a new creation raise!

Creating the Vertical Axis

Song: "Fire, Bright Fire"

Creation Myth: Vicki

Maria asks: Who are we? From whence do we come? What is the story of our people?

Vicki:

Not hard...

A great misty cloud had gathered together in the void
Swirling and spiraling; spiraling and swirling
Drawing ever-in upon itself.

At its center a radiance shone forth
And drove outward the surrounding cloud
gathering the waters together here below.

And so it was that the stuff of creation drew apart
To form the Fire Above
And the Waters Below.

The Solar Fire warmed the Cauldron of Creation
And stroked upon its waters with thunderbolts
And begat upon it Life.

And the Life begat the Creatures
And the Creatures begat the Ancestors
And the Ancestors begat Us; the Living People.

Upright, like you, Great Tree,
We bear upon us the mark of Creation
Then, now, and for all time.

Rooted in the ancestral waters of the World Below,
Spanning this Middle-World of form
And reaching ever-upward to embrace the Fire Above. (by Earrach of Pittsburgh)

Sacred Tree Grow within me!
All: Sacred Tree Grow within me!

The Well, the Fire, the Sacred tree Flow and Flame and grow in me!
All: The Well, the Fire, the Sacred tree Flow and Flame and grow in me!

Invoking the Gatekeeper and Opening the Gates/Creating the Threshold: Earrach and Diana

Maria : Let us create a way between
All worlds concealed and seen.
And honor those who guard the gate
As spirits here convene.

Gateway: Flora and Faunus. Earrach and Diana

Diana

Behold the charm of Spring!

Sweet breezes bring us
Scents of flowers, grass and greens

To stir the blood and waken the body
Come outside to see!

Warm days and cold nights
Tell us April's done
Mayday is here - Nature beckons
Come outside for fun!

Diana places the Flora charm on one side of the bower & announces "The Doorway of Spring is Open!"

Earrach (holding up the Faunus charm for all to see):

Behold the charm of Summer!

The May is here and all is well
For folk and kith and kin
To play and dance and sing together
Summer is a coming in!

Hot days and warm nights
Will soon be here again
Stay outside as long as you dare, for
Summer is coming in!

Earrach places the Faunus charm on one side of the bower & announces "The Doorway of Summer is Open!"
Diana & Earrach gesture to the bower and state together:

Behold the Gateway *between* Spring & Summer! The Gateway is OPEN! (Gateway by Diana Paar)

Song: "Together We Open the Ways"

NINE-FOLD INVOCATION TO FLORA

By Diana Paar

1. Diana

Thrusting stems upward through the earth
The seed shell broken through...
Summoned forth by the Sun's bright warmth
Pure Rising, fresh and new...

Goddess fair without strife or care
Caught in first love's thrall...
Spring wind washes over your blooms
promise of sweet caress

Calmness descends upon thy brow
Chasing all fear away...
Soft petals open to the wind
Trust grows in light of day...
Awaken Flora - be with us now!

3. Michelle

Nature's bold colors on display
Unveiled upon your brow...
Splendor spreading across the land
Calls us to adore them...

Delicate petals showing forth
Begging us all to touch...
Gentle caresses on the cheek
Sweetness veils hidden strength...

White, pink, yellow and violet
Star-shaped, flocked and domed...
Every blossom quite unique
Springing from sacred home...
Blossom Flora - be with us now!

5. May Queen

Feel the wind stroke tender blossoms
Rushing, tingling, embrace...
Yearning for Summer's Solar touch
Quivering heart doth race...

Extending light beyond your stem...
Stretching up, touch the sky
Blossoms open, brilliance is found
Desire mounts each day...

Sense the dew upon your petals
Gems of Nature's bounty
Delicate symbol of desire...

Bright goddess of the May
Dance Flora - be with us now!

NINE-FOLD INVOCATION TO FAUNUS

By Maria Stoy

2. Earrach

Wake, stirring in the Earth's embrace
In burrow and in den
Summoned forth by the Sun's bright warmth
Rise hungry, sharp and new

Forest Lord without shame chasing
Love's first kiss in morning
Spring rain washes over your skin
Promise of sweet caress

Need descends upon your body
Rising from forest bed
Strong wings unfurl upon the winds
Thirst grows in light of day
Awaken Faunus, be with us now!

4. Dave

Nature's vitality displayed
Upon your face and limbs
Roebuck, bullock, hare and falcon
We see reflected there

Strong arms to hold, bold eyes to tease
Desiring a kiss
Fierce longing for a touch conceals
Sweetness beneath its mask

Fur, feather, flesh and bone reveal
The musky forest heat
All creatures heed your pipes and dance
Within the sacred ring
Arise Faunus be with now!

6. May King

Blazing light pierces secret caves
Quickening seeds within
Solar touch penetrating ice
Burning with appetite

Ardor extends from every limb
Calming all doubt and fear
Passion pierces wild wood and field
Desire mounts each day

Sense the dew upon your features
Gems of Nature's bounty
Ardent symbol of desire
Fervent Lord of the May
Dance Faunus, be with us now!

Filling Out The Cosmic Picture: The Kindred Invocation Triad

Deities: **Degan**

Our mortal voices call out strong this day
To the Immortals, Shining Ones of yore
We bid you, join your people now and stay
As we strive to honor your ways once more.
As even now, we send our calls aloft
To reinforce connections stronger still.
Voices raise, candles beckon, incense waft
'Cross time and lands. To draw you close, our will.
We remember and add respect anew,
bringing knowledge of the bright gods to light.
Most humbly, Ancient Gods, we honor you.
Be pleased to bring your presence to our rite.
Accept the offering we bring to thee
And in our hearts and grove most welcome be! (by Rowynn CleerDawn)

Song- "Hail all the Gods"

Ancestors: **Vicki**

On winds from far across the western sea
We bid our grandmothers and noble sires
To join their children standing proud and free.
As to the ancient ways we now aspire
The bonds between what is and all that was
Will strengthen as we join in ancient rite

Across the ages love will aid our cause
And light the path before us through the night.
Most honored kin, your names are here remembered
As teachers, friends and guides upon our way.
Come heed the call and hearken to our word
And hold Earth's children in your thoughts we pray
Accept the offerings we bring to thee
And in our hearts and grove most welcome be! (by Maria Stoy)

Song – *Mothers and Fathers of Old* (Words and music by Sable)

Nature Spirits-Emerald

From mighty Ocean to still, glassy lake
We bid the Spirits of Water's domain
To join us now, and with praise, honor make
Our bonds of friendship and goodwill all plain.
From green hollows and o'er cold mountain height
We bid the wing'd Spirits of Air to hear
Our glad cries of welcome toward you take flight
As you connect to us, draw close, come near.
From flow'ry field and thick wooded hillside
We bid the good Spirits of Sovereign Land
Link with us, in rev'rence let honor ride
Upon our words of rite and rhyme well planned.
Accept the offerings we bring to thee
And in our hearts and grove most welcome be! (by Rowynn CleerDawn)

Song – Worldly Spirit Chant (*lyrics by Alaric Albertsson*)

TIER THREE: MAJOR SENDING OF POWER TO THE DEITY OF THE OCCASION

Invocation to the Deity of the Occasion – Oberon and Titania/Maria and Daimon

Maria:

All hail, and well met, proud Titania!
From hollow hills and shadowed glens Earth's children
Bid you fly, with wings of kite to share with
Us the rites of May in this our hallowed grove.
The light, the sweetness and the hope of Elves
And human mortals. Lady of Twilight,
Jewels from the deep adorn your breast
Gowned in green and gossamer and crowned
With heaven's silver starlight. Hear our call!
Weaver of the spiders thread you deck the
Wood with dew and diamonds. Of woven cloud
Your roof is made, soft grass upon the floor
With serpent skin your halls are hung. Sweet wine
You do your court provide and tables richly laid.
Mistress of secret realm, your splendor
Inspires the poets to rhymes of love
And prophecy. You see talent hidden
In the deepest reaches of a soul.
Desire for beauty entralls us
Beloved Queen, weave through us and within us.
As we come to know you better, so shall

Our world, wearied with reason, once again
Come to know the grace of your enchantment
Accept the offerings we make to thee
And in our hearts and grove most welcome be! (Maria Stoy)

Daimon

All hail and well met, noble Oberon
From darkling wood and restful glade Earth's Children
Bid you fly with falcon's wings to share with
Us the Rites of May in this our hallowed grove.
Virility, strength and courage of Elves
And mortal humans. Lord of the Greenwood
On your shoulders sits mantle of the forest's
Greens. Clothed in deerskin and in silk and crowned
With summer's golden power. Hear our call.
Captain of the Wild Hunt. You deck the
Wood with musk and cedar of sacred stone
Your roof is made, rushes upon the floor
With tapestries your halls are hung, brave tales
Woven into time and music fills your court.
Master of the secret realm, your majesty
Inspires poets to songs of honor
And courage. You see potential hidden
In the deepest reaches of a soul.
Desire to create enthralls us.
Beloved King, work though us and within us.
As we come to know you better, so shall
Our world, wearied with inaction, once again
Come to know the grace of your enchantment.
Accept the Offerings we make to thee
And in our hearts and grove most welcome be! (Maria Stoy)

Mystery Play (during this dialogue, Maria and Daimon circle the Tree, Maria leads, Daimon pursues.)

Maria

Oh never, since the middle summer's spring,
Met we on hill, in dale, forest or mead,
By paved fountain or by rushy brook,
Or in the beached margent of the sea,
To dance our ringlets to the whistling wind,
But with your brawls you have disturbed our sport.

Daimon

Therefore the winds, piping to us in vain,
As in revenge, have suck'd up from the sea
Contagious fogs; which falling in the land
Have every pelting river made so proud
That they have overborne their continents:

Maria

The ox hath therefore stretch'd his yoke in vain,
The ploughman lost his sweat, and the green corn
Hath rotted ere his youth attain'd a beard;
The fold stands empty in the drowned field,
And crows are fatted with the murrion flock;

The nine men's morris is fill'd up with mud,
And the quaint mazes in the wanton green
For lack of tread are undistinguishable:
The human mortals want their winter cheer;

Daimon

No night is now with hymn or carol blest:
Therefore the moon, the governess of floods,
Pale in her anger, washes all the air,
That rheumatic diseases do abound:
And thorough this distemperature we see
The seasons alter: hoary-headed frosts
Fall in the fresh lap of the crimson rose,:

Maria

the spring, the summer,
The childing autumn, angry winter, change
Their wonted liveries, and the mazed world,
By their increase, now knows not which is which:
And this same progeny of evils comes
From our debate, from our dissension;
We are their parents and original.
As fares the Queen, so fares the Mother Earth
And all her children. Field and wood, cattle,
Kine, buck and doe, human mortal and
Fairy kindred pine when we are parted

Daimon

As fares the Queen so fares the King
Though I had at my pleasure taunted her
And with her generosity made sport
I did upbraid her and fall out with her;

Maria

Might is given noble lord, not taken
Exalting in your power over land
And sea and sky sounds dissonance across
All times and space. Rule at my side not
Over me, and all will play in harmony

Daimon (Daimon stops beside Maria at the Bower)

Come, my queen, take hands with me, our higher
And our better selves unite in amity
Once more we dance the sacred wheel, order
We restore. All acts of love our love will bless

Maria (takes Daimon's hand)

And blessing love, we bless the Earth and all
Her children. Let all of nature here rejoice
And praise our union with one voice.

Daimon

Hail to the Summer, life rises today
Hail to Mother Earth, hail to the May!

(William Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, with additional bits by Maria Stoy)

Offerings and Primary Power-Raising: Maria invites folks to come forward as a group and place their offerings on the “bed” under the bower. Drumming occurs. Once all individual offerings are placed:

Conclusionary Sacrifice

Daimon

In honor of this holy hour
May our promise deck your bower
Rest you safe in lovers' arms
Blessing the wide Earth with your charms.
Upon this pillow rest your heads,
Most joyous be your marriage bed!

Piacular Offering:

Maria

If we mortals have offended
Think on this and all is mended:
All our acts are pure and true
Meaning but to honor you.
Take these gifts which love has made
And let our debt to you be paid! (Shakespeare/Stoy)

May Pole – Artos (Artos gets the dancers set, explains the weave and gets them going)

“Come follow, follow, follow, follow, follow, follow me” (John Hilton, 1652)

“Rise” (Diane “Emerald” Vaughn)

“Comes the Lord of the Greenwood”

Maria: Between the Worlds of Earth and sky
We have danced the Fairy Ring
Weaving ribbons, bright offerings fly
To honor Elven Queen and King.
Let us with unimpeded thought
Attend the seers wisdom trove
And the message they have brought
From other realms to sacred grove

Seeking the Omen of Return: Em, Deana and Artos

Maria: *If appropriate (if not VAMP!!! Vamp hard!)*
Our offerings are gladly claimed
By King and Queen of Fairy wood
Let us give thanks and bless their names
As I pronounce the omen good!

TIER FOUR: RECEIVING AND USING THE RETURNED BLESSINGS/POWER

Preparation for the Blessings

Regrounding/Recentering -Onyx

Meditation on Personal and Group Needs

Maria Mortal law and Fairy custom agree
Host and guest are bound by hospitality
As we have given freely from our hearts
The Fairy King and Queen in turn impart
Their gifts of inspiration and true sight
As here in new found friendship we unite.
Children of Earth, is it your wish and will
These blessings to receive and bond fulfill?

All: It is

Induction of Receptivity/Calling for the Blessings-Daimon/May King and Queen May King and May Queen hold the grail. Daimon calls in the blessings.

Daimon By right of hospitality
These folk by us shall be blessed be;
And the issue they create
Ever shall be fortunate.
Ever true in loving be
The members of this company.
May the work of heart and hand
Shine with favor on the land.
With this field-dew consecrate,
Every fairy take his gait;
And each several mortal blest
True sight and hope is our bequest
Hand in hand, with fairy grace,
We will sing, and bless this place. (Shakespeare/Stoy)

Behold the waters of Blessing
Behold the Waters of life! **(All repeat)**

Receiving the Blessings – May King and Queen

Song “Summer is a-coming in” (Traditional)

Affirmation of the Blessings

Maria:
United in new amity
Let us pause and silently
Accept our creativity
And celebrate fertility
Of spring season that has past
And summer’s promise come at last
Reflect on Fairy gifts and grace
Hallowed in this time and place.

Pause..then to

Now our work is almost done
And royal blessings we have won.
May the seeds we’ve sown today
Be help and guidance on our way
We offer now to spirits here
Our thanks for company and cheer.

TIER FIVE: UNWINDING AND ENDING THE CEREMONY

Thanking the Entities Invited (in reverse order of arrival): Oberon and Titania: Maria and Daimon

Daimon:

Noble lord of fertile field and darkling
Wood, all here gathered send their thanks and praise
For blessings here bestowed. May our newfound
Unity with your vision and your might
Be a gift we share with Mother Earth and
All who dwell upon her. Beloved King
Though we leave this sacred grove, may you
Still work though us and within us as we
Remember the grace of your enchantment.

Maria:

Proud Lady of Twilight and hollow hills
All here gathered send their thanks and praise
For blessings now bestowed. May our newfound
Unity with your love and your sight
Be a gift we share with Mother Earth and
All who dwell upon her. Beloved Queen
Though we leave this sacred grove, may you
Still weave though us and within us as we
Remember the grace of your enchantment.

Maria and Daimon:

Return if you must to secret realms or stay
If you will to share our company.
Between mortal world and Fairy Domain
May peace and fellowship forever reign. (Maria Stoy)

Kindred

Worldly Spirits: Emerald

Nature Spirits of the earth, sea, and sky!
Kind knowledge of your worlds, you gently brought.
We shall remember your wise lessons taught
and recall our friends who crawl, swim, and fly.
Good stay or fare well we offer to thee.
In our hearts and grove most welcome be. (by Rowynn CleerDawn)

Ancestors: Vicki

Ancestors, for your presence we thank you,
And blessings received. We honor your memory.
Though you return across the Western sea
You live in us still, your line we renew.
Good stay or fare well we offer to thee
In our hearts and grove most welcome be. (by Maria Stoy)

Deities: Degan

Great Shining Ones, we thank you for your time
and your noble presence this joyous day.
Ancient Gods, we have honored the Old Ways,

We shall hold fast your memory sublime.
Good stay or fare well we offer to thee.
In our hearts and grove most welcome be. (by Rowynn CleerDawn)

Thanking the Gatekeeper and Closing the Threshold

Diana & Earrach approach the bower & give heartfelt extemporaneous thanks to Flora & Faunus for holding open the Gateway between Spring & Summer. They bid them farewell, yet are never to be truly forgotten.

To close the Gateway, Diana removes the Flora charm & Earrach removes the Faunus charm. They are hooked together & hung on the center of the bower (to later be offered to the woods themselves as a permanent offering).

Diana & Earrach gesture to the bower and state together:

Behold the Gateway *of* Spring & Summer!
The Gateway is CLOSED!

Restoration of the Ordinary: Maria

Our revels are now ended. Sacred Fire
To simple flame returns. The Sacred Well
Mere water flows again. This Tree of Life,
Community and joy forever grows
Within our hearts and minds. Let all be as
It was before, but bettered by our work. (Shakespeare/Stoy)

Unmerging, Regrounding and Recentering: Onyx

Thanking the Earth Mother: Lassair

Earth, Divine Goddess Mother Nature
We offer once again our thanks for
Your bounty and your loving care
As we leave this sacred space, may your might
Continue to uphold and support us. Ever
Mindful of your blessing, may we walk softly
Through our world, that future generations
May sing your praises as we do here. (by Maria Stoy)

Brighid: Michelle

Beloved Brighid, Mistress of the Sacred Flame
We thank you for your guidance on our way
Remember our grove and bless us we pray
As we remember you and praise your name.
Our love and devotion we give to thee
In our hearts forever blessed be. (by Maria Stoy)

Bardic: Rowynn

Venus! Goddess perfect of form and face,
Our hearty thanks for each inspired rhyme
and song of beauty spaced in well kept time.
Fair gifts kept well, this time and sacred space.

Locked in our memories are thoughts of thee.
In our hearts and grove, your beauty be. (by Rowynn ClearDawn)

Puck: Onyx

Most honest and all-worthy Puck!
Your labours have insured our luck.
All who gather here rejoice
And sing your praises in one voice.
In friendship now this gift accept
For duty done and bargain kept.
If it is your need and will,
Return again to haunted hill,
Or stay and share in our increase.
May there between us always peace! (by Maria Stoy)

Clear-cut Ending: Deconsecration of Time & Space

Final Benediction -Maria

As it has been done in the past, as we
Do it now and likewise as it shall be
Done in the future, we have once again
Forged a chain in the link of tradition.
Long Live the Tradition!!

All: LONG LIVE THE TRADITION !

Announcement of End

Musical Signal (Nine Knells) Earrach & Onyx, horn & drum

Recessional song.:

*Walk with wisdom from this hallowed place
Walk not in sorrow, our roots shall e'er embrace
May strength be your brother and honor be your friend
And luck be your lover until we meet again. (Words and music by Sable)*

Notes:

Any un-credited transitional rhyme bits are by Maria Stoy or part of the regular Sassafras ritual.

To add a more “rustic” aura to the rite, we did not set up the usual grove hallows. We used a fire pit as the Fire, the cauldron as our Well and the May Pole as the bile. The bower was erected as a physical Gateway. We had the Grail to contain the Waters of Blessing. Aside from offerings, that was pretty much all the ritual gear we used. We did not have a sacrificer. Each person making an invocation made their own offering.

The May King and Queen were chosen on site. Couples who wished to participate received a portion of the bannock in which a (largish-to avoid choking hazard!) leaf-shaped bead was hidden.

The bower was decorated with garlands of flowers, feathers, shells and animal bits to represent visually Flora and Faunus. Under the bower we made a bed of deerskin and green silk to make a sacred bed for Oberon and Titania

Offerings: Before the rite, participants were asked to write a promise to work more closely with the natural world, spirits of nature, the Fair Folk, natural cycles etc. The small pieces of paper on which the promises were written were anointed with honeysuckle oil and placed in a green and purple silk “dream pillow”. The pillow also contained lavender and dried roses. The Piacular offerings were necklaces beaded by Deana for Oberon and Titania. Titania’s contained beads of white, blue, silver and shells, Oberon’s was made of brown, green, wood and bone beads.

The omen was taken by three seers, one scrying the Well, one the Fire, one the Tree.