

**Sassafras Grove, ADF  
New Moon Blessing Rite  
March 11, 2005, 7:00 PM  
Moonstones Metaphysical Haven**

**Written by Diane “Emerald” Vaughn unless otherwise credited.**

Ritual Briefing--Emerald

The Consecration of Time: Nine Knells with tambourine--**On site**

Opening Prayer—Emerald

*Paresmen timesonta tas theas kai tous theous. We are here to honor the Blessed Ones.*

The Processional: “At the Center of the World”--**All**

Chorus:

*The Waters flow around us*

*The Fires burn within us*

*Standing tall we gather at the center of the World*

*Upon the Earth our Mother*

*We worship here together*

*All as One we gather at the center of the World*

*Upon the Land, within the Sea, and soaring through  
the Sky*

*The Spirits of this World our home with whom we  
all ally*

*We come to offer friendship to the beings of this  
place*

*In harmony we dance with them within the sacred  
space*

Chorus

*The ancient ones of hearth and kin who lived in  
elder days*

*Their wisdom, lore and memory inspire all our  
ways*

*To Grandmothers and Grandfathers, all our love we  
bring*

*In fellowship we honor them together as we sing*

Chorus

*All the Gods and Goddesses of the Sky and Earth  
Warriors, healers, smiths and bards; lords of death  
and birth*

*We offer to the Shining Ones devotion, love and  
praise*

*In one voice we pray to them with open hearts  
ablaze*

Chorus

*As it once was done of old, and as we do it now*

*And as it will continue in the future we avow*

*The separate paths we walk alone now in this place  
converge*

*To do the work we meet as one, our hearts and  
minds we merge*

Purification of the Participants (Land: Stone, Sea: Wash hands, Sky: Incense)--**Blessers On Site**

Warding of the Site / Acknowledgment of the Outsiders: **Emerald**

*We give this token (apple) in recognition of the Forces of Chaos. May they leave us in peace.*

Bardic Patrons: The Muses—**All**

*Calliope, The Fair-voiced; Inspire us with the great stories.*

*Clio, The Proclaimer; Inspire us with the ways of the ancients.*

*Erato, The Lovely; Inspire us with words of love.*

*Euterpe, The Giver of Pleasure; Inspire us with the glory of music.  
Melpomene, The Songstress; Inspire us with the catharsis of tragedy.  
Polyhymnia, She of Many Hymns; Inspire us with the sacred words.  
Terpsichore, The Whirler; Inspire us with the magick of dance.  
Thalia, The Flourishing; Inspire us with the gift of laughter.  
Urania, The Heavenly; Inspire us with the beauty of the New Moon.*

**Emerald** make offering of flower petals.

### Earth Mother – All

*O mother Gaia, of Gods and men the source, endured with fertile, all-destroying force; all-parent, bounding, whose prolific powers produce a store of beauteous fruits and flowers. All-various maid, the immortal world's strong base, eternal, blessed, crowned with every grace; from whose wide womb as from an endless root, fruits many-formed, mature, and grateful shoot. Deep-bosomed, blessed, pleased with grassy plains, sweet to the smell, and with prolific rains. All-flowery Daimon, centre of the world, around thy orb the beauteous stars are hurled with rapid whirl, eternal and divine, whose frames with matchless skill and wisdom shine. Come, blessed Goddess, listen to our prayer, and make increase of fruits thy constant care; with fertile seasons in thy train draw near, and with propitious mind thy suppliants hear. (Orphic Hymn 25 to the Earth, Thomas Taylor, trans.)*

**All** touch or kiss the ground. **Emerald** make offering of corn meal.

### Brighid Prayer (as Patroness of the Grove)--Earrach

*I light this candle in honor of Brighid  
The Matron of Sassafras Grove  
Through the years you have been midwife  
To many changes and new beginnings within our  
grove.  
You foster our hope through good times and hard,  
Through challenge and victories  
You are the source of all our work*

*The voice in our song  
The strength of our arm  
The hand that heals discord  
The inspiration of all we create  
Lady of the Hearth Fire  
Lady of the Sacred Wells  
Lady of our grove  
Remember us as we remember you.(Maria Stoy)*

### Statement of Intent--All

*We meet here tonight in fellowship to celebrate the New Moon, the time of new beginnings. We give honor to our Allies of this World, our Ancestors of blood and spirit, and the Gods and Goddesses dear to our hearts. This night we seek their blessings of foresight, insight, and clarity that we may see the road ahead of us and set out on our new journeys with clear intent. In so gathering here we also seek to strengthen our bonds of faith and community with one another and with the Kindred. Es'tô! So be it!*

### Combination Grounding/Center & Recreation of the Cosmos **Emerald**

*We modern Druids, like the ancient people whose ways inspire our ways, see the world as made of three parts: The Waters Below us, the Fires Above us, and the Middle World of Form in which we live. These three realms are connected by the World Tree, rooted in the ancestral waters below, its trunk growing up through our Middle World, and its branches reaching up to touch the fires above. As we prepare to hallow this place and make ready to meet the Kindred, we remember that each of us is like that great tree, rooted deep and crowned high. Let us now connect with the Well, Fire and Tree and make offerings to each for their life-giving power.*

**Emerald** leads the group in a few deep breaths.

*We remember the Waters below, the cool, deep, primordial waters; the cauldron of creation. Feel your roots pushing down, down, down through the rich soil, plunging into the ancestral waters pooling in the secret places of the earth. Draw the cool, dark, magnetic waters of life up through your roots, into your body--the trunk of your tree--feeling them fill you with their creative essence. You are brimming with potential and possibility.*

*Feel the ebb  
Feel the flow  
Filled with the power  
Of the waters below.*

*Sacred Well, as you sustain us, so do we make you due offering. **Emerald** makes offering of silver*

*We now remember the Fires above, the shining, blazing, celestial fires; the animating spark of creation. Feel your branches growing up, up, up through the clouds, breaking through the atmosphere to touch the fiery radiance of the heavens. Absorb this holy heat into your leaves, feel its golden glow move down through your branches, into the trunk of your tree. See the light illuminating the waters, charging them with its metabolic force. You are filled with the primal power of will and manifestation.*

*Feel the heat  
Feel the might  
Pulse with the power  
Of the Fire's light.*

*Sacred Fire, as you empower us, so do we make you due offering. **Emerald** makes offering of incense.*

*Sacred Tree, like you we now stand at the center of the world, filled with the powers of water and fire. As you connect us, so do we make you due offering. **Emerald** makes offering of oil*

*The Well, the Fire, the Sacred Tree, Flow and Flame and Grow in Me! (**All** repeat)*

### Gateway Preparation

Song: "Together We Open the Ways"--**All**

*Together we open the Ways  
To love, light and life evermore  
Not one but many we gather here  
Together to open the Ways. (N'Chi)*

As we sing we will pass around a basket of tealights for each **person** to take one. **Emerald** will light her candle from the Fire and pass the flame to the **person** on the end of the horseshoe. Each **person** will pass the flame to the **person** next to them until all candles are lit. Repeat song as necessary.

### Gateway Opening

**Justin** will begin to sound the singing bowl. Then **all** will circle sunwise around the altar once. On the second time around each **person** will place their lit-tealight around the Apollon candle. Once everyone has returned to their place, **Emerald** will ding the sacred dingers once and the singing bowl will stop.

### Gatekeeper Invocation

**Emerald** lights Apollon candle from one of the tealights.

**All:** *O Apollon, The Shining, Lord of Light! Far-seeing, Foreseeing God of Oracles! You know what has been, you see what is, you whisper what will be. Meld your magick with ours this night! Shine for us, help us illumine The Way Between the Worlds! O Apollon Aiglitos, Brilliant God--Let the Way be Open! Emerald* makes offering of frankincense.

### Kindred Invocations and Offerings

For each Kindred, each person will have the opportunity to give a brief “shout out” to their Nature Spirit Allies, Ancestors, and Patron deity(ies) and to make an offering. Once everyone has gone **Emerald** will light candle in Tree candelabra, **All** ask for acceptance of offerings and then sing song.

Nature Spirits: Birdseed

*Nature Spirits, accept our offerings!*

*Fur and feather and scale and skin  
Different without but the same within  
Many of body but one of soul  
Through all creatures are the Gods made whole. (Sable)*

Ancestors: Cornmeal

*Ancestors, accept our offerings!*

*From far beyond this mortal plane  
Mothers and Fathers of Old  
We pray that you return again  
Mothers and Fathers of old  
To share with us the Mystery  
And secrets long untold  
Of the ancient ways we seek to reclaim  
Mothers and Fathers of Old. (Sable)*

Deities: Mixture of herbs

*Shining Ones, accept our offerings!*

*Hail all the Gods  
Hail all the Goddesses  
Hail all the Holy Ones  
We dwell together. (Words: First verse, Trad.; Bridge section, Gwynne Green. Music:  
Paul Maurice, Sean Miller, Gail Williams.)*

### Omen

Diana will take the omen. If favorable, we will move on. If unfavorable we will make more offerings until it is favorable.

### Induction of Receptivity

**Emerald** draws down the blessings with the wand into the blue glass bowl filled with water and charms.

**All:**

*Spirits of this World our home  
Ancient ones of hearth and kin  
Shining Ones of Earth and Sky  
We have opened our hearts to you in devotion, love and praise  
We now ask for your blessings of foresight, insight, and clarity as we make our new beginnings.  
Give to us the waters of blessing! Give to us the waters of Life!*

**Each person** approaches the altar one at a time. They reach into the bowl and take a charm and bless their eyes and third eye with the waters of blessing saying:

*May I see the road ahead.  
May I walk with vision clear.  
May I know which way to go.*

**All:** *Es'tô!*

Any Work Left Undone?

Farewell to the Kindred

**All:** *Nature Spirits, Ancestors, Shining Ones—thank you for your many blessings this night. Hail and Farewell!* **Emerald** puts out the Kindred candles.

Farewell to the Muses

**All:** *To the Muses, lovely goddesses of inspiration, thank you for your bardic blessings this night. Hail and Farewell!*

Farewell to Gatekeeper: Apollon

**All:** *Glorious god Apollon, thank you for helping us to open the Way. Hail and Farewell!* **Emerald** puts out the Apollon candle.

Closing the Gateway

**All** stand in a circle around the altar. As **Emerald** dings, all blow out candles together. **Each person** picks up their candle and circles widdershins once around the altar and then returns to their place.

Reestablishing the Ordinary

**Emerald:** *Close your eyes. Remember your branches stretching upward toward the Heavens and your roots deep within the Earth. Now slowly bring those branches back down, and slowly draw those roots back up. Take three deep breaths in and out and open your eyes. Touching each with the wand: The Fire is once again but flame, the Well is but water, and the Tree is but a tree-shaped object. We return to normal space and time, but we have been changed by our experience here tonight. Es'tô. So be it.*

The Consecration of Time: Nine Knells with tambourine--**On site**

Closing Song: “Walk With Wisdom”—**All**

*Walk with Wisdom from this Hallowed Place, Walk not in sorrow, our roots shall ere embrace  
May strength be your brother, and honor be your friend, And luck be your lover, until we meet again. (Sable)*