



May 2015

Beltane Reflections

Ah, the weather was glorious for this year's Spirit and Nature Beltane Celebration! Warm sun, cool breeze, big puffy white clouds.

A big thank you to all the friends who helped Roger prepare the site on Beltane morning: Tammie, Danny, Kathy, and Hamid, and also to Mardi and others who had worked earlier in the week to beautify the land. Special appreciations to Libby for always so generously, graciously, sharing her sanctified land and to Tammie who helped Roger and me organize the event and led us in honoring Grandmother Apple Tree. Thanks to my partners Hayat, Nur, Merlyn, Kathy, and Hamid for their always-excellent music and dance leadership, which adds so much heart to our celebrations.

Here is a picture of Libby's beautiful OneSpirit field and pond:



Musicians practicing some chants:



May Queen and King relaxing in the West under Grandmother Apple Tree.

First we pilgrimaged to the Sacred Spring for visioning, chanting, and giving gratitude to all our waters. As Libby reminded us, this tributary flows into the Rocky River, the Rocky into the Deep, the Deep into the Haw, the Haw into the Cape Fear and then into the Ocean. *The river it is flowing, flowing and growing....Oh Mother carry me....down to the sea.*



Photo credit: K.Kochevar

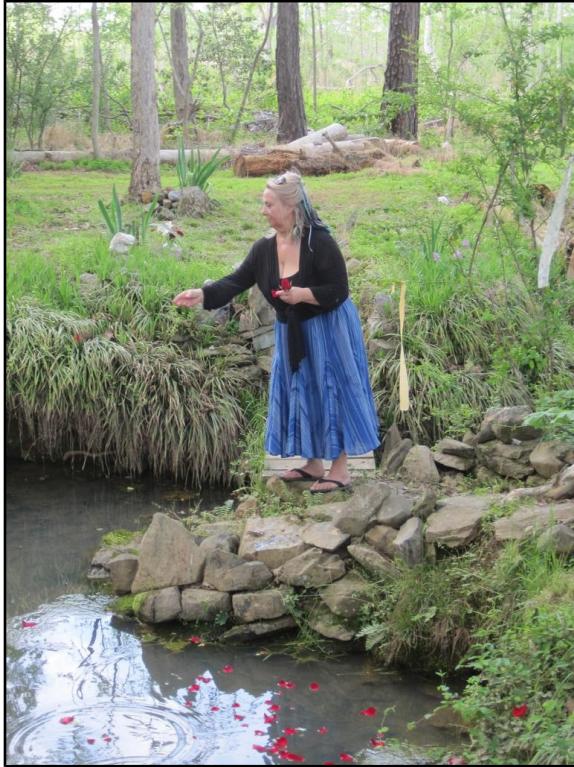


Photo credit: K.Kochevar

After a wonderful ritual honoring the Feminine, Grandmother Apple Tree, we honored the Masculine, raising the Maypole. Joining around this World Tree, we opened the ceremony by welcoming the loving ancestors of the land, our spirit guides, the Directions and the Elements as we danced *Thunder Beings* and *Behold There is Magic All Around Us.*

Here is the mask of Fire in the South:



Photo credit: BL Chaika

Hmm, raising the Maypole seems to be a guy thing:



Photo credit: K. Kochevar

Beltane means "bright fire." At Beltane we honor the sun and welcome in the light half of the year, the abundant fertility brought by the marriage of the sun and the earth, as symbolized by the cedar Tree of Life Maypole which joins them, and upon which we weave our community's prayers. These prayers stay up there until Samhain when this *axis mundi* is taken down, still woven, and the ribbons are burned to release them in the fire ceremony that begins the dark half of the year.



Photo credit: BL Chaika



Photo credit: K. Kochevar

After a wonderful potluck feast the Fire Ceremony began with the Beltane Dance. *The wheel of the year is turning, the Beltane fires are burning, so give your hand and take your brand, to kindle your own hearth's yearning.*

The sweet May Queen and King lit the twin fires and placed upon them the bundles of nine sacred woods as we honored these nine of our beloved forest trees. Passing between the fires for purification and then again for kindling our heart's desires, we circled and lit our cedar firebrands, proclaiming our passionate hopes for our community and the world.



Photo credit: BL Chaika



Photo credit: K.Kochevar

After the ceremony the drumming really started to heat up!



Photo credit: BL Chaika



Photo credit: BL Chaika

Perhaps the most magical moment for me this year was going into the dark fields during the drumming, looking up and seeing the big dipper, its tail seeming to touch the dark sun atop the Maypole, then turning and seeing the almost full moon shining brightly above the tree tops onto the drummers. *A fire in your hearth, a glow in your heart, and the blessing of the One Light that unites us all.* -- Mara Freeman

Fire, torches, moon:

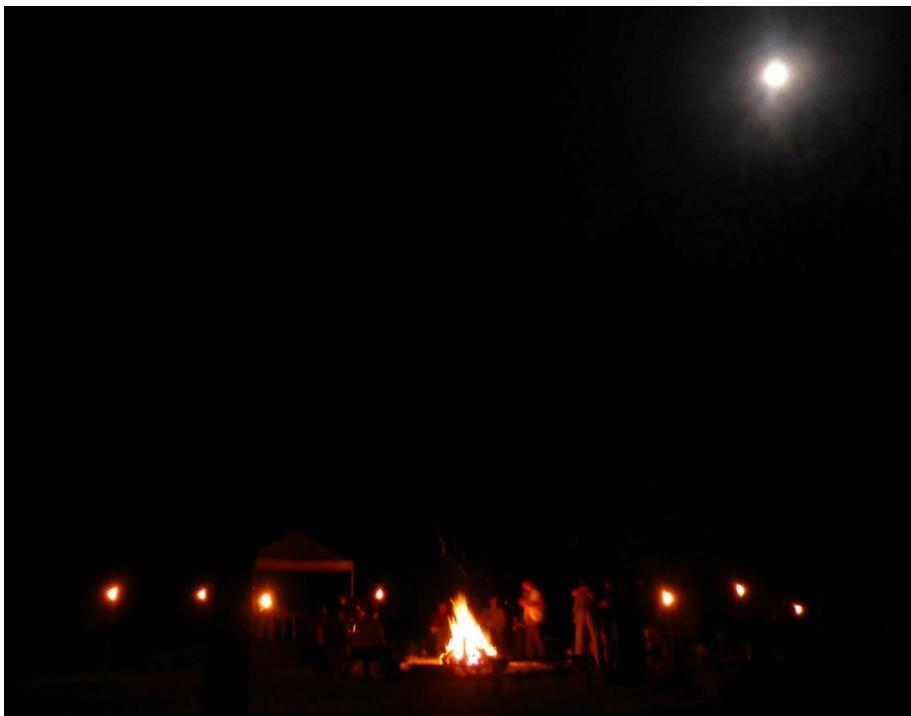


Photo credit: BL Chaika

Mark your calendar !

The next Spirit and Nature Cross-quarter Celebrations are:

Lughnasa (Lunasa)

Wednesday, August 5, 7pm, at the Pittsboro Senior Center before the DUP Dance.

Samhain

Saturday, October 31.

Imbolc

Saturday, January 30, at Church of Reconciliation in Chapel Hill.

Sponsored by the Ziraat Circle of the Rose Heart Sufi Community.

May our creative passions burn brightly in service to the One Circle of Being.
With Love to all of you,
Hakima Betty Lou