

This year's retreat took place in the countryside of Delaware. We rented an Airbnb two-storey farmhouse that was adequate for our nine-person group. The decor was a little quirky, with photos and prints of ducks everywhere. (The house is also used as a hunting lodge.)

The farm also had a lot of cute farm animals: horses, mini-horses, goats, chickens, and hunting dogs. All the animals looked well cared for. We were able to gather eggs for our breakfast each morning. There was also a bald eagle's nest located about a mile away, and an osprey nest about the same distance in another direction, and occasionally we caught a glimpse of ospreys in flight.

The food was excellent. Laura and Jennifer, who live locally, took care of the shopping and advance food preparation. Doneby, also local to the area, transported a large amount of the food. Thank you for the yummy meals! The rest of us signed up for tasks for each meal: assisting with food prep, dishes, etc.

The retreat began Thursday evening. After the last of our group arrived, we had dinner, then went outside to do some stargazing. Due to the many mosquitos who also live there, we kept our observations short.

Each morning after breakfast, a volunteer would lead us in spiritual practice: rite of unbinding, meditation, soul alignment, Feri flower prayer.

### Friday

This morning, we created the altar and opened sacred space for the weekend, and Ari called in the land spirits. After spiritual practice, we took a break so Jennifer could have a walkthrough with the property manager.

Next we had a lovely lunch outside. Mosquitos weren't as bad that day.

After lunch, Laura and Louise led the group in Thorn's Cutting to the Core Exercise.

We went outside, and Doneby led us in a practice she created, Energetic Loops, working with parts of the Holy Mother Prayer. It was exciting for us all to be doing a new practice.

Time for an outing. We drove to Bombay Hook nature preserve which was about 10 minutes away. We took a short walk down to the edge of the bay. However, a thunder and lightning storm was beginning so we cut the walk short and took a drive around the preserve instead. We saw a lot of waterfowl.

Back at the house, we had a discussion of Morningstar history and lore which was interesting. We then had dinner.

After dinner, we had our Full Moon ritual, during which we did the Three Streams meditation and working.

### Saturday

Following spiritual practice, Louise led us in Thorn's movements to the Iron, Pearl, and Warrior Pentacles.

This was followed by a trance journey to meet our Demon Lover. This powerful working was led by Jennifer and Cedar.

During lunch, Laura led a lively discussion on magic and activism.

After lunch, Ealasaid did their excellent tech-y thing and hooked us up for the monthly Zoom chat. Nancy was able to join us remotely for the chat.

We then had a few hours of free time to do whatever. Ryan shared his electronic bagpipe with a number of us, which was amazing. Then we had another outstanding dinner.

After dinner, we performed the Morningstar Rite of Connection, traveling to the astral temple, acknowledging the egregore and the crystal. This was followed by the cording ceremony.

When the ritual concluded, we took photos, drank wine, and danced for several hours. Thanks to our DJ's, Laura and Ken.

## Sunday

All too soon, it was Sunday morning. After spiritual practice, Ken and Doneby led us in a few songs. We went around the circle as a way to “check out.” The circle was closed.

We then returned to mundane tasks such as cleaning and packing. Some of us had to head back to the airport, while many of the others went to the beach!