

Welcome to the Deer Clan!

I look forward to meeting you, and spending time together on the mountain in this Fall season.

Deer walk slowly, carefully, quietly wandering the woods in search of food, wary with all senses alert to every sound, smell, and sight. This will be an active, hands-on clan, touching and seeking direct contact with nature, and the spirits of place. Like deer, we will walk the forest opening our senses, awakening to wonder, connecting with the trees, the rocks, the stream and lake, finding our place in the land. For it is the land that shapes us, holds us, and feeds us; what are we without the land?

In our busy lives it is all too easy to forget the context that underlies them. Our modern culture is very disassociated from the land. It offers us food from all over the world, but little from our own area, and it offers endless entertainment that pulls us away from living here and now on the land. To help you prepare for this clan I would like you to turn off your tv, computer, radio, ipod, phone, and not read newspapers or magazines during the week before Twilight Covening. Try following Thoreau's recommendation to "Simplify, simplify, simplify." Write down your thoughts, feelings, and reactions in response to doing this, as we will discuss this exercise in our clan.

Offering the Deer Clan is a direct outgrowth from my own daily practices, many of which were generated through my experiences participating in and leading trance and shamanic groups.

Please read the confirmation package to be sure you bring everything you'll need. Here are some additional things that would be useful to bring:

- * something burnable for the releasing fire ritual Friday Night
- * vegetable for ritual soup
- * blanket, cushion
- * journal or notebook, sketchpad
- * pens, pencils, art supplies
- * flashlight
- * candle in a jar, matches
- * warm things to wear for extended time outside (think layers)
- * waterproof clothing, shoes, and rain gear (essential)
- * decorations for our clan table

See you soon!

Blessings, Walter