



## Call of the Trees

### The Making of *Call of the Trees*

OUR STORY BEGAN in the fall of 2001 when Bunny Daubner attended a workshop given by Dorothy Maclean at the Rowe Center in western Massachusetts. Bunny first learned about Dorothy in the 'Seventies through *The Magic of Findhorn* by Paul Hawken, and had visited the Findhorn Community and worked in its gardens in the 'Eighties.

At the end of the workshop at Rowe, Bunny approached Dorothy and commented: "I think Vermont is ready for you!" Returning to Bristol, Vermont, Bunny distributed copies of Dorothy's most recent book, *To Honor the Earth: Reflections on Living in Harmony with Nature*, among her friends—and planted the seed of a Vermont visit.

Jonathan Corcoran, a board member of Vermont Family Forests—an organization pioneering sustainable community forestry in Bristol—was inspired by Bunny's vision, and by Dorothy's tree messages: "We humans know what we want to take from the forests but—What if trees could talk?—What would they say? I was really curious to learn more, so I called Dorothy to see when she might be able to come to Vermont." Jonathan spent the next six months organizing her visit.

In September 2002, Vermont Family Forests, Spirit in Nature, and the Middlebury College Environmental Studies Program sponsored Dorothy's visit to Middlebury, Vermont. A capacity audience of over 300 people attended her public lecture, "Nature Speaks Out" on Friday night; over 60 people attended her workshop, "Attuning to Wholeness," on Saturday.

Bunny turned to Dorothy, "You see, Vermont is ready for you," to which Dorothy responded, "Yes, but I don't know if I'm ready for Vermont!"

On Sunday, Dorothy shared her collection of tree messages with a smaller circle of community members at Vermont Family Forests. These messages were profound, beautiful and urgent.

Enter Jennifer Vynak. She had read Dorothy's *To Hear the Angels Sing* in the 'Nineties and had been deeply touched: "I directly experienced the presence of the Sacred in these angelic messages. One strong message from the trees, however, really stood out for me. It implored Dorothy to spread the word far and wide that humanity's quality of life and very survival on the Earth depended directly on the presence of the old-growth trees and great forests—the skin of the Earth."

After the meeting was over, Jennifer approached Dorothy and asked her whether these tree messages had ever been published in their entirety in a single volume? No, they had not. Jennifer felt strongly that these messages not only needed to be urgently communicated to people everywhere around the planet but that they needed to be shared with the next generation. So she offered to help Dorothy get the messages published. To her delight, Dorothy graciously agreed, but suggested Jennifer get some help from the group. Bunny and Jonathan stepped forward and so the collaboration known as *Call of the Trees* was born.

Our mission is simple: we are messengers, to share the messages with you so you will spread them to others. In the words of the trees: We know that the very telling of this to you does help, that a truth once in human consciousness then percolates around and does its work.

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