

**“Keeper of the Woods”, ©2007**By Michael C. LaBossiere, [ontologist@aol.com](mailto:ontologist@aol.com)*Call of Cthulhu***Legal Information**

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**Introduction**

This modern day adventure brings the investigators to Maine in response to the murder of the son of a developer. The adventure was written as starter adventure, but is suitable for more experienced players and investigators.

**Keeper's Background**

In 1721 Daniel Brown purchased a plot of land on the coast of what would become Maine. Although his father had been locally famous as a failed farmer, Daniel was rather successful in business and managed to expand his holdings with each passing year. Unlike many colonials, Brown was on excellent terms with the native inhabitants and availed himself of their knowledge of local conditions and other matters.

When the colonies rebelled against Britain, the Brown family joined the revolution. Andrew Brown was killed in the war, but his younger brother Samuel survived and the family thrived as the fledgling nation became involved in lucrative trading and whaling endeavors. The Brown family maintained its friendly relations with the natives and this caused them some trouble when young Joshua Brown wrote several tracts condemning America's treatment of the Apache, Dakota and other tribes during the late 1800s. Joshua created a further stir by attempting legal action against the government on the basis that the United States had violated its own treaties.

Joshua's actions had little positive effect and led to an attempt on his life that left him lame. Thwarted in these efforts, he was determined to take some action. Having been influenced by the new fangled notion of conservation, Joshua became determined to help preserve the bounty of nature. A naturally curious man, he turned to many strange sources and learned many unusual things.

In 1911 Joshua donated a large portion of the family land to the state of Maine. The land was to be maintained in perpetuity as a public park that would be free of development. He named the pond on the land after his beloved wife, Ellie.

In 1923 Joshua realized that he was nearing the end of his life. Although his family seemed to support his views of conservation, he was worried that time might change things. So, he took a rather dramatic step. Using a ritual he had learned from a wise and ancient sage of the woods, he transformed himself in a way that melded his human flesh and bone with plant matter. This alteration would permit him to endure for centuries and would provide him the strength he might need to protect the woods he so dearly loved.

From 1923 onward Joshua remained the hidden guardian of the woods of Joshua Brown Park. Those who worked in the park noticed that the trees seemed unusually healthy and well tended. They also noticed that the trails were mysteriously well maintained and kept free of litter. Since this made their job much easier, the workers thought it best not to comment on this and attributed these things to eccentric locals.

In 1972 a small boy got lost in the park and was rescued by Joshua. Joshua led him to the visitor area and gave the boy blueberries to eat. The boy reported that he had been led from the woods by a “tree man” who gave him the berries. Naturally, the police thought he was hallucinating or making up a story.

In 1987 some homeless people set up a camp in the park. Joshua didn’t mind their presence until one of them, who had been cruelly turned out on the street due to federal budget cuts, tried to set the woods on fire. At that point Joshua decided to drive them out. They reported to the police that they had been attacked by trees. Naturally, the police attributed this to drug and alcohol abuse.

A few months before the adventure begins, developer Roy Hansen started development of the land near the park. His plan is to sell luxury houses to out-of-staters and make a substantial profit. He wants to acquire the park lands as well and has been working various angles to get around the law.

Roy’s son Rick, a high school student, was not pleased with his relocation to Maine. He took out his displeasure in various ways, including vandalizing the park on a regular basis. Just before the adventure starts, he and two friends (Adam Jones and Kevin Smith) tricked Jessica Brown (a descendant of Joshua) into going to the park with them. Rick professed a desire to learn more about the history of the area and Jessica agreed to show him around the park. Rick, influenced in part by alcohol and drugs, attempted to assault Jessica. Joshua, who had been keeping a close eye on Rick, intervened and killed Rick in his anger. Joshua spared Rick’s friends and allowed them to flee, screaming, from the park. He spoke with Jessica and managed to convince her that he is her ancestor, Joshua. He then escorted her to the visitor center and asked her not to tell anyone about him. Confused, terrified and yet grateful, Jessica agreed.

Terrified and a bit drunk, Jones crashed his car into a tree, injuring himself and Smith. They called the police on their mobile phones and staggered down the road. Smith and Jones told the police they had been drinking in the park with some friends when they were attacked by some madman who had tied tree limbs and things all over his body. After calling for an ambulance, the police will head into the park and find Jessica. After the officers ask her about the “madman” she will go along with that story and say she was able to escape from him, but he killed Roy. She will say that she saw the man dragging the body towards the lake and will add that she was too busy fleeing for her life to get a good look at him.

Somewhat saddened by his murder and desiring to not let the death go to waste, Joshua decided to transform Rick’s body into a guardian like being to help him in the park and he believed, incorrectly, that the ritual would do just that. Joshua placed Rick’s broken body within a prepared tree and completed the ritual. Unfortunately, the fact that Rick was dead combined with his rather unpleasant nature and the mix of drugs and alcohol will result in the creation of a monster.

While Joshua was preparing Rick’s body, the police were setting up a roadblock and searching some parts of the park. The next day, at dawn, the police arrived to search the park. They will keep the park closed for two days while they search, but will find nothing.

On the third day after his death, Roy will awake as a twisted guardian. During the day, he will be peaceful and tree-like, but when night falls the chemical change resulting from the end of photosynthesis will trigger a chemical change in Roy's plant infested brain. Roy will then be a creature of rage and destruction. He will begin by tearing up trees and vandalizing the park, much to Joshua's horror. Joshua will try to stop him, but will be badly hurt in the attempt.

The next day, Roy will kill two tabloid reporters (Janet King and George Reynolds) who will sneak into the park looking for a story.

### **Getting the Investigators Involved**

This adventure was written as a campaign starter and hence there are many ways the various investigators can be brought into the action.

One possibility is that one of the investigators is a relative of Jessica Brown and will be contacted by her father (Eric Brown) and mother (Andrea Brown). The investigator is one of Jessica's favorite relatives and gave Jessica the impression that s/he is open minded about strange and unusual occurrences. Since Jessica's parents are very practical minded, she will ask her parents to contact the investigator to help her in her time of need. The related investigator will have access to Jessica's assistance.

Another possibility is that the investigator is a law-enforcement professional or a private investigator that has been brought in by Roy Hansen. Law enforcement investigators will have access to the official investigation while an investigator working for Hansen will have his support.

A third possibility is that the investigator is a reporter or other curious individual who has come for the story or out of curiosity. An investigator with proper credentials will have press access to the police while the merely curious will be on the own.

There are many other possibilities as well. The investigator might be a relative of one of the injured boys, a friend of the missing reporter, a TV psychic, or some other thing. In any case, the investigators should arrive a few days after the death of Roy.

### **Investigation**

The following details the information the investigators can dig up through their research. General information that any investigator can find has been provided as has special information that will most likely only be available to certain investigators.

### **Sandport**

Sandport grew from a tiny port town to a small port town. Like many small Maine port towns, the citizens derive much of their income from the sea-lobster, fish and tourism. The town is a typical small town and the inhabitants are fairly friendly.

Investigation of the town will reveal nothing very unusual in relation to the park or the area. Most of the older locals will be happy to talk about the history of the town. If the investigators ask the citizens about the events in the park, they will express their concern. The general opinion is that a crazy homeless person got into the park and killed Rick.

If the investigators are persuasive (persuade roll) they can learn that most of the local people are not too fond of Roy Hansen and thought his son was a troublemaker who might have brought his bad end on himself ("that boy was into all sort of mischief and he might have been killed in one of those drug deals gone bad, like you see on TV"). If the investigators ask about

supernatural or other such odd things, the locals will look at them oddly and say that there seems no reason to think something so strange.

If the investigators ask about any other odd events in the park, the person they are talking too might recall the “tree-man” incidents (see below).

### **The Brown Family** (handout #1)

The following information can be acquired by consulting local historical sources such as the visitor’s center in the park.

In 1721 Daniel Brown purchased a plot of land on the coast of what would become Maine. Although his father had been locally famous as a failed farmer, Daniel was rather successful in business and managed to expand his holdings with each passing year.

Andrew Brown, Daniel’s son, was killed in the revolutionary war, but his younger brother Samuel survived and the family thrived in the trading and whaling endeavors.

In the 1800s young Joshua Brown wrote several tracts condemning America’s treatment of the Apache, Dakota and other tribes during the late 1800s. This created a lasting bond of friendship between the Brown family and many Native Americans.

In 1911 Joshua donated a large portion of the family land to the state of Maine. The land was to be maintained in perpetuity as a public park that would be free of development. He named the pond on the land after his beloved wife, Ellie.

In 1923 Joshua died and was interred in the family vault in Bangor, Maine. He is fondly remembered for his donation of the park, which is enjoyed by the public.

### **Tree Men Incidents**

If the investigators check the local paper’s archives, they can find the following. The person in charge of the archives, Kelly Wellings, is a computer fanatic and has scanned all the past issues into a searchable database. She could get a job at a much larger paper, but prefers the quiet life of her home town and the fact that her job leaves her plenty of time to play computers RPGs online.

The paper has three relevant articles about the park. The first is about Billy Dumont (who was rescued by Joshua), the second is about the homeless people driven out by Joshua and the third reports the death of Dumont in Iraq.

#### *Sandport Reporter, April 22 1972*

Young Billy Dumont wandered away from his family during their visit to Joshua Brown Park. Fortunately, the young fellow turned up at the visitor’s area. According to his parents, they found him at a picnic table, eating blueberries from a large pile. The boy, known for his active imagination, said that a “tree man” led him back to the visitors’ area and gave him the berries.

#### *Sandport Reporter, June 12 1987*

The police reported that a small group of homeless people reported being driven out of the park after one of their attempted to set the woods on fire. Those involved insisted that they were attacked by trees that came to life to protect the woods.

According to Police Chief Walker, the men had been turned out of various mental health care facilities due to budget cuts and somehow had made it to the park. No charges were pressed against the men who were taken by bus to a homeless shelter in Bangor.

#### *Sandport Reporter, December 17, 2006*

...Captain William Dumont was killed today while serving in Iraq...

### **Adam Jones and Kevin Smith**

Jones and Smith will be treated and released from the local hospital. They will be willing to talk to reporters and, of course, law enforcement officials. They will also speak to anyone hired by Roy Hansen. They will not be very eager to talk to random strangers, unless the investigators can persuade or trick them. If the investigators are able to talk to them, the boys will say the following:

“Rick, Jessica and the two of us went to the park. Yeah, there was some drinking. But, we went there so Jessica could show Rick some of the park and tell him about her family. I know some people thought Rick was a jerk, but he was all into history and stuff. You know, he’d watch those History Channel shows about war and Hitler and stuff.

Well, we were by the lake when this crazy mother fu...I mean this crazy guy came out of the woods. He had all these tree branches and shit all over him, so he looked like some kind of tree monster. Kind of like a small version of one of those tree things in the *Lord of the Rings* movie. Anyway, he comes right at us. He must have had a knife or something sharp because he cut Rick bad. We tried to stop him, but he hit us and ran away, dragging Rick off into the woods. We wanted to go after him...but, we were scared. That guy was crazy as hell and if we hadn’t run, he would have killed all of us. Yeah, we ran to the car and peeled out. Then hit that damn tree. It was a good thing the cops got there...who knows what would have happened if that nut had come back for us.

I hope they fry that bastard when they get him.”

They honestly believe that they were attacked by a crazy man and will consider any suggestions of the supernatural to be crazy-unless they think they can get a lot out of it.

Smith will also post his experiences on his Myspace blog along with a memorial to Rick (he assumes Rick was killed). His post is as follows:

“Rick, Jessica, Adam and me went to the park that night. Rick was pretty excited about going because he wanted Jessica to show some of the park and tell him about her family. I know some people thought Rick was a jerk, but he was all into history and stuff. You know, he’d watch those History Channel shows about war and Hitler and stuff.

Well, we were by the lake when this crazy mother came running out of the woods. He had all these tree branches and shit all over him, so he looked like some kind of tree monster. Kind of like a small version of one of those tree things in the *Lord of the Rings* movie. Anyway, he comes right at us. He must have had a knife or something sharp because he cut Rick bad. We tried to stop him, but he hit us and ran away, dragging Rick off into the woods. We tried to go after him, but we were pretty beaten up and couldn’t find the way in the dark. On the way out of the park, we hit a tree and got banged up good. I never thought I would write this, but thank god for the cops. They showed up quick and went right into the woods. I hope they fry that bastard when they get him.”

### **Roy Hansen**

Roy, Rick's father, will be willing to speak to those with authority or press credentials. He will obviously speak with anyone he hires. He doesn't want to talk to other people, but can be tricked or persuaded into doing so.

He knows nothing about what happened in the park beyond what other people told him. He will, of course, say that his son was wonderful person and that he probably jumped in front of Jessica to save her life.

In actuality, he is a bit worried that his son and the others got mixed up in some sort of drug trouble possibly a deal that went very badly. He will only mention this if he thinks it will help his son or if the investigation by the police stalls out. In no case will he say this to the press or anyone who is not a cop or working for him.

### **Rick Hansen**

If the investigators check up on Rick by talking to the locals, they will find that many people thought he was spoiled by his father and a troubled boy. If they are able to talk to students or teachers at the high school, they will learn that he was often in trouble and used his father's influence as often as possible.

The overall picture the investigators will get is that Rick was spoiled, had poor impulse control and was not particularly moral. They will also, oddly enough, that he was actually a history buff. He has a collection of history documentaries on DVD, historical movies and history books.

### **Janet King and George Reynolds**

Janet King and George Reynolds will be reported as missing by their tabloid, *The American Inquisitor*, twenty four hours after Rick kills them. The investigators can learn from the police or other locals that the two were asking questions in town and were last seen driving towards the park.

They were two young reporters who wanted to make a name with this story. Unfortunately, they became part of it.

### **Jessica Brown**

Jessica will only be willing to talk to police officials and her relative. She does not want any media attention and will not talk to reporters. If she learns that the investigators intend to go into the park, she will seek them out to talk to them. She doesn't want anyone else hurt and she doesn't want them to hurt Joshua.

If the investigators speak to her, she will initially tell the same story as Jones and Smith. However, a psychology roll will reveal that she is holding a lot back. If the investigators can convince her to talk further, she will say the following.

"What Adam and Kevin said was only partially true. Rick did say that he wanted to learn about the history of the park and I knew that he was actually into history. I also wanted to be more popular, so I went along with him. The boys started drinking and I wanted to go home. That is when Rick hit me...and tried to attack me. That is when the...the man came out of the woods. This will sound crazy, but I think he was trying to protect me. He hurt Rick pretty badly and scared Adam and Kevin away. They ran as soon as they saw him. The man didn't try to hurt me at all and let me go."

If the investigators make a psychology roll, they will realize that she is still holding back. If they can persuade her to say more, she will say the following:

“This will sound...crazy. After Rick was dragged away, he came back. I couldn’t see that well in the moon light, but I could swear that the tree limbs were growing from his body and not tied on or anything like that. He was a real tree man.

The most insane part is that he knew me and said that he was my ancestor, Joshua. He said that he had been dwelling in the park since 1923 and had been its guardian and protector. He said he didn’t want to hurt anyone, but Rick’s vandalism and his attack on me drove him into a rage. He said he didn’t want to kill Rick, but that he didn’t realize how strong he was. For some reason, I believe him.

I’d really like you to help him and keep people from hurting him.”

If the investigators agree, she will aid them the best she can. She knows the park well and will be willing to go with them-she thinks that her presence would help Joshua trust the investigators. If she thinks the investigators want to harm Joshua, she will try to stop them.

### **Joshua Brown Park Workers**

The people who tend the park will be willing to talk to the investigators. They will have little to say initially beyond how terrible the event was. If they investigators ask about anything unusual in the park, one of the older workers, Sam Sneeds, will say that the park is special and it is almost like someone is helping out with things. He was say that the park seems to almost always be free of trash and that the trails almost seem to maintain themselves. If the investigators seem unlikely to mock him, he will confide that he once saw a tree walking in the woods. He was a bit scared, but he thought he saw that the tree was carrying a trash bag and cleaning up litter, “so he couldn’t have been bad.” He will confess that it might have been a daydream or something, because he would enjoy a small nip on occasion.

### **Police**

The police will talk to the press via official statements and to relevant professionals. They have the statements made by the two boys and Jessica and have done forensics examination of the site by the pond where Rick was killed. They found traces of blood that was confirmed to be Rick’s (by matching it to Roy’s blood) and signs of a struggle. They lost track of the trail in the woods- this was because Joshua had wrapped up the body to prevent further loss of blood. The police believe they are looking for a crazy man who probably fled the park. They will search the park during the day and will, of course, initially find nothing. Anyone asking odd questions or behaving strangely will be observed carefully by the police. Naturally, they will give no real credence to tales of tree men.

### **Map**

The map shows the area where the adventure takes place. There is a Keeper’s map and a player’s version. Naturally, the Keeper’s map shows some things that the investigators will not be initially aware of.

**Wicaset Way:** The main road that leads to the area from the Bangor-Brewer area.

**Coast Road:** This road leads to New Sandport.

**New Sandport:** A typical small Maine coastal town. There are some local businesses, but most people drive to Bangor for the mall and larger stores. There are a couple excellent seafood restaurants and bed & breakfasts in town.

**The Development:** Roy Hansen is developing this land. The houses are rather large and expensive-way beyond the means of most of the locals. He plans to sell them to wealthy people from outside the state. Roy hopes to be able to drive up the local taxes and cost of living so he can ruin New Sandport and buy the property to develop. He also hopes to get his hands on the park lands.

**Brown Road:** The road to the park.

**Joshua Brown Park:** This well maintained park contains walking/running trails that are well cared for and pleasant to travel. The gray line shows the park boundaries. Most of the park is old pine forest. It can be traveled through fairly easy as pines tend to create open zones by killing the undergrowth with their needles.

**Parking & Visitor Center:** This area contains ample parking, restrooms and a small visitor center with information about the park. Donations are always appreciated.

**Ellie Pond:** A small pond of clean water. There is a dedication plaque by the pond "To my beloved Ellie."

**Atlantic Ocean:** A whole bunch of cold, salty water.

**Death Site:** This is where Joshua killed Rick. The area is sealed off with police tape. There are no sign of the bottles the kids were drinking from (Joshua cleaned this up) but there are blood splatters on the ground and vegetation. Quite a bit-enough to show that Rick sustained some serious wounds.

**Ritual Site:** This is an area of ancient pine trees. There are some large granite boulders in the area that almost seem to form a ring. This area is a place of power and was used to conduct the ritual that transformed Joshua and Rick. During the day the transformed Rick is sometimes here. At night he roams the park. After Rick kills the reporters he will leave their shredded remains here.

**Joshua's Spot:** This area of old pines is Joshua's favorite spot. He will be here during the day and at night, waiting for his wounds to heal enough so he can confront Rick.

## Action

The following provides a guide for running the action of the adventure.

During the day, the park will be calm and peaceful. Rick will be slumbering in the woods and will appear to be just another vine wrapped tree-unless someone gets very close. During the night he wanders around the park, damaging trees and trying to remember the way home.

Damage he does to trees, benches and such near the trails will be noticed, but the authorities will not be sure what is going on. They will think it is the crazy man and step up their investigation. If the investigators wait too long before going into the park it is likely that the police will encounter Rick if they do a patrol at night. How that turns out is left up to the Keeper, but Rick will probably be able to kill the cops he encounters (they will patrol in pairs).

If the investigators decide to go to the park at night, they stand a good chance of encounter Rick as he wander about. Joshua also wanders the park-staying away from Rick, but keeping watch on him. If Rick is going after people and Joshua is nearby, he will try to intervene.

If the investigators are trusted by Jessica, she will take them into the park and try to get them to talk to Joshua. Joshua will explain what happened and that he thinks Rick is helpless during the



day. He has been trying to find Rick while he is helpless, but the park is large and his wounds slow him down.

If the investigators try to kill Joshua, he will try to escape and will try to avoid killing them. If the investigators agree to cooperate with him, he will accompany them on their search and recommend that they try to find him during the day when he is helpless. If the investigators seem to be up to the task of fighting, Joshua will say that Rick is often easy to find at night because he often damages trees and other things.

If the investigators find Rick during the day, he will be easy to deal with. If they find him at night, he will try to destroy them.

## Conclusion

The adventure concludes when the investigators deal with the situation, perish or give up. If the investigators succeed in dealing with the situation, they should be awarded a 1D6 sanity points as a reward. Dealing with the situation could involve many things, but does at least involved destroying Rick. If the investigators fail or flee and realize that Rick is roaming the woods, they should sustain a 1D4 sanity point loss.

If Rick is somehow captured or his (or Joshua's) body is recovered, the authorities will be at a complete loss-what has happened to Rick has no scientific explanation and, by all accounts, should not be possible. Naturally, researchers will want to acquire him or his remains. If Rick survives, Roy will see to it that he gets the best medical care possible. If the authorities learn about Rick, they will see to it that the park is swept from end to end in search of what caused his transformation.

How things turn out with the town, park and authorities depends on what the investigators accomplish and what they say. If the investigators hide the facts about Rick and his body, a mystery will remain but will soon fade with time.

## NPCS

The following details the NPCs for the adventure.

### Jessica Brown, Descendent of Joshua

STR: 10 CON:11 SIZ: 13 INT:13 POW:13 DEX:12 APP: 12 EDU: 11 SAN: 62 HP: 12

DB: None

Important Skills: Climb 50%, Computer Use 10%, Drive Auto 30%, History 30%, Photography 35%

Description: Jessica is a 17 year old girl with brown hair, average build and brown eyes. She wears glasses because contacts bother her eyes. She enjoys photography and has won some local contests with her pictures. She is intelligent and fairly strong willed. If the investigators earn her trust, she will work with them and will try to persuade them to not harm Joshua. Given her experiences, she might decide to become an investigator herself.

### Roy Hansen, Developer

STR: 13 CON:13 SIZ: 16 INT:13 POW:14 DEX:12 APP: 13 EDU: 17 SAN: 70 HP: 15

DB: +1D4

Important Skills: Bargain 75%, Credit Rating 80%, Drive Auto 45%, Fast Talk 75%, Law 24%, Library Use 35%, Persuade 70%, Psychology 32%, Shotgun 44%

**Description:** Hansen is a tall man, balding man with piercing blue eyes. He started out selling used cars and worked his way into the real estate and development business. His ability to persuade and his lack of ethics made him a great success. He wasn't terribly successful in his family life-his wife divorced him after his eighth affair and he decided to move to Maine with his son to regain some of the money he had lost in the divorce.

Although he generally ignored Rick when he was growing up, the loss of his son has genuinely hurt him. He wants the person responsible found and killed. If he thinks things are not progressing properly, he will take matters into his own hands. Unlike the fools in the horror movies, he won't rush out into the woods. Instead, he will do what he does in business hire competent people who do not ask many questions to do things for him.

## Mythos Beings

The following details the new monster for the adventure.

### Keeper of the Woods

Char	Rolls	Averages	Joshua	Rick
STR	3D6X2	20-22	24	26
CON	3D6X2	20-22	23	25
SIZ	2D6+6	13	13	14
INT	3D6	10-11	14	3
POW	3D6	10-11	14	12
DEX	3D6	10-11	11	12
Move	6			
HP			18	20
Damage Bonus	+1D6		+1D6	+1D6

**Weapons:** Fist 50% 1D4+DB or Claws 1D6+DB

**Armor:** 3 Points of bark and wood, impaling weapons do half damage.

**Spells:** Most keepers know Ritual of the Keeper of the Woods

**Sanity Loss:** 0/1D6 Sanity Points.

**Description:** A keeper of the woods is a magically transformed human being whose flesh has been blended with trees and plants. In terms of appearance, a keeper retains his human shape, but the outer flesh is mostly replaced with a flexible bark from which grows various leaves and vines. Oddly enough, the face remains quite recognizable. The muscles and constitution of the keeper are enhanced greatly by the transformation as is the lifespan. A keeper can live almost as long as a tree. The eyes remain intact and all human senses, except the delicacy of touch remain. A keeper can still consume food but also gains energy via photosynthesis.

In combat keepers can either smash opponents with their fists or rake at them with their sharp, wooden claws. They are difficult to wound and kill because of their composition and their enhanced constitution.

Joshua retains all his human intelligence and much of his humanity. He is badly wounded (at 7 hit points) after his battle with Rick. He will fight to defend himself, but will wish to avoid harming anyone. He will do his best to convince the investigators that he should be left to his woods and that he is terribly sorry by how events have unfolded.

Because he was dead when the ritual was conducted, Rick has very little of his human intelligence left. He is mostly motivated by his rage at being killed. Fortunately, his mind is only active at night when he is not engaged in photosynthesis. This is due to a rather odd chemical reaction in his brain. He will attack and kill most people on sight, but will not attack his father.

Rick was wounded in his battle with Joshua-he will be at 15 hit points after the battle.

## **Spells**

The following details the new spell for the adventure.

### **Ritual of the Keeper of the Woods**

This spell transforms a human into a keeper of the woods. This spell must be conducted within a site of ancient power within the woods and costs the caster 12 magic points, 1D6 Sanity points and 1 point of POW. The recipient of the spell loses 1/1D10 sanity points. The caster and the recipient can be the same person.

The ritual involves preparing a living tree by creating a hollow in it. The recipient is placed within the hollow and lashed in place with vines or other plants. Over the course of three days the tree and plants meld into the flesh of the recipient transforming him into a keeper of the woods. If the transformation is interrupted, the recipient will take 1D6 points of damage per day of the transformation as the plants are ripped from his flesh.

This ritual will work on a recently dead human, but it will arise with a minimal intelligence and will function rather poorly.

## Handouts

### Handout #1 The Brown Family

In 1721 Daniel Brown purchased a plot of land on the coast of what would become Maine. Although his father had been locally famous as a failed farmer, Daniel was rather successful in business and managed to expand his holdings with each passing year.

Andrew Brown, Daniel's son, was killed in the revolutionary war, but his younger brother Samuel survived and the family thrived in the trading and whaling endeavors.

In the 1800s young Joshua Brown wrote several tracts condemning America's treatment of the Apache, Dakota and other tribes during the late 1800s. This created a lasting bond of friendship between the Brown family and many Native Americans.

In 1911 Joshua donated a large portion of the family land to the state of Maine. The land was to be maintained in perpetuity as a public park that would be free of development. He named the pond on the land after his beloved wife, Ellie.

In 1923 Joshua died and was interred in the family vault in Bangor, Maine. He is fondly remembered for his donation of the park, which is enjoyed by the public.

### Handout #2

*Sandport Reporter, April 22 1972*

Young Billy Dumont wandered away from his family during their visit to Joshua Brown Park. Fortunately, the young fellow turned up at the visitor's area. According to his parents, they found him at a picnic table, eating blueberries from a large pile. The boy, known for his active imagination, said that a "tree man" led him back to the visitors' area and gave him the berries.

### Handout #3

*Sandport Reporter, June 12 1987*

The police reported that a small group of homeless people reported being driven out of the park after one of them attempted to set the woods on fire. Those involved insisted that they were attacked by trees that came to life to protect the woods.

According to Police Chief Walker, the men had been turned out of various mental health care facilities due to budget cuts and somehow had made it to the park. No charges were pressed against the men who were taken by bus to a homeless shelter in Bangor.

### Handout #4

*Sandport Reporter, December 17, 2006*

...Captain William Dumont was killed today while serving in Iraq...

### Handout #5

*Kevin Smith's Myspace Blog Post*

Rick, Jessica, Adam and me went to the park that night. Rick was pretty excited about going because he wanted Jessica to show some of the park and tell him about her family. I know some people thought Rick was a jerk, but he was all into history and stuff. You know, he'd watch those History Channel shows about war and Hitler and stuff.

Well, we were by the lake when this crazy mother came running out of the woods. He had all these tree branches and shit all over him, so he looked like some kind of tree monster. Kind of

like a small version of one of those tree things in the *Lord of the Rings* movie. Anyway, he comes right at us. He must have had a knife or something sharp because he cut Rick bad. We tried to stop him, but he hit us and ran away, dragging Rick off into the woods. We tried to go after him, but we were pretty beaten up and couldn't find the way in the dark. On the way out of the park, we hit a tree and got banged up good. I never thought I would write this, but thank god for the cops. They showed up quick and went right into the woods. I hope they fry that bastard when they get him.

# Keeper of the Woods Keeper's Park Map



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# Keeper of the Woods Players' Park Map



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