



Carolina Spirit Quest Fall 2005

Welcome to Our Newest Friends and Readers!

In an effort to extend the reach of Carolina Spirit Quest and fulfill our mission to "... encourage networking and the building of community spirit among Pagans and Earth Centered religionists in the Carolinas and the surrounding area," the CSQ board decided to take our pagan pride on the road. On two weekends in September, CSQ board members and friends visited no less than 6 Pagan Pride day celebrations!

September 17, CSQ had information tables in:

- Raleigh, NC

- Charlotte, NC
- Washington DC

The next weekend, on September 24, CSQ was represented in:

- Boone, NC
- Wilmington, NC
- Greenville/ Spartanburg, SC
- Winchester, VA

It was a wonderful experience for all of us. We met new friends and connected with other pagans that didn't know that a large group like CSQ existed. We handed out news letters, talked about our events and gathered over 100 new names

for the mailing list. Overall, I think that it was well worth the time, effort and gas spent to meet so many wonderful people.

Welcome to our new friends and readers, I hope that you find much love and happiness within the CSQ family and that we get to see you again very soon at a CSQ event!

Blessings,

Becky Starr
President, Board of Trustees, CSQ, Inc.

Winter Quest 2006 Almost Full

Dick Merritt

Winter Quest, to be held January 20-22 at Fairy Stone State Park, Virginia, is limited by facilities to 32 participants. At this writing, there are only four spaces left.

This year we will offer

an array of learning circles around the theme "Connecting with Spirit." Three rituals will also help us to connect during the cold months of introspection.

Register quickly if you are interested in attend-

ing. We will maintain a waiting list, if necessary.

For complete details and online registration, check <http://www.carolinaspiritquest.org/winter/2006>.

Inside this issue:

Looking Toward Our Future	2
Items Needed for Magical Auction	2
CSQ News in Your Inbox	3
Spring Quest 2006	3
CSQ Board Visits Charlotte Pagan Pride Day	4
Pagan Pride in DC, South Carolina, Virginia	5
Inter-Group Cooperation	6

Special points of interest:

- Over 100 names added to the CSQ mailing list at 6 Pagan Pride Day events in 3 states and the District of Columbia!
- Only 4 more spaces left at Winter Quest 2006 - register quickly!
- New CSQ-News email list available!
- Plans well underway for CSQ's 11th annual Spring Quest event in April 2006!

Looking Toward Our Future

Dick Merritt

Carolina Spirit Quest has created a temporarily restricted fund for securing a long-term real property location in furtherance of CSQ's purposes. These moneys can be used for searching and acquiring property through outright purchase, capital construction, as collateral for a mortgage, or securing a long-term lease; and further for the future maintenance and improvement of said real property.

Our dream is to have a place that is safe to hold CSQ and compatible events and is within a reasonable distance of most of our constituents in the Carolinas and Virginia. See the Summer and September '05 CSQ newsletters for more details of this dream. Past newsletters can be downloaded at <http://www.carolinaspiritquest.org/newsletters.html>.

In order to be ready for a future



capital campaign to pay for this dream, some CSQ members have committed to monthly donations to the fund. Our Treasurer and Board are obtaining the necessary solicitation permits and making plans for the conduct of a capital campaign. The Board also met recently with a consultant about the best way to conduct the capital campaign to raise the necessary money.

Several of our Board members are planning a visit to **Four Quarters**

Interfaith Sanctuary in Pennsylvania to learn how they have created their landed community. Four Quarters seems like a good model for CSQ to emulate.

For more information on what Four Quarters Farm is doing with their land, check out their website at www.4qf.org.



We hold in our hearts those CSQ participants who have been affected by Robert Petrick and his trial.

Items Needed for Magical Auction

Amy Brann

The Magickal Auction will be held for the fifth time at CSQ's Spring 2006 Event at Camp Lapihio. Last year the Magickal Auction brought in just under \$1,000. All proceeds of the auction go to fund future CSQ projects and events. These funds allow Quest to try new ideas.

CSQ invites you to participate in this fun event!

Are there any magickal items in your closets you aren't using anymore? Are you a crafter or seamstress and have a unique item



you could donate? Are you talented in any services you could donate?

If you have an item or service that you would like to donate to the auction, please contact Amy Brann at ymasen@bearcircle.net. For more information about Spring Quest 2006, please see our website at www.carolinaspiritquest.org.

CSQ News In Your Inbox

Lance Brown

Carolina Spirit Quest, Inc. is pleased to invite you to join the CSQ-News mailing list. CSQ-News is a very low volume, announcements-only, mailing list where we will be sharing news of our events and activities directly with interested members of our organization.



News is not available to the membership of the list so it cannot be harvested by spammers. Please sign up if you want to be among the first to get the news about CSQ and share this message with other folks you think may be interested in what CSQ, Inc. is doing!

No discussion will be allowed on the list so you don't have to worry about being swamped by yet another pagan-oriented mailing list flooding your mailbox. CSQ respects the privacy of our members. The subscribers list for CSQ-

To join CSQ-News, please send an email message to csq-news-subscribe@carolinaspiritquest.org and follow the directions in the reply message you will receive to confirm your subscription to CSQ-News.

Spring Quest 2006 - Awakening Our Dreams, Igniting Our Realities Becky Starr

Plans for Spring Quest 2006 are well under way, as CSQ prepares to gather and celebrate our 11th annual spring event. Our theme next year "Awakening Our Dreams, Igniting Our Realities" has excited event co-directors Cynthia Campbell and Lance Brown into dreaming up some wonderful learning circles, rituals and activities.

Some of the planned events include: drumming and fire circles, magical auction (see Amy's article on page 2 to donate!), second annual porch decorating contest, vendors and much more. And we won't forget the little ones, with a full children's program featuring their very own learning circles, crafts, snacks and swimming in the lake!

Our rituals, in keeping with our theme, will invite you into the land of dreams to imagine what you would like to create in your life and in our community! Dare to dream your wildest dream for the future and bring it to life in the loving arms of our community!

**Look for the
Spring Quest 2006
Catalog in a mailbox near you after
the first of the year!**

For updated information, see our website at: www.carolinaspiritquest.org and click on "Events". And look for the complete catalog in your mailbox in January with descriptions of the various learning circles and special activities. Hope to see you in April at William B. Umstead State Park in Raleigh, North Carolina.

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PROMOTING A PAGAN-FRIENDLY WORLD

The purpose of CSQ shall be to devote its resources to religious and educational activities; and to sponsor a program for adults and children, to be held each year in the Spring; and further, the purpose of CSQ shall be to encourage networking and the building of community spirit among Pagans in the Carolinas and the surrounding area.

Board Members

- Becky Starr, President**, Durham, NC
- Christine Ahrens, Vice President**, Fayetteville, NC
- Tamia Buckingham, Treasurer**, Hillsborough, NC
- Cynthia Campbell, Secretary**, Hillsborough, NC
- Jag**, Durham, NC
- Lance Brown**, Hillsborough, NC
- Raven**, Raleigh, NC
- Kara Mueller**, Ashburn, VA
- Tim Woody**, Hillsborough, NC

Special Thank You and Sad Good Bye Becky Starr

Sadly we must say good bye to Aurora who, for personal reasons, had to resign from the CSQ board in September. We are sorry to see her have to leave the board - her loving ways and laughter brightened up many a board meeting over the last year and a half. (That an her constant supply of chocolate!)

We would like to thank her for all her hard work on Spring Quest '05,

the CSQ Scholarship Fund and helping to create our dream. Aurora intends to remain an active member of CSQ and is teaching a Learning Circle at Winter Quest this upcoming January.

We love you Aurora and wish you the best!!

Come to a Board Meeting!

Any member in good standing is encouraged to attend a CSQ board meeting at their own expense. Get involved! Help plan the direction of CSQ and get your great ideas heard. Help us to create the dream of a landed community in the Carolinas!

To attend, please send an email to info@carolinaspiritquest.org, or contact any board member, for information and directions.

The First Annual Boone High Country Pagan Pride Day

Dick Merritt

Carolina Spirit Quest was proud to be part of the **First Annual Boone High Country Pagan Pride Day** (PPD). This event was held on the campus of **Appalachian State University** on Saturday September 24, 2005. There was a steady stream of pagans, earth-centered religionists and the curious during the day. The planners say total attendance was over 400. CSQ gathered 18 names to add to our mailing list.

Old friends were in evidence. **Gryphon Rosemead** was Workshop and Scheduling Coordinator and she led the closing ritual. Gryphon has been heavily involved in the planning and execution of this event as she was with CSQ and in getting Mountain CUUPS started. **Alyse Ford** and **Kevin Holden**, both CSQ past board members, were also there.

The PPD's official sponsors were

Appalachian State's Pagan Student Alliance and Mountain CUUPS from the Boone Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

Having an information table at Boone's PPD (and many others), CSQ continued its new effort to be present in as much of our service area as possible. Before 2005, CSQ has had an official presence at only the Central North Carolina PPD.

Charlotte Pagan Pride Day Report

Lance Brown

Amy Brann and I attended the 2005 Charlotte Metro Pagan Pride Day on September 17th, 2005 at **Freedom Park in Charlotte, NC**. We enjoyed a beautifully sunny, and rather warm, day of community and sharing with the pagan community in southern NC and northern SC! Heather Darnell, one of the coordinators of the event, provided a pavilion, tables, and chairs for us to use. We set up our booth and settled in before the opening ritual. The booths were arranged in a large square allowing people to cir-

culate easily with space in the center for the rituals and workshops. Beginning with the Opening Ritual about 9AM, the entire event was a rousing success! Several workshops were well-attended, and performances by Mizara, a talented belly dancer, and **Spiral Rhythm**, a local pagan musical group, highlighted the day. Over 100lb. of food donations were received on behalf of the **Metrolina AIDS Project**. An additional 6 cases of canned food and 67 lb. of dry food were donated to the **Four Paws Animal Rescue**.

And \$102.80 was donated to the **American Red Cross Katrina Relief Fund**. Around 300 people, plus volunteers, attended the event with reporting by WCNC and WCCB TV stations. The CSQ slideshow developed by Becky Starr was well received and Amy and I collected 18 new addresses for the CSQ mailing list.

Amy and I would like to extend a special thank you to **Heather Darnell** for working with use and providing a pavilion, table and chairs to use during the event!



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Spring Quest 2006
April 2006
Camp Lapihio, Umstead State Park
Raleigh, NC

Promoting A Pagan Friendly World!

Check out our web site:
www.CarolinaSpiritQuest.org

Inter-Group Cooperation - Or Who Knew Pagans Could Work Together?

Dick Merritt

In this world filled with turf battles and "witch wars." Cooperation between Pagan groups has been a rare thing. Carolina Spirit Quest has been proud to be a part of an ongoing effort by four Pagan groups to jointly produce an annual **Pagan Leadership Skills Conference** in Richmond, Virginia.

There are challenges to these joint ventures. The corporate cultures of the **Open Hearth Foundation**, the **DC Radical Fairies**, **PagaNet, Inc.** and **Carolina Spirit Quest** are very different. Some of these groups are run by consensus and others are run by a majority vote. Some, like CSQ require approval of the Board of Trustees to enter into a contract and others require only the approval of their Board President. In spite of all this, these four organiza-

tions have been able to work out an agreement on how to work together and share responsibilities on a project to benefit the entire Pagan Community. The Pagan Leadership Skills Conference was very successful this year, with an increase



Logo for the Pagan Leadership Skills Conference.

in attendance, and plans are currently in the works for the 3rd annual event to be held in August 2006.

One of the other unexpected benefits of this collaboration occurred a couple of weeks ago. PNI, Inc. was running short of volunteers for their annual event, Harvest Faire. A couple of weeks before the event, co-founder and editor-in-chief for PagaNet, Aranea, called to request two of CSQ's board members to come and help man the ticket booth. In exchange, CSQ will receive 4 free ads in PagaNet's *If...* newspaper. Not only has a lasting connection built between the groups, but friends have been made in yet another part of our service area. In these situations, everyone wins!