

September 2005



PROMOTING A PAGAN FRIENDLY WORLD

Carolina Spirit Quest September 2005

Spring Quest '06

Awakening Our Dreams, Igniting Our Reality

Cynthia Campbell

Planning for Spring Quest 2006 is well under way. We have a great staff lined up, and our Ritual Coordinator has some wonderful plans to inspire us all to make our dreams real, just as CSQ is working toward making our dream of community land into reality.

Opportunities to Get Involved

We have a new idea for our meals this year: a kitchen team, with different cooks for each meal. This way, no one person needs to be in the kitchen the whole weekend! If you enjoy cooking and would like to volunteer to be a part of our kitchen team, please contact us!

We are also still looking for a good publicity manager. If you enjoy making contacts with other pagans, visiting other pagan groups, and believe you can spread the word about CSQ, you might be just the volunteer we're looking for!

Learning Circles

The heart of Quest is our Learning Circles, sharing what we know and learning from one another. We are looking for people interested

in sharing their skills and knowledge with the Quest community. Prior teaching experience is not needed! If you would like the opportunity to share, please email Lance or Cynthia and they will connect you with our Learning Circle coordinator, who will be delighted to work with you!

Magical Auction

We are now taking donations for the annual auction, one of our oldest (and most fun!) traditions...the proceeds from this auction go to support all of Quest's activities. We invite you to go through your closets, basements, shelves, and boxes of stored-away goodies to find items that you no longer need, but someone else might love to have. Contact Amy Brann, Other Programs Coordinator, at ymasen@bearcircle.net if you have items you would like to see go to a new and loving home!

We hope you are looking forward to 2006 as much as we are!

Spring Quest 2006 Co-Directors

Lance Brown - lance@bearcircle.net
Cynthia Campbell - moonfire72@gmail.com

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Of Special Note:

- **A listing of all the PPD's in the Carolinas & Virginia (page 2)**
- **Reviews of this summer's Pagan Leadership Skills Conference (pages 4 & 5)**

Our Dream of Land

Tamia Buckingham

In Spring 2005, the CSQ board of trustees introduced the idea of CSQ becoming a landed



community. At the May 2005 board meeting, a temporarily restricted fund was created for the purpose of "...searching and acquiring property through outright purchase, capital construction, collateral for a mortgage, or securing a long-term lease; and further for the future maintenance and improvement of said real property" to make this dream a reality.

Our dream encompasses the following uses for our landed-community:

- A permanent home for

the Spring and Winter events

- The ability to add more weekend and one-day events
- A home for regular full-moon and new-moon gatherings
- A place for pagan and earth-centered families to camp
- A permanent labyrinth and meditation space
- A circle where we can drum all night.
- A sweat lodge that is adequately secluded
- A place for covens, groves, and nature-lovers to go on retreat

Our efforts since the May board meeting have included taking the administrative steps to formally launch our capital campaign. In the first three months of building the foundation under our dream, we have received over \$600 in cash donations.

A decorative border of yellow pencils with pink erasers, arranged in a slightly curved line around the text.

CSQ College Scholarship

CSQ is happy to announce that as of next year we will be re-initiating our college scholarship fund. The CSQ Collage Scholarship has been awarded two times in the past, before having to take a couple of years hiatus. Now with a financially sound budget, we are able once again to offer one aspiring Pagan college student a one-time scholarship of \$500.00.

Look for more information coming in upcoming newsletters and on our website.

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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.

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Board Members

Becky Starr, President, Durham, NC

Christine Ahrens, Vice President, Fayetteville, NC

Tamia Buckingham, Treasurer, Hillsborough, NC

Cynthia Campbell, Secretary, Hillsborough, NC

Aurora, Wendell, NC

Jag, Durham, NC

Lance Brown, Hillsborough, NC

Raven, Raleigh, NC

Kara Mueller, Ashburn, VA

Tim Woody, Hillsborough, NC

Pagan Leadership Skills Conference a HUGE Success

Becky Starr & Dick Merritt

Carolina Spirit Quest, along with three other sponsoring groups, Open Hearth Foundation, DC Radical Faeries and PaganNet, Inc, worked collaboratively to design a training conference for pagan leaders in the Mid-Atlantic area. The 2005 Pagan Leadership Skills Conference (PLSC), the second annual event, held in Richmond, Virginia, offered in-depth courses for deep organizational growth in community-critical topics such as group facilitation, event coordination, pastoral care and financial management. Since balancing work and play is also important, this year's event also included a drum circle, hospitality suite and Pomona's Ball on Saturday night.

Pagan leaders from all over the mid-Atlantic area, plus attendees from Ohio, Georgia and Texas,



joined together for the 4 day conference. From CSQ, 6 of our 10 board members and one CSQ member attended to learn and teach this year. Dick Merritt and Tamia Buckingham taught the Financial track for the second year in a row and board members attended both the Financial and Event Planning tracks. CSQ's 7 person showing comprised 14% of the total attendees, the largest of any single group!

The planning group has already decided to put on another PLSC in 2006. We are checking out venues, dates and topics for the tracks. If you have any suggestions, please send them to info@carolinaspiritquest.org or to our Post Office box.

Event Planning

Raven

I had the pleasure of attending the 2005 PLSC gathering in Richmond Va. It was a wonderful time of learning, sharing and making new friends.

I participated in the Event Coordinators track. In this track, Drema Baker facilitated a discussion of everything one needed to know about coordinating an event, from budgeting and planning, recruiting and marketing through the maze of site selection, record-keeping and followup.

Participants engaged chosen projects in working groups, coordinating a future "event" from start to finish. Drema also provided her participants with blank "master" forms for future use, (you know we love those take home help sheets !) and setup an email group to help answer participants followup questions. The email site will also encourage further group connections by allowing for future dynamic group assistance with future events.

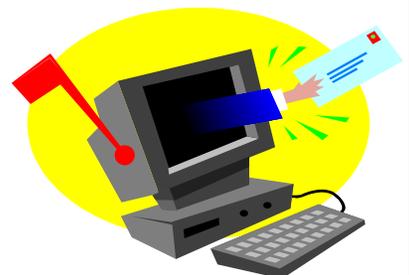
Thanks Drema and PLSC !

Announcing the CSQ-News Mailing List

Carolina Spirit Quest is proud to announce the creation of the CSQ-News mailing list!

CSQ-News is a very-low volume announcements-only electronic mailing list available to our members and others interested in hearing about the activities of CSQ, Inc.

We will be sharing news about event announcements, board meetings, and other activities of CSQ, Inc. and anticipate less than 10 messages per month volume. You can subscribe by going to www.carolinaspiritquest.org/mailman/listinfo/csq-news and filling out the subscription form. We look forward to seeing you online.



I was an attendant at the 2003 NC Pagan Leadership Skills Conference, the 2004 Central North Carolina Pagan Leadership Conference, and this August attended the Pagan Leadership Skills Conference in Richmond, VA.

Thursday evening, after dinner, I was very moved during the Plenary by many of the track facilitators describing their personal passions for the tracks they were teaching over the weekend. I also realized that I had definitely signed up for the right track. Listening to Tamia Buckingham and Dick Merritt introduction to themselves and the importance of Finance to the Pagan community I knew immediately I was going to be in a challenging track that would teach me far more than any of the others could over the 4-day weekend.

Following the plenary there was great socializing in the Hospitality Suite set up by the DC Radical Faeries. Getting to converse with the other PLSC attendants Thursday night was a great gift and made starting the intensive track the next day less daunting, being on friendly terms with both teachers and fellow attendants.

As a Finance track attendant, I learned so much from the years of experience in leadership and finance that both Tamia and Dick shared with our group. The finance track taught me that money is a friend to any non-profit group. It taught me to equate money with a means to achieving a lot of dreams and long term goals for my own pagan groups and the pagan community, as a whole. This track also taught me the finer points of budgeting for the future, not only for a pagan non-profit but also for myself and my own personal finances. Everything we learned we could cater to our individual needs, from the five person coven to the 1000 member community center.



The PLSC was a great experience; the amount of networking was wonderful, having attendants from as far away as Ohio and Texas all there with the same goal of making our Pagan communities better. On a personal note, having just moved from Central NC to the DC metro area I was able to hook up with several local groups and put faces and names to the groups I already knew were in the area. I was able to meet some of the people responsible for large far way pagan communities I'd known of for years. It was great.

Pomona's Ball and all the festive dress made for a wonderful apex, of the event. Getting to dance off all the mind blowing finance information I had absorbed since arriving and getting the chance to cut loose and socialize with people outside my own track was really fun. I know I will be attending as many of these events in the future as I can.

Upcoming Board Meetings

November 18-20, 2005
February 17-19, 2006

May 19-21, 2006
August 18-20, 2006

Any Quest member in good standing is welcome to attend all Board meetings, at their own expense. Please contact any Board member if you would like to attend a meeting.

Carolina Spirit Quest, Inc.

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

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Winter Quest 2006 Connecting with Spirit

CSQ's Fourth Annual Winter Event

January 20-22, 2006
Fairy Stone State Park, Stuart, VA

So many of us have jobs that don't allow us to listen to the cycles of the natural world, particularly in the winter when Nature's message is one of rest and renewal. Winter Quest was created to remind us to listen to the rhythms of Nature and to do quiet reflective and nurturing rituals and activities. This January, we will be continuing our process of looking inwards in the wintertime. Our theme for this year's Winter Quest event, "Connecting to Spirit," will allow us to do just that.

Join us for:

- Learning Circles - (scheduled) Heart Circles, Daily Practices to Connect to Spirit, Crochet, Drumming and Chanting, Prayer Beads for Pagans, Polarity - Connecting with Energy, Meditative Teas
- Rituals
- Friendship
- Good food
- Relaxation
- A chance for introspection
- Participation limited to the first 32 registrants
- Scholarships available!

Check online for more information:
www.CarolinaSpiritQuest.org