

Spring 2001



Carolina Spirit Quest Spring 2001

CSQ 2002 Bringing Home the Magick

There is no doubt how much Quest has grown in the past years, to turn into something more than just a gathering - it has turned into an integral part of our pagan communities' spirituality. In understanding this, it was the intent of the Board and the new Co-Directors of Quest 2002 to make the next Quest even better than the last one and to continually build on and improve this event.

As a result, the next Quest has to be bigger and better, while somehow holding onto the delicate threads that weave us together as a family. To answer this challenge, we came up with the theme for next year's Quest as

being, "CSQ2002 - Bringing Home the Magick".

In the past, Quest had become a popular escape from our mundane lives for an entire weekend, so that we could open up and be around like-minded individuals who wore the same garb we did, howled at the moon like we did, and were able to create a pretty mean ritual or two. This was something essential to maintain, but seeing it all end on Sunday and then having to make the trek back to our homes and our mundane lives always seemed to curb some of the magick of it all.

The question was then asked, "Why does it have

to be like this?" The answer is simple, it doesn't. Since Quest has transformed in meaning to us as something more than just a weekend gathering, then why can't we take this home and enjoy its fruits all year?

Next year's Quest will be focused on harvesting that magick that we create as a community and then making sure that every single attendant brings some of that back to their mundane lives. It is hoped that by accomplishing this, the

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**Spring Quest 2002
Bringing Home the Magick
April 12-14
Camp Millstone
Ellerbe, NC**

an incredible weekend

Merry meet, Questers!

What an incredible weekend we had! I would like to thank our Twisted Sisters (Asherah and Gryphon), the Board and especially the hardworking staff for planning such an

incredible event. I would also like to thank everyone who came for being there. The members are the ones who shape the true experience of Quest. In addition, I would like to thank Isaac Bonewits for coming to our event,

teaching his workshops, and sharing his tradition with us. It was a growth experience to see a new perspective on such things. As an aspiring bard, it meant a lot to me to have a kindred soul

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Special points of interest:

- *Planning for new events: CSQ will need your opinion— see last page*
- *Newsletter to be mailed without envelopes. Please read article on last page.*
- *CSQ '01 was the largest ever. A look at who we were is on page 4.*

Spreading Our Wings - Co-Directors 2001 Report

The weekend of Spring Quest 2001 is now at an end. The staff is busy tying up loose ends and turning over the reins to the Co-Directors for next year. So what does this mean and what have we accomplished?

At this very pivotal point, Spring Quest is now self-sufficient. We broke our record for attendance with 102 people enjoying the weekend and have plied the Camp Director with ice cream and signed a contract for next year at Millstone. The Long-Range Planning Committee will be up and running soon (let your voice be heard!).

It is exciting to see Quest grow over the years. We implemented two new ideas

this year, which came from suggestions last year. Isaac Bonewits, a well-known speaker/presenter, shared ideas and knowledge about the Druidic Tradition. Not only was he our Feature Presenter, but he also taught a Friday Intensive Workshop, which was a separate event from the regular Quest weekend. Both ideas proved well worth the risk of trying something different.

We expanded our geographical area with folks coming from New Mexico, Washington D.C.

and Texas. Our Staff included folks from the mountains as well as the piedmont area of NC.

Our weekend of sacred growth and Pagan community will be spread internationally as the feathers used in Ritual

over the weekend are carried to (literally) the four corners of the earth. We charged four feathers, one for each Quarter, to create our sacred space for the weekend. Freya and Cernunos shared their love and strength for the weekend and charged the feathers with love, com-

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Gryphon Rosemead
Co-director CSQ2001

Quest 2001—Tammie's View

I had a wonderful time at Quest this year. So many times I've arrived back home from gatherings drained. This time was different. I came back home energized, feeling renewed and happy. I wanted to keep these feelings going and share them with others. The logical choice was people I share sacred space with at Quest. So, I took the time and sent notes to several people. I spoke from my heart and let them know

something about their presence at Quest touched me. I sent handwritten notes through the mail. Email is great for some things, but matters of the heart seem better via mail. Besides, there is something cool about receiving unexpected mail. I urge each of you to reach out to someone from Quest and let him or

her know you appreciate their energy.

Thanks to all who helped this Quest be one of the best, so far!

Tammie Ward

**I came back home
energized, feeling
renewed and happy**

The Fine Print

Due to a radical departure from our normal newsletter production procedures, the last couple newsletters went to press without the review of our editor, Larry Taylor. The many grammatical and spelling errors attest to the valuable role that an editor provides. We apologize for delivering a newsletter that falls short of our usual standards. We also regret the mangling of Isaac Bonewits and Bill Elston's names.

Isaac is a corner stone of the Neopagan community and was our special guest at Quest. Bill is Quest's own personal Kitchen God - bringing his experience as both a professional chef and Druid. Both men deserve to be heralded with the correct spelling of their names.

Sincerely,
The Board and Staff of CSQ.

Stones Rising

Many of you asked me for more information about Stones Rising and/or Four Quarters Farm. Their web site address is www.4qf.org. You can learn about the Farm, Stones Rising and other cool gatherings.

Tammie Ward

Post-Flight

It is May Day, a full week after the end of CSQ 2001, and I feel as though I am finally landing. The whirlwind of activity that led up to and encompassed the Quest weekend caught me up in its strong currents such that I had to surrender to the energy and be carried along with it. And what marvelous energy it was - we truly stretched our wingspan this year.

The Friday intensive was a wonderful and popular addition to the mix. Incorporating a Druid ritual increased our knowledge of liturgy and practice. And what about that Fool? We give thanks to Isaac Bonewits, Phaedra and Keith Oorbeck, and the Ritual Committee for enriching our spiritual weekend.

I personally thank the Board, the Staff, and all our talented presenters for their hard work and preparation. The biggest complaint that I heard was that the workshops were all so enticing that it was hard to pick which ones to attend. Now that is the downside of a successful event! My deep admiration and gratitude goes to the event co-

directors, Asherah and Gryphon. I hope that I too can grow up to be a Twisted Sister!

I find our diversity and mutual support and respect to be among our greatest gifts. The appointment of three men to the board results in a gender-balanced leadership - 5 men and 5 women. The directorship of Quest has moved from a team of elders in 2000 (Dick and Brydie), to two women in 2001, and now to two young men for 2002. Zomar and Blake have hit the ground running, recruiting staff and searching out a headline group for the main events. Please send them your ideas, support, and blessings to carry them through this active year so that they can bring home the magick.

Most of all, I thank you, the members of Carolina Spirit Quest, for your energy, your participation, and your continued belief in the mission of CSQ. Together, we can promote a pagan-friendly world.

Blessings,
Tamia
CSQ President

Quest Logo

As Carolina Spirit Quest moves toward doing other things than just the Spring Event, the Board recognized the need for a logo to represent the CSQ organization, not just a single event. At the August 2000 meeting, the Board brainstormed ideas for a logo. Symbols, logo ideas, words and phrases were collected and passed on to Joel Merritt a commercial artist in the Charlotte area. From these he created nine draft logos.

At the February 2001 Board meeting, the top two draft logos were se-

lected. The Board asked Joel to color those two and recommend compatible fonts to go with them. The Board will make the final selection of a single logo for Carolina Spirit Quest, Inc.

Here are the two finalists:



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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.

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Board Members

Tamia Buckingham - President
Hillsborough, NC
Susan Hill - Treasurer
Greensboro, NC
Asherah - Waynesville, NC
Blake Davis - Durham, NC
Dick Merritt - Hillsborough, NC
Gryphon Rosemead
Creedmore, NC
Lance Brown - Durham, NC
Steve (Gandolf) Coenen
Hickory, NC
Tammie Ward - Durham, NC
Zomar the Gray - Boone, NC



Who We Were

Although statistics bother some people, others are anxious to learn "How many were there?", "What was the male-female ratio?", and so on. For those interested, here is a bit about the Carolina Spirit Quest 2001 community.

There were 101 participants and one featured presenter (Isaac Bonewits) at this year's Spring Event. Two of these participants were there for one day only. There was only one pre-registrant who did not attend (no-show).

There were 43 males and 58 females. That is 43% to 57%.

The average (mean) age was 35.1 and the median was 34. This does not include the two people who do not know how old they are. Counts grouped by age range:

| | | | |
|-------|----|-------|----|
| 0-19 | 10 | 40-49 | 21 |
| 20-29 | 24 | 50-59 | 8 |
| 30-39 | 31 | 60-69 | 2 |
| | | 70+ | 3 |

Geographically, we were mostly from North Carolina. There were a few that were [from] way out! Our attendees came from Nags Head on the east to New Mexico and Wyoming on the west and from New York and Ohio on the north to Georgia on the south. Here are the counts with the North Carolinians grouped by area code.

| | | |
|----------|------|----------------|
| NC (919) | 40 | Triangle area |
| NC (336) | 18 | Triad & NW NC |
| NC (704) | 6 | Charlotte area |
| NC (252) | 5 | NE NC |
| NC (910) | 6 | SE NC |
| NC (828) | 11 | SW NC |
| SC | None | |
| Virginia | 2 | |
| New York | 1 | |

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Ohio | 2 |
| New Mexico | 2 |
| Washington, DC | 2 |
| Georgia | 3 |
| Maryland | 2 |
| Wyoming | 1 |

It is clear that Isaac Bonewits was of interest to people attending Quest. 35 signed up for his Friday intensive workshop on "Liturgy in Theory and Practice." His Saturday workshop on "Practical Bardism" had 29 subscribed. And the Sunday morning workshop led by Phaedra Oorbeck and Isaac on polyamory ("Awakening to Shamanism and Witchcraft") had 35 signed up.

I counted 82 of us in the closing circle Sunday afternoon. That is more folks than the total attendance in April 2000. That is amazing.

Dick Merritt

The Community Altar

By Brydie Palmore

The Community Altar was a wonderful addition to Carolina Spirit Quest. The combination of so many powerful and sacred objects ensured that the weekend resonated with strong energy. As well, the honoring of our ancestor, Bart Wendell, brought strength and purpose to our altar. Thank you to all who brought soil from sacred spaces to charge the ancestor bowl and to all who placed energy and love into both the bowl and the incense burner. Thanks also to those who helped make the altar beautiful by bringing many cloths and helped set it up. And a special thank you to artist, Kira Dirlik, who designed and created both pieces.

Tammie Ward has been appointed Keeper of the Bowl. She has been charged with delivering the lovely green incense burner to Bart's family.

Additionally, the entire board agreed that the ancestor bowl should be a vital and honored part of CSQ on a year-round basis. Tammie has placed the bowl on her altar and will transport it to all board meetings. She and Dick Merritt are working on a custom-built box to ensure the bowl's safety during transport. But rest assured, the bowl will not be packed away - it will be given the honor and visibility that our ancestors and our group magic deserve.

We will be invoking the wisdom of our ancestors at each meeting of the board - infusing the business of CSQ with the spirituality of our community. The bowl will be a central part of all CSQ functions — please

take the opportunity to light an incense stick and meditate on the power of our ancestors whenever you can. Please continue to bring your own magic to the Community Altar — either through placing a sacred object upon it or directing your energy into it. Together, we are a powerful and magical group. Thank you.



There were a couple of items left after all was packed and we were ready to leave at the end of CSQ '01. If you left something on the Community Altar send a detailed description to me: Brydie Palmore, Carolina Spirit Quest, PO Box 61335, Durham, NC 27715, and I will arrange to have it returned to you.

State of Carolina Spirit Quest

(Report of the President Brydie Palmore to the Carolina Spirit Quest Annual Meeting, April 22, 2001, Camp Millstone, Ellerbe, NC)

The bottom line comes first. This is a responsive reading; line by line, please repeat after me...

It is good...
It is good to be here...
It is good to be here with you!
Blessed be.

Now to the rest of the report:

First there is the site: You must think it is good because so many of you wanted to be here this weekend.

Then there is attendance at Quest: This is our second year at Camp Millstone and our attendance increased by about 25%, to 101 attendees. We can grow to

150 here, so it seems we are set for awhile.

Third is the money: We are in very good shape. We will not know all the details until all the expenses are claimed, but it seems clear that we have sufficient startup funds to do whatever we need.

Fourth, is the Bart Wendell Memorial Scholarship Fund: The Board wanted to honor Bart and to offer scholarships to those who need assistance to attend Quest. For the first time we were able to honor the many requests we received.

Which brings us to the fifth line: The Board was willing to bet that Isaac and the intensive workshop were good ideas. Together we pledged \$1000 to Quest to guarantee this new effort and to keep registration fees down. Thirty-

five people signed up for the Intensive. This was an idea whose time had come.

The Board is line six: We really wanted to explore new options this year and we found that we were stuck. So many Board Members were also on Staff that we did not have time for additional tasks. We see that the Board and the Staff need to be made up of different people. We have, however, set the stage for next year: Visioning the future of Carolina Spirit Quest, and considering other Quest events.

It is good to be here with you.
Blessed be.

Brydie Oakgrove Fyrdragon Palmore,
President 2000-2001

Carolina Spirit Quest Board Members and Their Terms of Office

Asherah - Director Emerita (term ends after Quest 2002)

Blake Davis - Co-director 2002 (term ends after Quest 2003)

Dick Merritt - Member at Large (term ends after Quest 2003)

Gryphon Rosemead - Director Emerita (term ends after Quest 2002)

Lance Brown - Member at Large (term ends after Quest 2003)

Steve (Gandolf) Coenen - Member at Large (term ends after Quest 2003)

Susan Hill - Treasurer - reappointed year-to-year - term ends August 2001, asked to serve through August 2002

Tamia Buckingham - Member at Large (term ends after Quest 2002)

Tammie Ward - Member at Large (term ends after Quest 2002)

Zomar the Gray - Co-director 2002

(term ends after Quest 2003)

Please note - it took nominating three men this year to achieve gender balance on the board!

The Board elected Tamia Buckingham the current President at the February meeting as required by our bylaws. They will select a Vice President and a Secretary at the May meeting.

The Board also appoints a Treasurer who takes office August 1. Susan Hill, the current treasurer, has indicated that she will consider reappointment.

The following people retired from the Board at the end of Quest 2001: Brydie

Palmore - President of the Board and Director Emeritas; Larry Taylor - Member at Large and Board Communicator; Tim Woody - Member at Large. Brydie, Larry, and Tim were honored

at the Quest business meeting as they ended their terms of office. We thank them for their dedication and hard work on behalf of the Quest organization.

The Board needs to appoint Co-directors for Spring Quest 2003 as early as possible so that they can work alongside and learn from Blake and Zomar. Start thinking and give your suggestions to any member of the Board.

The Board needs to
appoint Co-directors for
Spring Quest 2003 as
early as possible

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effects of Quest will not only last one weekend, but also slowly diffuse into much of what we say, do, act, and feel on a daily basis for the entire year.

This will not happen without making some changes to how Quest worked in the past. There has been an overwhelming call to make Quest more intensive for its advanced participants while still maintaining enough freshness and flexibility to make newcomers feel welcome and informed. This will happen at the next Quest and there will be something for absolutely everybody there - newcomers, children, young adults, adults, our elders, and even the most advanced practitioners of their Craft. It is our intent to ensure that everyone feels welcome and that they realize just how important their place in our pagan community is.

To accomplish these goals, we will need strong and diverse leadership. Since we are striving to encompass the entire pagan community we will need individuals to step up with their experiences and be able to teach and inspire those who are just beginning to learn, all the way to those who have a magickal resume stored on their portable pagan laptop. Many positions for next year's staff have not been filled and we are continuing our search for a few good men and a few good women.

In ending, let us emphasize the opportunity here. Quest is changing, and like the caterpillar that has spun its cocoon, it is slowly becoming something more beautiful than it was before. What will it look like after it hatches? That is up to you. This is a challenge to our entire pagan community - How can you change Quest for the better and are you ready to break down the barriers and feel its magick in your life each and every day?

We invite you to witness a truly magickal event next year. Blessings to you all.

-Blake and Zomar

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there, especially one with so much experience.

Those who know me are well aware of my passion for music. As a member of Celebrate the Circle I have always enjoyed leading chants and helping to find appropriate ones for particular rituals. I do most of my magic with music, as it is my strongest connection to deity. When offered the chance to invoke Brigit at the main ritual with a song, I could not pass up the opportunity. I chose to invoke her with a song because she is the Goddess of inspiration, among other things, and music is one of her talents.

I wrote two songs for Brigit on Saturday, though I only sang one for the ritual. Brigit has been my divine inspiration for several years, so writing to her is always moving for me. I had never realized that I had it within myself to write such songs in so short a time. Never before have I written a song and then sung in front of others so quickly. I now feel much more confident about my ability to become the bard that I aspire to be. I have to thank the members of CSQ for the opportunity to realize this aspect of myself.

I would also like to thank Camp Millstone and our Mother Gaia. I don't know how many of you have spent time near the creek, but it was also a moving experience for me. I have been working on a song to the Mother for a few months now. As I sat at my sunrise meditation at the creek Saturday morning, I wrote a second verse to this song. This song might not be finished for some time to come, but it will always remind me of Quest 2001. Thanks to everyone.

Jenna Tigerheart

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munity, peace and strength. In keeping with the theme of "Spreading Our Wings" these feathers will be carried to France, Niagara Falls, Mongolia (it will be left in an oboo, which is a sacred place marked by a pile of rocks and ribbon at the mountain pass of Bayan Davaa, northwest of Ulaanbaatar, unless a place in the Gobi desert calls) and Florida to spread all the wonderful feelings of love and community.

Workshops were held; people learned new things, greeted old friends, honored the divinity in all things and had a wonderful time. We danced by fires, attended a ball and exchanged spiritual gifts. There was a serious problem with the food; it was way too good and often people left the mess hall groaning from over eating. Bill Elston is planning on being in the kitchen next year as well, by the way.

If you sum all this up, the people at Spring Quest learned, grew and recharged for another year, and it was wonderful. The evaluation forms we have received are full of new ideas and suggestions for next year.

As we continue to evolve to meet the needs of our community, we want to take this opportunity to thank the important people

who made this happen — you. Spring Quest is not just an event put on by a few staff to share their ideas. It is an event that encompasses all of our community. The changes that made this Spring Quest different from the past are due to input from our community, and that means every one of you whom participated and shared your ideas and dreams. Even now, the Co-Directors for next year are looking at the evaluation forms to see what you want. So don't forget to fill out and send in those evaluation forms, if you

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CSQ 2001 Picture Gallery

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did not complete one prior to leaving Spring Quest this weekend.

So, for us, this last article about Spring Quest 2001 is our opportunity to say thank you all, participants and staff, for your hard work, wonderful ideas and for making Spring Quest 2001 a success. Without you, we could not have done it. We have a truly wonderful community and we are proud to be a part of it. We look forward to seeing each of you next year.

Blessed Be and Safe Journey until then.

Asherah and Gryphon Rosemead

Co-directors Emeritus,
Carolina Spirit Quest 2001



Torrin, Keith, Bill & Michael relaxing outside the mess hall at Spring Quest 2001



Isaac Bonewits



Roger Dinger



**Gene Schutt, Resident Manager
Camp Millstone**



Sleeping Cabin



Dinning Hall

And The Envelope Please....

In our on-going quest to reduce the overhead costs of Carolina Spirit Quest, the Board is considering eliminating the envelope portion of the quarterly newsletter by applying the label and stamp directly to the newsletter.

This self-mailer style of newsletter would mean that whatever article is on the "back" of the fold would be visible to people

handling the mail.

If you are concerned about receiving pagan literature without the privacy of the envelope, please let us know. Our goal is to reduce expenses and paper waste - not to pull anyone out of the broom closet.

If you prefer to receive your CSQ newsletter in an envelope, please e-mail Lance Brown

(labrown@nc.rr.com) by Saturday, 4 August 2001. We plan on launching the self-mailing newsletter with the August 2001 issue.



Long Range Planning Process

Planning for the future will be the CSQ Board's emphasis during the next year. We will look at our organization's purpose and see what we should be doing. The CSQ mission statement is:

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.

The first part, The Spring Event, is firmly established and doing just great, thank you.

However, many of us feel that the Quest organization has the

potential to do much more for our community. There are other things we can do that can contribute to this goal of networking and building community. We have the talent and resources to try many new things.

If you sit back and dream about our Pagan community, if you dream about what an organization like Quest can do; what picture do you get of five years from now? If CSQ is very successful over the next five years in accomplishing its mission of networking and fostering community:

- What will Quest be doing?
- How will we reach more folks on an Earth Centered path?
- How will we expand our geographic reach to truly include South Carolina and Virginia, not just central North Carolina?
- How will we work with other

Pagan groups?

- How will we make our presence known to the larger world?
- How can we help make this world Pagan friendly?

The LRP Committee will be seeking ways to involve all of us in this discussion. If you have ideas about our future or the long-range planning process, send them to Dick Merritt at dickmerritt@mindspring.com or to the CSQ post office box.

