



# Carolina Spirit Quest Spring 2003

## Stepping Into the Light Co-Directors 2003 Report

By Lance Brown & Dan Tortorelli

CSQ 2003 has come and gone and I am once again left with wonderful memories of the event!

The weekend started out cold and rainy, but we didn't let that stop us as the staff began arriving on Thursday to set up for the event. Friday began cloudy and cold as well but warmed some during the afternoon and got quite cool again after sunset. Saturday was a bit warmer and we saw the sun for part of the day. Sunday started cool again, but by the time the event concluded the sun was out and it was quite warm! Just in time to pack up and go home!

Our attendance was down this year. Including people who came for just one day we had 73 people on-site, down from the 105 we had last year. I attribute the de-

crease to the Iraq conflict and the bad economy making it difficult for people to attend.

As usual, Camp Millstone was in good condition when we arrived. In the past Gene brought in an IMPACT work crew to help clean up the camp before our arrival, but IMPACT is no longer operating in his area so his own crew had to work extra hard to get the camp ready for us.

Workshops this year were well attended and very well reviewed! (See the Surfing Your Surveys article elsewhere in this issue) Dick Merrit, CSQ Board and Staff member provided a weekend-long Intensive workshop on Massage training. Six participants spent 10 hours learning the techniques of massage, practicing on one

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## Spring Quest 2004: Our Magical Paths, Our Sacred Community

By CSQ 2004 Spring Event Staff

The Spring Quest 2004 team invites participants and friends to view the year between the CSQ Spring Events as the path leading into a labyrinth, with the Spring Quest Weekend embodying the community placed at the center of the labyrinth. The emphasis for the 2004 Spring Event, April 16-18, 2004, is that the community we form together is strengthened and enriched by the diversity of our individual spiritual paths.

As the staff for the event is assembling, the Spring Events Team is encouraging members of the community to volunteer in several capacities: submitting logo designs, developing workshops, participating in ritual planning, and joining the staff.

### Logo Contest

We are in search for a logo for CSQ 2004 and need your help. Do you have any

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### Special points of interest:

- *CSQ Spring Event 2004: April 16-18, 2004*
- *Quest Special Wake Forest: June 7, 2003—Wake Forest, NC*
- *CSQ Board Meeting: August 15-17, 2003—Umstead State Park, Raleigh, NC*
- *CSQ Board Meeting: November 14-16, 2003—One Spirit, Pittsboro, NC*
- *CSQ Board Meeting: February 20-22, 2004—Fairy Stone State Park, Martinsville VA*

# Pondering Paganism

By Beth

While I sit here in the cold  
Thoughts and fears of growing old  
Sitting amongst many new friends  
Listening and learning about new trends

Learning Pagans are not really strange  
Not covered with fur nor infested with mange  
They have jobs and lives like you and me  
To care for our world in ways many don't agree

Their prayers and chants are to Gods and Goddesses  
Altars more often covered with stones, candles and mosses  
To do No Harm is a Common theme  
Blessed Be is something else they truly mean

The road has been long and sometimes lonely  
Trying, forgetting and searching for an only  
With hearts and prayers and memories old  
It truly makes me wonder  
If this road so filled with blunders  
Was not bringing me back  
To a place once so black  
To one which is warm and so homelike.

Mutter des Drachen  
Aka  
Mother of the Dragon  
Aka  
Dan's Mother  
Aka  
Beth

## Caring Corner

By Lance A. Brown

A hearty welcome to Avery Kate, a beautiful baby girl born to RJ and Alyssa Perz-Edwards on Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is doing well. The family and friends celebrated Avery's arrival with a naming celebration and party on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>.

We wish the best of luck to Dan and Joy Tortorelli on their move to Norwich, NY. May good fortune come with the ma-

# Spring Quest 2004 Workshops: Sharing Our Talents

By Becky Starr

It's been a moon since we were gathered together, sharing of ourselves and our spirits, at Spring Quest 2003. And what an adventure it was! In the area of workshops, we had some spectacular offerings with such variety that it was hard to decide where to spend my time. I personally learned so much and enjoyed the friendship of so many people – both old friends and new – that I can hardly wait the 11 months for our next spring event.

Looking forward, I see an incredible opportunity to once again share of our many talents, and with such a great theme – Our Magical Paths, Our Sacred Community – how can we have anything but a plethora of wonderful workshops that celebrate and teach of our many paths and directions. I look forward, again this year, to the agonizing choice of deciding what workshops to take!

We have a couple of new offerings in the workshop category this year: We would like to have several workshops during the Friday afternoon "intensive" time period. These workshops would be ones that take a little more time (4 hours instead of the usual 2) and offer a more in depth look into their subject matter. We would also like to offer some workshops for our younger community members. If you have a great craft project or activity that the little ones would enjoy, please consider sharing with our children this year!

For our regular workshops, I have already heard from some wonderful people that are willing to share of themselves again. Andrea and Garry have agreed to offer their "enlightening" Lantern Making workshop (I took this last year and had a blast!! They are wonderful, patient instructors!!). Dick has agreed to offer another, condensed Massage class! And I have also heard rumblings about Dream Catchers and Shamanism!!

I hope that those of you that have considered teaching something from your chosen path, will think seriously about sharing your talents within our community! We learn so much from each other – and not only is the student enriched, but also the teacher! Please contact me, Becky Starr (lukystarr@aol.com), with your ideas!

jour change in their lives!

We join William Buckingham in mourning for Mongo the cat. Mongo and Will have been buds for a very long time and Mongo went missing recently. He is presumed to have passed over to the Summerlands.

## Co-Directors Report 2003 (cont.)

*(Continued from page 1)*

another, and thoroughly enjoying every minute of it from what I saw. The other workshops were well attended and offered a wide selection of topics to choose from. It was difficult choosing just three! We'd like to thank all the workshop presenters for their hard work!

We were unable to provide sweat lodges at CSQ this year. We lost the staff member coordinating the sweat lodge effort and were unable to replace him in time. Many people expressed their disappointment in not having the lodge. If you are interested in having a sweat lodge at CSQ next year, contact the staff and offer to help with it!!! I am sure the offer will be appreciated.

Returning for his third year as Kitchen Wizard, Bill Elston provided a wonderful array of meals, including prime rib and BBQ pork loin for the Friday and Saturday evening meals. The rest of the menu matched these items. Our tummies were well served! Thank you Bill!

Gryphon Rosemead and her ritual teams fashioned a set of thought- and spirit-provoking rituals. The opening ritual introduced us to sevens Gods and Goddesses and created the sacred space for the entire weekend. In the main ritual the Gods and Goddesses returned to bring us challenges and an opportunity to step forward and grasp a new role in our lives. The closing ritual bade farewell to the Deities and helped us focus on the community we'd built among ourselves during the weekend. Gary and Andrea Wakley made tissue and bamboo lanterns representing each God or Goddess. These were amazing, beautiful creations and brought a special touch to the rituals. Many thanks to Gryphon and her crew.

We would like to thank our entire staff for all the hard work they put in during the past year! You all put out 100% effort and we appreciate it very much! We would also like to thank all the participants who came and shared their energy and spirit. You are what the event is all about and we're glad you were there! Thank you! We look forward to seeing everyone next year at CSQ 2004!



Lanterns made by the Wakley's and used in the rituals.

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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

**Lance A. Brown, President,**  
Hillsborough, NC

**Gryphon Rosemead, Vice  
President,** Creedmoor, NC

**Joy Tortorelli, Treasurer,**  
Norwich, NY

**Secretary,** Vacant

**Dan Tortorelli,** Norwich, NY

**Dick Merritt,** Durham, NC

**Tamia Buckingham,**  
Hillsborough, NC

**Alyse Ford,** Greensboro, NC

# Surfing Your Surveys, CSQ 2003

By Tamia Buckingham

Spring Quest 2003 received high marks from those participants completing the event questionnaire (about 18% of participants). On our rating scale of 1 (worst) to 5 (best), the event received an overall rating of 4.8! However, when evaluating what was best about the weekend, there wasn't a clear winner - many things were cited as the best: rituals, the sense of community, the food, the intimate feeling of the weekend, living in sacred space.

There was a clear winner for what was the worst part of the weekend - 50% of respondents named the cold, rainy weather! One participant put it beautifully by stating that the worst part of the weekend was stepping out of the warm shower into 40-degree air - BRRR!!!!

The massage intensive was ranked GREAT by the 50% of its attendees that responded in the survey. One-hundred percent of the respondents attended both the Opening and Closing Rituals, 92% were at the Main Ritual, 31% attended the Key-note (with a 3.8 rating), and 15% participated in our first-ever Rainbow Bridge Ritual. A surprising 77% attended the business meeting - and I've received several comments about folks liking the agenda items being broken up over several shorter sessions rather than a marathon meeting on Sunday. Subjects requested for next year include repeats on lantern-making, pyromancy, and incense making. New subjects suggested were chants & songs for ritual, ritual construction, mask-making (LuAnn was sorely missed), robe-making, henna body-painting, candlemaking, basketweaving, and a single session massage lesson. Please note, if one of these calls to your area of expertise, let me know so we can get you on the schedule for 2004.

In evaluating Facilities and Operations, Bill, Torrin, and Tyana's kitchen service blew the scale by receiving a 5.2 out of 5.0 rating and 100% of those stating special dietary needs had them met. Several folks commented on how much they appreciate the kitchen staff's sensitivity to and creativity with vegetarian/vegan diets. To those of you that responded that the one thing to keep for 2004 is the same kitchen staff, my sincere apologies - Bill, Torrin, and Tyana have firmly stated that they are taking some time off from the kitchen - and they well deserve a rest after the past three years of service. We

hope to find an able team that can continue in their footsteps.

Camp Millstone received an overall rating of 4.5 with the baths rating 3.8 (generous, considering one of them was unusable) to getting around the camp at 4.8. The cabins received a rating of 4.1 despite their lack of heat and the heavy pollen factor. The Dining Hall ranked at 4.5, the Rec Hall at 4.4, and getting to the camp itself received a 4.5. Suggestions for improvement included better signage and directions, that we acknowledge the dedication of the event staff by waiving their clean-up deposits (made by non-staff members, thank you), keep the snack table and kid-friendly food line, and that we respect our sacred fire rings by not throwing cigarette butts or other trash into the fire.



Registration and Communications feedback gave the event schedule a 4.7, followed by the catalog at 4.6.

The registration fee and website tied at 4.5, with the registration process receiving a 4.0 rating. Suggestions in this area included de-emphasizing the phrase "work" from our sacred activities by changing "workshops" to "Learning Circles" and "workshifts" to "Community Service". The on-site registration process continues to be an area for refinement, as it is the transition point between the mundane world and our sacred space. One participant suggested a smudging station at the entrance to registration so that we would consciously enter the weekend beginning with check-in.

Thanks to all of you that returned your questionnaire, your comments will help in planning 2004 and beyond. Those of you that have a questionnaire still in hand or other suggestions and comments for consideration, please forward them to the CSQ mailing address (PO Box 61335, Durham, NC 27715) so that we can continue to shape the event around our Community Vision.

## CSQ 2003 Ritual Epilog

By Gryphon Rosemead

Some see the Rituals as the heart and spirit of our spring event. But what pumps our blood and allows our spirits to fly are the people that live and breath the Rituals. Each of the celebrants worked long and hard to become the Deities they honored.

It has been an incredible honor to work with this group of

folks. These people I number among my friends, mentors and role models. I was overcome with love and respect for them and the time, effort and creativity they put into this sacred working. I thank each of them for letting me share their sacred energy and just be with them. Once again, words fail me when trying to express how I feel. It is intense.

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## CSQ 2003 Ritual Epilog (cont.)

(Continued from page 4)

Some of you did not recognize who the Ritual Celebrants were and others wanted the words of the Wisdom each brought into the circle and the words to the chants each group created. Here are the answers...

**Kathy Sage** worked with **Tara** in the **East**. Hear the **Wisdom**: "I am Tara, Tibetan star goddess, fully awakened Buddha. I emerged from the tears of the great bodhisattva, Avilokiteshvara, as he wept for the suffering of humanity. From his tears, a deep pond formed; from its depths, a blue lotus flower appeared, and on it I stood, radiant princess. I am the quintessence of Compassion itself. I am She Who Ferries You Across the Ocean of Existence toward Enlightenment, safely. I am your Refuge from all fear. More

swiftly than you can speak my name, I protect you from mundane, physical danger, and those of a spiritual form. In my green form, I am a forest goddess. My emanation in white evokes the moon. But it is as Goddess of the Wind that I come to you tonight, from the East. I have come for those who wish to face their fears, name them, seek my protection, and move beyond them on their own path. I have come for those who seek understandings beyond fear."

**Tamia Buckingham** became **Yingarna** from the **South**. Hear the **Wisdom**: "Who has called me from my dreaming? I, Yingarna, the Rainbow Serpent, hear the songs of corroboree and I come to my tribe. Are there children among you that are ready to shed their childhood and take their place in the adult community? If so, I come as the path to transformation. Are there those among you that have broken the tribal laws? I come as the guardian of the sacred and the judge of those who would defile it. Are there those among you that ache for courage and strength? I come as the All-Mother that Dreamed the World and I sing my children along their path. Are there those among you that have had their skin grow too tight, come, grow, shed your old skin and be transformed. Come to Corroboree. Follow your songline. Come to me and be transformed."

### Stepping into the Light

*A chant created by Ritual Participants at CSQ 2003*

East brings  
Peace and clarity,  
truth.

South brings  
Courage, strength,  
and transformation.

West is  
Ebbing and flowing,  
Ever moving,  
Eroding.

North brings  
The strength to empower:  
nobility will bring us peace.

The Web speaks,  
We must listen,  
Many threads,  
Interwoven.

Brigid illuminates  
and protects our path

**Becky Starr** was **Isis** in the **West**. Hear the **Wisdom**: "I am Aset in Egyptian, Isis in your tongue. Known as the "Goddess of 10,000 Names," tonight I am called out of the West as the "Lady of the Nile." As the mighty Nile flows through Egypt bringing life to the barren dessert, the element of Water flows through each of you bringing humanity. Your blood, your tears - the water flows through you. Water also flows through you in the form of emotions. But these emotions have been denied! Sorrow has been belittled as weakness; joy dismissed as frivolous. But these watery emotions are your humanity - Your legacy. They can not be denied! I come to find my lost children, those who will remember their humanity with words flowing with power. We will honor the Water and share it with all humanity."



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**Garry Wakley** was ridden by **Herne** in the **North**. Hear the **Wisdom**: "How DARE you call me into a BODY!?!?" Herne was pissed!



**Gryphon Rosemead** worked with **Nu-nam Shua** in the **Center**. Hear the **Wisdom**: "I am Nunam-shua, She Who Walks the Earth. I bring you a message from that which you call Center. We are all one. All that exists

is a part of you. You exist within all there is. When we forget our ties to each other, to the trees and rocks, Earth and sky, we are no longer whole, no longer healthy. We wither. When we respect Earth and all her children, we become whole, we find ourselves and celebrate the Great Spirit in all things. We become a strong people. Ah-ho! I come to claim my lost Tribe; those that will meet in a Pow Wow to discuss these matters and decide on our words of power to share with the other Tribes. We will honor and show respect to the Great Spirit and bring back the strength of wholeness. Ah-ho!"



**Sharon Hill** was **Papa Legba** as the **God**. Hear the **Wisdom**: Our roots grow deep from the same soil. Our blood erupts from the same spring. Deep in our genetic memory is the same womb. We are one people. I am Papa Legba. I hold the keys. What doors would you have me open? What doorways would you walk through with me? I am Papa Legba. I am the god of the crossroads. You stand at the crossroads tonight. Will



Will stand at the crossroads tonight. Will

(Continued on page 7)

## CSQ 2004: Our Magical Paths, Our Sacred Community (cont.)

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*(Continued from page 1)*

idea for a logo design that exemplifies the theme, Our Magical Paths, Our Sacred Community? Originally announced with a submission deadline of March 16<sup>th</sup>, the logo contest has been extended. Please submit your logo entries to Communications Manager, Dick Merritt (dickmerritt@mindspring.com) by July 15, 2003. The designer of the winning logo will receive a complimentary shirt with their design and a 50% discount for their individual registration fee.

### Workshops

Workshop Coordinator, Becky Starr (lukystarr@aol.com), has hit the ground running and is already assembling workshop selections. If there is a topic that you are interested in teaching – e-mail Becky. See her article elsewhere in this issue.

### Rituals

Ritual Coordinators, Danny Moses (thrundr@hotmail.com) and Dan Campbell (morfran@nc.rr.com) are looking for those who wish to participate in or help with the rituals. This could include any amount of participation from fully helping to plan, shape and take major roles to simply having a small specific task in the ritual that would require nothing more than commitment on-site. Obviously the more your participation the more opportunity you will have to shape and influence the ritual as well as the potential to gain more from it. But this will require more commitment and time spent.

### Staff Positions

The staff roster is ever-evolving. Please contact Dick Merritt about Communications positions and Tamia Buckingham about open positions in other areas. See Spring Quest 2004: Event Staff article on page 7.

### Vision

In pondering the level and area of involvement, consider the vision behind the theme.

Co-director, Tamia Buckingham, provided the following vision behind the 2004 theme: “The description of a spiritual discipline or denomination as a path is a common metaphor. Native American traditions declare that “All Roads are Good.” The Major Arcana of the Tarot is classified as the

Journey of the Fool. The Christians place a dualistic spin on the concept – deeming the pathway to Hell as paved with good intentions, while the streets of Heaven are paved in gold. The Norse and Greco-Roman epic poems epitomized the hero’s journey in Beowulf and the Odyssey. The traditions that grew out of the African Diaspora not only talk about the path, but place specific emphasis on the crossroads where paths meet and diverge.

From the Buddhist’s middle path to Enlightenment to the Aboriginal songlines that provide the pathway through the Dreamtime and during walkabout, the journey receives as much or more emphasis than the destination. This is never more evident than in the practice of walking a labyrinth – which leads the walker gradually into the center, which serves as a brief resting spot before journeying outwards.

Spring Quest is, in itself, a labyrinth – we journey along our separate paths throughout the year, coming together in the center at Millstone to celebrate community and pause for the weekend. At the end of the Gathering, we spiral out on our individual paths yet again, renewed and refreshed by our time together.

As we spiral out from Stepping Into the Light at Spring Quest 2003, I invite you to ponder the words of Rev. Scotty McLennan, “The path is the goal.” And when we return to the center of the Spring Quest labyrinth, we will share our paths, celebrate our diversity, and rejoice in our community. So whether your practice is Eclectic or Traditional, Asatru or Wiccan, Druidic or Vedic, Ancestral or Techno, come prepared to share your path and the paths of others through learning circles, rituals, and fireside chats. As well, bring a flask of water from your journey, when we come together in the center, we will symbolize the joining of our community by filling our cauldron from our individual wells.”

“We gaze up at the same stars, the sky covers us all, the same universe encompasses us. What does it matter what practical system we adopt in our search for truth? Not by one avenue only can we arrive at so tremendous a secret.”

Symmachus, 384 CE, as quoted by Margot Adler in "Drawing Down the Moon"

## Winter Quest 2003 Wrapup

By Tamia Buckingham

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The first ever Winter Quest was greeted with record-breaking snow! Of the 22 folks that pre-registered, 17 braved the weather to spend a magical weekend at Fairystone State Park. The event lived up to its goals in providing a relaxed, low-key venue for study topics and group time. The workshops offered were: Massage – the Gift of Pleasure, Journaling as a Spiritual Practice, Basket-weaving as a Moving

Meditation, Prayer Beads – Construction and Use, Kitchen Witchery, and a Meditative (if not Silent) Hike in the Winter Landscape.

Of the 47% of participants responding to the event questionnaire, 100% declared the weekend very enjoyable and would

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## CSQ 2003 Ritual Epilog (cont.)

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*(Continued from page 5)*

you continue forward on the path that brought you here? Or will you turn? And if you turn, will you turn to the left? Or the right? You choose with your very next step.

**Bill Elston** was **Bridgett** as the **Goddess**. Only those that attended know the **Wisdom**.

A special thanks goes to the Callers. It was up to these folks to keep the Rituals on track and organized and they did a magnificent job. Their words were very powerful and poignant. I especially wanted to recognize Cynthia, as she really took on a LOT of responsibility, even though she only agreed to do "a small part."



Roger Dinger: East  
Sundance: South  
Joy Tortorelli: North  
Dan Tortorelli: West

Cynthia Campbell: Goddess  
Dan Campbell: God  
Tim Woody: Center

## Winter Quest 2003 Wrapup (cont.)

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*(Continued from page 6)*

recommend it to friends. From a facilities and operations standpoint, the site, including the lodge, received high marks. Meals were deemed very good – with the real complaint being that folks ate too much.

Communications received compliments on the catalog and the easy registration process. Several new faces to CSQ events were in evidence and it was good to get to know one another in a relaxed atmosphere. Two of those new folks – Brenda and Diane – were kind enough to write about their CSQ experience in our Winter newsletter.

From a programs standpoint, we needed more delineated workshop space – particularly for quiet topics. The opening ritual was a real community builder – encompassing the introduction of each participant in the casting of the circle and the building of the community altar. The piloting of a salon rather than a more structured main ritual left people hungry for deep ritual work, and an outside bonfire and drumming time would be great additions. Adding a hot tub was also requested – though we'll have to explore the logistics on that front!

The workshop topics were on target – with requests for another basket-making session (warning: basket-weaving is a highly habit forming activity!), more kitchen-based learning circles, numerology, runes, songs & chants, meditation circles, and a guided search for fairy stones. The hike was definitely an activity to keep on the schedule as well – though folks said that the natural beauty was too overwhelming to view in total silence.

At the end of the weekend, the overwhelming feeling was to hold Winter Quest again. So stay tuned for details as this addition to the CSQ event line up continues to take shape.

## Spring Quest 2004: Event Staff

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Co-Directors: Tamia Buckingham (tamiab@earthlink.net), Open (Tammie Ward has stepped down due to personal reasons)

Communications Manager: Dick Merritt (dickmerritt@mindspring.com)

- Publicity: Open
- Electronic Communication: Open
- Catalog Editor: Open
- Registrar: Open
- Assistant Registrar: Open
- Vendor Coordinator: Open
- T-Shirt Coordinator: Open

Programs Manager: Open

- Workshop Coordinator: Becky Starr (lukystarr@aol.com)
- Ritual Coordinators: Danny Moses (thrundr@hotmail.com) & Dan Campbell (morfran@nc.rr.com)
- Children's Program Coordinator: Tim Woody (tim51370@yahoo.com)
- Other Programs Coordinator: Open

Facilities/Operations Manager: Open

- Food Services Coordinator: Open (Bill and Torrin, who have been our chefs for the last three years, have decided to take some well-earned time off)
- On Site Coordinator: Open
- Community Service Coordinator: Open
- Security & Safety Coordinator: Open
- First Aid Person: Open

**Carolina Spirit Quest, Inc.**

Post Office Box 61335  
Durham, NC 27715-1335



PROMOTING A  
PAGAN FRIENDLY WORLD

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**Carolina Spirit Quest 2004**  
*April 16-18 2004*  
Camp Millstone,  
Ellerbe, NC

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## Carolina Spirit Quest College Scholarship

By Tamia Buckingham

Carolina Spirit Quest is pleased to announce the 2003 Pagan College Scholarship Application.

The Scholarship will award one student a \$500 stipend for the 2003-2004 academic year. Applicants must be enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time course of study at any accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school.

Applying students will need to complete the application forms, including two short essay questions, and provide letters of recommendation. Application forms are available as downloadable forms on the Carolina Spirit Quest website

Send completed application forms and recommendation letters to Carolina Spirit Quest, Attn: Pagan College Scholarship, PO Box 61335, Durham, NC 27715-1335. All applications must be post-marked on or before June 15, 2003 for consideration by the College Scholarship Committee. The scholarship recipient will be notified by July 30, 2003.

In accordance with IRS guidelines, the payment will be made jointly to the student and educational institution.

For more information, contact us at csquest@rtpnet.org.

