

Summer 2005



PROMOTING A PAGAN FRIENDLY WORLD

Carolina Spirit Quest Summer 2005

“With Our Hands And With Our Hearts...” Spring Quest ‘05 Looking Back

Becky Starr

Spring Quest '05 is now a not-so-distant memory, but the effects of our weekend together seem to echo out into the cosmos. Lofty dreams for a local pagan retreat, but true never the less! The bonds formed, and dreams spoken, will effect many of us for a long time to come.

When Cynthia and I came up with the theme for this year's Spring Quest, we had no idea how it would materialize. Only that we loved the idea of linking our community using the circle magic of linking hands and hearts. And somehow, the well-known circle sealing became the basis for a wonderfully magical weekend!

With our hands – we worked with each other in community – lending our hands through community service shifts in the kitchen. Feeding each other with love and caring. We learned with each other in Learning Circles of Reiki and massage. Our little ones painted their handprints on shirts in the shapes of hearts and our adults expressed their creativity with Mendhi on their hands (and arms and

feet and faces...). And as always, hands were used for drumming and arms for hugging one another – new friends and old.

With our hearts – we shared our common and different spiritual paths at the community altar. We spent time meeting new friends and laughing – the music of



the heart – with our families both blood and spiritual. We shared music, dancing, and ritual space. And we spent one afternoon dreaming big dreams. Dreams of land and quiet places. Dreams of gardens and labyrinths. Dreams of friends and families gathering together to build something bigger than the dreams of any one individual.

With our hands and with our hearts – we created a human web of hands linking together our hearts. Starting with our roles in society as magicians who shape the world through learning, strength, compassion, nurturing and inspiration. And in the center, along the ropes that symbolized the web of our lives, was ONE heart beat. All of us... community... beating together in one wondrous heart beat of love, care and kinship.

Yes, it was a magical weekend with effects that will reach into the cosmos. The effects on a personal, familial or organizational level will not compare to the effects on the community and the world.

Effects as each of us takes the lessons and connections that we developed out into the world to be multiplied, as if ripples in the gigantic cosmic ocean. But those ripples will go out... and their effect will be felt in many directions for many years to come. Thank you for sharing the weekend, your hands and your hearts with us! Brightest Blessings!

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Special Points of Interest:

- *Our Dreams, Our Futures, what's in store for SpringQuest '06 - see page 6*
- *Kidz Korner, a full page collage of the kids of SpringQuest '05 - see page 7*

We Have a Dream

By the Carolina Spirit Quest Board

Dick Merritt: I have a dream that one day little Pagan children will go off to a summer camp in the Carolinas where the Earth and the Old Gods are respected and honored. I have a dream that these children will begin and end their days in ritual circle, honoring the Lord and Lady. I see theme in a learning circle learning chants and songs of many Pagan traditions.

I have a dream that these children will help in the gardens. I dream that they will learn directly of the bounty of the Mother. This will be a place where the children and the staff will turn over rocks and inspect the life they find there. They will explore Nature and learn of Her ways. I have a dream.

Tim Woody: I dream of a place were Pagan Families can vacation year after year meeting old friends and making new friends. Where my children's children will bring their children and their children's children to meet old friends and make



new. An eternal place that evolves to meet the needs of the community yet holds true to the values and purpose of its founders. Not a place of tolerance but a place of acceptance. A Sanctuary of Nature. A place of natural beauty that has been shaped, cared for, and nurtured by the hands of the community. A place full of gardens, paths, fruit

trees, and lawns full of bare foot children as they run and play. A place where elders are held in the highest of regard, and come to for their sage advise. I have a dream.

Dick: I have a dream that one day there will be landed, Earth Centered sanctuaries within easy driving distance of all the major population centers of this nation. I have a dream that Carolina Spirit Quest will be responsible for one of these sites. I dream that our efforts will inspire others as others are inspiring us. I have a dream.



Becky Starr: I have a dream of a beautiful wooden lodge with dorm-type facilities and a commercial kitchen. It has meeting rooms and a huge great room with a fire place. A place that other pagan or earth-centered groups can rent for



retreats, weekend intensives or "team building" events to enjoy the serenity of the land and the freedom to be themselves.

I have a dream of natural areas with paths and benches. A meditative place with small natural altars, spaces honoring many different Gods and Goddesses, a permanent labyrinth – a place for reflection, worship and hand-

fastings. I have a dream.

Dick: I have a dream that we have

- A place for covens and groves to go on retreat.
- A place for events in all the seasons
- A place for a sweat lodge without the hassles of either open-burning ordinances or local snoops.
- A place where we can learn skills to better run a small religious groups.
- A place of fun.

I have a dream

Tamia Buckingham: What could we do with an old farm? A conventional farm that is no longer able to sustain a family might be just right for our purposes. Enough land to house our activities as well as provide fresh herbs and vegetables for our kitchen. A place where we could see the wheel of the year in our gardening and ground our hands and souls in the rich earth. A place where we could establish sustainable community while practicing sustainable agriculture. What could we do with such a piece of land - oh, we could do so much. I have a dream!



There are other landed Earth-centered sanctuaries in this country. However, there is not one within easy driving distance of North Carolina and Tidewater Virginia.

Four Quarters Farm is a wonderful model for us. It is located on near the You can see details of 4QF at <http://www.4qf.org/>.

It is a wonderful example of what we might do.

Join us in our dream.

Financial Update

Tamia Buckingham

Carolina Spirit Quest began the fiscal year with adequate seed funds for the 2005 program cycle. The third annual Winter Quest, budgeted for 20 participants, had 21 registrations and returned funds of \$235 more than expenses. Our 10th Spring Quest, budgeted for 60 full-time participants, had 85 registrations that returned a full-time equivalent of 69.5 participants. Spring Quest financials are still being finalized, however the event appears to have been extremely successful financially as well as programmatically, contributing additional monies to the contingency funds and seed money for 2006 programs.

The magical auction, in combination with prior years t-shirts sold at Spring Quest, generated revenues of approximately \$1,000. The board extends its sincere thanks to everyone that donated items, as well as those that bid so generously.

Preparations have begun for the 2nd Pagan Leadership Conference to be held in Richmond in August 2005. Carolina Spirit Quest is serving as the fiscal sponsor of this event, which is planned jointly by CSQ, the Open Hearth Foundation, DC Radical Faeries, and Paganet, Inc.

Funds have been earmarked for re-establishing the college scholarship program and repayment of a small loan (\$300) from Celebrate the Circle from the previous fiscal year. At this time, it appears that CSQ is well positioned to seed the 2006 events and start formalizing its long-range plan.

New Board Members

Lance Brown is a long-time pagan living in Hillsborough, NC with his partner. He's been Pagan since 1986, studies Tarot, is devoted to the Goddess Brigid and a member of the Ord Brigideach, and is interested in Celtic Wicca and Native American Traditions. Lance has lived in the Triangle area of NC since 1992 and studies with Celebrate The Circle. He joined the Board of CSQ in February 2005 when he was appointed Co-Director for Spring Quest 2006.

Jag has lived in North Carolina for most of his life. He grew up in Fayetteville and moved away to the Triangle for school as soon as possible. After moving to the Triangle, he started exploring his own path. He didn't realize others had similar beliefs until a friend introduced him to Paganism. Since then he has become an active member in Celebrate the Circle and Triangle Heathens. He currently resides in Raleigh and spends his days working a local university. Jag was elected to the board at the Annual Meeting at Spring Quest 2005.

Kara Mueller is a wife and mother in Ashburn, Virginia. She has been active in the east coast Pagan community since the early nineties. Considering central NC as the home of her first Pagan family, Kara is happy to be involved with the CSQ board. Kara was elected to the board at the Annual Meeting at Spring Quest 2005.

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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

Becky Starr, President, Durham, NC
Tamia Buckingham, Treasurer, Hillsborough, NC
Cynthia Campbell, Secretary, Hillsborough, NC
Christine Ahrens, Fayetteville, NC
Aurora, Wendell, NC
Jag, Raleigh, NC
Lance Brown, Hillsborough, NC
Tim McHale, Raleigh, NC
Kara Mueller, Ashburn, VA
Tim Woody, Hurdle Mills, NC

Learning Circle Thoughts on Quest 2005

Raven

The 10th Annual Spring Quest was a blast. A special thanks to all of you who joined us in making this event so special! I wish everyone could of made it! If you were not able to be there, you really missed some great things going on. Try even harder to join us next year for another great Quest ! Everyone had such a wonderful time. From the start it was simply fantastic. A bit chilly or damp at times, (for this Florida boy) perhaps, but much warmth and friendship was found in the good company of others from both near and far, and a good cup of hot coffee, courtesy of Bill !

A special thanks to all of you who joined us in making this event so special!

We were again treated with a fantastic cast of Learning Circle presenters. For those folks who could not make it early on Friday, you missed some good learning circles.

On Friday we enjoyed having Lance explore the Tarot, Vickie Penninger provided an experiential overview of Reiki, Cherie Lassiter talked about what it means to be a Priest/ Priestess, and Tamia had folks get ready for ritual through Body Art for Ritual.

Becky and Cynthia followed by welcoming all of our Newcomers with an overview of how best to enjoy the weekend, and provided some great laminated schedule/workshop cards and a water bottle to boot! (These were great- hint hint!) Thanks to Tamia, and a cast of draftees (I mean volunteers) we again had some great rituals. The rituals were well-written, fabulous and POWERFUL. The site was simple, and had plenty of room for all to really work up some energy! Chantress

Maddy ended the evening with a presentation on Magick/Microcosm.

On Saturday morning, Kathy helped us start our day with Plant Medicine for Women, Christine taught us the ways of the Greencraft tradition of Wicca, Chris Wend had us better communicating with Animals and Nature, and Ben provided us with a hands-on session learning the time-honored tradition of making Mead for fun and ritual.

In the afternoon, Danny again taught us the ways of the Shaman, Maddy continued her magickal journey wrapping up Magick/Macrocosm and continuing with a

Global emphasis, Beth Owl's Daughter had us experience a new way of looking at Tarot Magick, Sky taught us the ways of the African Diaspora paths, and Dick again had us experiencing the Gift of Pleasure using Head and Neck massage in his hands-on session.

Bill again had folks "ooooing and awwwwwing" during his Pyromancy session by the fire.

On Sunday, we continued with Danny's second offering of his Shamanism workshop, Tracy introduced us to Numerology, George Ward discussed the Planetary Cycles in our lives during his Astrology session, and Cherie Lassiter had us listening to her by the fire inside as she played and sang her latest hits.

Throughout the whole weekend, Tim and Sherri guided the children through hands-on activities, music, and creating that special space. A special thanks to all of the presenters, Quest staff members and volunteers and those presenters who graciously joined us from the greater community at large. Without your community spirit, energy and effort, the Spring Quest 2005 Learning Circles would not have been the great success that they were. Participants too should endeavor to support all of our presenters and vendors that gave so graciously of their time for us. Special thanks also to Ben

and Chris for their help in setting up and keeping the workshops going with tables and chairs.

A grand time was had by all, presenters and participants alike.

What more can anyone ask. See

you again next year !

The author was the Learning Circle Coordinator for SpringQuest 2005.



Two new Questers listen during the Newcomer's Learning Circle, which was held Friday afternoon.



A gallon of mead, from the "Fun with Yeast & Honey" Learning Circle sits bubbling away after the workshop.



Kathy Sage explains the uses of herbs during "Plant Medicine for Women"

Spring Quest 05 - Rituals Wrap-up

Tamia

When Cynthia and Becky, the co-directors of Spring 2005, announced their theme of With Our Hands and With Our Hearts, they spoke eloquently about the work and compassion of our community. They talked about how our pagan community can change the world by keeping our hands and hearts in sync with one another. Their passion guided the formation of the main ritual. We explored the transformational power of Our Hands and Our Hearts in our personal lives, our sacred community, and the larger world through the work that we do as individuals and the link between our professions. Our hands impact the world in many ways – as healers, educators, caregivers, activists, environmentalists, philosophers, and as magic-users. Our hearts have many and varied responses to the voices and actions of the community – compassion, anger, dismay, sadness, joy, passion, and wonder.

Our work, day-to-day as well as in our magical circles, is an extension of our sacred selves. Our directional calls emphasized this:

HP: Cynthia, please come forward and hold the Center – representing our Inner Spirituality, our private rituals, our home and hearth.

East: From the East, I call the educators, the students, the scientists, and the engineers. I call those magicians that shape the world through thought and learning.

South: From the South, I call the activists, the writers, the interfaith leaders, and the military personnel. I call those magicians that shape the world through passion and strength.

West: From the West, I call the daycare workers, the professional parents, the herbalists, the doctors, nurses, and med-techs. I call those magicians that shape the world through compassion and caregiving.

North: From the North, I call the farmers, the landscapers, the accountants, and the investment bankers. I

call those magicians that shape the world through the stewardship of resources.

SouthEast: From the Southeast, I call the philosophers, the astrologers, the tarot readers, and astronomers. I call those magicians that shape the world through inspiration and divination.

SouthWest: From the Southwest, I call the artists, the musicians, the composers, and the dancers. I call those magicians that shape the world through beauty and drama.

NorthWest: From the Northwest, I call the therapists, the counselors, the chefs, and the ministers. I call those magicians that shape the world through nurturing body and soul.

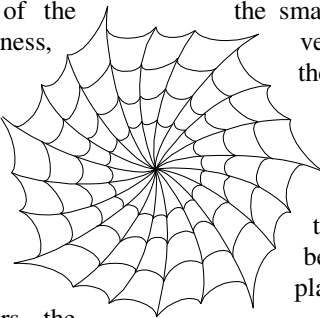
NorthEast: From the Northeast, I call the entrepreneurs, the small-business workers, the legal advisors, and the venture capitalists. I call those magicians that shape the world through building inspiration into reality.

Below: From Below, and providing support, I call the IT workers, the community builders, the transportation workers, and the civil servants. I call those magicians that shape the world through providing the connections and links between one another. (Below, with help from HPS, places connecting participants between the spokes)

HP: Feel the connection flowing freely through the web – from spoke to spoke. Feel it move from the Center all the way out to the edges where Becky represents Above – and our Outer Spirituality, whether it is public ritual or the face we present to the outside world on an everyday basis.

Now that the weekend has ended and everyone has returned to the routine of daily life, I hope that the calls from the main ritual remain as a reminder that when our hands and hearts are working together, we live up to the saying by Kalil Gibran, “Work is Love made visible.”

Namaste.



CSQ and the Stars

Amy Brann

This year one of the learning circle presenters, George Ward, shared some rather interesting, and enlightening astrological happenings.

As I sat in the Lakes Lodge I kept finding myself gasping and catching the eye of Becky Starr, the event co-director and president-elect for CSQ. It couldn't just be coincidence. I've been too long a follower of the stars to believe in coincidence.

The weekend of April 22-24, 2005, there were several astrological events taking place.

Most notably to Becky and I were the interplay between the Sun and Chiron. The Sun often represents our hearts in the realm of astrology. It is our inner selves. The asteroid Chiron has long been associated with the hands, due to the legendary centaur's healing. The two were squared (or at a 90° angle)

bringing with them the incentive to grow.

Additionally, Ward spoke of a Mars-Pluto-Saturn triangle called the “Finger of God.” This configuration causes intense energies that spur us to action. This “I MUST!” configuration with passionate Mars, mysterious Pluto and responsible Saturn bring an interesting mix to the table. Not only are we feeling a need to do something, it's a need to bring out the mysterious in a vibrant manner that causes us growth as an individual and/or society.

Could that be influencing the spiritual nature of the weekend? Could that be spurring the desire to start a “land move-ment”? Could that be making us want to combine our spiritual lives with a dose of responsibility because we have a large

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Spring Quest 2006 – Our Dreams, Our Future

Lance Brown & Cynthia Campbell

Our hearts and our hands carried us to Spring Quest 2005 and home again, leaving us with gifts of community, love, joy, and dreams. Reaching out one to another, we journeyed from our far flung homes to gather for meals, learning circles, performances, ritual, drumming, and fellowship. We wove our community together again with our hands and our hearts, renewing old friendships and forming new ones, making the magic that is Carolina Spirit Quest for the 11th time and celebrating the 10th anniversary of Spring Quest!

In this anniversary year, we witnessed the birth of an awesome dream. Dick Merritt and the Board of Trustees shared their dream to grow CSQ into a landed community. A place for Quest to call home with buildings and facilities to support our events and provide meeting space for other groups. Where pagan children can be taught the wheel of the year and respect for our Mother in tending our gardens and fields. Where families can come for a weekend away whenever they like, to share community with like-minded folk. What an amazing wonderful dream!

Cynthia and I met in the weeks before Spring Quest to begin planning Spring Quest 2006. As we talked about our own dreams for SQ 2006 we returned time and again to the dream of the Board, a dream we found ourselves taking up and making our own. From this our theme arose: "Awakening Our Dreams, Igniting Our Reality". We all have dreams for ourselves, our families, our covens and groups, and our communities. Our life's work is in awakening ourselves to those dreams and bringing them forth. The tiniest spark of an idea can ignite someone's imagination and a decade later we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of Carolina Spirit Quest.

Come, join us next year for Spring Quest 2006 as we gather to share our dreams and fire them in the kiln of our community and make them reality!

Logo Contest

Spring Quest 2006 needs a logo! We have a wonderful theme and want an awesome logo to inspire everyone! Pick up your pens and pencils and send us your great art! The winner receives a free t-shirt with their artwork on it. (Deadline for submissions is August 31st, 2005)

Opportunities to Share

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 (lance@bearcircle.net), Cynthia (moonfire@nc.rr.com), or the Learning Circle coordinator or Program Manager after those positions are filled.

Opportunities to Contribute

Cynthia and Lance are looking for dreamers to join them in making Spring Quest 2006 happen! No experience required, just a desire to help. Let us know what your skills are and we'll find a way to put them to use! Some folks have already volunteered, and we thank them for it! Our staff so far:

Co-Director: Cynthia Campbell - moonfire@nc.rr.com
Co-Director: Lance Brown - lance@bearcircle.net

Communications Manager: Open
Registrar: Open
Catalog Editor: Dan Campbell - vidholf@gmail.com
Vendor Coordinator: Open
T-Shirt Coordinator: Open
Web Site Editor: Open

Programs Manager: Open
Learning Circle Coordinator: Open
Ritual Coordinator: Becky Starr - lukystarr@aol.com
Children's Program Coordinator: Open
Children's Ritual Coordinator: Open
Other Programs Coordinator: Open
Other Programs Assistant: Open

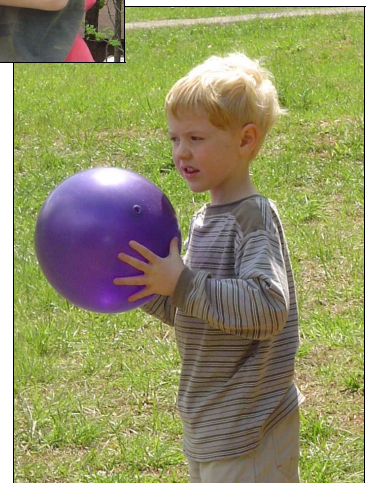
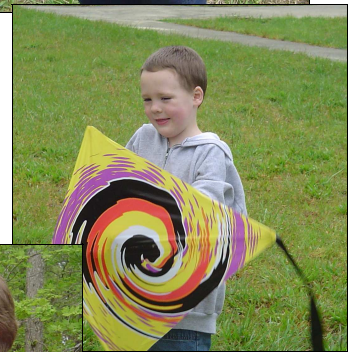
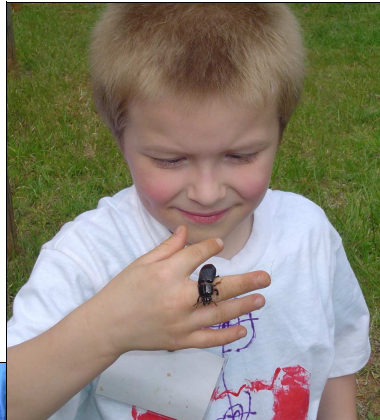
Facilities/Operations Manager: Open
Facilities Assistant: Open
Food Service Coordinator: Open
Community Service Coordinator: Open
Security Coordinator: Open
First Aid Person: Open

Upcoming Board Meetings

August 19-21, 2005
November 18-20, 2005
February 17-19, 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.

Kidz Korner



Spring Quest has offered an extensive children's program since 1997. Children are given a safe area to explore their spirituality. It is a time full of friendships built and renewed - not only for the adults, but the children as well. It is a weekend full of fun and learning for the kids. It is CSQ's dream that one day pagan children will have many such opportunities such as this.

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Pomona's Ball



an elegant
evening honoring the Goddess of
blossom, fruit and orchard

**Sat. August 13th
7 PM - Midnight
Holiday Inn Select
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I am the ancient Apple-Queen
As once I was, so am I now.
For evermore a hope unseen,
Betwixt the blossom and the bough...

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...Yet come I as I came of old,
From out the heart of Summer's joy

"Pomona" by William Morris

Local Richmond Contact: Sunny at 804-375-3715 • Register online @ www.paganleadership.org

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dose of passion to do it?

Well, I don't know if it spurs it on or not, but having the planets lined up thusly, sure can't hurt! As Ward said, it's a "great time to be starting something!"

Not only did Ward discuss with us the cosmic weather of this spring, he touched on what would be happening next year as well.

Next year Jupiter and Neptune will be in a "T-Square." This configuration occurs when two planets in alignment share a square by a third planet. This gives birth to a great drive to overcome. And with the planets involved (responsible Saturn; expansive Jupiter, and visionary Neptune) we set the groundwork (or skywork?) for building dreams and wishes - transforming them into reality.

And it was at this point that Becky and I were squealing at each other. Because, what was the theme for next year's Spring Event? Awakening our Dreams, Igniting our Reality!

So, if the stars hold any weight (and at least this witch thinks they hold a bunch!), CSQ will be growing and expanding. While all of us will be seeing our dreams for a pagan community in the Carolinas being born into reality.



At spring Quest on Saturday afternoon, an Asatru Blót was held in honor of Frey and Freya, the Lord and Lady of the Vanir. An Asatru Blót is basically a sacramental offering made to the various deities of the Norse pantheon. Above is a picture of the "harrow" (altar) containing the blessing bowl, two horns and representations of Frey and Freya, as well as Thor standing watch with the Sacred Hammer, Mjollnir. The Harrow also contains the sacrificial items. These items consist of seeds in the four bowls and pure Icelandic spring water in the two pitchers. Pictured right, Danny Moses discusses the symbolism of the horn in Norse/Teutonic worship. This was part of an introduction before the rite for those who were attending their first Asatru Blót.



Behind the Mask: Our Inner Spirituality - WinterQuest05

Amy Brann

The third annual Winter Quest was held January 28-30th at Fairy Stone State Park in Stuart, Va. Held in the scenic and tranquil state park, the 20 participants hailed from North Carolina, Virginia and Washington, D.C. For the third year, Mother Nature blessed Winter Quest with a blanket of snow. And this year her snow was perfectly timed – to fall after we arrived and melted away by the event's end.

A variety of workshops were presented, ranging from Drumming to Feng Shui. Friday night's workshop lineup included a session on head and neck massage by Dick Merritt.



WinterQuesters try out the newly learned rhythms on their drums.

For the remainder of the weekend workshop attendees would try out their new knowledge on their fellow Questers. Friday night also had Tigre's "Spirit in Rhythm" workshop, a beginners lesson on West African Drumming.

Saturday's workshops had a

"craft" feel to them. The morning session included "Life Masks" by Gryphon Rosemead and "Make Your Own Divination Tool: Tarot Cards" by Becky Starr. The afternoon session included an addictive workshop by Fritter on quilted altar cloths which kept its participants busy the remainder of the weekend, and beyond, cutting, pinning, sewing, and quilting dream-inspired altar cloths. Amy Brann led a workshop on creating individualized bead jewelry from your Natal Chart.

Sunday morning featured a workshop on Feng Shui by Ursa Madre, giving tips on how to use the ancient Chinese method to bring order and prosperity into our lives; a Tarot spread workshop entitled "78-card Pick-Up" by Becky Starr sharing spreads from 1 to 33 cards including the Celtic Cross and Astrological spreads; and the traditional "Hiking in a Winter Landscape" workshop, which with the snow's help, was a peaceful and white journey through nature.

The main ritual Saturday night continued the crafty theme of the weekend with participants created masks portraying their inner spirituality.



WinterQuest 05 offered plenty of time for peaceful walks through the tranquil winter landscape.

It was truly amazing to see so many beautiful, individualized masks birthed from the same materials, and how each person's mask truly represented his or her own spirituality. After completing the masks, the participants gathered in a chant of "Realization – Manifestation – Transformation" to facilitate moving our often hidden inner spirituality out to the public face. We had realized what our spiritual life and path were; we had manifested it from thought into a visible reminder; and finally we raised energy to transform the hidden inner to the public outer.

The kitchen witch for the weekend was Ursa Madre, who kept everyone well fed on scrumptious foods which warmed the heart as well as the tummy, including the Saturday night tradition of homemade lavender scones with fresh butter.

The warm lodge, the tempting food and introspective workshops makes the weekend a recharging of both spiritual and physical.



After the Main Ritual, participants gathered for a photo to show off their masks, which were created to express each persons own individual spirituality.

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

"Connecting to Spirit"
January 20-22, 2006
Fairy Stone State Park, Stuart, Virginia

Join Carolina Spirit Quest at the forth annual Winter Quest! 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. The purpose of Winter Quest is to listen to the rhythms of Nature and to do quiet reflective and nurturing rituals and activities. This weekend event, like last year's, will follow a pattern similar to that of a Spring Quest - but on a more leisurely pace and scaled back participation. **Registration is limited to 32 participants.**

When the wheel turns to the chilled short days of winter, it is time for introspection once again. This January, we will be continuing our process of looking inwards in the wintertime. The theme for the Winter Quest event is "Connecting to Spirit" We will gear some of our activities and rituals to looking at the variety of ways those on an Earth-centered path may connect with Spirit.

If you have an idea for a learning circle/workshop suitable for this gathering, please contact us. The program will be finalized by the beginning of October.

Housing- The Fairy Stone Lodge and Cabins are heated and air-conditioned. Linens are provided. Full kitchens and bath facilities are incorporated in the lodge and each cabin. The lodge is handicapped accessible. For more information on the Park, please visit the Virginia State Parks website at www.drc.state.va.us/parks.

Food Service- Meals will be planned and ingredients purchased by CSQ staff, however the preparation of the meals will be split amongst the participants. It is a fine opportunity to get to know each other better. Both herbivore and omnivore diets are provided for, as well as other dietary restrictions that are indicated at the time of registration. We already have two volunteers who will oversee the kitchen efforts. For more information, contact the Director, Dick Merritt, at dickmerritt@mindspring.com or (919) 644-6310. Our web site will also contain details as they are developed: www.carolinaspiritquest.org/winter/2006/main.html.