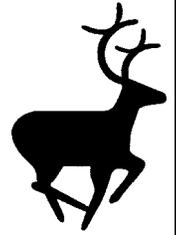




The Journey...



Official Newsletter of Church of the Spiral Tree - an Ecumenical Pagan church

President's Point

Do you ever just think about how good it feels to laugh? Laughter is truly the best of medicines. Actual scientific studies have shown that those who laugh get sick less often and heal faster when they are injured or ill. There is just something about laughter that seems to clear the heart chakra and leaves it glowing. Inappropriate laughing with malicious intent can actually do harm to others so should be avoided my all means. However, failing to have a healthy sense of humor about life, especially your own, can certainly do harm to your mind, body, and spirit. Finding laughter in your life not only helps you, but also the people around you. By laughing at yourself and some of your more ridiculous life situations (we all have them), you are actually helping others see that laughter can be a healthy thing by helping them not take themselves or their lives too seriously. Laughter is definitely one of the best gifts in our lives. In a world full of wars, natural disasters, and multiple other types of tragedies, laughter is essential to relieving the tension. It allows us that brief release that we need to go back and deal with the troubles that face us. Yesterday, I sat on the steps and read funny bumper stickers in a catalog with my other half, both of us laughing almost constantly. Suddenly a beautiful Spring day became a gloriously glowing Spring day. Tonight, I was so tired from a busy day full of tension and frustration. My god daughter texted me a crazy question that I absolutely had no clue as to the answer (How big is

the average head?). It just struck me as funny, especially since as an ob/gyn nurse, I am not well versed on the anatomy above the shoulders. You probably had to be there to appreciate the humor, but the point is that sometimes simple humor, therefore a good chuckle or laugh, is just around the corner. Just keep your eyes, ears, and especially your heart open so you don't miss it. A smile, a chuckle, or a good hearty laugh can change a bad day into a good one and a good one into a great one. So go out there in the world and make it a better place with a big happy laugh out loud.

So Mote it Be.

- Rev. Cathy Rankin, President, CST

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Ostara 2012, #46

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CST Directors:

President *Cathy Rankin*
 Vice President *Linda Kerr*
 Secretary/Treasurer
 *Stephen Bradford*
 Member-at-Large *Charissa Iskiwitch*
 Member-at-Large *Cynthia Jurkovic*

CST Staff:

CST Admin Assistant *Linda Kerr*
 Sacred Grove Academy Director
 *Patricia Greer-Middleton*
 Sacred Grove Educational
 Consultant
 *David Michael M.Ed.*
 Pagan Prisoner Ministry
 *Charissa Iskiwitch*
 Military Affairs . *Vincent Andrews*
 Ministerial Director
 *Cynthia Jurkovic*
 Newsletter Editor . . . *Linda Kerr*
 Webmaster, CST & Sacred
 Grove
 *Linda Kerr*
 CST Founder/Advisor *Linda Kerr*

Circle of Life

🐾 **Birthdays for April-May-June! Happy Birthday to the following CST members:**

Katharyn P. (April 4)
James B. (April 5)
Scott W. (April 14)
Lana S. (April 21)
Colin K. (May 1)
Cathy R. (May 11)
Kirsten R. (May 14)
Vincent P. (May 22)
Mary Ann M. (May 27)
Willow F. (June 1)
Regena A. (June 2)
LeePhether M. (June 8)
Craig K. (June 8)
Taavi K. (June 13)
Matt F. (June 14)
Todd D. (June 28)

Newsletter Deadlines

Our newsletter, "The Journey," is an important outreach tool to our members; as such, CST is committed to publishing this newsletter on a regular quarterly basis. Publication dates and deadlines are as follows:

March 21 (deadline: March 1)
June 21 deadline: June 1)
September 21 (deadline: Sep 1)
December 21 (deadline: Dec 1)

Please note that these deadlines are **firm!** Any submissions received after these dates will be published in the following newsletter.

Our Board of Directors meetings are held around the cross-quarter days (Imbolc, Beltane, Lammas, Samhain), to allow updates and news from these meetings to be published in the next newsletter.

Who Are We?

Church of the Spiral Tree (CST) is a non-profit, volunteer-staffed, ecumenical Pagan/Wiccan church, designed to foster and celebrate a sense of community and family among Pagans, both locally and in other regions of the country/world. CST celebrates the unique Pagan family: parents, children, elders, and extended family. It is an ecumenical church in that it encompasses all traditions, and is non-exclusive. It welcomes all who revere the Earth Mother and who respect themselves and others, regardless of which tradition one is affiliated with.

CST was incorporated in August 1997 to provide a legal, tax-exempt status to the Pagan community. This status enables us to offer to the community a variety of open rituals that anyone may attend, to ordain ministers, and to extend our tax-exempt status to sub-groups of CST. One of our projects has been the forming of a Pagan cover school program for homeschooling families in Alabama: (Sacred Grove Academy). CST also has a Community Relief Fund, so we can collectively donate money in the name of an established Pagan church to individuals in need and to disaster relief efforts, including the American Red Cross. CST is also pleased to offer a Pagan Prisoner Ministry, which provides outreach to incarcerated members, and a Military Affairs Committee, which offers support to deployed Pagan military personnel.

If you have important news that you would like to share in Happenings or Circle of Life in the Litha edition of "The Journey," please email your info to Linda Kerr at info@spiraltree.org, or mail to CST, P.O. Box 8396, Columbus, GA, 31908, no later than June 1, 2012.

Info About Our Services:

Ministers: CST, being a church, may ordain any member age 18 and over as a minister. We are currently re-vamping our program to better serve our membership and community; please see the story on the next page.

Subordinate Organizations: The main form of a local CST group is a Grove. This can be formed by at least three paid church members, who apply to CST for a charter. If you are interested in forming a Grove, simply find two other like-minded friends, and encourage them to send in their membership to CST, then apply to us for a Grove charter. The application and first year's fee is \$35.00. Note that whomever forms a Grove and runs it, including writing and performing rituals and teaching mysteries, does not automatically become a "High Priest/ess."

"Church of the Spiral Tree"

Poetry by Ryan King

Come ye forth and gather 'round,
Embrace the community that
we've found,
For we are all one Pagan Family
and proud,
One where all the traditions are
allowed,
We serve the community both
great and small,
We revere the Earth and respect
one and all,
We are more than just groves or
a ministry,
We are the Church of the Spiral
Tree.



CST Ministerial Program

For many years, Church of the Spiral Tree, as a legally incorporated, non-profit, tax-exempt Pagan Ecumenical 'church', has offered ministerial credentials for those who needed or wanted to obtain them. The ordination and credentialing process is currently undergoing re-evaluation and updating. The reason we have decided to update this process is to better serve the community and the individuals who wish to pursue various types of ministerial work.

In the past, those who claimed the descriptive title of Pagan clergy were almost always formally trained, initiated and/or ordained Priesthood of particular traditions. Being a Priest or Priestess, though, does not grant legal status to perform legal marriages, and so obtaining individual ministerial credentials became a desired addition to Priesthood status for that purpose. In more recent years, the term and scope of 'Pagan clergy' has undergone a transformation of sorts, pushed along as a matter of practicality and necessity.

As Neo-Paganism has evolved, and become more publicly interactive, there is a need for our clergy to encompass more of the mainstream services and functions that ministers of other faiths have historically provided. It has always fallen to those who acted as spiritual service providers to fulfill certain roles in society, such as facilitating ceremonies for many types of rites of passage, and giving counsel and comfort to those seeking it. Because we are Pagan and are somewhat unique in both structure and beliefs, we are faced with a bit of a conundrum in that most of our groups (covens, non-profits, etc.) do not have the resources to employ their own clergy full time, therefore leaving the bulk of us to creatively provide for ourselves. Many individuals who wish to serve their communities in a spiritual capacity, but do not wish to undertake formal Priesthood training or pursue theological work professionally, which may take years to accomplish, have emerged as a lay clergy, doing important work involving much more than facilitating legally recognized marriages. The definition of what a minister is, and what they may potentially do, is as follows:

A minister is a member of clergy, who is authorized (ordained) by a church or religious/spiritual organization to perform certain functions that are defined by the authorizing body. Basic ministerial functions are: 1) to facilitate rituals or ceremonies for rites of commitment (legally recognized marriages or handfastings), rites of 'baptism' (baby blessing/naming/Paganing/Wiccaning), and funerary rites, and may also perform last rites for the dying. Further functions of an ordained minister may include interfaith work, prison ministry and hospital ministry; and provide pastoral counseling such as pre-marital and marital counseling, individual counseling, and grief counseling.

Additionally, the statement of purpose for CST's

ministerial program is as follows:

Church of the Spiral Tree (CST), as a legally and federally recognized religious organization with 501(c)3 status, incorporated in the State of Alabama, exercises its right to ordain individuals as ministers. This does not confer the title of 'Elder,' 'Priestess' or 'Priest.' The purpose for ordaining ministers is to provide legal status to individuals who wish to serve their communities as facilitators of rites of commitment (marriage), baptismal rites, and funerals. CST acknowledges that the scope of ministerial work is not limited to facilitating these rites, and we encourage each individual to develop their own ministry work as their conscience guides them, and as their level of knowledge and expertise allows. CST ministers should demonstrate positive ethical principles, conduct themselves with honor and integrity; and endeavor to possess the skills and knowledge to perform the general and/or specialized functions that ministerial status confers. It is the hope of CST that by ordaining ministers, we may impact our communities in beneficial ways through service, education, and interfaith relations.

Having researched the possible choices for training toward achieving a standard of quality with respect to the parameters of the various areas of service, it was apparent that available online ministerial training seemed to fall into a realm of extremes. The online training programs we reviewed for content and value proved to be either sub-standard, not Pagan oriented, or college level programs requiring hefty tuition and more time and effort than is really necessary to be practical for those of us who have other jobs and careers.

The goal for CST's Ministerial Program is to create practically applicable, cost- and time-effective online training that can be tailored to fit the needs of the individual depending on the type of services they are interested in offering as a minister. A basic ministerial course is being created to provide a knowledge base centered upon facilitating rites of union, baptismal type ceremonies, and funerary rites. Additionally, the course will include an overview of legalities and ethical considerations, pastoral counseling standards and practices, and ministerial work within interfaith groups, correctional facilities, and health care facilities. A separate course of study is being developed to focus upon Pagan Prison Ministry.

When all is said and done, there are other changes that will be implemented and policies that will be altered. Those of you who are already CST ministers will not be affected. Further updates will be posted on the CST website and in future issues of the newsletter. CST still has the ministers yahoo group, and now has a Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CSTMinisters/>) as well. If anyone has questions regarding the ministerial program or the changes, please contact Cynthia Jurkovic on one of the groups.

Many Blessings!

Defining Magic “K”

by Robert Walker

How do you define Magic “K”?

I define Magick as the use of energy in and around us to intentionally or unintentionally manifest a conscious or subconscious desire or specific outcome to intentionally or unintentionally do good or bad for one's self or another.

Now most of us are taught throughout our studies of various paths that there are three types of Magick.

1. White=Good
2. Black =Bad
3. Grey =Neutral

And we are also taught about the laws of Karma which state things like “You will be repaid three-fold,” “You reap what you sow,” or even “Do unto others.”

Furthermore we normally decide or we are told that Grey is what we strive for. Not “Good?” Not “Bad?” We purposefully try to stay stagnant. Not bettering ourselves. Not doing good for others. Just plain ol’ in between.

This just doesn't make any sense to me. I believe that we are here to thrive and enjoy life. I believe that we all have the ability to use Magick. It is a gift from the Gods. And what good is a gift that just sits on a shelf being Neutral?

See here's the problem.... So many of you are so focused on doing what “YOU” define as grey or white that when you do a ritual or cast a spell it isn't manifested the way you intended, or in the time you hoped it would be, and you have to keep doing it over and over again. Or it just fizzles out. Or worst of all and more often than we want to admit it turns to that dreaded Black.

Why are these scenarios far too often the results most Magick users experience? In most circumstances its because of one of the following:

1. You are just communicating with the higher powers of the Universe. That's right: all the candles. All the tools and incense. And you could've just said a simple prayer to acknowledge your desires. And its a great thing to communicate our desires to those we view as able to help us. But it's not their job to manifest our desires. It's their job to guide us and “assist” us. But there is that line between helping and doing. I mean if they just did it for you, what would they need you for? You'd be out of a job. It is up to us to draw the energies and use them to manifest our desires. OR
2. Its just not a good time to do the spell. And when I say time, I mean time is relative. If you do not already keep a ritual log/journal/diary, I am going to strongly suggest that you start. It should include the following information; Name of the Ritual or Spell; Date; Day of Week; Time of Day; Phase of Moon; Weather Conditions; Emotions; Physical

Conditions; How Well Did You Perform; Experiences/Feelings; Notes/Results. This will give you a way to keep track and figure out if your healing spells work better for you when you are happy and its sunny or you are sad and its raining. OR

3. Due to a lack of knowledge or energies drawn you just aren't prepared.

So what if we redefine the types of Magick as:

1. White= Communicating with, or gaining of knowledge from, higher beings, entities, or levels of existence including your higher self
2. Black= Intentional or unintentional physical or non physical harm to one's self or another (still bad)
3. Grey= Intentional or unintentional physical or non physical good to one's self or another (and we still strive for Grey)

If we look at it from this perspective we see that we are meant to do good for others as well as ourselves. It used to be a common misconception that Magick should not be used for personal gain and that is simply a debate between Morals and Values. I mean, why else would we be here if not to thrive and enjoy all the opportunities life has to offer by doing good and by being rewarded with good?

But we can only do this by being prepared. Other wise your Grey can turn to Black real quick. And remember “As we sow, so shall we reap!”

So how do we avoid this pit fall of the dark side? By practicing “White.” By communicating with and gaining knowledge from those we view as able to help and guide us including your higher self.

Now there are many ways to do this. Some of which include but are not limited to:

1. Studying. Either on your own or with someone else and there are plenty of resources out there if you know how to sift through the 95% garbage that come with it.
2. Divination. Runes, Pendulums, Tarot, or any other form you choose. But remember don't ask if you should do something because this puts the responsibility on the divining tool and not on you. Rather ask what the outcome will be if you do the spell. This keeps the responsibility of your actions yours.
3. Prayer. And it doesn't have to be traditional prayer. I also classify meditation under this title.
4. Astral travel. This is an advanced technique that directly connects you to those higher planes of existence and is meant for the sole purpose of attaining knowledge.
5. Ask. If you are lucky enough to be a “Sensor” and can communicate with your guardian/guide, ask them for guidance.

Continued on page 4

Remember the Burning Times

By Brian Eckels

This past St. Patrick's Day, I celebrated as an Irish Pagan, not as an Irish American. Why? The truth about St. Patrick goes back into the days of olde, whilst Ireland was still inhabited by Pagans. Remember Stonehenge? Hidden deep within, since we all know there were no snakes in Ireland, meant that some group of people were being driven out of Ireland. Does this remind you of anything?

So, in light of that, I write this article proudly. The time of 2012 is upon us. We, the Witches, Wiccans, Pagan, three, along with other religious groups need to realize how far we have come. With the veil of darkness weakening, and with our power of magick growing stronger, we must rise. Now, to fight back would be wrong indeed, but to stand out, to show them we are witches, pagans, is truly the way to lead by example.

We are peaceful, but that does not mean we should let others stand all over us. This past week, I had made a speech in my speech class, the same as what I am writing to you. Remember the burning times. Never let them happen again.

The meaning within this story though, goes much deeper. We have finally reached 2012, the new awakening, and we must remember, our minds have the power to take us far beyond what we believe. We need to still think outside the box, and expand our hearts to compassion for all. We are all affected by each other's actions, and we are all one people, a people created by the Goddess.

If we were not created out of love, for love, then I ask you, I employ you, what were we created for?

Our Ancestors walked long before us, and they lived peaceful lives, and were not afraid to stand up for themselves. Then, when the burning times happened, they became afraid. Right now, we are at a crossroads, and the tide is in our favor as well as theirs. We need to begin to teach them that we are not evil. Don't let one person be the voice of the many. Let our voices be carried on in the wind.

So I conclude now with this. Remember the lessons of past lives, remember the magickal, and practice your crafts every day. You never know when you may need to use them for the benefit of all life forms. Blessed be!



Defining Magic "K" (Continued from page 3)

In conclusion i would just like to add that if you will follow this simple process—of striving to intentionally or unintentionally cause physical or non-physical good to one's self or another while communicating with, or gaining of knowledge from, higher beings, entities, or levels of existence including your higher self; and have faith that those who try to intentionally or unintentionally cause physical or non-physical harm to themselves or another or to you or the ones you love will be punished for their acts based on the values of the system—then when the discipline is handed down you will be rewarded for your acts and will have still protected all who needed it and help not only yourself but those around you.

For homework: I am going to challenge you to pick a system of divination that you like if you are not already using one. And even if you do not change the way you categorize Magick or the types of spells and rituals you perform, add a divination to your routine, as part of your preparation for your work. And in a short period of time, see if your Magick doesn't get stronger.



Poetry by Jesse Greer-Norman

The horizon fills with the colors of sunset
Holding fast until the night sky takes its turn
The wind smooth and cool like the waters breath
Fearless skies are dark and firm
Morning dew coats the ground
Glistening mist on the grass so bright
The smell of flowers are soon to be found
Morning sun glares past trees alike
Birds singing in symphonic tune
Creatures unworldly come to earths surface
Wild flowers awake and start to bloom
Knowledge that everything has a purpose
Therefore the world welcomes the light
To bring natures spirit awake and at flight



Contacts:

You get a free contact listing with your membership. You may also submit your listing at any later time. As an additional service, you can send letters to CST, and we will forward them to your intended recipient.

A Brother to My Sister:

Serving the nemeton of Phoenix Grove in Oregon House, California.

abrothertomysister@gmail.com.

Andrew Polywacz #314644:

I'm Celtic Wiccan, seeking new friends on similar paths to help me learn more about the Craft. Fox Lake Corr. Inst., HU #6C, P.O. Box 200, Fox Lake, WI 53933.

Lady Charissa: As an ordained minister, I offer Handfastings, Handpartings, Wiccanings and Crossings. As a Reiki Master and healer I offer healing in many ways. I offer a variety of workshops for groups or at festivals and co-own Star's Bazaar, an online metaphysical store with my husband, David. You can find more about the workshops and services she offers at www.starsbazaar.weebly.com. My group, North Georgia Solitaries, offers Sabbat celebrations, workshops and socials that are open to anyone that wishes to attend. Information on NGS can be found at www.ngsolitaries.com.

Clifford Joseph Bowling

#020405: Wanted: D/W/M eclectic Wiccan with interest in Thelema, Kabbalah, Greek/Roman/Sumerian/Babylonian/Egyptian paths, seeks similar female to share knowledge and thoughts. Zephyrhills Corr. Inst., D2116L, 2739 Gall Blvd., Zephyrhills, FL 33541-9701.

Dana Ston:

DanaVictorSton@aol.com.

Dennis Joe Menn Jr.

#1529921: TDCJ Robertson Unit, 12071 FM 3522, Abilene, TX 79601. Also myspace.com/DeathofDesota.

Denzial Ray Tittle #66072-

179 A-3: Fifty-five year old bi, poly, incarcerated man would enjoy correspondence with good people about goddess worship and/or sacred sexuality (and life, liberty..). FCI, P.O. Box 7000, Texarkana, TX 75505.

Lady Eibhlean and Lady Aracos Arendel: GryphonSong Clan, Atlanta, GA.

piperpettus@yahoo.com,
www.gryphonsongclan.com.

Rev. James Middleton or Rev. Rita Middleton: You can contact us at Drdjmid@aol.com or 706-291-2385.

John Herman Cooper

#191141: I am the teacher of the Pagan/Wiccan group at Staton C.F. I am interested in the growth of Paganism into a valid culture in its own right. F3-26B, P.O. Box 56, Elmore, AL, 36025.

Dr. Katharyn Privett-Duren:
dr_privett@yahoo.com.

Malon Lynn McCaslin

#671223: I can be contacted by writing me at my prison address: Estelle Unit, 264 FM 3478, Huntsville, TX 77320-3322.

Mary Ann Muller:

MarMulRN@aol.com.

Matt Farley #1446657: TDCJ is not geared towards rehabilitation anymore. To anyone who cares, please send information on correspondence courses to me at Smith Unit, 1313 CR 19, Lamesa, TX 79331. Blessed Be!

Michael Lee Harris #221321:

Wiccan pagan, My path is Celtic. Interest in reading Wiccan pagan books, Circle magazine, Pagans and the Law by Dana D Eilers. Fox Lake Corr. Inst., Box 200 HU One, Fox Lake, WI 53933-0200.

Patrick Henry Drews

#1203960, Neal Unit, 9055 Spur 591, Amarillo, TX 79107.

Phillip James Bartley

#HJ6640: Eclectic Wicca, god & goddess studies, witchcraft, some Qabalah studies. S.C.I. Huntingdon, 1100 Pike Street, Huntingdon, PA 16654-1112.

Randy Floyd #124991: True seeker of the Old Paths within the Craft; will correspond with any true seekers. STSRFC, 1045 Horsehead Rd., Pikeville, TN 37362.

Richard Mainprize

#84C0434: Groveland Corr. Fac., P.O. Box 50, Sonyea, NY 14556.

Richard Peebles #523160: I will correspond with Wiccan gay or straight males and females alike; I only ask to write and make friends. Wheeler Correctional Facility, P.O. Box 466, Unit 100-M, Alamo, GA 30411.

Rob Von Allmen: Tired?

Bored? Wanting to find true love and happiness? Well, what are you doing talking to me?! I don't have all the questions, much less the answers. But I do have a clue (I found it in a cereal box) and am licensed to share the wisdom of the ages (answered an ad in Rolling Stone). If you also ponder such mysteries as "Is there life after death?", "Was he a man dreaming he was a butterfly...?", and "Where am I parked?", then please drop me a line at: "Skippy" Rob Von Allmen, 425 Webster Road #934, Auburn, AL 36832, <skippy_the_witch@yahoo.com>, 334-826-3953.

Rev. Rowen Greenwolf: I am a 2nd Degree self-initiated Celtic Witch. I also serve as Ritual Priest and Grove Steward for the Bluewater Pagan Grove in Port Huron, MI. I am an active member and ordained with CST. (810) 689-7074.

Sacred Earth (Maka Wakan):

email: wamblee2@netzero.net;
(706) 987-7179.

Siryndolphinsong-

Bradford: Siryn can be reached at Bio-Buzz in Albany, GA, where we have a vast array of metaphysical and root-working supplies. Also offering in-depth classes, workshops, and seminars, at some of which Siryn shares different topics on the many paths she has traveled, and the specific tools she utilizes today. She is available as a speaker at other venues on request. Siryn is a intuitive reader who offers Tarot, Aura, and Obi (shell) readings, and in-depth

Continued on page 7

Contacts (continued)

palmistry at the store, and has other readers available. She is a Usui Reiki Master/Teacher with Lightarian incorporating crystal healing, chakra cleansing, pendulum clearing/balancing, guided meditation, energy work, lfa based root work, and spiritual/healing advisement. Her work as a minister includes all rites, most rituals, and she is willing to travel. Siryn is founder of the CST grove S.T.A.R. (Sacred Tribe of Ancient Roots), and creator of the Pagan Family Reunion (PFR). Siryn can be reached at Bio-Buzz, 612 N. Slappey Blvd., Albany, GA, 31701; (229) 395-9718; la.siryn@yahoo.com.

Stephen Bradford, aka Tyernan WaterOak: An intuitive medium and natural healer. Within my Eclectic Witch and Yoruba Path, I do Tarot readings, rootwork, chakra balancing, crystal healing, energy work, and Reiki. I own Bio-Buzz Botanica, a metaphysical supply and service oriented business in Albany, GA. As an ordained minister, I offer legal communions, handfastings, handpartings, Wiccanings, and requiems (passing on rites). At the store and across the US, I offer ongoing classes, workshops and various teachings. Bio-Buzz is also the home of Albany Pagans and the Magical Mystery Tour, which is an ongoing discussion of anything metaphysical and spiritual related topics. I offer these services and classes with help from the community at my other store in Auburn, AL called DreamScapes, our second location of metaphysics and spiritual supplies galore. Look for me in the Panhandle of Florida and North Georgia quite often too! Stephen A. Bradford, 612 N. Slappey Blvd., Albany GA 31701, (229) 438-5878 or (229) 395-0963. Email: tyernan2003@yahoo.com.

Taavi Kellett: Can be reached by cell phone at (334) 297-6243.

Earthdance

September 20-23, 2012, The Lodge at Turtle Lake, Camilla, GA
<http://www.spiraltree.org/Earthdance/earthdance.shtml>

Earthdance, held every year on the third weekend of September, is CST's official festival, and is where our annual membership meeting and bi-annual elections will be held.

Earthdance has a long history; it was first started by Shadowcat at FDR State Park in Pine Mountain, GA, and was then taken over by Stormy & Sandy. They ran it for a couple of years together, and then it became Stormy's responsibility. Under her guidance, Earthdance moved to Hard Labor Creek State Park east of Atlanta, GA, and then finally to Kolomoki Mounds State Park. After her passing in 2004, her daughter Carol Lynne took over. Earthdance was last held in 2005, and after this 6-year hiatus, Carol Lynne graciously gave CST permission to revive Earthdance and hold it in Stormy's honor.

About the site: Earthdance is held at The Lodge at Turtle Lake, which is private property consisting of several mostly-flat acres, a very large lawn, a small cabin (the Lodge), and a school bus. The site has flushing toilets and outdoor showers. There is ample camping room and trees to hang hammocks from, and plenty of parking. The lake is open for canoeing, kayaking, and fishing (bring your own boats, and yes, you can eat what you catch, except for the gators!). Swimming is not advised, due to the afore-mentioned alligators. No dogs are allowed; other animals may be allowed (please ask first). No firearms or illegal substances are allowed, so please leave these at home.

Prices: If you pay by midnight on: June 1 - \$30; August 1 - \$40; thereafter - \$50. Children 11-17 - 1/2 price; children 10 and under, or 2nd or more child - free. CST members get \$5 off registration prices. Vending fees extra.

Beltane Bash

April 19-22, 2012

Hosted by North Georgia Solitaries
Red Top Mountain State Park, Pioneer Campground, Cartersville, GA
<http://beltanebash.ngsolitaries.com/>

Join us for some Beltane family fun this season. We provide a family-friendly atmosphere for everyone in the family to have a great time. There will be music, entertainment, workshops, maypole dances, ritual, drumming, camping, activities for the children, food and fun. Join us at the 2nd Annual Beltane Bash to benefit the Pagan Assistance Fund!! The Pagan Assistance Fund was started by the North Georgia Solitaries in 2009. It was created to help Pagans find a place and people to turned to in their time of crisis. It's difficult for a Pagans to seek assistance due to spiritual practices, and the Pagan Assistance Fund is here to give Pagans a safe place to turn to. The Beltane Bash was brought together by supportive Pagan communities to help the growth of the Pagan Assistance Fund. This is a fun family event, everyone is welcome!!!

CST Calendar:

CST and its affiliate Groves welcome church and community members, beginners, newcomers, solitaires, and anyone else interested in participating in rituals honoring the Sabbats and new & full moons. You need no experience or knowledge to participate, but we do request you come with an open mind and heart, and show respect for your fellow participants. We usually share a potluck dinner after each ritual, so those who come are asked to bring some type of food to share. Please wear something comfortable and appropriate for outdoors. Ritual robes are welcome but not necessary. Children of all ages are welcome. You do not have to be a member of CST to participate! Donations to the Church are entirely optional but appreciated.

Note: the schedule below is subject to change! Firmer times and locations of all rituals will be available closer to the date of the ritual. Please visit <<http://www.spiraltree.org/upcoming.shtml>> for up-to-date information, directions, and links to RSVP for each ritual.

EVENT	DATE	TIME	SPONSOR	LOCATION (HOST)
Full Moon ritual	Apr 4	7:00 EDT	DH	Dragon Hills
Full Moon ritual	May 6	7:00 EDT	DH	Dragon Hills
Full Moon ritual	June 4	7:00 EDT	DH	Dragon Hills
Full Moon ritual	July 3	7:00 EDT	DH	Dragon Hills
Full Moon ritual	Aug 2	7:00 EDT	DH	Dragon Hills
Earthdance	Sep 20-23	all weekend	CST	Lodge at Turtle Lake

DH = Dragon Hills Grove (Carrollton, GA); TBA = to be announced

Board of Directors' Meetings: The next BoD meeting will be in May 2012. BoD meetings are held four times a year; check website at <<http://www.spiraltree.org/upcoming.shtml>> for date and location of the next meeting.

Upcoming Festivals (Not CST events):

Beltane Bash - April 19-22, 2012, Red Top Mountain State Park, Pioneer Campground, Cartersville, GA

Moondance - May 10-13, 2012, Cherokee Farms, LaFayette, GA

Church of the Spiral Tree
P.O. Box 8396
Columbus, GA 31908

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED