



The Wellspring

Newsletter of the

Appalachian Chapter

American Society of Dowzers

WEBSITE: <http://wncdowzers.org>

LISTSERV: WNCdowzers@yahoo.com

November 2008

November meeting to feature four mini-workshops

Following our tradition for November, this meeting will consist of four short presentations on the general topic of earth energies and nature spirits.

- 1: **Introduction to Dowsing.** Speaker: Lee Barnes
- 2: **Dowsing the Earth Energies.** Speaker: Paul Bennett
- 3: **The Energies of Appalachian Stones.** Speaker: Richard Crutchfield
- 4: **Entering the Elemental Kingdoms.** Speaker: Creeksong



Lee Barnes is a member of our chapter and a longtime water dowser. He is knowledgeable regarding the scientific study of aquifers and geologic land formations, and has experience with map (remote) dowsing. He teaches dowsing classes under the title Applied Intuition.

Paul Bennett is Secretary of Appalachian Dowzers and has been researching earth energies for five years. Recently he has been investigating energies in the earth that are created with human participation and intent.

Richard Crutchfield, President of Appalachian Dowzers, has been doing research and field work in dowsing for almost 20 years, especially in water resources, personality and behavioral problems, harmful and benevolent earth energies, sacred sites and working with the elementals on the spiritual level. Aside from dowsing well and house sites over the years, his focus has been on energy clearing and ceremonial work.

A sudden expansion of consciousness awakened Danielle **Creeksong** into personal communication with all of Nature Consciousness. The devas then personally trained her in a variety of energy healing techniques. After twenty years, all the realms of elementals, devas, angels, and faeries still instruct and assist her in her office and classes. Creeksong delights in teaching others how to interact with these kingdoms, and almost every participant leaves with, at the least, the ability to "sense" the vibrational presences of these holy realms. Her website is www.soulcoalescence.com.

November Chapter Meeting

Saturday, November 15, 2008

10 am – 3:15 pm; **pot luck lunch.** Registration starting at 9:15 am.

Members \$3 (free if you joined in September at the \$25 rate, or renew now) Nonmembers \$8

Leicester Community Center, 2979 New Leicester Hwy (Hwy 63), Leicester NC

Other meeting details and directions: page 11

As always the meeting will be followed by our 1-hour basic dowsing class outside, for those interested in hands-on instruction.

Chapter Officers, other Board Members, and Associates

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Announcements

New officers to be elected in November

Annual elections will be held at the November meeting for President, Vice President and Secretary, and one board member-at-large. Officers and other board members serve for a term of two years. If you are interested in serving the Chapter in one of these positions, please contact an officer or board member.

Book Review

Let The Standing Stones Speak

by Natasha Hoffman and Hamilton Hill

Review by Pat Brinkley

At this time, many people all over the world are becoming fascinated by standing stones, those megalithic, late Stone Age monuments, scattered throughout Europe from Malta to Scandinavia, Spain, Portugal, France and the British Isles. Thousands of massive pieces of granite dot the countryside, somewhat like acupuncture needles, markers of energetic solar networks of ley lines. Endless debate about the purpose of these stones - like other anomalies such as crop circles and chambered mounds - has produced little scientific evidence of their uses.

Some have conjectured that they were important as local ceremonial centers. Around others, bones were found - thought to be not only simply a place of burial but a combination temple and tomb. Each season of the farming year, people recognized and honored the power of the Sun which makes all life possible. Swirling curves and spiral patterns hold dowsable fields of energy, positive and negative, which embodies and symbolizes energy needed for regeneration for rebirth after death - for the journey of the soul back to its heavenly origin.

Much of the mystery has been brought to light by the authors of this book - two British dowsers who, while

exploring the Brittany countryside around Carnac on the Atlantic coast of France, found that by using their dowsing skills and their intuition, they were able to access information stored in certain stones. They began to realize that these stones constitute a "library" and that they contain up-to-date information for present day humanity. They came to realize that the messages were transmitted from the Archangels who said they first encoded the current information at the end of World War I, which marked the start of the current societal disintegration.

The messages are a history of sorts of humanity on Earth from the perspective of Spirit. There are revelations about our origins in the stars, Atlantis, Earth energy (mentioning the Hartmann and Curry grids by name), elementals, the chakras and many other topics. The final part of the text is basically a warning, that separation from Spirit and the domination of destructive technology and materialism has disturbed the balance on planet Earth, and this imbalance is felt throughout the Universe.

The revelations in this book transcend spiritual truths from all traditions and may be considered a New Age Bible for today, with new information on virtually every topic of importance. Recommended reading.

Pat Brinkley is a member of App Chapter and maintains the book table at chapter meetings, with Laurel Davis.

The Stones of Appalachia

By Richard Crutchfield

A few years ago our chapter held a one-day conference in May at AB Tech Community College on earth energies, led by president Lee Barnes. I don't recall the full range of topics discussed, but I felt even then that we were only on the threshold of a veritably inexhaustible and deeply mysterious topic, one that has vast significance for many fields of study. For not only human health and planetary harmony and abundance, but also regarding the most remote history of who we are, why we are here and what our potentials really are. Do I exaggerate? Do I push the envelope of dowsing/exploration/imagination/enthusiasm too far? I say, in the words of Natasha Hoffman and Hamilton Hill, "Let the Standing Stones Speak" -- for themselves, that is, whether standing or otherwise.

When I moved to this area in 1987, seeking who I was (after an authentic mid-life "crash & burn" in the academic world) and having the eye of a frustrated landscape artist, I was immediately taken by the weathered beauty of the granite formations, especially the outcroppings. More precisely, it was their strange molded-looking configurations and almost *too* natural placement that struck me – the fact that many of the more massive stones seemed not to *emerge from* but to *sit on* the bedrock, as if actually *placed* there, some of them as large as a house! Then, when I moved to the Ox Creek area in the Weaverville watershed and began to explore the mountainsides off the Blue Ridge Parkway, I noticed numerous series of low, half-buried parallel walls – each of limited length and entirely of strange pock-marked granite stones- which seemed to go nowhere but to climb the hillsides like big stone steps. I noted too, that they could not be related to any former agricultural use such as terracing. Who could have built them? And more importantly, *why*, I wondered. These "wall steps" occur at regular intervals and range from the tops and down both sides of the ridges above the Parkway north of Asheville.

Even more bizarre, I began to find, in the most inaccessible places, stones of all sizes that had a strange organic character, even human-like forms (especially that of the flattened hand, as if extended to receive energy!). I also encountered many stones, both large and small, that seemed to have been smoothly and precisely cut or sliced (by laser?) or somehow heat treated – or both, and some thus formed into geometric shapes, such as the trapezoid. Not a few, if sliced through horizontally, would resemble a four-sided diamond shape (<>). The most amazing "organic"-looking forms I found not in WNC, but in the Uwharrie Mountains south of High Point at a place called Ridges Mountain, where one is confronted with an

astonishing sight: a whole ridge top of huge, erect granite monoliths, each definitely resembling such organic forms as Earth Mother, a giant phallus, etc. The implications for us, of course, are mind-boggling if we dare to question. This place simply waits for a dowsing field trip.

Another strange phenomenon I have noticed are large stacks of geometrically shaped monoliths out in the middle of nowhere, above a gorge, for example, such as one overlooking Lake Lure near Rumbling Bald, or those around the base of Chimney Rock, which itself has a strangely organic shape. This kind of "stacking" arrangement of stones, oddly enough, can also be observed in the beds of many high, remote streams in these mountains -- the implication being that they were placed in such a manner as to channel the water back and forth, whether to increase its oxygenation, or, as the Austrian forester/inventor Victor Schaubberger discovered, to increase the *chi* of the water headed for the valleys.

The most amazing example of huge stacks of monolithic stones – all of the "organic" and "heat treated" type mentioned above -- I found by hearsay just south of Charlotte: Indian Rocks. As large or larger than our meeting place, they seem to just sit on the earth, unattached to any bed rock and display surfaces strangely resembling the hollowed-out work of some ancient and giant blowtorch. This is no exaggeration; a field trip might be in order there too. I have found other examples of these stone arrangements in the Piedmont area, one less spectacular, for example, near Chapel Hill. Then too, I found many small round piles of these odd stones as well as huge rounded monoliths just sitting alone in the woods on remote mountainsides. Also linear piles of stones arranged in a serpentine shape and huge granite disc-like stones, half buried now, such as the one clearly visible in the pool at the base of Sliding Rock on NC Rt. 276. (The smooth granite river bed itself there seems designed precisely for sliding into that pool, with the stone disc serving as an energy or chi reflector and intensifier). The list of strange stone structures goes on. For example, along the Parkway in the areas of Craggy Gardens and the Mt. Mitchell range there are visible whole mountainsides of tumbled-up huge, oddly-shaped boulders, as if they were left over from some giant mining or tunneling operation. Did something go on under and throughout these mountains in the remote past that we know nothing about? Also near Mt. Mitchell I stumbled upon some remarkable rocks similar to the famous standing stones found in the British Isles, Nova Scotia, Brittany, New England and elsewhere.

Sometime at the beginning of all this exploration of stones, thanks to Vern Peterson, I discovered dowsing and earth energy fields – first those detrimental to human

health, then others even more subtle and what I call “sacred” in nature. Things never were the same afterwards. A whole new reality opened up, which instead of solving the mystery of the stones for me, only expanded it, thereby increasing even more my curiosity to learn the truth of this magic land. It was their *energy*... something about that *energy* was the clue! Those uninitiated to dowsing might claim that what I opened was Pandora's box of contradictions and absurdities, but so be it; the sheer power of the stones was irresistible once I started dowsing. To be truthful, it was the 1989 edition of *Manitou: The Sacred Landscape of New England's Native Civilization*, by James W. Mavor, Jr. & Byron E. Dix, which I discovered at my first ASD conference early on, that alerted me to what I might be finding here, literally out my back door. It did not dawn on me until later, that neither of these researchers of stones were dowsers, nor was there a word in their extensive study about energy! I soon discovered that literally all of the granite phenomena I was observing, no matter what their size, showed a dowsable energy field that extended outward to about 3 feet and that, strangely enough, registered not as an “earth” energy at all, but as something like “consciousness”, “organic” or “spiritual” energy. That is, neither “geomagnetic” nor “electromagnetic – and not even related to some kind of weak radioactive emissions or radio waves. Nor could it be altered in any way by positions of the moon or by the human mind, as in the case of geomagnetic zones, even if the stone itself were destroyed! In fact, it is highly beneficial to plants, since I found that trees, lichen and moss seem literally to cling to these stones, as if seeking their energy. (Inexplicably, however, I now find that the human aura is apparently unaffected by this energy, contrary to the situation with crystals.) I also found that some of the lone rounded monoliths already mentioned had an aura of not one sheath or layer, but twelve, the outer one of which extended out to about 32 feet. I concluded (by dowsing) that these stones were functioning as kind of collectors and senders of information – perhaps about the earth.

Later, to my utter astonishment, I found that stone energy seemed to be slowly pulsating out and back, from 3 feet to 250 feet, every 12 days...almost like a planetary breathing or heart beat! (At present, however, this field has apparently stabilized for some reason at a further 370 feet). Equally strange, this energy or consciousness field does not seem to originate in the structure of the granite itself (which is metamorphic and crystalline, I think), but was left by an outside influence (call it “intention”), in much the same way that we imprint information in a computer chip or leave a dowsable image or energy trace of our thoughts and actions. What “outside influence”? How outrageous! But first, another piece of the puzzle.

Related to the stone phenomenon, but apparently not a part of it, is the “Path of the Dragon”: the *chi* or life force flowing throughout the mountains, which I discovered by accident without knowing a thing about ancient Chinese geomancy. It was flowing about knee-high in one direction, in swaths of about 15 to 85 feet in width along all the ridges. *Lung mei*, they are called. I noticed that these rivers of energy were “peeling off” the main flow and running down the mountainsides (both sides) exactly where the charged “wall steps”, mentioned above, led and precisely within their stone boundaries. Obviously the walls were constructed for this purpose: to engineer the flow of life force off into the valleys. Also I noticed that, as the flow descended over these perpendicular walls, between them it would fold or circle backwards on itself before continuing on, and that the process was repeating itself all the way down the mountain. Since I also discovered that the Dragon Path would come up in mid-October and disappear in mid-March, I concluded that I was witnessing a kind of winter charging of a system of “batteries” for storing the life force necessary for the germination of plants in the spring. An ingenious piece of energy engineering! And only the correct placement of these granite stones (charged with consciousness) in the remote past makes this possible. (So far I have found no other type of stone – including quartz or any crystal -- that holds this kind of energy). Mysteriously, in 1993 I found that the *lung mei* in these mountains began flowing throughout the whole year instead of just in the winter. And for some reason it has been increasing in strength and volume ever since, as if guided by some Consciousness, with a capital C.

From all the evidence I have been able to gather so far, as described here, regarding the stones and related phenomena of this corner of Appalachia, I can only conclude that they are an essential part of a vast, ancient and complex energy system engineered in the remote past by some unknown superior Beings (whom I will call the Ancient Ones) at least in part for the generation and distribution of Life Force. The time frame I keep getting is about 300,300 years ago. Dowsing has indicated a system so sophisticated that each of the monoliths communicate with all the others, much in the manner that our body cells communicate with each other, or that plants do. As with trees, these communication lines can be readily dowsed, especially regarding what appear to be major node points -- like that of Indian Rocks in Charlotte. I cannot call this system a “grid”, however, because it appears not to be geometric at all, such as the so-called Planetary Grid System widely discussed today, but to be entirely organic and a form of *consciousness* - in which, I would add, we participate with our own consciousness as manifestations of the same Oneness. Outrageous? Perhaps, but worth pondering.

Dowsing the Standing Stones

By Paul Bennett

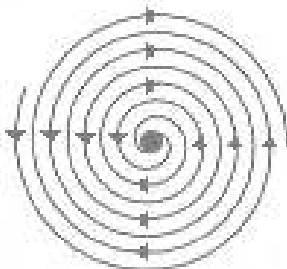


There are large standing stones in England, Ireland, France and other places in Europe, and the world, that were placed by ancient peoples who lived in attunement with the earth's natural cycles and were aware of the importance that large rocks have in receiving and anchoring energy in the earth. Many of these megaliths are placed on lines of the energy network that spans the

globe. These ancients used single stones, and stone circles, to mark the solstices, but what is less known is that they recognized the power of stones to focus cosmic energy, and thereby act as earth chakras, or energy portals. That knowledge was lost many ages ago, but now, with our dowsing tools, we can start to see the amazing part that rocks play in sustaining Earth's vitality.

Large stones, especially granite ones, by virtue of their concentrated density can focus life-giving energy from the multidimensional universe and direct it into the 3D reality of planet Earth. This is their masculine role. They also gather nurturing energy from the depths of the earth and distribute it to the planet's inhabitants: plants, animals and people; this is their feminine role and that energy is feminine in character.

Geometrically, energy enters the stone from above in the form of a spiral vortex, and from below in the form of an inverted vortex. The point at which the two vortexes touch is under the rock at the earth's surface. The spirals are similar in some ways to the tree vortex spirals that I talked about in the last issue, and can be dowsed in the same way. Energy comes down into the rock in a "counter-clockwise in" spiral. Energy from the earth takes the form of a "clockwise out" spiral, interleaved with the first spiral:

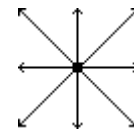


We know there are energy vortexes at intersections of the Hartmann grid lines, and at intersections of the Curry grid. The standing stone vortexes are similar, but stronger. The stones are like lenses, attracting and focusing light for our use.

I was led to discover these stone vortexes after reading *Ley Lines and Earth Energies* by Cowan and Arnold. At one point the authors say that when they struck a particular rock with a hammer, they were able to dowse a double spiral pattern around it, and they showed a diagram similar to the one above. This led me to wonder if certain standing stones served as vortex attractors, in the same way that trees are. I found that ALL large stones have a vortex and have the double spiral pattern around them, which is dowsable in the same way as the tree spirals. No hammer needed.

Radial lines and auras

The rocks also have straight energy lines that intersect under the rock. In all stones except one, that I checked, there were eight lines radiating out from the center, forming this pattern:

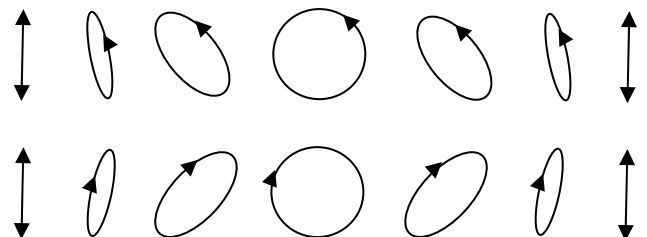


The exception was a large stone near the Chartres-style labyrinth at Kanuga conference center outside of Hendersonville. That stone has twelve of the radial lines. Trees, by contrast, have many more of these straight lines – typically 40 or more.

Large rocks also have an aura. Several that I tested had an inner aura very close to the rock itself, and an outer aura at a radius of 20 to 30 feet.

Dowsing the stones

After getting permission from your dowsing system, you can locate a large stone's aura, and if you walk around the stone you can easily dowse the eight straight lines coming from the center. If the stone is flat enough on top to stand on, and if you stand on it holding a bobber, typically the bobber tip will bob up and down in a straight line for a few seconds, then start to go into an oval pattern which gradually becomes a circle. Then it contracts back into ever-tighter ovals until it is a straight



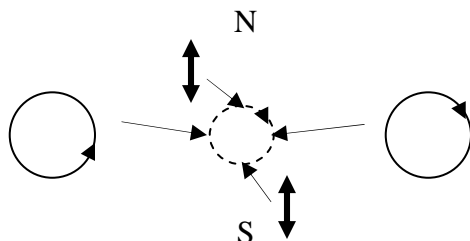
line again. After a few seconds it will expand out again but now the rotation is in the opposite direction. This whole cycle takes 2 or three minutes, then it repeats.

Sometimes the size of the swing and diameter of the circle will change periodically: the amount of movement will be large, 12 inches or more, then on the next cycle it will be slightly smaller, and so on, until it is only 2 or 3 inches, and then the bobber may come to a complete stop for one cycle time. The cycles then become gradually larger again in amplitude. This behavior represents a larger cycle whose period is typically 8 or 10 minutes. So we have cycles within cycles.

This bobber action is fascinating stuff. It's especially fun to do this on a rock in a public park and attract an audience, who will categorize you as one of the loonies. But they're also curious. Occasionally people will try it themselves, with a little coaxing. It seems to be true that people have different sensitivities; not everyone can do it.

It works only if you grip the bobber handle tightly. And if you just stand next to the stone, holding the bobber over the top of it, you get only a small response. You get the best bobber action by standing on the stone, centering your body in the vortex (giving a second meaning to the term "standing stone").

Why does the direction of rotation change? Does it mean the direction of energy flow changes? My dowsing says no. My questioning indicates that it's because the focus point of the vortex does not stay in one place; it slowly precesses around in a circle, and therefore my position relative to the focus point changes, and that causes the variation. When the point is exactly north or south of the middle of that circle, that's when the bobber moves in a straight line. I love this because it's an example of parametric behavior, similar to Julia sets in the science of fractals. But I'm getting too mathematical.



Stone at the Shiele Museum near Charlotte, showing spirals and cup-marks. These carvings are about 9500 years old.

Stones can heal people

Many ancient carvings in rocks show cup-marks – rounded indentations in the stone. Cup-marks in rocks are prevalent in Europe and the Americas. Through the pendulum I received some information about them. By lowering the vibration rate, they have the ability to transform cosmic energy into a form that can heal people, both physical diseases and spiritual imbalances. In that respect they act as miniature domes. Most of the cup-marks are more than 9000 years old, and the cup-mark “technology” originated in Atlantis.

Stones can heal the Earth

In *Healing the Heart of the Earth*, the author, Marko Pogacnik, talks about his experiences with placing standing stones for the purpose of earth healing. He placed them along energy lines that he perceived to be disturbed or obscured – a kind of earth acupuncture. “As needles of stone they stimulate or balance the energy currents with which they resonate. At the same time they direct the attention of the onlooker to the process of earth healing” (p. 16). He also talks about earth chakras – points of major energy influx. There are many of these, and stones were placed on some of these points eons ago. Especially important are the points that are “perfectly balanced in terms of cosmos-earth polarity as well as male-female. This is a feature specific to a heart center.”

Stones have memory

Let the Standing Stones Speak, by Natasha Hoffman and Hamilton Hill, purports to be a message that was intuited from several large stones in France (*see book review elsewhere in this issue*). The information was placed into the stones in the early 20th century by the archangels, to be retrieved when humanity reached the point of being able to do so, and at a time when the message was needed.

It starts with an explanation of the main purpose of the megaliths: “The ancient standing stones upon your planet were set up by your ancestors to attract into the fabric of Earth the vital energies of life, which are transmitted on the rays of the Sun, and in other cosmic forces. In a similar manner, your chakra system continually receives energy for maintaining the life force in the body. In both cases there are specific

locations, entry points, for that essential inflow... The megaliths are activators and visual reminders of the cosmic forces. The stones hold a power of Love equal to that of the angels, which vibrates directly with the human heart chakra. They are transformers which facilitate regeneration; without them, the energy would not be sufficiently focused.” (p. 30)

The great formations such as Stonehenge and others had an additional purpose which involved interaction between the stones and humans:

celebration and attunement. “The intention of those who set them up was to...provide sanctuaries where an essential resonance with the cosmos could be celebrated.” We can imagine drumming, chants, and dancing.

The large theme of the message is that we must learn again to attune to the cycles of the Earth if we are to survive. Civilization needs to progress in a different direction; one in which we honor the unseen forces and live in harmony with nature.

New member spotlight

Spotlight on: Sandy Trevathan

Where do you currently live?

Two years ago I returned to the East Coast after living in New Mexico for 14 years. For now, I’ve settled in Catawba County, just south of Hickory.

What is your occupational identity?

I have a degree in landscape architecture and have work experience in landscape design, land planning, and land conservation. Currently, I work as a planner with the city of Hickory.



Tell us a little about your dowsing identity.

While I learned a great deal about the landscape through my education, I came out of school wanting to connect in a more intuitive way with the land but did not know how. When I first learned about dowsing and ley lines through a friend, I knew I’d found a way. Early on, I went on a trip to Wales to visit standing stones, sacred wells, and to test out my newfound dowsing skills. I was amazed by my experiences and totally hooked on dowsing.

Since then, I’ve studied with Dominique Susani, a French geomancer. Through Dominique, I learned more about dowsing earth energies, harmonizing energies thru the placement of stones, and using sacred geometry to create energetic mandalas for healing. I find dowsing to be endlessly fascinating and look forward to getting to know other NC dowsers.

Get spotlighted in the newsletter! If you are a recent member, send a short bio to the editor (see contact info on page 2).

Chapter Activities

Ten chapter members convened on October 18 at the home of Constance Smutz and her son Erin in Arden, to socialize and dowse. There was discussion about many things including unseen (and seen) influences in our homes. Newcomers had a chance to learn hands-on dowsing in the back yard. Thank you Constance for hosting this event.



The Pine Tree Sisters

By Chiwa

When I first bought my house in Asheville around 1990 there were two big white pines on the northwest side. I was still living in Boston, when I heard from the previous owners that one tree had fallen. I liked that some of the branches of the first pine sister were given to a local artist to make wood spirits out of. When I moved onto the land the remaining white pine graced the entrance to the pottery studio out back, housing birds, shading the area, and making an arch that a pine cone bell hung from, to announce the breezes. One sister gone, the remaining one appeared to lean somewhat toward the house and studio, as if protecting the way, not threatening. I felt honored to walk below it on my daily treks out to the studio and back. I used the cones to start fires in the wood stove in winter, and I loved to lie on my back under the branches and just gaze upward to the sky in summer, spring and fall.

I kept stacks of bricks on pallets under that tree, waiting to be made into a kiln. I covered them with plastic to keep them dry. The shed for the kiln was eventually built with friends. The patio in front of the shed was built later with bricks scavenged from the Flood Zone Artists Coop where I used to fire, which we vacated last year for friendlier higher ground. "Southern pace kiln building", I call it.

The next chapter began in late spring of 1996, with a rain storm. The kiln still was not built, and the stacks of bricks were still sitting under the tree. The tree sister spoke to me then. I was standing by the screen door of the studio, feeling the wind and rain, when I heard a voice and felt the tree telling me that its time was due. I recognized that if this was her time I had better move the bricks. I asked the tree if there was enough time to move the bricks before it would fall, and sensed a "yes". I went up to the house and told Andrew that the tree had spoken to me and that we needed to move the bricks NOW. We donned long sleeves, and socks and long pants (poison ivy preventative), and started to move the bricks into the shed. At first we were quite careful about placing the bricks in proper piles by kind and shape. As things progressed we became more in a hurry, and altho almost imperceptible, we noticed that branches on the brick side of the tree seemed to be getting lower.

Peter, our neighbor, was called into service and with a wheelbarrow we continued our brick evacuation. On top of one of the piles I noticed what I thought was a mouse nest, soft and dry and fluffy, and carefully brushed it away. A little bit down was another. Andrew started to brush it, and it hummed and buzzed at him: a nest of big black and yellow shiny bumblebees. Andrew donned a net hat and carefully picked up the vibrating mass, and moved it to a box that we carried off to a dry place away from the tree. More bricks. . . and hiding further down a garter snake. While Peter and I continued on, Andrew took the spiraling snake up to the garden. We were down to the

last pile, approximately two hours from the first brick move. Down a bit further another snake, this one hissing and open mouthed. Andrew again removed this friend to the garden. Peter pulled the last bricks, and I, the pallet that held them. Peter declared that his head wanted to move the stragglers, but his body wouldn't let him. I went under and snagged the last ones out.

We sensed a change, I looked up and hollered "it's going", and slowly, slowly, an inch at a time, the tree started its descent, its final dance, to the song and prayer and tears of Andrew and I on either side of it. "Beautiful tree, sweet white pine, thank you for your life here, your shade and protection. Thank you for giving us time, and warning. Thank you beautiful tree." It slowly released, heading straight for the house. As we sang and prayed and thanked it for being, she slowly shifted her direction to the west, like an exhaled breath, and fell clear of the house. All the way down it went at that slow pace, until branches sheathed into the ground, it halted. I stood in the uprising of soil where the roots had pulled up and was aware of the breathing and letting go of this great tree being, and wept. Never have I experienced such connection with a tree being. It gave us warning, it waited for us to be done scurrying underneath, it took the least damaging route, it gave its body to us, and it just skimmed the house's paint layer, giving us insurance money for the removal of the tree. We actually had it milled right here in the yard - to return the bio-mass to our land as chicken house and woodshed, and mulch.

I gave thanks for its coming down so gently, sprinkled some cornmeal around it to honor it, and sat with its roots and being for awhile. It was quite awing to sit in its presence and feel it sending little shudders up through my body as its spirit lifted off. The tree body was about 2 1/2 feet across and sixty feet tall and judging from the rings about sixty years old. When resting, the limbs impaled themselves into the earth and held the trunk off the ground about four feet, as we limbed and sectioned it. We had the smaller branches mulched to create paths, and the chipped pile, while waiting to be spread, housed a family of garter snakes, who peeked out at us through holes and pathways in the uneven mulch.

This story reminds me of when my father passed over. It was imperceptible, slow, soft; I wasn't sure if it was happening. The breathing changed. Is this it? Is this really happening? The soft shimmering of life in this dimension slowly shifting to that of the next. Yes, it is palpable, yes, we can sense it; staying as open as possible to those quiet messages, be it human, tree, or other form. All is one.

I offer you this tree story, and warm Southern softness. The connection is always. Abundance is everywhere.

Chiwa is a member of Appalachian Chapter and lives in Asheville.

Their greatest gift so far

By Kate Pittman

Perhaps it's the coming of fall that brings out an awareness of the passing of time for me. Birds are flying south to their wintering grounds and plants are preparing themselves for months of quiet rest before the warmth of spring returns, calling them all back as the magical cycle continues. As winter approaches, my thoughts wander to endings, transformations and changes. All of us, be we human or another species will experience a huge transition at the end of this form of life.

As a dowser communicating with other animal species living closely with humans, I am often called to help people and their pets discuss sensitive issues that are frequently avoided between even the closest of friends. The reality of our finiteness in this form is not something easily discussed in our culture. Many stories shared verbally through generations and formal religious teachings offer scenarios describing what will happen after our last breath is drawn. The contradictory tales can be quite unsettling for some people. Humans don't seem to agree on just what the transition will be.

Before learning to speak to animals, I was a Wobbler who, rather than gaining comfort from any one ideology, preferred to glance at many explanations before retreating into the land of ignorance again. Sometimes it would seem that a huge void awaits us... wobble...then I'd recall some personal experience with otherworldly beings and visions of sitting amongst fellow "ghosts" on puffy white clouds. A basic unease always accompanied questions of the eternal future of "me".

Thanks to the critters and our conversations, my belief system has transmuted profoundly. I have deep gratitude for everyone who has reached out to me, asking for help near the end of their critter friend's "lives". Do you know that in all the hundreds of end-of-life conversations shared with non-humans, only two have not referred to this transition as "going home". Although some want to stay here for a while, great joy is often expressed when talking about the eventual return to what they describe as "where I came from and will go back to."

Most animals have little anxiety or no fear about the process of crossing over. Much of our discussions are

about unfinished business they may have, whether they have preferences in how they would like to take leave of us, requests for special goodies or goodbyes, when and where they may choose to return to their humans for a visit, and many other practical matters. How blessedly uncomplicated these talks are. Sometimes I ask myself where the angst and emotion most humans experience is. Well, there is little to look for. In place of those things can be found a sweet gratefulness that now they can express to their humans their joy or desires about the end of this journey. Animals know that first, things are as they need to be; and second, what we all are going to experience is not only natural, but in most cases pleasurable as well. I have heard so many times that any transitory physical pain during the process is truly acceptable. "After all," shared one lovely big dog, "it always hurts a bit to be born."

Why am I writing about this topic now? It certainly isn't to convince anybody that their beliefs need match mine. We all have our own paths. During our current season of many different changes I was led to consider: what is the greatest gift I've received from the non-human beings I talk with? It is this: thanks to all these talkative beings I have acquired a very personal, unwavering faith in an existence that lasts far beyond this mortal body. What an enormous and unexpected windfall has been given me through communication with the critters, on this side and elsewhere. It is a great honor to share such extraordinary and personal times and conversations with those passing and those who stay here for now.

I'm so grateful for help in letting go of the fear of a potential "THE END" in my future. It has been replaced by a comfortable curiosity and delightful wonder about "what's next?" somewhere down the road. Just as the energies of things on earth change vibration as the seasons cycle, so will I merely be changing vibration as I travel from one form to another.

Each of us have different belief systems to honor and personal journeys to attend to. I've shared a tiny bit of my Greatest Lesson learned from conversations with non-humans. Gather up your pendulums, go out, chat with them and find out what gifts are waiting for you. I can't wait to hear what you find out.

Kate Pittman is a dowser, intuitive and animal communicator. She lives in Haywood County.

Friends of Silence is a monthly 2-page flyer, containing short quotes from various authors and teachers on a certain theme, which is different each month. Usually it's things like time, light, nature, friendship, mystery. The latest issue's theme (September 2008) is the meaning of the transition we call death. Here are a couple of the quotes from that issue:

As summer dies into autumn, we can feel new energy, new life. For life is eternal...how could it be otherwise? There is a universal continuity, an infinite and ever-flowing consciousness that we forget at our birth and return to at our physical death, where we pass into the Realm of Love. This Love is with us throughout our lives. As young children, we naturally live in both the earthly and heavenly realms until the material world with its wondrous possibilities and myriad distractions becomes the norm.

Blessed are those who learn to see beyond the Veil, who communicate with the angels and lovingly co-create with the community of those who have entered true Life! As we die to all that is not life-giving here and now, we more easily make the transition when Love calls to us.

- Nan Merrill

With their last breath
 those we love do not say good-bye –
 for love is timeless.
 Instead, they leave us a solemn promise
 that when they are finally at rest
 they will continue to be present to us
 whenever they are called upon.
 Let us fear not, nor grieve, beyond letting go,
 the departure of those we have greatly loved,
 for in the Tree of Life their roots and our own
 are forever intertwined.

- from a FOREST OF PEACE prayer card

(Friends of Silence, 11 Cardiff Lane, Hannibal MO 63401)



QUARTERLY MEETING INFORMATION

9:15 – 10:00	Registration	12:45 – 1:15	Business meeting & elections
10:00 – 12:00	Program	1:15 – 3:15	Program, continued
12:00 – 12:45	Lunch / booktable	3:15 – 4:15	Dowsing clinic

Admission Fee: **members: free** if you joined or renew at the \$25 level, otherwise \$ 3.00 ; **non-members:** \$ 8.00.

Lunch Arrangements: Pot luck with ample kitchen facilities for warming and preparing dishes. Volunteers are needed for setting out food and cleaning up.

Books and Supplies: sales table, with books and other items related to dowsing, will be open during lunch and after the meeting. Members and guests are invited to bring their used books and periodicals related to dowsing, healing, earth sciences etc. as a donation to the chapter to be sold during quarterly meetings. Because storage space is limited, however, unsold items should be retrieved at 4:15.

DIRECTIONS TO LEICESTER COMMUNITY CENTER

From I-40, Exit 53B and Asheville center : follow I-240 west thru Asheville; on the Westgate Bridge over the river be in the left two lanes, and continue onto 19/23 west (Patton Avenue). 4th light, near Ingles, is Leicester Hwy (state hwy 63). Turn right onto 63.

After turning onto 63, follow it for about 9 miles, passing signs for Erwin Middle and High Schools, and Leicester Elementary. The Community Center is less than one mile past the Leicester Supply Company, which will be on the right. There will be a low sign for the Center on the right.

From I-40, Exit 44: turn Left at the end of the ramp onto 19/23 (Patton Ave) going toward Asheville. Leicester Hwy (Rt 63) will be on the left near the second Ingles grocery store. Turn left on 63. See directions above (“after turning onto 63”).

From I-26 going north toward Asheville: exit I-26 onto I-40 West. Take Exit 44 off I-40 and follow the above directions.

From I-26 East going south toward Asheville: I-26 will merge with 240. On the Westgate Bridge over the river be in the left two lanes, and exit 240 onto 19/23 west (Patton Avenue). 4th light, near Ingles, is Leicester Hwy (state hwy 63), going to the right. Follow directions for “After turning onto 63” above.

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November 2008

November Meeting Program	1
Announcements & Book Review	2
The Stones of Appalachia	3
Dowsing the Standing Stones	5
New member profile	7
The Pine Tree Sisters	8
The Critter Corner	10
Meeting Details	11