



The Barony of Settmour Swamp

The MudPuppy

Spring 2022 edition

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Deputy Seneschals	Judith bas Rabbi Mendel Sefa Hrafnadóttir	Volunteered: October 2019 Volunteered: January 2022
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Upcoming Events

Coronation of Ryouko'jin Of-The Iron-Skies and Indrakshi Aani Aravinda

Hosted by Crown Province of Ostgardr - Staten Island, NY

Event date: April 9th, 2022

The East Kingdom, on behalf of the Crown Province of Ostgardr, invites you to celebrate the Coronation of Prince Ryouko'jin Of-The Iron-Skies and Princess Indrakshi Aani Aravinda.

Located on the beautiful South Meadow of the Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden, We have 7.5 acres of outdoor space for court, tournaments, classes and more! Activities will include a heavy weapons tournament, a fencing tournament, an A&S display, classes, heraldic consultation, and youth activities. There is also limited indoor space for A&S displays and other activities. An auxiliary building is located next to the meadow with accessible entries and bathrooms.

Most of the activities will be outdoors, we recommend attendees take appropriate precautions. There is plenty of space to set up pop-ups and lots of opportunity for beautiful heraldic and personal displays to showcase yourselves, your households, and your favorite parts of the SCA.

We will provide pavilions for shade and protection from elements for court, located on the South Meadow stage near the auxiliary building. There will be a limited number of chairs; we strongly encourage all attending to bring their own seating.

A Spring Schola

Hosted by Shire of Owlsherst - York, PA

Event date: April 23rd, 2022

Celebrate the joy of the spring with us in Owlsherst! The name of the month comes from Aprilis which means "to open". This event will be a celebration of the glory of spring and our release from the modern-day plague which has imprisoned us for too long.

In April, birds will be returning, small animals come out of hibernation, flowers budding, grass turning green. Bees and birds are beginning to gather nectar from the first flowers of the season. It is a happy time.

Come to share with friends the knowledge we have gained from our times in SCA. Plans include various learning tracks in our Spring Schola including: Fiber Arts; Performing Arts; Culinary Arts; Chivalric Arts (attention all fighters of heavy combat!); and Scribal Arts. If you have a special area of knowledge you would like to share, contact one of the event stewards to volunteer.

In addition, all can gather in the Fellowship Hall to visit and share recent experiences. Bring an item to work on or a project you've completed to share with others. Anyone who wants to sing, tell a story, or play music during midday will be welcomed.

A simple day Board will be provided by the Cook's Guild of Owlsherst. Any concerns about the food should be addressed to the Head Cook, Orlaithe in vothfrol.

Black Gryphon Inn

Hosted by Canton of Gryphonwald - Edison, NJ

Event date: April 23rd, 2022

The Canton of Gryphonwald will be opening its home for you to make merry!

Bring a day board of your own and enjoy the bar at the Elks lodge while we safely see our SCA friends in the sunshine. There will be an indoor sitting area as well as outdoor space to be enjoyed.

Union Canal Days Demo

Hosted by Shire of Blak Rose - Lebanon, PA

Event date: May 21st, 2022 - May 22nd, 2022

With the joy and promise of rebirth, we are expanding our annual participation in this community event. Come set up your tent, this is an excellent opportunity to make sure everything is in working order! We are permitted to camp overnight, and we have been approved for cook fires.

Show off your projects and converse with the general populace.

We will have space for combat, both rapier and heavy! Crowds of the curious always come when combat begins, and after last years cancellation, we expect the crowds to be big. New this year, we will have a thrown weapons range set up.

The Quest for Wit and Wisdom XXXVII

Hosted by Barony of Settmour Swamp - Pittstown, NJ

Event date: May 27th, 2022 - May 30th, 2022

The Quest is on! This event will challenge participants to begin an epic quest for knowledge and glory. Along the way, encounter obstacles both ridiculous and exciting as you search for glory (and possibly snacks)

Waking of the Salamander

Hosted by Barony of Bhakail - Media, PA

Event date: May 27th, 2022 - May 30th, 2022

Welcome to the Waking of the Salamander. As the salamander wakes, it finds itself in want of a quiet start in its wooded surroundings. It is a time for salamanders to come together and shake off their slumber from what seems years of being in their lair. We welcome those who wish for a peaceful and relaxed time. You will find none of the hustle and bustle of the larger events. This is for those who wish to spend time with friends and talk of days of old and to plan for what is yet to come. A chance to camp under the stars, sit by the fire and enjoy the friendship of new and old. Come join us for a relaxed event.

This event is considered primitive camping. There is no day board or feast, bring your own food, drinking water, cooking equipment and coolers. There are minimal paved areas, so please be prepared to traverse unpaved grounds. There will be a large canvas pavilion for shade, but feel free to bring your own popup as well. For more information about the site please see the Event Page on the East Kingdom website. <https://www.eastkingdom.org/events/>

We are planning on having fighting and fencing onsite, more information to come. We are also planning on having informal group classes. If you wish to teach a class, please contact the Event Steward.

Covid Health Acknowledgement

Although the SCA complies with all applicable laws to ensure the health and safety of our event participants, we cannot eliminate the risk of exposure to infectious diseases during in-person events. By participating in the in-person events of the SCA, you acknowledge and accept the potential risks. You agree to take any additional steps to protect your own health and safety and those under your control as you believe to be necessary

Features

Swamp Stomp 2022

Return to the Mud

By Lillian Hutchinson

After a two-year wait, Swampies were finally able to reunite, share food and stories, and work on creative projects. Swampies from across the region traveled to the Great Swamp Watershed Association for the first live Swamp Stomp since the start of the pandemic.

Scribes, including Teresa and Charis, taught a class on how to create beautiful scrolls for the kingdom. Both new and experienced scribes tried their hand at calligraphy, illumination, and wordsmithing for some unique scrolls. Swampies also enjoyed this as an opportunity to gather and play games and sample a potluck featuring both medieval creations and modern foods.

[Callout] The Kingdom remains in need of both new and experienced scribes to create beautiful scrolls and share their talents with others. To learn more about creating scrolls for the East, please reach out to Baroness Æsa feinlinn Josursdottir called Feilinn at signet@eastkingdom.org.

How do you become an apprentice?

By Lillian Hutchinson

If you love arts, research, and the process of creating, the SCA Arts and Sciences has a space for you. From challenges and exhibitions to classes and performances, there are amazing opportunities to get involved. No matter what your area of interest is, there is likely to be someone who shares your passions and can point you in the direction of undiscovered resources. If you are struggling to find people who share your interest, ask the baronial chatelaine (Gwenhoivar of Lindley in Settmour Swamp). Your chatelaine has lots of contacts and can help you find someone whose interests align with yours.

However, the process of becoming an apprentice may be a little more mysterious. “When the time is right, the mentor appears” may be great for a fantasy quest, but often real life requires something else.

We have assembled a panel of Laurels and Apprentices to share their own path and offer some insights for those considering becoming an apprentice.

Our Panel:

Margreþa La Fauvelle, Laurel

Elizabet Marshall, Laurel

Briony of Chatham, Laurel

Phelippe le Vigneron, Apprentice to Margreþa La Fauvelle

Explore lots of things but find a subject you love

Most apprentices started by identifying a particular subject area that they love and focusing their efforts in that area. If you already know what your passion is, look around for some people and join in. If you are still trying to narrow down to a particular area, think about what excites you the most and get started. Focusing on one area doesn't mean you have to give up all your other interests.

Elizabet Marshall: I was wavering between clothing and embroidery, when I mentioned to a Laurel (not mine) that having to alter clothing for an hour made me nuts but tearing out six hours of embroidery because I had learned how to do it better was an easy choice. “That’s how you know what your passion is,” she said.

As a Laurel, my first apprentice had LOTS of interests. I was very happy with that. You learn a lot by seeing how other arts are practiced, and I love learning it.

Phelippe le Vigneron: As a musician and singer in mundane life, it was easy for me to find that interest in the SCA. The first event I attended had a group of people playing music. They found out I was a singer, and I sang while they played. It was a lot of fun!

Focus on your art and participate in challenges, classes, and events

Focus on creating your best work. When you have created pieces that you are pleased with, share those with others by participating in local or regional challenges, displays, and competitions. Attending in-person events is great, but participating in online classes and competitions can help you meet SCAdians from other areas and even other kingdoms. The more you learn, the better your art will become. The more you share, the more likely you will be to find someone who is inspired by you!

Briony of Chatham: My student is a very talented embroiderer. I saw a lot of potential in her both in her embroidery and in her general "SCAness." She and I got along really well when we met in person in person in the "before times" and the times that I've met her on Zoom. I asked her to be my student because I think we both have a lot to learn from each other. The student relationship will last for a while, and we will explore the idea of making her an apprentice in about a year.

Elizabet Marshall: I had been pursuing service, and realized I really wanted to change that path. My Laurel was someone whom I had known for a long time by then. I mentioned my change in heart, and she offered to take me as an apprentice. In fact, she had offered years before, and I had declined because I felt my service time was more important and I would not do her training justice. Luckily, she stuck with me until I changed my focus!

Get to know a laurel and their work

Getting to know a laurel can help you learn more about the type of art that they do, how they approach their work, and how well you relate together. It isn't necessary for you and your laurel to see eye to eye on every subject, but it is important to choose someone who you can learn from. Choosing someone who can help you grow is a very personal process, so trust your instincts as to who can inspire and guide you.

Margrepa La Fauvelle: Decide whether you want a teacher, a mentor, a collaborator, an enabler, an advocate, or some combination of the above. Some peers can be all of those things; some cannot. Consider that you are not only entering a relationship with the peer but also with any apprentices the peer already has.

Phelippe le Vigneron: Start by finding what you enjoy and talking to people. Feedback can be difficult to receive, so think about whose work you respond to and whose feedback resonates with you. More important than the working relationship is the personal relationship that develops. It's important to find someone who you feel comfortable talking to and being around.

Take your time

Most apprentices and laurels start with a student-teacher relationship first. This gives students some time to learn more about the process and to get to know the laurel more closely.

Be clear about expectations

Asking questions can help you get to know a laurel and get a better sense of their work and process. It is also important to be honest with yourself and the laurel about expectations, compatibility, and commitment. Setting clear about expectations is also critical when approaching the awards process. Some Laurels will go straight to the orders and say “I think it’s time” while others will take a less direct approach. Knowing what your Laurel will do for you can reduce the chance for confusion or hurt feelings.

Working with more than one laurel may be possible, depending on your needs

Life happens. Sometimes due to moves, changing interests, or apprentice preferences, an apprentice may work with more than one person. Sometimes these relationships are informal collaborations. Sometimes they evolve into two laurels working together to train an apprentice. If this is something that interests you or your circumstances change in a significant way, talk to your laurel and figure out the best path forward together.

Margrepa La Fauvelle: I will gladly network with peers in a different discipline, but I would not co-belt. Both my apprentices actually have signed indentures. Personally, I wouldn't sign two contracts, so I don't think I could work with someone who has signed more than one. Having said that, collaborations are wonderful. Networking broadens everyone's horizons and makes for interesting inter-kingdom observations. My apprentices are free to do projects and learn from other peers, but they are still my apprentices.

Elizabet Marshall: I did work with two laurels. I apprenticed to Gabrielle, then she moved to Tennessee. I remained formally apprenticed to her, but her apprentice-sister, Beth, took me under her wing. By the time Gabrielle returned, they were basically both my laurel.

Briony of Chatham: I started my process in Aethelmearc, then I moved “back” to the East. As a result, I ended up apprenticed to two Laurels at once. After the move Elizabeth Talbot asked my “Aethelmearc Laurel”, Cassadonia, if Elizabeth could work with me as a sort of “foster Laurel.” I got an immense benefit from all of it. Elizabeth guided and encouraged me and has as much to do with my achievements as Cassadonia. The differences in their personalities was a big help too. Beth pushed me to break out of my comfort zone, which I needed.

In a more informal sense, I worked with a LOT of other Laurels. Embroidery is a much-practiced art, and I learned different things by taking classes and learning from other Laurels. Both Beth and Cassadonia encouraged this, and I absolutely encourage it for my apprentice. I believe that knowledge in the SCA should flow freely, and we are all improved by “cross-pollination.”

Phelippe le Vigneron: There are other laurels and apprentices who have different skill sets so it makes sense to work with people who are interested in the same things you are. It's not as formal as the laurel/apprentice relationship, but other people can provide practical feedback on a particular skill. So yes, you can always work with more than one laurel. The laurel you are working with is often a great resource to help you find people that can teach you a particular skill.

Medieval stuff in the Settmour Swamp Area

Traveling exhibitions

Holbein: Capturing Character at the Morgan Library

225 Madison Avenue at 36th Street

New York, NY

<https://www.themorgan.org/exhibitions/holbein>

Holbein: Capturing Character is the first major exhibition dedicated to the artist in the United States and runs February 11 through May 15, 2022. This exhibition spans Holbein's career from his time in Basel, through his stay in England. The exhibition includes Holbein's drawings and paintings, as well as his work in designing prints, printed books, personal devices, and jewels. The exhibit also includes works from contemporaries, such as Jan Gossaert (ca. 1478–1532) and Quentin Metsys (1466–1530), and a display of intricate period jewelry and book bindings.

Museums

The Cloisters

99 Margaret Corbin Drive

Fort Tryon Park

New York, NY 10040

<https://www.metmuseum.org/primer/met-cloisters#time-quote>

The Met Cloisters is one of the largest collections of medieval European art, architecture, and gardens in the United States. The building contains architectural elements taken from 4 French abbeys and transported to New York. The main architectural feature is a cloister originally erected at the Benedictine Abbey of Sant Miquel de Cuixà in the northeast France, which was founded in 878. The museum also contains a wide variety of paintings, manuscripts and tapestries.

Glencairn Museum

1001 Cathedral Road

Bryn Athyn, PA

<http://www.glencairnmuseum.org/>

The Glencairn Museum houses a collection of about 600 objects, primarily of Romanesque and Early Gothic sculpture and 12th-13th stained glass. Some noteworthy items include panels from Abbot Suger's church at St-Denis (1144) and a portrait of a king from a Jesse Tree window (Soissons, c.1200). There are also ivories, enamels, frescos, and tapestries. The entire catalogue is also available to view online at https://www.metmuseum.org/art/metpublications/radiance_and_reflection_medieval_art_from_the_raymond_pitcairn_collection

Walters Art Museum

10 W. Centre St

Baltimore, MD

<http://www.thewalters.org/html/home.asp>

The Walters Art Museum collection includes more than 36,000 works from around the world. The Walters also contains a significant number of medieval manuscripts which can be explored online https://manuscripts.thewalters.org/?_ga=2.263439561.432303203.1645732118-1766703154.1645732118. The manuscripts include examples of cartography, heraldry, treasure binding, gospels, and Islamic texts.

Libraries

Colombia University Rare Book and Manuscript Library

6th Floor East Butler Library

535 West 114th St.

New York, NY 10027

<https://library.columbia.edu/libraries/rbml.html>

The Columbia University Library contains books from a span of over 4,000 years. The collection includes cuneiform tablets, early printed books, including medieval and renaissance text and Hebraica and Judaica collections. The reading room is open Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm **by advance appointment only** to external visitors whose individual research requires consulting library materials.

Free Library of Philadelphia

John Frederick Lewis Collection at the Free Library of Philadelphia contain more than 200 codices and 2,000 detached leaves from Bibles, Psalters and other manuscripts spanning the 9th to 18th centuries. The collection includes the Lewis Bible (c.1225), calendar pages from the Hours of Henry VII (c.1500), and a Book of Hours (c.1475); and a genealogical roll of Edward IV illustrated in England (c.1480).

Artisan of the Quarter: Jonathan Miles

How did you find the SCA? What about it made you get involved? What keeps you involved now?

I found the SCA on a train between Newark and Somerville, NJ. One of the conductors had seen the SCA armored fighting and thought it was the coolest thing. It planted a seed in my head.

I later found the SCA club at Rutgers University; and I attended my first event, a 100 Minutes War. Back then it was hosted at the private school. Julio Dejesus loaned me some samurai garb, and Elissa Klotz drove me. I stayed with the SCA because it had two things I was keenly interested in at the time: full contact martial arts and attractive women. I've grown up since then.

Why have you stayed in the SCA? What do you like about it? What do you feel are its weaknesses as a group?

I stick with the SCA because I feel obligated to help keep it going. It has provided so many friends and much entertainment. It has provided interesting knowledge, crafting opportunities, and the love of my life. It's my turn now to provide those things for others.

The SCA only works if after you have consumed much, you provide much. I love the SCA for its activities and people, too numerous to list who and why. I love learning the truth behind the history I thought I knew. I love acting and being silly, I love inspiring others, getting attention, and giving praise and courtesy.

It also has many weaknesses. It is as diversely flawed as we are. It lags behind social change by years, but always pushes toward the light. It has bad people in its midst who are slowly being cleaned out. It struggles to appeal to the young and doesn't know how to sell itself. It suffers most when we ask too much of it and it excels when we treat it reasonably and fairly. This is a game we play on the weekends with our friends. We must remember that and keep things in perspective. The worst thing the SCA ever did was to include the word Society in its name, beyond that its crimes are few, and usually perpetrated by us and not it.

Tell us about your art! How did you get started and what's your latest cool project(s)? What do you want to tell people to encourage them to take up this art or get better at it?

The key to art is process. The more art you make, the better your art gets. It's a simple formula that everyone knows or suspects and radically few ever follow.

I mostly make armor. Right now, I am working on 10 helmets for a crew of new people. I am repeating the same procedure to weld and build the helms. I know that as I repeat the

process, each helm will get better and more functional.

I enjoy this art because there is no room for imposter syndrome or confidence issues. There is only room for repetition of your process followed by brief retrospectives that allow you to take those lessons into the next iteration.

Studies have shown that when artists are divided into a group asked to produce more pieces and a group asked to produce one perfect piece, the artists producing the highest number of pieces have produced the best work. Whatever it is that you want to make, make more of it. A lot more!

What do you want to tell people who don't know what the SCA is about?

The SCA is art; be it martial or material. The SCA is pageantry; be it real or recreated. The SCA is equal parts academics and weed-smoking fornicators. The SCA is humanity trying a little harder to be creative and loving. You will find a better version of yourself here no matter what you like to do.



How to become a protégé with Gráinne MacCleud

What attracted you to service?

I was attracted to service since I could not fight any mor. My Pelican knew I had the heart of a fighter, but the brain for service.

What skills are important to cultivate when becoming a protégé?

Some of the ones I've had to learn are diplomacy, being willing to pivot at a moment's notice, and grace under fire. Teamwork is the biggest skill you learn. You are working with various groups to make one event soar!

How did you decide to become a protégé?

I knew it was a vocation when I started helping with my local Barony in the Middle Kingdom and I discovered "Hey! This is fun!"

What advice would you give for finding a pelican to mentor with?

I tell people, "If you feel comfortable with the person, speak with them, get to know them. Ask them questions, see if you are a fit." Then move forward. It is not always a perfect fit. Do not be scared to say, "NO" to a Pelican you do not feel comfortable with either.

What questions should a potential protégé ask when talking with a Pelican?

"What are my responsibilities as your protege?" "What is expected of me from you, as my Peer?" "How often do you want to meet/speak?" "My service is this..... How is that different from yours?" There are really no hard and fast questions to ask right away, these are some the ones I had for my Peer.

Can you work with more than one pelican? Did you do this in your process?

My Pelican is in a different kingdom, so we have "Shadow Peers" for me. They speak to my Peer and will let him know I get "funky" as we call it, or if I do good. It is always good to have the "Shadow Peer/s" just in case your Peer needs to move to another Kingdom.