

DAWN MELISSA RIPLEY

DIED



~~NEW ALBANY~~ RIPLEY, DAWN MELISSA, 49, died Saturday, December 15, 2007 at her home at Holdfast Farm, on the land she loved, surrounded by friends and her family. Born in Magnolia, AR to Charles O. Ripley and Nonie Clifton Ripley, she grew up in Jonesboro, AR and Houston, TX with her younger sister and brother, Robin and Charles. After graduating from Baylor University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English, Dawn worked on an Master of Divinity in theology at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Because she'd fallen in love with Louisville and Kentucky, she took a position with the UK Cooperative Extension Service as a horticulture agent. Her work included developing farmers' markets, establishing schoolyard gardening programs, and coordinating the Jefferson Co. Master Gardener program. Recurring ovarian cancer forced her into medical retirement in 2001, which gave her the time to return to school to complete a two-year certificate program in spiritual direction. Most of her time recently was devoted to maintaining her parents' 78 acres. She had hoped to develop the place as a demonstration farm for organic vegetable production and as a retreat center. Dawn took delight in books and words and ideas, and challenged those she knew to ask questions. She wrote essays and prayers and sermons; she spoke of the sacredness of the land and the imagery of light. Her liturgical writing was published in Seeds Magazine and Seeds of Hope Publishers' worship resources. Her family, parents, Nonie and Charles; sister, Robin; brother-in-law, Mark D. Benton; nephews, David and Josiah; brother, Charles; and friend, Juergen Woelfle, are planning a celebration of her life at Holdfast Farm to take place at a later date.
Published in The Courier-Journal on 12/21/2007.

[Notice](#) • [Guest Book](#) • [Flowers](#) • [Gift Shop](#) • [Charities](#)