

CAMP MERRIE-WOODE

Situated, Celebrated on Fairfield Lake

Spring 2008

90 Years of Merrie-Woode:

From the Jazz Age to New Age and Everything in Between

Well, it's hard to believe but Camp Merrie-Woode is celebrating 90 years this summer! That's 90 summers of paddling on Lake Fairfield and singing around the campfire ring...90 summers of stargazing under Old Bald and watching the morning mist rise over the lake...90 summers of girls growing into young women, while learning to respect the fragile beauty of nature as well as the delicate balance of belonging to a community. Merrie-Woode has been through some remarkable times in the history of our society. Withstanding the test of time, camp has seen a country struggling through the Great Depression, the fear of a World War, the rise of rock and roll, the Space Race of the 1960's, and the ramifications of a post 9/11 world. Through all this, Merrie-Woode has remained a constant in the lives of young girls, steadfast in its values and unwavering in the hearts of its campers.

In the summer of 1919, while the Treaty of Versailles was being signed in France to officially end World War I, a small girls camp opened its gates to the young women of America. A labor of love for its founder, Dammie Day, the opening of Camp Merrie-Woode marked a small moment in time, but one that would start a tradition for countless girls to come and find a safe haven for the length of a summer. In the early 20th Century the mountains of western North Carolina were a popular summer vacation spot for many families to escape from the big cities to cooler temperatures and relaxed days. While the Fairfield

Inn, once located on our piece of property known as the "Inn Site", was a fashionable spot for many visiting families, their daughters enjoyed attending camp down at the other end of the lake. The bobbed haircut was all the rage, jazz music was the cat's meow, and the biggest film star of the day was Charlie Chaplin. Parents were eager for their daughters to learn the values of simple living, and in Merrie-Woode the girls found a place to thrive and call their own.



A group of campers enjoying watermelon at a hot summer day.

Dammie Day actually purchased the camp, originally named Camp Fairfield Lake, in 1922. It was Dammie who changed the name to pay tribute to her family's

English heritage. Dammie wrote, "I knew I wanted an imaginative meaningful name. I thought why not English tradition and legend instead of Indian, which so many camps used. And one night the name came so clearly to me – 'Merrie-Woode' for it is a merry wood and campers will always make it so." The

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“A Place of Rarest Beauty – The Final Piece” Campaign Approaches Goal

As we all prepare for the 90th summer at Merrie-Woode, we want to give everyone an update on Merrie-Woode’s land preservation campaign, “A Place of Rarest Beauty... The Final Piece”. Our most recent report shows that we have to date raised \$2,415,400 towards our goal of \$2.7 million. This leaves us only \$284,600 to go to reach our very ambitious goal and we are excited!

If you have not yet made a gift to this campaign, which is so very important to the camp’s future, please carefully consider what a difference YOUR gift could make and join all the other alumnae, parents and friends of Merrie-

Woode who have already supported this effort to protect the camp’s beautiful setting from encroaching development. As soon as we reach our goal, we will be able to pay off the mortgage loan and this 100 acres rescued from a planned development of 80 condos will belong to the camp forever, bringing our total acreage to 390 acres. What a wonderful legacy this additional land is to Merrie-Woode.

The Campaign Co-Chairs Bobby Hassinger and Nancy Swann ask for your support as we celebrate our 90th year! Please join the donor list by making your most generous gift today. We need YOU to help us complete this campaign!

A Place of Rarest Beauty... The Final Piece Early Contributors

(Reflects gifts received through March 15, 2008)

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Wit's End

It has been a very busy off-season with a number of exciting things taking place. Overall, things are going well and we're already looking forward to camp's 90th summer with our campers! We are thrilled to have two new senior staff members; many of you will recognize these familiar smiling faces around camp this summer. Christina Daniels joined us in January and Betsy Reese plans to join us in June. Christina is our new Programming and Development Director and Betsy will be our new Head Counselor and Staff Recruiter. We look forward to working with these fine women and we know the campers and counselors will benefit by having them at camp.

The new Weaving Hut is nearly complete. The only thing lacking is a bit of rockwork on the piers and spreading some mulch under the deck below. The new Weaving Hut will give the campers and counselors a lot more room, a great view and some shady spots to work on their projects. Hats off to Travis Fox and the maintenance crew for a job well done. The maintenance staff is busy with many items on their list and recently began the re-construction of our canoe and sailing docks.

The Master Planning sub-committee of our Board is moving the process along. We have selected our sub-contractor and have already started some of the work. Now that Merrie-Woode has purchased the "Final Piece" it will be important that we plan the future use of our entire site to co-incide with the priorities that were recently identified in our long range planning

retreat. It's been a very exciting process with many wonderful ideas flowing from all of the candidates.

We recently traveled to Nashville, TN for the annual American Camp Association conference. We always come back with good ideas and learn a great deal. With this being an ACA re-accreditation summer, it was very important to attend the sessions on regulations and changes pertaining to the accreditation process.

The entire year-round Merrie-Woode staff spent a week in New Orleans, LA assisting Habitat for Humanity with the construction of new houses that they are building on an inner city block. Former Board member Bobby Hassinger arranged for the St. Charles Street Presbyterian Church to house us and feed us while we were there. It was very rewarding to see things progressing and witnessing New Orleans coming back to life. We got to take a tour of the city to see the devastation and signs of recovery. We weren't expecting to be able to go until the fall, but the church had some cancellations and they were able to accommodate us sooner. Eight of our eleven travelers had never been to NOLA before and we were all glad to live out Merrie-Woode's commitment to a life of service.

We hope to see many of you this summer. Look for details regarding our 90th celebration!

Chug-a-Wump,

Denise and Jim

Staff News

Madeline Baird spent her January term working in an elementary school with a group of K-1 students as well as a group of third graders. Denise and Julie met up with **Carrie Coker** and **Elizabeth Harrison** at UVA in February. They are both sophomores and are living with **Libby Page**. **Martha Cole** is living in Atlanta and working in a Patagonia store while taking some on-line courses. **Catherine Coley** will be traveling to Singapore this summer with a group from UNC - Chapel Hill. **Mary Stuart Couch** is doing great in Washington D.C. and loves being so close to her parents



*Counselors, Perry Ellis
and Amanda von Thron*

and sister, Franny. **Alden Denny** is a freshman at W&L and loves it! She is in the same sorority as all the other Merrie-Woode girls there! **Julia Edwards** is a junior at

Davidson and working on getting an internship in journalism this summer. **Perry Ellis** is a junior at Virginia Tech and very excited about returning to camp this summer! **Sarah Hernstrom** will be busy in nursing school at the University of Georgia this summer. **Sara Huffman**, a senior at UNC-Chapel Hill, appeared on television recently during the ESPN broadcast of the UNC-Chapel Hill vs. UNC-Asheville basketball game on January 9, 2008. Sara was reporting from Franklin Street during the halftime show. She did an excellent job and certainly proved she has a



Counselors, Kelli Hewitt and Grace Burgess, on the archery field

promising career ahead of her in broadcasting! **Julie Kokemor** is excited to be spending the summer in India this year. **Lolly Langman** has transferred to Smith College and is getting excited about coming back to camp! Julie and Lindsay had dinner during a recruiting trip in February with a group of counselors at Chapel Hill. They met up at a restaurant on Franklin Street with **Katherine and Mary Pell Lea, Calvert and Catherine Coley, Scottie Springer, Kate Carey and Margaret Cheatham Williams**. Everyone had fun telling old camp stories and catching up on all the current news. **Liz Lee**

went climbing with **Hana Danskey** a couple of times this past fall. She is working for REI while applying for graduate schools and **Joe Peters** is working for a Japanese based outdoor store called Mont-Bell. They enjoyed the winter season, lots of snow for snowboarding and skiing! **Elizabeth Mann** has a busy summer planned. She'll be spending time in Spain in June, and working in Charleston, SC while living with **Sarah Jo Trimble** in July. This fall she will be studying abroad in Sienna. **Caroline Mann** will be graduating from Washington & Lee this spring. She will be working in Washington D.C. with an environmental agency this summer. **Lena Maxcy** moved to Berkeley, CA shortly after camp ended and is enjoying settling in there. **Jess McCreath** spent a few days visiting with fellow Aussies, **Kelli Hewitt** and **Emma Shute** in March. Julie and Denice had dinner with **Clare McKenzie** in Washington D.C. this winter. She is graduating from Georgetown this spring and hopes to move to France. **Hannah Moon** is having a good school year at

William and Mary. She has been appointed Vice President of Public Relations in her sorority and was accepted into a school leadership program. **Emma Shute** is very excited to be coming back to camp this summer. She spent New Year's Eve visiting with fellow Aussie, **Kelli Hewitt**. **Parker Stevens** is studying abroad in Tanzania this semester. **Lauren Thomas (LT)** is going to New Zealand for most of the summer and the fall semester. **Natalie Williams** loves California and PA school. **Francie Woodin** is studying abroad in Sevilla, Spain this semester and will be there until mid-June.



Meredith Kronn with her brother, a Falling Creek Counselor

Alumnae News



Denice and Julie with former camper, Mary "Lollie" Mead Baker (28 - 35)

Catherine Avery (94-06) is working at the Potomac School in Washington D.C. and visits with **Sallie Reeves (92-06)**, **Mary Stuart Couch (94-07)** and **Landis Carey (92-05)** frequently. Since graduating

from Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, VA, **Susan Birkhead (91-98)** has been working for The Country Club of Virginia in Richmond. She is currently the assistant Events Coordinator and loves her job! **Elizabeth McClatchey Brown (66-74)** had a lovely visit from **Molly Davis** this past summer. **Anne Buckman (86-88)** is living in New York City and working as an associate for the firm of Simpson, Thacher and Bartlett. **Sarah Burke (88-97)** will graduate from the University of Florida with a law degree in May of 2008. **Calvert Coley (96-04)** will be moving to New

York City to work for Citi Group, after graduating from UNC-Chapel Hill this spring. **Jessica Coxwell (01-03)** is teaching 2nd grade at Shilo Elementary School in Gwinnett County, Georgia. **Laura Csere (93-97)**



The Benson Family: Lisa (94 - 05), Beth, Keith and Stephanie (95 - 04)



*Photo from www.chinanews.com
of Caroline Keys (85-93)
and her band on Chinese TV!*

is a third-year medical student at the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences. She is currently living in New Jersey while she continues her studies at St. Michael's Hospital in Newark. **Emily Farrior** is a freshman at UVA this year. **Elizabeth Seyle Fenton** (84-86) lives in the historic district of Philadelphia with her husband, Andrew, and their daughter, Caroline, who is already learning Merrie-Woode songs. Elizabeth practices law with Reed Smith LLP. **LeAnne Fowlkes** (05-06) is working at the John Berggruen Gallery, a well respected contemporary art gallery in San Francisco. She is enjoying her time there working as a gallery assistant, personal assistant and in-house photographer and imager. **Carolyn Gabbert** (97-05) is in graduate school at UVA, working on a masters in Speech. **Hannah Galey**



*Jane McCullen Cline (55 – 62),
her husband Harry, and their
grandchildren Carson, Sykes and Skip*

(95-99) is a junior at Columbia University. **Sarah Galey** (93-98) is working for Teach for America in Washington D.C. **Virginia "Cameron" Holt** (95-00) has recently returned from a mission trip where she was working with HIV/AIDS in Grahamstown, South Africa. She is currently applying to second-degree seeking nursing programs, will become an RN and hopefully return to Africa. **Claire Marie Benedict Huff** (84-86) and her husband are living in Atlanta with their two and half year old son, William, and their newborn daughter, Mary Claire. **Emily Jeter** (93-01) graduated from the University of Georgia in May 2007. She is now teaching kindergarten at a private school



The Dorsett Family

in Atlanta. In October, **Caroline Keys** (85-93) and her bluegrass band represented the USA at the Nanning International Folk Song Arts Festival in China. Caroline's band performed with musicians from twenty-five different countries including Cambodia, India, Germany, South Africa, New Zealand, and the Philippines at the Festival. **Evelyn Simmons Kissel** (88-92) and her husband, Peter, enjoyed the holidays this year with their 14-month-old, Georgia. **Dana Lacy** (52-55) and her daughter, **Borden Lacy** (79-84), enjoyed a visit to camp this year. Borden's two-year-old son, Isaac, loved his first trip to Merrie-Woode! Borden and her husband, Ben, are expecting their



*Carolyn (97 – 05) and Pattie Gabbert
(97 – 06) with their brother, Douglas*

second child in July. They are both working as professors at Vanderbilt. **Sallie Lacy** (84-86) is also married now and living in Frankfurt, Germany. **Keiko LeMon** (95-04) is still living in London. She recently received a job as a scenic carpenter for the Royal Opera House! **Kenny Marcus** (05-06) is in his second year of nursing school at UNC-Chapel Hill. He hopes to be a flight nurse. **Natalie Matthews** (94-03) is living in Asheville, NC where she is working as a nurse. **Liz Matthews** (93-03) is working towards getting her PHD in Ecology at UNC-Chapel Hill. **Mary Matthews** (99-06) is a freshman at Sewanee this year. **Katherine McDonough** (95-06) is substitute teaching in Knoxville while applying for graduate schools in London. **Anna Katherine Moore** (00-04) is a sophomore at Presbyterian College. She said her sisters,



*Virginia 'Cameron' Holt (95 – 00),
working with children in South Africa*



Evelyn Simmons Kissel's (88 – 92) daughter, Georgia

Ashley Moore Smith (93-01) and **Liz Moore Uecker** (90-99), are both doing well. **Page Oxnard Mulherin** (43-46) came by camp in October. She hiked the lake trail twice and, like a true Merrie-Woode girl, scaled Old Bald as well. **Ashley Sauer Oswald** (89-00) and her husband, Guy, live in Charleston, SC where Guy attends the Charleston School of Law. Ashley is the assistant 2nd grade teacher at Ashley Hall. **Alex Polhill** (97-03) is a freshman at Davidson and loves it! **Becca Red** (95-05) is graduating from Wake Forrest this spring and is anxiously waiting to hear back from medical schools. **Sallie Reeves** (92-06) is working at the National Cathedral School in Washington D.C. as a kindergarten assistant. **Laura Rockefeller** (97) is still living



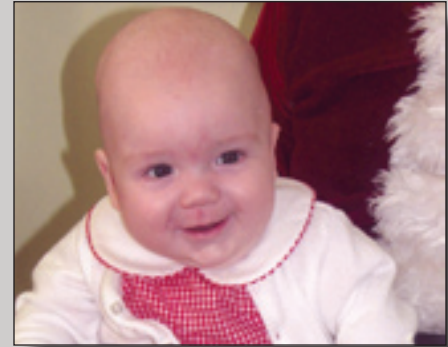
Dana Lacy (52 – 55) and Borden Lacy (79 – 84) with Borden's son, Isaac, at High Heaven

in Washington, D.C. near other camp alumnus **Chita** (90-97) and **Ashley Middleton** (90-97) and **Meredith Haskins** (91-97). Laura has just started a new job with the education department at Mount Vernon. **Katja Rodgers** (91-96) earned a dual B.A. in Psychology and Information Technology at the University of West Florida, and is enrolled in the Master of Aeronautical Sciences program at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. **Jenny Sauer** (93-04) lives in San Francisco where she works for



Clair Freeman Marshall's (85 – 98) son, Hutch

Ford Models, Inc as a coordinator of models in the children's division. Her roommate is **Katie Temple** (92-00). **Molly Smith** (95-02) will be working for Bank of America in Charlotte, NC after she graduates from Washington & Lee this spring. **Ashley Sullivan** (92-02) and **Amanda von Thron** (95-present) recently met up with **Rosemary Williams** (92-05) and **Lindsey von Thron** (93-03) at the Gasparilla Parade in Tampa, FL, where Rosemary was Queen and Lindsey was on the Royal Court. **Sarah Jo Trimble** (97-05) is a sophomore at Washington & Lee, majoring



Elizabeth Dempsey Merritt's (88 – 98) son, Jack

in pre-vet. She and **Elizabeth Mann** (98-06) are roommates at their sorority house, while **Olivia Head** (97-07) lives just down the hall. Kenneth and **Susanne Gould Uncapher** (71-74) have been married for over 20 years and live in Orlando, FL with their two daughters Emily, 15, and Laura, 17. Susanne is a registered nurse who works as a legal nurse consultant for a law firm. **Brooke Hudgins Wallace** (68-73) recently celebrated her 50th birthday in camp at High Heaven with a group of close friends, including **Janie Clark Morrison** (65-70). They enjoyed their time reminiscing about camp days while hiking up Old Bald and taking walks around the lake. **Reilly Ward** (96-06) is a junior at Washington & Lee. She is hoping to get an internship in Washington D.C. this summer.



Woodie and Betsy Hassinger Van Horn's (93 – 97) son, Wade



Lindsey (93 – 03) and Amanda (95 – present) Von Thron, Rosemary Williams (92 – 05), and Ashley Sullivan (92 – 02) at the Gasparilla Parade in Tampa

Alyce Wellons (80-86) is living in Atlanta with her three dogs and enjoys visiting with old camp friends. **Laura Yungmeyer (01-**



The Would-Bes of 2008 at their Would-Be Reunion

04) is a freshman at Washington & Lee and has reconnected with the CMW gang there!



Charlotte Young (98 – 06) and Ella Bright (00 – present), Captain and Queen of the Les Pierrettes Ball in New Orleans

Engagements and Weddings:



Gary Hostetler (06 – present) and Lindsay Garner (92 – present)

Amanda Beckler (03-06) got engaged over Christmas. **Dr. Rachel Burke (88-99)** was married to Dr. Gabriel Pantol of Mendoza, Argentina in Tampa on January 13, 2007. Rachel is a graduate of The College of William and Mary and Emory University School of Medicine, and is currently completing her residency in

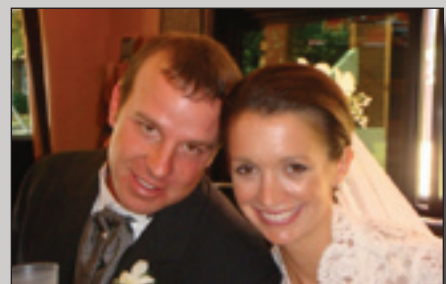
radiology through NYU at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, NY. **Jennifer Coleman (88-93)** married Jonathan Leit in Charleston, SC on March 1, 2008. The couple recently moved to New Orleans, LA. **Polly Dozier**



Ellie Musson (92-03) with her new fiancé, Jeff Jennings, at camp last summer

(96-04) got engaged in January at camp to long time boyfriend, Will Duval! They are planning to get married in August and then move to Nashville. **Lindsay Garner (92-present)** and **Gary Hostetler**

(06-present) became engaged over this past Christmas. They are looking forward to an autumn wedding at camp on October 4, 2008. **Lee Handford (92-04)** became engaged over New Year's. **Marriott Horton (93-02)** married Jimmy Miller on January 26, 2008. **CT Stroud (94-01)** was a bridesmaid. **Ellie Musson (92-03)** and long time boyfriend, Jeff Jennings, are engaged and planning an October wedding in Louisville, KY. **Rebecca Pillow (88-07)** married Chris Hovater on November 3, 2007 in their hometown of Florence, AL. The ceremony took place at Trinity Episcopal Church and the reception was at the parents



Newlyweds, Chris Hovater and Rebecca Pillow Hovater (88-07)

of the brides. Maid of Honor was her younger sister, **Celeste Pillow** (88-00), and Matron of Honor was her older sister, **Rachel Pillow Mitchener** (85-88). Bridesmaids included **Julie Griggs Newton** (88-08) and **Chantal O’Keeffe** (03). **Corey Pressley** (06-present) proposed to his girlfriend, Mary Ashley Cole, on Christmas day. **Rosemary Williams** (92-05) became engaged to Tim Anderson on March 21st. The couple are planning to be married on October 4, 2008.



Newly engaged, Tim Anderson and Rosemary Williams (92 – 05)



Rachel Burke (88 – 99) at her wedding to Gabriel Pantol

Births:



Bae and Silas’ baby girl, Lila Raine Cimino-Hurt



Elizabeth Rich Key’s (89 – 02) newborn, Mary Frances Key

Lee and **Virginia Preaus Barba** (83-89) welcomed their second child, a baby boy named Field, on February 20th. He weighed in at 6 lbs., 3 oz. **Bae** (05-present) and **Silas Cimino-Hurt** (02-present) have a new baby girl! Little Lila Raine was welcomed to the world on February 25, 2008 at 6:18pm. **Sabrina Rakes Fahey** (81-89) and her husband, Jessen, welcomed a daughter, Tatum Bliss, on October 13, 2007. One of her favorite songs is already “Chug-a-Wump”! **Liz Rich Key** (89-02) and her husband, Thomas, welcomed a baby girl to their family! Mary Frances Key was born on February 22, 2008, weighing in at 8 lbs. Scott and **Emily Williams King** (90-01) welcomed an 8 pound, 4 ounce baby boy! Finley Addison King arrived on October 17, 2007. **Laura Raulston McCarthy** (95-03) gave birth to Liam James McCarthy on February 18, 2008. Laura and her husband, Matt, live in Australia. Woodie and **Betsy Hassinger Van Horn** (93-97) had their first child, Robert Wade Van Horn, on February 27, 2007.



Laura Raulston McCarthy’s (95 – 03) new son, Liam



Emily Williams King (90 – 01) and her husband, Scott, with new baby, Finley

In Memoriam:



Mary Abigail Young (05-07) passed away on December 6, 2007 at the age of eleven, after her family's Baltimore home tragically caught fire. Her sixteen-year-old brother, Matt, also died as a result of the fire. Abby attended the June Session in 2005 and Main Session in 2007. She was a caring and cherished friend to many here at camp, and was loved by campers and counselors alike. Abby was the epitome of a Merrie-Woode girl, spirited and enthusiastic, compassionate and kind. Abby will be greatly missed by all of us at Merrie-Woode.



Bunch Griffin: A Merrie-Woode Girl to the Very End

Elizabeth "Bunch" Sanders Griffin died at the age of 88 on Tuesday, December 11, 2007. Merrie-Woode always held a special place in Bunch's heart. Bunch was born in Louisville, Kentucky in 1919, the same year another inspirational woman was founding a small girls camp over in the North Carolina mountains. Little did either of them know that before long Bunch Griffin and Camp Merrie-Woode would be intertwined forever. When the 14-year-old Bunch first came to the 8-week session in 1933, camp made a huge impact on the young camper. She fell in love with the outdoors, hiking, morning swims in Lake Fairfield and the simplicity of camp living. Bunch looked up to Dammie Day and said that she would never forget Dammie's farewell words to her campers, "We don't advertise. You are my advertisements. If you had fun at Merrie-Woode, tell your friends and families." From that moment on, Bunch made it her mission to talk up Merrie-Woode for the next seventy-four years.

A neighbor once called the young Elizabeth Sanders, "a bunch of sweetness" and the nickname stuck. Bunch went on to graduate from Louisville Collegiate School and Hollins College, a small women's college in Virginia. At Collegiate, she was a proud member of the "Amazon" field hockey team, a team she would avidly support for the rest of her life, just another example of her loyalty and devotion to the places which impacted her life for the better. After college, she returned to her hometown of Louisville to work at WAVE radio. During World War II, she helped to organize parties and entertainment for the soldiers stationed at Fort Knox. She then went on to write for the society page at the Courier-Journal, a Louisville newspaper. She married Gus Griffin in 1949 and the two remained happily married for fifty-six years until Gus's death in 2005.

For over 25 years Bunch and several camper type friends, including Merrie-Woode alumnae Barbara Rodes Dumesnil, Ginger Somerville Hallock, and Peachy Mobley Kohler came to Merrie-Woode every October, using High Heaven as their mission control center. A Kentucky Cumberland River rafting guide receives credit for the group's name. When Bunch told him in 1980 that she was bringing a group of women in their 50's and 60's, he replied, "Oh, they must be silver-haired jocks!" The trip was a success and the Silver-Haired Jocks went on to be an institution here at Merrie-Woode. Through the years the Silver-Haired Jocks have hiked Old Bald, carried their backpacks to the top of Chimneytop Mountain, and ran the Chattooga River, section 4. They have enjoyed looking out over Lake Fairfield, singing camp songs and re-living camper days. Bunch always brought her bugle with her to High Heaven and would enjoy playing a duet of "Taps" with Jim at night, Bunch on the porch of High Heaven with her bugle, Jim on his porch with his trombone.

Bunch served on our Board of Trustees from 1982 to 1988. As one of the early board members, she and her board were key players in changing Merrie-Woode from a privately owned camp to a foundation. She believed very much in preserving camp and its surrounding land from future development. She knew how important Merrie-Woode is not only to current Merrie-Woode girls, but also to the generations of girls to come.

Bunch was diagnosed with brain cancer a year ago but she never let that slow her down. She stayed spunky and full of good old Merrie-Woode "PEP" to the very end. She planned her own funeral, arranging for it to be as upbeat and appreciative of life as she lived every day of her own. The quintessential Merrie-Woode girl, she insisted upon being buried in her hiking boots and camp jacket. When thinking of Bunch now, the first image that comes to mind is a woman in hiking boots, carrying her bugle at her side, as she walks up to the pearly gates...for it seems a fitting end that Bunch's story should conclude with the following...

*"And St. Peter saw her and he confessed
I see my dear, you're one of the best.
So put up your sails and sail right through
Cause Miss St. Peter went to Merrie-Woode too!"*



Bunch blowing her bugle

Annual Fund Surpasses Goal!

Merrie-Woode alumnae, parents and friends continue to support our Annual Giving effort! This fund is an important source of revenue for Camp Merrie-Woode. Annual Giving is used to support scholarships, enhance summer programs, and maintain Merrie-Woode's historic buildings and grounds. In 2007, 478 participants contributed a total of \$119,396.09 to the Merrie-Woode Annual Fund!

All contributions to the Merrie-Woode Foundation are tax deductible for individuals, corporations, and foundations within the limits of section 501 (c) 3 of the IRS code. Gifts are through December 31, 2007. Please contact us with any errors or omissions.

2007 Annual Fund

(Reflects gifts received though December 31, 2007)

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 John and Cobby Young Witherington
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Gifts in Honor Of...

Lauren Pleasants, Caitlin Ratchford,
 Ashley Mitchell and Caroline "Buggy"
 Tuten
 By: The Horsley girls
 Eleanor and Audrey Turner
 By: R. Bartley and Christiana Turner
 True, Elise and Ravenel Harrigan
 By: True and Charlie Luck
 The Silver-Haired Jocks of Louisville
 and John Brantley
 By: Bunch Sanders Griffin
 Cameron Smith Callaway and Palmer
 Smith.
 By: Blair and Stirling Cassidy Smith
 Katherine and Anna Almquist
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 By: Susan and Edward S. Croft, III
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 By: Lane and Cille Orr Morrison
 Ciele Gutierrez
 By: Dr. and Mrs. James O. Harris

Granddaughters: Alicia Wright and
Louisa Johnston
By: Mrs. J.J. Leffers

Granddaughter: Tyler Anderson
By: Mr. and Mrs. Chip Anderson

Tweed and Rick Eckhard's 12th
Anniversary
By: Harry and Janie McMullen Cline

Rachel & Sarah Burke
By: John and Marilyn Burke

Mary Katherine & Caroline Strong
By: Kimberly and John Strong

Carrie Cannon Wessel's baby girl due
in March
By: Carol Ann Brown Cannon

Katherine McDonough
By: Ms. Julie Anne Morton

Anne Fairly Alison, Laura Wallace and
Caroline Wallace
By: James and Susan Alison

Beezy Hobson
By: Jane Marcus

God-daughter: Margaret Horsley
By: Lee and Isabel "Izzy" Frischkorn
Dudley

Nellie Black
By: Rip and Nell Mathis Black

Augusta and Fritz Orr
By: Catherine Porter

Gifts in Memory Of...

Elizabeth "Bunch" Sanders Griffin
By: Harold and Ginger Somerville
Hallock

By: Richard and Mary Rodes Nash
By: Mr. and Mrs. Bonneau Ansley Jr.,
Fayne Ansley
By: Eleanor Griffin
By: Charlotte Pippin
By: Liz and Haynes Lea
By: George and Lou Harris

Bill Kemp
By: Mrs. William P. Kemp, Jr.

Dr. Hugh H. Caldwell
By: Scott and Leah Wilkinson
Brockway
By: Amy Bell
By: Mary Mercer "Mimi" Daniel

Dorothy Metcalf Thomas
By: Dean and Lauren Thomas Flores

Fritz Orr & Hugh Caldwell
By: Judith Johnson Hays

Jane Schoolfield
By: Richard and Eunie Bizzell
Huettner

Abby Young
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Straske

Mr. "B.O." Staley
By: Kelly Crago Hansen

*Thank you to
all of our donors!*

Back on the Shores of Lake Fairfield!

Camp Merrie-Woode has appointed two new senior staff members to the year round staff - Christina Daniels and Betsy Reese. Christina will be the Programming and Development Director and Betsy has been named the new Head Counselor and Staff Recruiter. Together these talented young women will complete the restructuring of the year round office staff. They will assume Julie Griggs Newton's responsibilities and assist Denice and Jim with the day-to-day camp functions. Christina joined the team in January and Betsy plans to be on board by June.

Numerous recent campers and staff members will remember Christina as she has worked at camp for four summers. She spent three years as the head of ceramics and this past summer worked as our summer program director. Christina comes to us from Summit Charter School in Cashiers, NC where she worked for three years as the art instructor and was then promoted to the middle school lead teacher. Christina is originally from Naples, Florida. She attended Western Carolina University where she majored in fine arts and education. She and her husband Jason fell in love with the mountains of North Carolina and enjoy spending time in the outdoors. Christina's husband Jason works in Sylva at the Harris Regional Hospital in the information technology department. Merrie-Woode is fortunate to have Christina in this full time position.

Many of you will remember Betsy from her many years at Merrie-Woode. She was a camper from 1989 to 1996 and a counselor from 1998 to 2004. During her years as a staff member she was a cabin counselor, would-be leader, head of the waterfront and assistant to senior staff. She also worked in camp one off-season to assist with the ACA audit while she was attending college. Her many years of camp experience, and understanding and devotion to camp's traditions, made her the perfect candidate for the job! Most recently, Betsy has been working as a high school English teacher at Charlotte Latin School in Charlotte, NC since 2005. She earned her masters degree from Western Carolina University and her undergraduate degree from Salem College in Winston Salem, NC. She has long been a highly respected member of the Merrie-Woode family by campers and counselors alike. She is eager to be back for her first summer on Lake Fairfield in a few years and can't wait for the summer to start!

Both Christina and Betsy have a deep love for Merrie-Woode and look forward to living in the mountains. Both are sure to bring new and fresh ideas to program development and the camp operation. Join us in giving Christina and Betsy a big Merrie-Woode welcome.



*Programming and
Development Director,
Christina Daniels*



*Head Counselor and Staff
Recruiter
Betsy Reese with
her dog, Irma*

90 Years of Merrie-Woode, from front page ...

English tradition and tales of King Arthur were woven into Merrie-Woode's lore. Emphasis was put on the ideals of the Knights of the Round Table. Dammie encouraged her girls to live a life of self-sacrifice and service. Virtues such as honesty, humility, integrity and loyalty were strived for on a daily basis. Each day at camp began with a chilly morning swim to wake up and get the blood running. Meals were served three times a day in the Dining Hall, known at that time as "The Cabin". It was in these early days when the love affair between Merrie-Woode and her campers began. Camp represented a place of solitude and strength. It was a place for girls of the age to be strong and take pride in their abilities in a time when women were still fighting for their right to vote.

Dammie directed and led Camp Merrie-Woode until she was in her 70's and the time came for her to retire. She sold the camp to Fritz Orr of Atlanta, Georgia. Fritz had experience running boys camps and his initial thought was to make Merrie-Woode a camp for boys. Dammie made him promise to always run Merrie-Woode as a girls' camp. He agreed and, by doing so, kept Dammie's vision of a camp for girls to grow and excel in alive. Fritz and his wife, Augusta, directed camp until Fritz's death after which his son, Fritz Jr., took over the camp until 1978. During these years, camp continued to grow. The Orrs added more structure and emphasized skill building activities while the traditions of Follow the Gleam, weekly campfires and cabin overnights continued. The year of 1978 proved to be an important one in the history of Merrie-Woode. When the Orr family

decided to retire from camping, long time boating counselor Hugh Caldwell organized the creation of the Merrie-Woode Foundation. Incorporated as a nonprofit corporation, the Foundation's sole purpose was to own and operate camp, preserving Merrie-Woode for future generations to experience. From this point on, Merrie-Woode truly was owned and operated by its alumnae and friends.

Through the years, Merrie-Woode has remained just as important to each generation of girls as it was to Dammie Day's original campers. No matter what the outside world held, Merrie-Woode remained constant and true. Through the days of the Great Depression when life seemed brittle and uncertain, camp provided its girls with security. Through the days of the Second World War when campers and counselors had fathers, brothers and sweethearts fighting overseas camp provided a place of hope and laughter. In times filled with the anxiety of the Cold War, the disillusionment of Watergate and the pessimism created by the Vietnam War, camp was a place of optimism and joy. And now, in a world changed and still affected by the attacks on September 11, 2001, camp grants girls back their childhood. In a world that has long since lost its innocence Merrie-Woode allows young women the opportunity to continue to keep

theirs intact. In this world where it is hard to know what to believe, camp helps our children believe in the good things and especially in themselves. Camp Merrie-Woode is a place of sanctuary and refuge and has been since 1919. This is why Merrie-Woode has lasted as long as it has...because at camp days revolve around times of fellowship, understanding and love. Somehow at camp, the things that are truly important rise to the forefront. At camp we are our best versions of ourselves in a community that seems somehow untouched by the outside world.

In years to come Merrie-Woode will continue to provide this for the next ninety summers as girls continue to bound through the camp gates. One has to believe, looking at the Merrie-Woode of today,

that Dammie Day would be proud and pleased to see her cherished camp still so beloved by all. For even after all these years her words ring true...

"It is because there is a kindred spirit in you that you have recognized what Merrie-Woode stands for. God gave us a place of rarest beauty and since I first beheld it, I have tried to match his gift as best I could, with permeating love and honesty. It is a composite thing made up of all those who through the years have loved it and given it their best."



Dammie Day in the summer of 1950

Merrie-Woode Gang in NOLA!

The year-round Merrie-Woode staff spent a week in New Orleans, LA this past January! We had a fantastic opportunity through the St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church and their program, RHINO (Rebuilding Hope In New Orleans), to work for a week with Habitat for Humanity on the construction of five new homes that they are building on an inner-city block. Camp family members, Ellie Lane and Georgia Simpson, also came to join us to work for a day. A church member took us on a driving tour of the city to see the devastation that is still left even two and a half years after Hurricane Katrina. It made it all



*Houses on Ferry Place,
New Orleans, LA*

the more inspiring to witness and be involved in the rebuilding and recovery of such a great city.

We also found some time for fun, as it was conveniently the week of Mardi Gras! We went out on the town one night and enjoyed walking through the French Quarter, riding in cable cars, and sipping coffee and eating beignets at Café Du Monde. We were able to catch a few parades while dining on the front porch of Beth and Bobby Hassinger's home. The Hassingers are a long time camp family; Bobby has served on the Board of Trustees and is currently the Co-Chair of the *Place of Rarest Beauty – The Final Piece* campaign. Two of their daughters, Betsy Hassinger Van Horn and Cathy Hassinger Drennan attended camp.

George and Fran Villere graciously opened their home to our group, with the help of their daughter Mathilde Villere Currence and camp parent Jill Nalty, for a very traditional New Orleans dinner of red beans and rice and King Cake. Christina Daniels was especially excited at the idea of the King Cake when she heard a rumor that whomever finds the hidden baby gets to be queen for a year! We quickly informed her that it was queen for a *day*, not a year! We



*Denice Dunn, Jim Dunn, Ellie Lane,
Rogni Southwell, Chip Morgan, Mary
Ashley Cole, Corey Pressley, Gary
Hostetler, Lindsay Garner, Christina
Daniels, Travis Fox and Phyllis
Stiwinter*

were able to see many other members of the New Orleans camp community as well, while hearing from countless Merrie-Woode families while we were in town with well wishes and endless thanks.

Looking back, it was a whirlwind of a week, but undoubtedly well worth it! And while we certainly made time for some fun in the Big Easy, it was truly the work and our time on the Habitat job site that was the most memorable. We left with a feeling of accomplishment and pride at the work we were able to do to help revive such a beloved city filled with history and culture.

Long Range Planning Survey, We Need Your Help...

Our upcoming master plan will help to guide the future use of our land here at Camp Merrie-Woode. The result will be the continued stewardship of our 390 acres, ensuring that the “built environment” is developed and managed in harmony with the “natural environment”.

We are asking for input from all of our extended family – our alumnae, campers, parents, and staff – to help ensure that our master planning efforts “hit the mark”. Please take some time to complete the attached questionnaire and return it to the camp office or fill this survey out online at www.merriewoode.com (click “Long Range Planning Survey” link on the home page).

Long Range Planning Survey

Rank, in order of your favorite camp activities, the following:

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archery | <input type="checkbox"/> Dancing | <input type="checkbox"/> Mountaineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts & crafts | <input type="checkbox"/> Drama | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canoeing | <input type="checkbox"/> Jewelry | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Tumbling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ceramics | <input type="checkbox"/> Kayaking | <input type="checkbox"/> Riding | <input type="checkbox"/> Weaving |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Climbing | <input type="checkbox"/> Land sports | <input type="checkbox"/> Sailing | <input type="checkbox"/> Woodworking |

**On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being, “needs improvement”,
and 5 being “don’t change a thing”, rank the following:**

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Way-finding around
the camp | <input type="checkbox"/> Staff housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Hill cabins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parking/traffic circulation
on open/close days | <input type="checkbox"/> Camp out areas | <input type="checkbox"/> Front Line Cabins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horse trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Covered Riding Arena | <input type="checkbox"/> Back Line cabins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Chapel | <input type="checkbox"/> Bath houses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Campfire Ring | <input type="checkbox"/> Boathouse | <input type="checkbox"/> Arts and Crafts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High Heaven | <input type="checkbox"/> Dining Hall | <input type="checkbox"/> Weaving Hut |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tajar Building | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming Docks | <input type="checkbox"/> The Welcome Lodge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hilltop (Main Office) | <input type="checkbox"/> Bat’s Roost | <input type="checkbox"/> The Program Office |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Ark | <input type="checkbox"/> Cloud Nine Infirmary | <input type="checkbox"/> Castle |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis Courts | <input type="checkbox"/> Inn Site |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> King Arthur’s Court | |

Pick your top three from the following list of potential physical improvements to the camp property:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Remote sites for camp-outs | <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities for year-round property use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sitting areas to hang out and talk with friends | <input type="checkbox"/> Conference, retreat, and meeting facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More hiking trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Improved stable facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More riding trails | <input type="checkbox"/> An outdoor amphitheater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Better staff housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Better signage to find my way around camp |

If your top 3 weren’t even on the list in #3 above, what are they?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

**How important are the following to you? Use a scale of 1-5
(1 is “not at all important”, 5 being “really important”):**

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental education programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Nicer housing for non-cabin staff members
(and more of it) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A way to incorporate the camp’s history (like
Boston’s Freedom Trail) | <input type="checkbox"/> An improved amphitheater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> An updated digital graphic map of the camp | <input type="checkbox"/> Use of “green technologies” for energy
savings and environmental quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horseback riding, hiking, and camping on
the acres recently purchased | <input type="checkbox"/> Becoming more ecologically responsible |

Rank, in order of importance, the following “green technologies”:

- ___ Solar electric
- ___ Windmills
- ___ Electric vehicles
- ___ New construction meeting LEED standards (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)
- ___ Recycling program
- ___ Energy savings

Rank, in order of importance, the following means of becoming more “environmentally responsible”:

- ___ Erosion control
- ___ Watershed protection
- ___ Native plantings
- ___ Forest management
- ___ Manure and kitchen compost management

What other means of being “environmentally responsible” should the camp consider? _____

What other “green technologies” should the camp consider? _____

If you could do anything you wanted to improve the physical facilities and land use at the camp, what would it be? _____

What is the most important thing about Camp Merrie-Woode as far as you are concerned? _____

What is your favorite place on the camp property? Why? _____

Is there anything else that the master plan should address, in your opinion? _____

Please Return to: **Camp Merrie-Woode, 100 Merrie-Woode Road, Sapphire, NC 28774**

90th Anniversary Schedule of Events

Saturday, July 19th

and

Sunday, July 20th

Saturday, July 19th

5:00-6:30PM

90th Anniversary Celebration Alumnae Gathering
(Cocktails and Appetizers at the Inn Site - RSVP required)

Sunday, July 20th

10:00-11:00AM ~ Guest Registration

11:00AM ~ Chapel Service

Noon-1:00PM ~ Guest Registration continues
Free Boats for Guests

12:30PM ~ Picnic Lunch on the Waterfront

1:30-2:45PM ~ Showcase of Activities

3:00PM ~ Welcome
Crew Skits, Crew Race

Local Accommodations

*Please make your reservations now,
as Cashiers is busy during the summer.

High Hampton Inn	828-743-2411
Laurelwood Mountain Inn	828-743-9939
Fairfield Sapphire Valley	828-743-3441 or 800-533-8268
Millstone Inn	828-743-2737
Hampton In and Suites	827-743-4545

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**Camp Merrie-Woode's
90th Anniversary Celebration**

Saturday, July 19th and Sunday, July 20th

Camp Merrie-Woode
Spouses, families and friends welcome

*Please RSVP by June 1st
(Space is limited for Saturday's night event)*

Phyllis at 828-743-3300 or phyllis@merriewoode.com

