

CAMP MERRIE-WOODE

Situated, Celebrated on Fairfield Lake

Fall 2009

A New Nature Nook in the Treetops!

We are thrilled to unveil the designs for our new and improved Nature Nook and curriculum! Picture this: swinging rope bridges, beautiful ponds and waterfalls, children engaged in hands on environmental studies. These elements will guide Merrie-Woode's vision of campers learning to appreciate and preserve this place of rarest beauty.

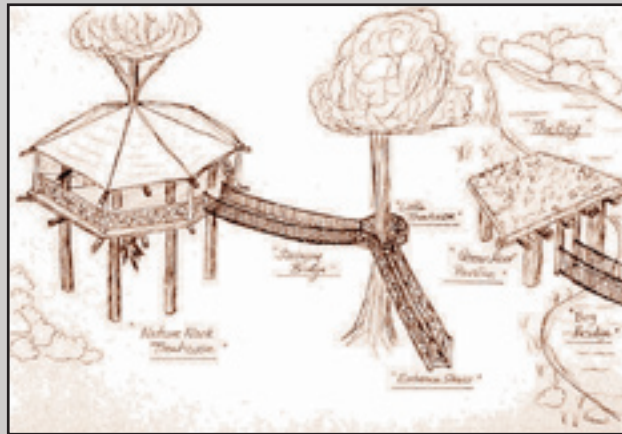
Imagine yourself as a young camper enthralled with tales of woodland fairies and dreaming of adventures with Robinson Crusoe and the Swiss Family Robinson. That young camper in each of us will be overwhelmed by the world within our new

Nature Nook. The current Nook sits quietly among the hemlocks and rhododendron— just beyond camp's old stone pillars. Though it has given generations of campers pleasant memories, its old structure is in need of significant repair. Mike Fischesser, the designer and architect of camp's high and low ropes courses, has designed a Nature Nook with two distinct structures that will provide campers with varying learning opportunities.

Mike's plans begin with a green roofed pavilion nestled by a small pond. As campers walk over the pond across a swinging footbridge, they will hear the sounds of a trickling waterfall that feeds into the pond below. Once on the opposite shore, they will be met by an open air classroom within the pavilion. The pavilion's roof is intended to support soil and growing vegetation. Constructed with natural materials such as hemlock logs, the pavilion will offer the perfect shelter as campers learn about their surroundings, such as the ecosystem within the pond or the neighboring organic garden.

The main Nature Nook, however, will be a rustic tree house perched twelve feet above the ground. To enter the tree house, campers will ascend a wooden staircase to a small observatory positioned around

a tree. From there, a suspension bridge leads the campers into a magical space where their imagination and curiosity can be cultivated. Its 28 foot diameter structure centers around a large red maple, which



The new design for our Nature Nook

will appear to literally be growing through the roof of the Nook. Its screened windows and large front porch will allow campers to enjoy the cool mountain air while sitting among the branches, while its roof will provide the perfect percussion instrument for afternoon raindrops. With approximately 600 square feet of classroom space, including 30 feet of counter space with critter-proof storage underneath, running

water, and electricity, our nature program will be able to grow and thrive in the coming years. The Nook will house books, arts and crafts supplies, and stations to study plants, seeds, animals, reptiles, mushrooms, gems and stones, and much more.

The nature program has been designed to incorporate a nationally recognized nature curriculum, Project Wild®. This program is administered by the Council for Environmental Education and is cosponsored with the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Project Wild® and many of its participants have received a variety of awards and recognitions. The curriculum introduces

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Wit's End

We hope this newsletter finds you doing well and that you are enjoying the display of gorgeous autumn leaves. Much of the southeast has experienced an enormous amount of rain this fall, and we had roughly 22 inches in less than a week. That's more rain than we experienced when the hurricane came through a few years ago! We are thrilled that our erosion control project (the first phase of our Master Plan) was completed in the spring because we didn't experience the usual road "wash away" that we normally see in camp.

We are looking forward to an off season filled with many exciting projects. The new Nature Nook and the relocation of Avalon (behind Doxology) are already under way. These projects are sure to enhance camp next summer. Once again, camp is at capacity for 2010, with waitlists. We are thankful to our Merrie-Woode families for being patient as we work through the enrollment process each fall. We are all thrilled that Merrie-Woode continues to enrich the lives of so many young girls year after year.

Merrie-Woode's 91st summer was the best ever! There were many highlights around camp this summer. Campfire, Chapel, the new Hugh Caldwell slide show during our classical music evening program, and the Fourth of July were just a few. The improved campfires were a success - there was more attention to song selection, more Tajar Tales, counselor vespers, and musical solos! Chapel services were enjoyable, especially when we were fortunate to have alumnae come to speak. Jody Shartle Anderson (42-46) thrilled the girls with her stories about camp. At the age of eighty, she will be participating in the upcoming Senior Olympics; she credits this to her days at Merrie-Woode. The "Fourth of July" celebration on the Inn Site hill was a huge hit! We enjoyed a picnic, carnival games, a

gigantic slide, and a massive fireworks display.

Our activities continued to flourish under the direction of our strong summer counselors. Many of our staff members returned from previous summers, and those who had missed a few summers were eager to be back. This was the first time we finished hiring our staff by the end of March. Many potential staff members were disappointed in the late spring when they realized that they had waited too long to apply and our staff positions were filled. A helpful hint for 2010: apply early to be a part of this special team!

Throughout the summer, we worked with long time camper and counselor Sara Huffman (95-09). She shot footage this summer for a documentary film on Camp Merrie-Woode. Sara is now reviewing over fifty hours of footage. The majority of the filming was done here at camp, focusing on camp life and the camp community. Some of the footage will also be saved for a special coffee table book and DVD being planned to commemorate Merrie-Woode's 100th anniversary.

We've spent time looking at colleges this fall with Bradley as he gets ready to apply. Things sure have changed since we were applying to college! A special thank you to our summer counselors who made us feel welcome on their college campuses. It's always nice to see a familiar face. We look forward to spending time with Tyler and Bradley when they come home for the holidays. We hope that everyone has a safe and happy holiday season, and we hope to see many of you during our upcoming travels.

Chug a Wump!

Denise and Jim

Staff News

Madeline Baird is busy with her student teaching at Jefferson Elementary in Winston-Salem, NC. We recently heard good news from **Hayley Deavel**, who has been accepted in the University of Virginia undergraduate business program. **Riley Dickey** is excited about going back to Appalachian State University in the spring. Until then, she is busy volunteering for the Humane Society, Animal Control, and OASIS—a help center for victims of domestic violence



*Alex Polhill and
Vivian Weatherby in Italy*

and abused families in the High Country of North Carolina. As a freshman field hockey player, **Sarah Eades** is enjoying her first year at Williams College. **Perry Ellis** is currently living in Miami, Florida where she is working closely with the Sigma Kappa Chapter at Florida International University as a Field Consultant. She says life is good, but the Florida heat is hard to handle. In her first semester at Tulane University's Law School, **Elizabeth Etherton**



*Keiko LeMon, Elizabeth Etherton,
and Amanda Von Thron*

is settling into life in New Orleans and says school is better than she expected. Many of our current staff members are studying abroad, including **Madeline Fuhrman**, who is spending the academic year studying in France. While in France, Madeline is traveling around the country playing tennis with a women's tennis team. **Scottie Springer** is having a great time in Spain while **Vivian Weatherby** is loving life in Florence, Italy. She is living with fellow Merrie-Woode staff member **Alex Polhill**. They have visited Ravenna and Venice and even took a side trip to Paris. **Alicia Wright** will be attending her second semester of her junior year at Middlebury College in Prague and Greece! As a freshman Art History major, **Adriana Grossman** loves Bryn Mawr College. **Suzy Grubb** is working hard on her sorority's new philanthropy project that benefits Alzheimer's Disease research and the Sigma Kappa Foundation. Among our favorite seniors at the University of Virginia, **Elizabeth Harrison**, **Carrie Coker**, and **Libby Page** are all living together in Charlottesville, VA. **Lindsay Garner Hostetler** and her husband, Gary, recently purchased their first home in Pisgah Forest, NC.



*Sarah Logan, Jim Dunn, Alex Weber,
Kelli Hewitt, and Hayley Deavel*

Check out **Sara Huffman's** blog at: <http://www.observiancollective.com/blog/>. She is in the process of filming and producing a feature-length independent film. Sara will be filming through the end of October on the coast of North Carolina before returning to work on her documentary about Merrie-Woode. Until October, **Keiko LeMon** worked at Camp High Rocks with their off-season school programs. At the end of her High Rocks commitment, Keiko will be moving to Macau, China to work in the props department for Cirque Du Soleil's *Zaia* show at the Venetian Macao Resort Hotel. *Zaia*, with its premiere performance on August 28, 2008, is the first permanent Cirque Du Soleil show in Asia. We wish Keiko luck as she begins this two-year-long adventure. **Shelby Lopez** is on the Northwestern University's varsity dance team. Watch for her on televised Northwestern football games! She has also been cast in an upcoming Northwestern production of *Side Show*. As a graduate student at Brenau University, **Valerie Mac** is also working for the school as the full time University Nurse. She recently got a new puppy who is part yellow lab and part golden retriever. **McKenzie Martin's** school year is off to a good start, as well. She is working with the outdoor adventure center in Florence, AL and will be leading trips and renting out gear. McKenzie was also recently elected President of the Outdoor Adventure Club at the University of North Alabama. School is going well for our summer staff members. **Taylor McGrew** is teaching 8th grade math and science at Veterans Memorial Middle School in Columbus, GA. Since graduating from NYU in May, **Amber Skye Noyes** is writing original music and loving life in New York City. Though she has no news yet, **Caroline Reeves** is hoping to spend the month of June in France and Morocco in order to complete her minor in French. After spending her summer as the Waterfront Director, **Amanda von Thron** moved to Charlotte, NC to attend graduate



Ingrid Weatherby's new puppy, Dudley

school. She loves her classes in the Math Education MAT Program at UNC-Charlotte! **Ingrid Weatherby** is in graduate school at Western Carolina University and just got a new puppy named Dudley. Though she was only able to be with us for a short time during the summer, we are glad to report that **Calene Wertymyer** is settling into her new nursing job at The University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital in the Trauma Burn ICU. Hopefully she will be back as our camp nurse very soon! **Bess Young** is enjoying her senior year at Sewanee. She is focusing on her comprehensive exams and starting to look at graduate programs in Tennessee and North Carolina for a Masters in Early Childhood Education. The year-round staff caught up with **Campbell Bowers**, **Tee Bowers**, **Deane Valentine Bowers**, **Ivey London**, **Mallie Salerno**, and **Lizzie Scruggs** during a recent trip to Charleston, SC.



Kalena Williams and Suzy Grubb

Alumnae News



Mel Broughton, Mary Ann Cooper Broughton (36-38), and Nancy Dameron Almqvist (70-present) at camp this summer

Rosemary Williams Anderson (92-05) and her husband, Tim, recently purchased their first home in Tampa, FL. The couple moved in just as their first wedding anniversary arrived. **Josie Bray (99-02)** is working as the assistant to the director in the upcoming revival of *Ragtime*, opening on Broadway at the Niel Simon Theatre on November 15, 2009. The highly acclaimed musical by Terrence McNally, based on the novel by E.L. Doctorow, had a successful run this past spring at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. **Courtney Dial (95-05)** recently graduated from Valderbilt with a Masters in Organizational Leadership. She is now working as a career counselor in the Vanderbilt Undergraduate Career Center. **Kelly Frailey (00-02)** graduated in May from the University of Georgia with an MBA. **Rebecca Rich Gallardo (87-98)** has launched a new company, Blue Whale Boutique, a cottage shop offering unique handmade clothing, gifts and accessories for children. You can check out her shop at: www.bluewhaleboutique.com. Rebecca and her husband, Rob, are also keeping busy taking care of 4-year-old, Sophia, and 17-month-old,

Nico. **Shannon Howard (94-00)** is going to be publishing a chapter in an upcoming book on Joss Whedon's *Angel* and will be giving two presentations at the Midwest Modern Language Association in November. She is also busy applying to Ph.D. programs in Rhetoric and Composition for next fall. **Leslie Hummel (86-90)** has been appointed to serve as the Senior Policy Advisor for the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Policy and International Affairs. **Hayes Jernigan (97-06)** is working with the Peace Corps in Africa. She is currently developing a project to start a summer camp for children in the region. Check out a web page designated to her summer camp project: <https://www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm?shell=resources.donors.contribute.projD>. **Liz Kennedy (98-05)** graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill in May. She was recently hired to work at Chanel in New York City. She is living in Manhattan and loving life! **Joanna Phillips Kunz (81-88)** and **Maryanna Phillips Koehring (82-95)** have both moved recently. Joanna and family now reside in Charlotte, NC, and Maryanna and family moved stateside from Africa to Essex Junction, VT. Both report being glad to settle down for their children's first year of kindergarten. **Kara Smith Land (84-91)** has started a new company, Copenhill Consulting. Copenhill Consulting will help nonprofits build strong, efficient and sustainable organizations. Visit the company's website at: copenhill.com. **Kenny Marcus (05-06)** will begin Officer Candidate School on November 8th, after which he will then move on to a pilot training program for the United States Navy. **Elissa McCarty (95-03)** is now studying at Le Cordon Blue in Atlanta, GA.

Katherine McDonough (95-06) is back in the United States after studying for her Masters Degree abroad in London. She is now in school in Knoxville, TN to earn her teacher certification while working as a substitute teacher. **Bette Neal (92-96)** just celebrated her 90th birthday on October 14th! Many of you will remember Bette from her many years teaching in camp's Weaving Hut. Happy 90th, Bette! **Julie Griggs Newton (88-08)** and her husband, Casey, are doing well in Alabama with their daughter, Perry. Casey returned safely to the United States this summer after serving a tour of duty in Iraq this past year. **Amber Skye Noyes (97-08)** graduated from NYU this past May. She is living in downtown Manhattan and runs into fellow Merrie-Woode girls frequently. She is now focusing on her music career, writing and recording new music. She is excited to be releasing her music on her website and iTunes shortly. **Meg Roach (90-00)** is living and working in New York City. She is currently writing a blog reviewing restaurants in New York City called *The Hungry Roach: Restaurants for the Hungry New Yorker*. Check it out at thehungryroach.blogspot.com.



Casey and Julie Griggs Newton (88-08) with their daughter, Perry

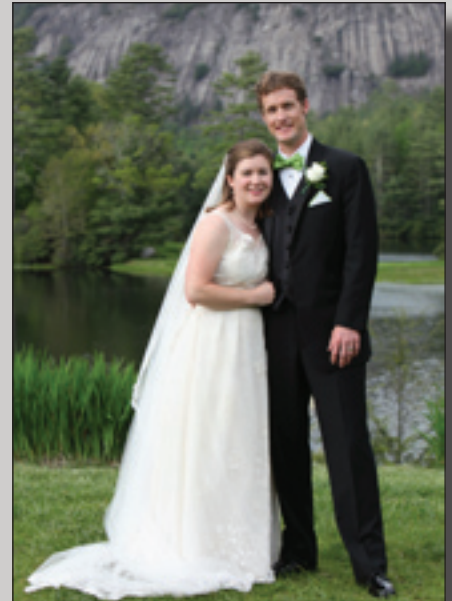
CMW Engagements and Weddings



John and Julie Kokemor Farmer (06-07) on their wedding day

Nancy Dameron Almquist's (70-present) son, Henry, is engaged to be married to Laura Dopson on December 19, 2009. His sisters **Anna Almquist (99-07)** and **Katherine Almquist (93-07)** will be bridesmaids. Former counselor, **Julie Kokemor (06-07)** married John Farmer this past June at the chapel on campus at UNC-Chapel Hill. **Ashley Garner (95-07)** is engaged to be married to Joseph

Dringo. The wedding date is set for September 18, 2010. **Jen Hammaker (87-02)** and Paul Rondeau were married on September 27, 2009. **Natalie Matthews (94-03)** is engaged to be married and is planning a wedding at camp next May. Former counselor, **Kate Welsh (04-05)** married Matt Newton on September 12, 2009 in Cashiers, NC. Australian counselor, **Krystle Nugent (08)** and Warren Paterson were married on May 30, 2009. **Ann Whitham (89-00)** married Steve Cundy on May 9, 2009 at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Cashiers, NC. Steve's family spent the week at High Heaven and hosted the rehearsal dinner picnic at Lilypad. They had a great time exploring camp! There were plenty of Merrie-Woode alumnae on hand for the entire weekend, including the bride's grandmother, **Marie Teague Cranston (42-44)**, the bride's aunt, **Liz Cranston Cleckler (67-69)**,



Ann Whitham Cundy (89-00) and her husband, Steve

the bride's mother, **Catherine Cranston Whitham (65-66)**, and **Molly Spicer Hood (60-62)**.

CMW Births



Nicholas Julian, son of Stephanie Gross Julian (86-92)



Jeffrey and Karen Jones Kung's (91-00) daughter, Liza Grace Shiang Kung

Liz Getten Atwood (87-91) has a new baby girl, Lucille Claire. She is excited to have a future Merrie-Woode girl in the family. Liz lives in Nashville with her husband, Chad, and Lucille's twin older brothers, Hobs and Lee. **Waverly Burlage Bamman (82-92)** and



Josh and Sara J. Martin Wright (02-08) with their baby girl, Evelyn

husband Sean welcomed baby Luke into the world on September 2, 2009. Patrick and **Emily Pittman Funderburk (87-01)** welcomed their first child, Patrick Moore Funderburk, Jr. He was born on April 4, 2009 and weighed in at 8 pounds, 12 ounces and measured 21 inches. **Stephanie Gross**



*Emily Pittman Funderburk (87-01)
with Patrick Funderburk, Jr.*

Julian (86-92) and her husband, David, have a baby boy! Nicholas Julian was born on October 31, 2008. **Evelyn Simmons Kissel (88-95)** gave birth to Peter Francis Freeman Kissel, IV on April 16, 2009. Evelyn is living in New Orleans with her husband, Peter, and daughter Georgia. **Karen Jones Kung (91-00)** and her husband, Jeffrey, are thrilled to announce the birth of their daughter, Liza Grace Shiang Kung, on April 24, 2009. She was 6 pounds, 9 ounces and 19.5 inches long. **Theresa Snyder Lotspeich (91-92)** and her husband, Ricky, welcomed their first baby boy, Asher Reid Lotspeich, on May 17, 2009. Alan and **Clair Freeman Marshall (85-98)** gave birth to their second son, Nelson Fitts Marshall, on July 17, 2009, just 3 days after



*Peter and Evelyn Simmons Kissel's
(89-95) new arrival,
Peter Francis Freeman Kissel, IV*



*John and Elizabeth Dempsey Merritt
(88-98) with new son, George*

they moved to Raleigh. John and **Elizabeth Dempsey Merritt (88-98)** have a new member of the family. Big brother Jack helped to welcome George Gilliam Merritt on October 16, 2009. George weighed in at 7 pounds, 12 ounces and 20 inches long. **Laura Griffith Moxley (86-98)** and her husband, Shawn, are expecting their second son in July of 2009. Jeff and **Sallie Savitz Orchard (00)** welcomed a baby boy, Edward Gregory, to their family on April 3, 2009. **Liz Moore Uecker (90-99)** and her husband, Jeremy, joyously announced the birth of their first child, Dorothy Anne "Annie" Uecker on May 4, 2009. **Sara J. Martin Wright (02-08)** and her husband, Josh, welcomed their first child, Evelyn Sprague Wright. Little Evie was born on July 18, 2009. She weighed in at 7 pounds, 11 ounces and measured 21 inches.



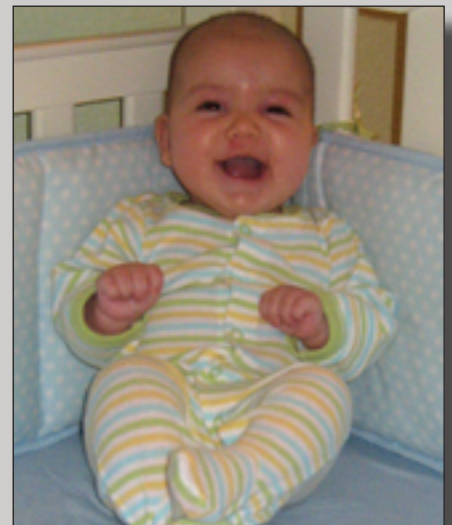
*Clair Freeman Marshall's (85-98) son,
Nelson Fitts Marshall*



*Asher Reid Lotspeich, son of Ricky
and Theresa Snyder Lotspeich (91-92)*



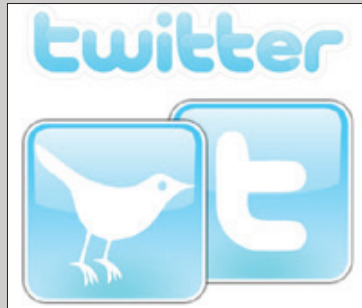
*Sallie Savitz Orchard's (00) son,
Edward Gregory*



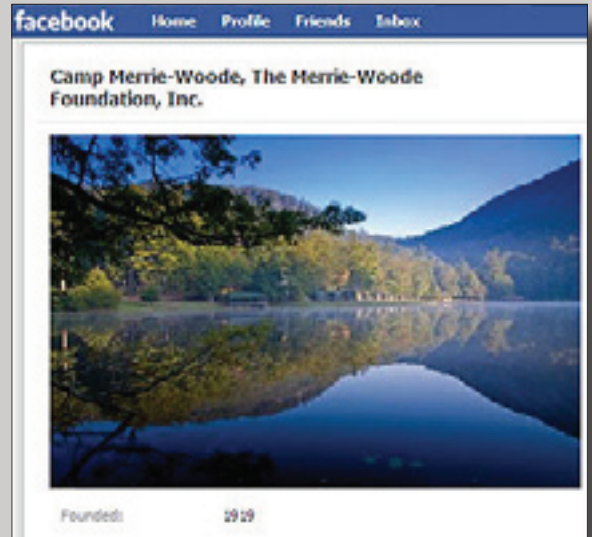
*Jeremy and Elizabeth Moore Uecker's
(90-99) new baby girl, Annie*

Camp Enters the Age of Social Networking

Merrie-Woode has drifted into the modern age of social networking! It's official - Camp Merrie-Woode is now on Facebook! Check out our Facebook page and become a fan. The official camp page is under the name of: **Camp Merrie-Woode, The Merrie-Woode Foundation, Inc.** Drop by, write on our Wall, see camp videos, or check out the Discussion Boards and vote on the fun polls. We will also be posting old photos of camp from decades past as we continue to go through the camp archives.



Merrie-Woode has also joined the national craze of Twitter! Become a follower and keep up with what is going on at Merrie-Woode in the off-season. Look us up as: **CampMerrieWoode** (no spaces, no dashes).



Reaching the 2009 Annual Fund Goal!

It's not too late to contribute to this year's Annual Fund! Our 2009 goal is \$100,000 and currently, we are just over \$48,000 in gifts to the Merrie-Woode Foundation. Your support helps to provide excellence in the camping experience; from staffing to programming to facility improvements to camperships. This year, in light of the economic situation, Merrie-Woode has allotted additional funds to go towards the 2010 camperships. Camperships assist families in making the Merrie-Woode experience a reality for their girls each summer. The 2009 Annual Fund is also being used to assist with the implementation of our Master Plan. All

participants and a full report will be published in the spring 2010 newsletter.

Gifts 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. 2009 Annual Fund gifts can be mailed to **Camp Merrie-Woode, 100 Merrie-Woode Road, Sapphire, NC 28774** or given online using PayPal. Go to our website www.merriewood.com, then go to the **Alumnae** tab, scroll down to **Annual Fund**, and click "donate."

Around Camp 2009!



The Would-Be Captains of 2009



On the waterfront at August Session



The King's Players of 2009



The Horsemasters of 2009, Elly Untermeyer and Kimberly Demby



Bum's Rest at Bingo Night, June Session

Honoring Our Board Chair

Camp Merrie-Woode honored Mary Jane Scott Trimble at the Annual Meeting of the Merrie-Woode Foundation. Many of you, who know Mary Jane, know that her family has been involved with Merrie-Woode for over 50 years. She is an alumna who has served two separate terms on the Merrie-Woode Board of Trustees. The last four years, of which, she served as its Chairperson. She originally served from 1991 to 1996, serving as the Vice Chair from 1993-1996. When she stepped down after her first term, her husband Dr. Jay Trimble joined the Board and served from 1998 to 2003. Nancy Conkle Swann invited Mary Jane to return in 2004. Mary Jane's devotion and energy has made her perfect for this job and perfect for Camp Merrie-Woode.

Mary Jane grew up in the Jacksonville, Florida area with her two sisters Jennie and JoJo. She followed her older sister Jennie Scott Shad (camper 59-65, staff 66) to Camp Merrie-Woode; Jennie made Captain in 1962 and also served on one of Merrie-Woode's first Boards. Mary Jane came to camp for eight summers and became a Captain



Jim Dunn, Mary Jane Scott Trimble, Denice Dunn, Sarah Jo Trimble, and Jay Trimble at the Fall Board Meeting

in 1964. She spent many hours as a camper paddling. Mary Jane's younger sister, Josephine (JoJo) Scott (65-70) joined her sisters at camp and made Captain in 1970. Later as a staff member, Mary Jane, came



Mary Jane Scott Trimble receives a framed photo of Merrie-Woode as a thanks for her service as the Board Chair

back to work with Hugh Caldwell on the boating staff. She was privileged to paddle the Chattooga River with President Jimmy Carter, who was the Governor of Georgia at the time.

After attending Smith College in Massachusetts, Mary Jane and Jay married and returned to Jacksonville, FL. They enjoy spending time with their three children, James and their daughters Jennie Trimble Busey (88-92, 99) and Sarah Jo Trimble (97-05). As well as visiting their own children, Mary Jane and Jay see their two grandchildren as often as possible. McRae, 2 and a half years old, is next in line for her own Merrie-Woode experience!

Mary Jane has been tireless and totally committed to success no matter the challenges or difficulties. She has been on other boards and she brought that experience to Merrie-Woode where she has ensured sound financial

management, long range planning, safe and rewarding camping, and successful fundraising. She has been supported by Jay, her talented husband, who is quite a paddler himself! Merrie-Woode thanks him for sharing his wife and her many gifts.

As Mary Jane leaves her role as Chairperson, the *Place of Rarest Beauty...the final piece* campaign is within dollars of completion. She has led the Board in establishing the Foundation's vision for the future and has a detailed Master Plan in place for camp. The Foundation is in a better place because of her. Mary Jane is excited to pass the torch to camp's new Board Chairperson, Liz Counce Irwin (72-79). Liz is originally from New Orleans, LA and now makes her home in Essex Fells, NJ with her husband Jimmy, son Oliver and daughters Adele (02-present) and Grace (08 - Present). Liz and the entire Board of Trustees appreciate Mary Jane's involvement over the years. It is clear that Camp Merrie-Woode is better because of her. Thank you, Mary Jane. We miss you already, but we know you are not far away.

Avalon Makes the Big Move

The cabin of Avalon will soon have a new home! Avalon has long been detached from the rest of camp, sitting up the hill above King Arthur's Court, and residents of Avalon have felt removed from the camp community. Avalon will soon be relocated near the existing



The new cabin of Avalon begins to take shape

hill cabins. Its new home will be behind Doxology, between the sand volleyball court and Chapel. Avalon will now be the first stop for hill campers after moving up the back line of cabins, making it the youngest hill cabin. Former residents of Avalon will recall that although it was located at the top of the hill, it fell behind Bum's Rest in cabin order. It was quite confusing, if you ask us! The design and floor plan will be similar to those of Bum's Rest and Camelot. We are happy to report that the construction will be completed without the removal of any trees, preserving the white pines near Chapel and displaying a beautiful view of the lake. The



Construction underway on the new cabin of Avalon

original Avalon will be renamed and renovated in order to provide summer housing for some of our more mature staff members who do not have cabin responsibilities. We are happy to welcome Avalon down into the heart of camp.

Canoe Building and Restoration

In 2004, Fritz Orr III, Doug Cameron, and Jim Dunn worked with Rollin Thurlow at his shop in Maine to learn how to restore and build wood and canvas canoes. Highly regarded as one of Maine's finest craftsmen, Mr. Thurlow works as a lecturer and instructor and is the co-author of the book *The Wood and Canvas Canoe*. This summer, we began teaching this craft to some



Margaret Page, Stuart Bowers, and Vivian Weatherby in the restored boat's maiden voyage

of our older campers who are deeply interested in paddling. Campers and staff members helped to restore a 1946 Old Town wood and canvas canoe in the camp workshop. A



Hugh Caldwell enjoying a ride in his 1929 Kennebec canoe

majority of the ribs were replaced, along with roughly 1/3 of the planking. New canvas was stretched, sealed, and painted while the interior was stripped, sanded, and re-varnished. *Wooden Boat* magazine wants to include the picture and



Margaret Page, Stuart Bowers, Carter Boardman, and Vivian Weatherby carry the restored canoe to the waterfront

write-up in the "New Launching" section of their upcoming Christmas issue. We are keeping our fingers crossed. Next summer, the girls will be working on Hugh Caldwell's 1929 Kennebec canoe. The boat building program is meant to give older girls an opportunity to work with wood and develop a greater appreciation for handmade wooden boats.

Camp Archiving Project Moves Forward

Lindsay Garner Hostetler continues to make progress as she works towards organizing and digitizing all of camp's archive material. Last winter, Lindsay began sifting through camp's photographs, documents, letters, promotional materials, film reels, and video that have been collected over the past ninety years. With the help of Avery Harrelson Jones, the archives are now organized into decades and categories.

Lindsay is in the process of scanning each image to create digital files, which are then saved, tagged with specific keywords, and filed into an archival database housed in the camp office. Keywords are our way of describing any individual object in a way that allows us to find that item later. For example, a photo of Hugh Caldwell paddling the Chattooga in the 1970s would be tagged with the following keywords: "Boating," "Hugh Caldwell," and "1970s." The principal benefit this system provides is that once this database is



Campers by the canoe docks in the 1950s

complete, it allows us to search for any group of digital media, making the search as wide or narrow as needed. We could enter a search using the keywords "Crew Skit" and "1965" and the results would show all images of the 1965 Crew Skits. We could also search with the

keyword "Dammie Day" and every picture, letter, and journal entry of Dammie's that exists in the archive database would be displayed.

This project is obviously a large undertaking and will take a good deal of time to complete, but it is an exciting opportunity to preserve our history, ensuring its presence for years to come. This past summer, Lindsay spent a morning presenting a portion of the archives to the Junior Counselors of both the June and Main Sessions. They were given a detailed timeline of Merrie-Woode's history and the opportunity to go through many old photos, logs, Ripples, and journals. They then spent a great deal of time asking meaningful and intelligent questions as they were able to rediscover the camp they love. The experience gave them a sense of camp's influence and place through history and instilled

in them a respect and appreciation of Merrie-Woode's past as well as its future. It was inspiring to see the future generation of Merrie-Woode's leaders embrace the efforts of the many people who came before them, and they took this newfound passion back out into camp. As a result, we started to see a real resurgence of interest in Merrie-

Woode's history throughout the camp community this summer. After hearing the JCs excitement, many staff members insisted on attending a similar "history session" in the Program Office after Taps one evening. Merrie-Woode history trivia questions started making their



Fritz Orr, Sr. and Hugh Caldwell lead a camp trip in 1954

way into conversations around the table at meals. Both campers and counselors alike became fascinated with anything and everything involving Merrie-Woode history. We certainly hope to see this trend continue.

Many of you have sent in countless photographs and camp memorabilia to help with this effort. We would still love to see anything you may have to offer. Please feel free to send us photographs, stories, letters, scrapbooks, journals, or other artifacts from your days at Merrie-Woode. We are particularly interested in pictures and information from the 1940s, as we currently have very few objects from that time. We are also missing many Ripples from the 1940s through the 1980s. We do have plenty of photos of trips. Toxaway Falls, Toxaway Mountain, and the Smokies are all well represented in the archives. Save those pictures for your own memory books!

If you are interested in sending items to Merrie-Woode, please address them to Lindsay Hostetler at the camp office address. Also, do indicate whether we should scan your items and send them back or keep them as part of the Merrie-Woode archive library. We would like to express endless thanks to everyone who has already sent us treasures to add to the archives!

Nature Nook, from front page ...

campers to ecological knowledge, environmental challenges and the need for conservation. Along with the curriculum from Project Wild®, programs and activities from the book, *The Nature Specialist*, have also been incorporated. This book is designed for specific use in camps. It introduces the campers to the plants, gardening and nature in western North Carolina. Merrie-Woode's new nature program will continue to encourage a green philosophy of living as we move forward with camp's Master Plan over the next several years. Campers participating in nature classes will enjoy a variety of activities including planting and maintaining an organic garden, identifying plants and critters, and adventurous nature hikes with the new and improved Nature Nook as their home base of operations.



The new Nature Nook will feature a swinging bridge

We are excited and proud to be able to offer this excellent facility to our Merrie-Woode girls. The new Nature Nook should offer the perfect balance of function and necessity in a playful and magical space. We hope this Nature Nook will encourage campers to explore and discover the earth around them as they embrace the need to preserve and protect it.

Retiring Board Members Replaced by Three New Members

At the Annual Meeting of the Merrie-Woode Foundation, Chairman Mary Jane Scott Trimble and the Board of Trustees recognized three Board members who have completed their term of outstanding service to the Merrie-Woode Foundation: Catherine Blanchard Boardman, who served on the Development and Facilities Committees; Deane Valentine Bowers, who served on the Development Committee and was Chair of the Programming Committee; and Jim von Thron, who served on the Programming Committee and was Chair of the Facilities Committees. The Merrie-Woode family is grateful for their commitment and effort.

We welcome three newly elected Board Trustees: Nancy Dameron Almquist, of Atlanta, Georgia. Nancy is an alumna and is known to many as "Nice Nurse Nancy." Her daughters, Katherine and Anna, are former campers and her niece, Laura Shelby Dameron, is currently attending Merrie-Woode. Elizabeth Simpson Poyner joins the Board from Birmingham, Alabama. Elizabeth was a camper herself and her two daughters, Florence and Virginia, are current campers. Elizabeth's two nieces also attend camp, Lilly and Sallie Simpson. Steve Straske of Tampa, Florida and his wife, alumna Janice Ferman Straske, have three daughters attending camp, Elly, Davis and Mary Stephen. Steve's niece, Kate Ford, has also been a long time camper. Welcome aBOARD!



Mary Jane Scott Trimble, Deane Valentine Bowers, and Jim von Thron (not pictured: Catherine Blanchard Boardman) at the Fall Board Meeting

2008-2009 Board of Trustees

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Chairman
Jacksonville, FL

Catherine Blanchard Boardman
Augusta, GA

Deane Valentine Bowers
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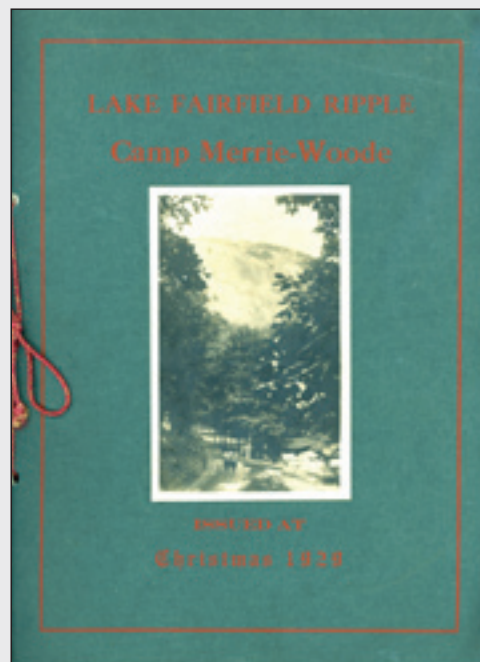
The Ripple's Return to a Holiday Tradition

Did you return home from camp this summer wondering why you did not receive a copy of *The Ripple*? Please let us explain.

In uncovering various artifacts from Merrie-Woode's early years, we discovered that *The Ripple*, formerly known as *The Lake Fairfield Ripple*, was originally a different literary magazine from the one we remember in recent years. *The Lake Fairfield Ripple* was very much a part of daily camp life from the 1920s through the 1960s. Campers wrote articles about the day's events, poems about dessert, and memories of days gone by. Entries were "published" weekly and read aloud on Sunday nights. At the end of the summer, the weekly Ripples were compiled and bound together in one volume. The magazine was then sent out during the holidays as a warm reminder of the previous summer.

We decided this year that *The Ripple* has lost a bit of its luster, so we aim to bring back *The Ripple*'s glory days. We collected stories, poems, and reflections from all three sessions and received a few more this fall. From there, Lindsay Garner Hostetler and Betsy Reese Helms organized and typed up the entries into a cohesive magazine that showcases the spirit of campers and counselors during the summer of 2009. The volume will return to its original name: *The Lake Fairfield Ripple* and will arrive on the doorsteps of current campers and staff members in late December.

Enjoy this piece of Merrie-Woode history, as we believe it connects us beautifully to the campers who came before us and those who will follow in years to come.



The Lake Fairfield Ripple of 1929