

# CAMP CRESTRIDGE ALUMNAE AND FRIENDS

P.O. Box 22038 ♦ Lexington, KY 40522-2038

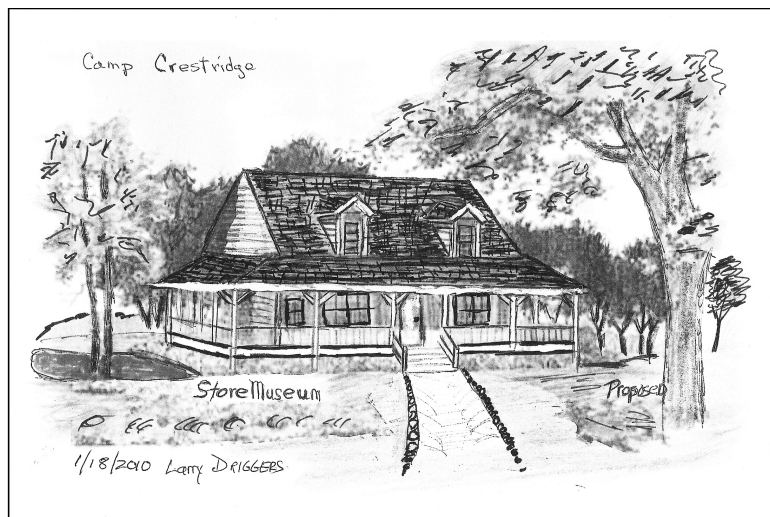
[www.ridgecrestcamps.com/girls/alumnae/index.php](http://www.ridgecrestcamps.com/girls/alumnae/index.php) ♦ [alumnae@windstream.net](mailto:alumnae@windstream.net)



## Our Next Project: A New Store/Museum: the Multi-Purpose Building

Another exciting project is coming together! We are continuing to raise funds for a new building that will serve several purposes. The artist's rendering gives an idea of how it will look. Located on the site of the current camp store, the main floor will contain the camp store and will include a clothing room, a dressing room, bathroom, and space for drink and snack sales. The second floor will house the CCAF Museum, which is currently located on the top floor of the Lodge, a building that is not weatherproof. Years of Crestridge memories will have a permanent home in this important addition. Since the building will be built into the hill overlooking the Green, the basement area can be used to store landsports equipment.

The cost of the building is projected to be \$120,000 to \$130,000 with some volunteer labor. To date, we have just over \$40,000 in the Special Projects Fund. We'd love to start construction as soon as possible. Please prayerfully consider giving for this important project that will impact the lives of girls for years to come. Please mark your donation "multi-purpose building."



**Reminder:**  
**Maintain the Memories**  
**May 28-30, 2010**

Please save **May 28-30**  
for Maintain the Memories  
at camp. More information will  
arrive in a separate mailing.

Contact  
[alumnae@windstream.net](mailto:alumnae@windstream.net)  
if you have any questions.

Johnnie Armstrong, *ex officio*

Paulette May Basham

Ruth Burkett

Susan Cheatham

Anja Aloia Cleveland

Kara Belcher Cooley

Ana Quattlebaum Gibbs

### Alumnae Board

Whitney Lemarr

Susan McFerrin Nielsen, *vice president*

Kappi Brown Pierce

Cara Pollard, *secretary*

Marva Rawlings, *ex officio*

Ramey Driggers Schutz

Karen Stitt

Dara Trotter

Lisa Rudolph Turner

Susan Bridger Waggener, *treasurer,*  
*ex officio*



*The new Cherokee 21, formerly Cherokee 1.*

With only a few months until summer, there is a lot to be done! It has been a busy off-season with construction going on for the second year in a row. October 1, 2009 marked the beginning of the cabin renovation project. With the help of Life-Way, we are in the process of renovating all 20 existing cabins. This should be completed by April 1.

We started by removing all the furniture from the cabins and storing it in the gym. When you do the math, it comes out to

about 240 beds and mattresses, 40 dressers, and 200 nightstands. Thankfully, we were able to hire some help!

Next, the old bathrooms were taken out, new bathrooms framed, decks rebuilt,

roofs replaced, extensions added to the Cheyenne and Choctaw cabins, and plumbing and electrical work done. During this phase, we realized the cabins really needed help. Many had holes in the floor where the showers had been and the joists were soft. The problems are fixed now!

Currently, the construction crew is adding siding, T1-11, and new hardwood floors to the cabins. T1-11 is the wood on the inside walls that will cover

the studs. We decided to leave a section of a wall open in each cabin so the campers can see signatures and cabin history.

We give weekly updates on our blog, including pictures. Visit our website

([www.ridgecrestcamps.com](http://www.ridgecrestcamps.com)) to subscribe and you can be notified anytime we post a new blog. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.



*New bathrooms are located at the back of the cabins; no more soggy floors!*

## *Want to be on the CCAF Board?*

The CCAF Board consists of 15 members who serve 3-year terms, along with several ex-officio members with no term limits. All board members are former campers and staffers and represent many generations of girls with special bonds to camp.

We are always looking for alums who desire to glorify God through service on the CCAF Board of Directors. It is our mission to seek out women who are able to attend both annual board meetings (spring and fall) as this reflects a commitment to be involved with projects the board is working on.

The spring meeting is held each year during Maintain the Memories work weekend, and the fall meeting is in October. The past several years the fall meeting has taken place in Ft. Payne, Alabama, and because of size restraints at The Summit, this meeting involves only current board members and camp staff.

If you are interested in learning what is involved in serving on the board, we invite you to attend our next board meeting during the MTM weekend, Friday night, May 28 to Sunday afternoon, May 30. Our board meeting will be Friday

evening at camp at about 7:30.

A cookout supper at the pavilion for all MTM participants will begin at 5. If you plan to attend and are bringing your family (which we encourage you to do!) your husband or someone else will need to be in charge of your kids while you attend the meeting.

Information about MTM will be mailed out in late March or early April. If you have questions before then, you can e-mail our president, Lisa Rudolph Turner, at [blsmturn@bellsouth.net](mailto:blsmturn@bellsouth.net).

Hope to see you in May!

# MEMORY CORNER: *Smoke and Honeysuckle*

*By Ashley McCue (on Facebook in April 2009)*

I woke up restless at 6:00 this morning and absolutely had to get up and get out. I wanted the light to hurry up. I had to run. This happens from time to time and for various reasons—sometimes because I have too much on my mind; other times I have too much energy, and sometimes because I don't have enough. This morning, it was probably a restless mind.

I started out on my usual path, but the garbage men were on my street and their truck was drowning out my iPod, so I circled the block and ran down a quieter street. About halfway down, I started getting the wafting fragrance of burning wood. It struck me as odd because it's Texas, for crying out loud, and while it was cooler than usual—maybe only 65—who burns a bonfire in my neighborhood in the morning? Maybe somebody was going all wilderness on me. As I got a little closer, the scent got thick and heavy and was mingled with honeysuckle.

It surprised me like a balloon popping out of nowhere. It intoxicated me. Instantly, I was careening down I-40 and wound up at closing ceremony. I heard the fire crackling and I felt the stillness of the Carolina mountains surrounding me and I saw the lake and felt the grass under foot. I felt camp. I heard the laughter and felt the bonds of my youth. I was sneaking out of Cherokee 1 with Parish Hardy to break into the chapel to set off the chimes in the middle of the night; I was in the back of the

bus about to “toss” an apple out the window at an 18-wheeler. I was riding Thunder Road at Carowinds for the 13th time. I was sitting in front of the Lake Lodge rocking in the rocking chairs. I was about to tell an apprehensive kid that the zip line was “totally safe” as Sleepy and I pushed him off the ledge, only to watch a canoe stop right under it and the kid smack right into it! (Bet that kid never came back.) I was at Be Here Now contra dancin' and about to make the cover of the Asheville Times with John Perry. I was writing letters on pink paper with Cara Pollard. I was walking around the lake in a really bad red outfit with a mullet. I was turning my nose up at corn dogs and drinking too much bug juice. I was putting inappropriate bumper stickers on the back of the trucks (sorry, Ron!). I was telling ratman stories and sliding down suicide. I heard taps as my precious lullaby. I was spilling nail polish on Guffy's honor bands. I was in Sallie Driggers' van on my way to boys' camp for swimming. I heard the screen doors slam.

As I continued on my run and the smell stayed with me, I found that it consoled me even though I didn't need to be consoled. I felt peaceful and content. I felt that beautiful hurt of saying goodbye to my friends in the hot August sun with a lump in my throat, but I also felt the happiness that was so pure, like jumping off the blob and flying through the air. When I go back to those days, it is like I am sitting in an attic opening

boxes of photographs in my mind. I lose time and I become totally alive. I relish these moments like a kid with a cake whose parents have said she can have the whole thing! It is such an unexpected jolt. It's sorta like winning a little lottery. Today it had a double impact because it's Good Friday and my memories were mixed with the symbolism of the holiday we are about to experience. About Rebirth. Hope and Love. My thoughts weren't necessarily lofty and spiritual so much as they were just real, gritty—full of texture and color. As much as I was 15 years ago in my head, I was, at the same time, completely in the present. My heart beat a little faster with excitement, gratitude, hope and contentment. I collided and all the pieces were right there in front of me to examine.

The past year has been full of myriad of emotions and experiences. I have been surrounded by literal births and deaths. Marriages. Divorces. Happiness and Sadness. Closure and New Beginnings. I have experienced life not turning out the way you think it will, and I have watched my friends make hard decisions—to stay or go because the love of their kids is paramount. I have seen one person give up. I have seen another make a fresh start and confront her demons. I am thankful for most of these things. Growth has flourished and I have new emotional muscles and I have a perspective that I am grateful for.

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I am reminded, by my great-grandmother's Harlan, Ky., country accent, that "Attitude is more important than fact," and as I think about these challenges, a passage by a guy named Morris West comes to mind: "It takes so much to be a full human being that there are very few who have the enlightenment or the courage to pay the price. One has to abandon altogether the search for security and reach out to the risk of the living with both arms. One has to embrace the world like a lover. One has to accept pain as a condition of existence. One has to court doubt and darkness as the cost of

knowing. One needs a will stubborn in conflict, but apt always to total acceptance of every consequence of living and dying."

These thoughts were juxtaposed in my brain as I ran this morning. I sensed how they were woven together, and I was confronted with the realization, once again, that there was something in my years at camp that gave me this courage to embrace the world with the tenacity that I do. I am sure it came from other places, too—but the goodness of the foundation that I found in the cradle of the Blue Ridge Mountains

has stayed with me. It is the friends of my youth who have grown up with me—who have been a support from far away and face to face. Through letters, phone calls, random trips to New York, Montana, Columbia, to jails and weddings. Those days are still very much alive, and as LC eager arrow once wrote to me, "With the moon at my back and the setting sun at my face and the stars twinkling above my head—I question how a soul could be happier, on the verge of all things exciting and happy in today."

## *CCAF Scholarship Endowment Fund Grows*

*by Susan McFerrin Nielsen*

During the Fall 2007 board meeting, the Scholarship Endowment Fund was established as a permanent resource to help fund camper scholarships through interest and income. The board further established that cumulative donations, whether from an individual or a group, of \$10,000 would enable a scholarship to be named for one or two people.

To date, two named scholarships have been fully funded, one for camp friends Sallie Garvin Driggers and Willa Stevenson McGimsey, the other in memory of Judye MacMillan. Another has been started in honor of Ramey

Driggers Schutz and Kara Belcher Cooley. And in memory of a camper, Maggie Lee Henson, who died last summer as a result of a church bus accident, \$6,490 has been received so far. We would particularly like to have this scholarship fully funded before the beginning of the 2010 camp season.

I received a note from an alum mentioning that she did not have \$10,000 laying around but was interested in starting a named scholarship for someone. The answer: Be the one to start it, and we will let the membership know and that others can honor her by adding to it.

We set a goal to reach \$55,000 by the 55th reunion last summer. While we have not quite reached that goal, we have made amazing progress and look forward to continue building this long-lasting asset.

We are also continuing to accept donations for the annual scholarship fund for the 2010 summer. Both camps have multiple requests for financial help. Please mark your donation for either the scholarship endowment fund with the named honoree or for the scholarship fund. Both continue to make a difference in many girls' lives.



## 2009 Fall Board Meeting

Our 2009 fall board meeting was Oct. 23-25 at The Summit in Ft. Payne, Alabama. Many thanks to John and Trudy Cathy White for making it possible for us to meet and enjoy each other's company at this awesome place. We began our time with Friday dinner and a meeting. Saturday began with a good breakfast before continuing our meeting. We were able to get a lot of Crestridge Alumnae business completed. Our afternoon was spent in committee meetings, relaxing, and enjoying this special time together in this special place. Everyone headed home on Sunday morning looking forward to Maintain the Memories, May 28-30, 2010. We would love to see lots of alumni there to help prepare camp for the summer.

### THE GRAPEVINE

Our vine is slowly drying up ... please take time to send us some of your family information so we can share it with your Crestridge family.

Since our vine hasn't produced too much this month, I will update you on my family. **Anja Aloia Cleveland** and Michael are approaching our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. After adopting Baylee, I became a "stay-at-home mom." When Baylee began preschool, I volunteered at her school and eventually became a teacher of 3-year-olds. After she moved on to elementary school, I stayed at preschool and subbed at her school. Subbing became a full-time job, which led to a para-pro position beginning in December. I absolutely love being around the children. Baylee is heading to her 3<sup>rd</sup> summer at Crestridge and her 3<sup>rd</sup> year as a Chippewa and 3<sup>rd</sup> year in the same cabin (but each year, slightly different: Chip 8, Chip 1, & newly built Chip 1).

**Julie Davis Hopkins** and her husband, Wade, officially adopted 7-year-old Bonnie

Louann Hopkins in November. Bonnie will join her sisters, Grace Ann & Bethany, and become a Crestridger this summer. Julie continues her work with Mary Kay, and Wade is with Fellowship of Christian Athletes in Texas.

**Joy Barwick Burke** and her husband, Tim, welcomed a new daughter, Quinn Katherine, on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Joy lives in California and works as in-house counsel (aka lawyer) for the Cord Blood Registry. She has another daughter, 14-month-old Zarra Rose. The Barwick sisters, **Bonnie Barwick Sloan, Amy Barwick Lesesne**, and **Joy** (CC 1970s-'80s), together have six current or future Crestridgers: Genevieve and Bianca Sloan, Leigh and Cece Lesesne, and Zarra and Quinn Burke. Also, their sons, Harrison Sloan & Jack Lesesne, are Ridgecresters.

On a sad note, **Marva Rawlings** has suffered two losses recently. Her father, Jaycee Rawlings, died, and our beloved camp dog, **Arko** (Arko Von Countryhaven, Oct. 23, 1996 - Jan. 25, 2010),

also passed away. Arko held a special place in so many campers' and staffers' hearts. As one person put it, he was a constant and silent shadow to Marva. In Marva's own words on Facebook: "How do you say goodbye to one that loved you so much and taught you so much? Arko, you were loved by many and touched so many lives. Thank you for the loyal companion you were and for your unconditional love. Enjoy your romps in heaven without pain. I know you are resting at the feet of Jesus. Love, Hobo and Marva." Marva's students recently presented her with a German Shepherd pup named Sonny, who makes frequent appearances on Facebook.

Before you toss this newsletter aside, walk over to your computer and e-mail us with your updated information. Your Crestridge family loves to know how you are doing. Don't wait till the next reunion for us to hear from you!

[calumnae@windstream.net](mailto:calumnae@windstream.net)

## And the winner is ...

Congratulations to **Debbie Hollifield Ayers** of Clifton, Va., winner of \$50 worth of CCAF merchandise! Debbie's name was drawn from nearly 150 loyal alums who sent in their 2010 dues before Jan. 31.

Annual dues are the financial foundation of CCAF, providing operating expenses (postage, supplies, website maintenance, accounting fees, etc.). All donations to CCAF are tax-deductible and, beyond operating expenses, are funneled into camp; board members are unpaid and cover their own travel to meetings. So if you haven't yet, please send in your \$20 dues (plus more if you can!) or pay through the website: [www.ridgecrestcamps.com/girls/alumnae](http://www.ridgecrestcamps.com/girls/alumnae).

**Don't lose touch!! Contact us at [calumnae@windstream.net](mailto:calumnae@windstream.net) or by mail if you have a new address, phone number or e-mail address!**



**Camp Crestridge Alumnae and Friends**

P.O. Box 22038

Lexington, KY 40522-2038



*With my feet on the ground and my heart attuned, I shall reach for the stars.*