

CAMP CRESTRIDGE ALUMNAE AND FRIENDS



P.O. Box 22038 ♦ Lexington, KY 40522-2038
 calumnae@bellsouth.net ♦ www.ridgecrestcamps.com/ccalumnae



Another goal accomplished!

Camp Crestridge Alumnae and Friends has many exciting projects planned. We are pleased to announce that once again God has blessed Crestridge in a mighty way with financial donations.

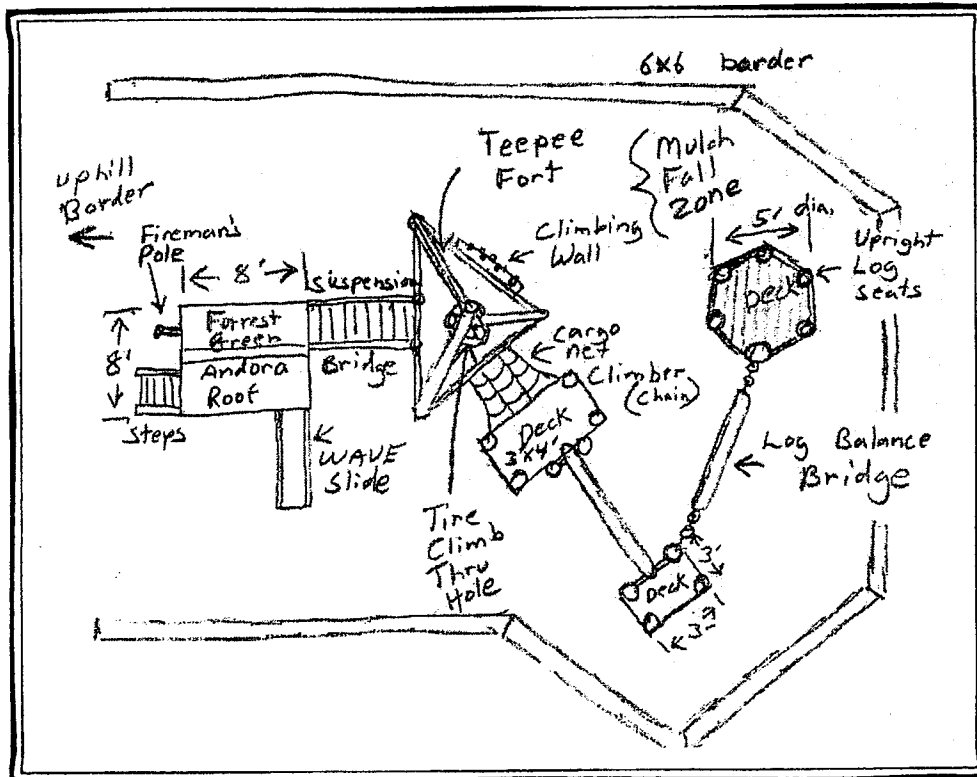
We put forth our desire to complete a playground of natural-looking climbing structures for Chip/Chick hill. The younger girls need this outlet for their excess energy.

Through your donations and the blessings of God, we have raised the needed funds to proceed with this \$20,000 project. The Chippewas and Chicksaws will be in for a fantastic treat this summer. We have contracted for construction to begin in April!

In order to achieve this goal, we moved back our plan to refurbish the pews in the chapel and reallocated the estimated \$6,500 to the playground.

Many of you were able to see the renovations we made to the chapel by enlarging it and creating a larger stage area. A new sound system was also installed.

However, the pews are sadly in need of refinishing. We now plan to use a volunteer labor force, primarily during Maintain



the Memories in May 2006. While this will lower the cost of this project, we need to build up our Special Projects fund for this and future projects.

We are asking for donations and for able-bodied workers to come and assist with this project. With your financial support and/or physical work, those present at Maintain the Memories can refinish these pews in time for this summer.

Above is a rough concept drawing of the playground to be custom built in the area in front of Chippewa cabins. Permanent plaques will commemorate persons chosen by those who have given \$500 or more toward this project

To see some of this company's custom work, go to www.justforfunplaygrounds.com

Johnnie Armstrong, *ex officio*
 Paulette May Basham, secretary
 Toni Duke Branyon
 Ruth Burkett
 Anja Aloia Cleveland
 Kara Belcher Cooley
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NAIA~National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics

2005-06 NAIA Hall of Fame - Meritorious Service

Johnnie Armstrong - Meritorious Service

Blue Mountain College (Miss.)



For over 50 years, Johnnie Armstrong has been an influence on the campus of Blue Mountain and in the world of women's athletics. She has served as director of the physical education department, expanded its curriculum and served as director of athletics. Under her guidance, the institution began intercollegiate basketball in 1972 and added tennis in 1986. Armstrong was involved in the beginnings of intercollegiate sports for women in Mississippi and served on the resolutions committee for the AIAW in 1970.

Memory Corner by Ana Quattlebaum Gibbs

My father was waterfront director at Ridgecrest; my mother worked at Nibble Nook. They met when my dad tossed a rock in Mama's direction to get her attention. So, technically, you could say I would not exist if not for a place in the hills called Ridgecrest, N.C.

I visited Camp Crestridge in the summer of 1981 after we dropped my brother off at Camp Ridgecrest. I don't remember much about the visit except that our guide was very reassuring—she spoke to *me*, not just my parents. Still, I wasn't convinced that I wanted to be left at this summer home with this welcoming stranger. Little did I know that place and that same woman would later teach me, give me confidence in my person, love me, and continue to guide me throughout all of my years.

I agreed to attend Crestridge in 1982. My memories are not very detailed except for one night at campfire. Johnnie Armstrong was telling us the story of Elijah. When she told of Elijah running inside a cave to escape God, I remember wondering if she was speaking directly to me (wasn't it amazing that she could do that for *each* of us, week after week?)

"Elijah? What are you doing here, Elijah?" God questioned," she paraphrased. "What are *you* doing here?" she continued. "What are YOU doing here?"

"Ellen, what are you doing here?"

"What are you doing here, Lauren?"

"What about you, Donna?"

Johnnie didn't even know me by name then, but I felt like she could see everything about me—and she loved me anyway. She taught me that the stories in the Bible were, and are, about me and my life. What a gift to learn that as a young girl!

I did not receive a single award at Crestridge—at least an award as the world sees it. Yet I am still awed by the confidence I gained. Looking back at my camping years, I was not "extraordinary," but someone forgot to tell me this, thank goodness! I knew that Crestridge and all of the people there would not be the same without my presence. I can still see Johnnie on opening day. She looked at me as if to say, "Oh—*there* you are. I've been waiting all summer for you to get here!" I smiled and ran to her open arms. What a gift to see a glimpse of how God will look at each one of His children when we finally see Him face to face!

I learned of true love at Crestridge. Not from boys' camp. Not from the boyfriend I left at home as a Cherokee. Not from the love that surrounded me while living in my mountain guard. Instead, I learned of true love when I left those gates with tears dropping on my closing program papers.

I spent many winter days reflecting on warm summer memories—and on the love that I felt even at that very moment. I knew that someone associated with Crestridge had just said a prayer for me. I am sure that many times it was Johnnie Armstrong, down on her knees, pray-

ing for peace and joy for all of her girls. What a gift to understand that prayer equals love!

I am still experiencing Crestridge. I have often told people that Crestridge cannot be explained unless you experience it, and, oh, how I wish they had!

I often dream at night of returning to the mountain. I know that I am still on Johnnie's prayer list. I hear of fellow campers' and staffers' life changes and I celebrate and mourn with each of them. I have even asked myself WWJD—"What would Jesus do?"—but I sometimes even ask, "What would Johnnie do"?!

Johnnie is Crestridge still today, and I am Crestridge, too. I am still a part of Council of Progress on warm summer nights, for I can hear the footsteps of present-day campers walking up the hill from the tennis courts and can hear the "ooh's" being sung as each cabin files out and heads to its porch. I am flying around the dining hall as a Jet. I am crying and clinging to others after Tuesday night Campfire.

Crestridge shaped me. I sit here with my children and offer a quick prayer that they will one day have a place and a person who can create that feeling of acceptance, joy, and growth.

On second thought, I think I *can* describe Crestridge to others. I'll tell them to imagine a place God would create for girls to laugh, learn, and love. This is Crestridge. What a blessed gift!

Fall board meeting covers a lot of ground

The CCAF board of directors met October 29-30 at the home of Karen Stitt in Lilburn, Ga.

Hal Hill, Director of Lifeway Camps, kicked off the fall board meeting with a recap of summer 2005. **Crestridge was essentially full** all summer, and **83 professions of faith** were recorded. Improvements to Camp included the **chapel renovation**, which was funded by CCAF, as well as the addition of new **mountain bikes** to enhance the Outdoor Adventure Program, and a **water slide**. Future plans for Crestridge

include a **wilderness program at Glorietta** this summer and a **one-week "Starter Camp"** for young, first-time campers at Crestridge.

The CCAF board voted to adopt a new enhancement project for camp for summer 2006—raising funds for a **playground for Chip-Chick Hill**. The project will cost approximately \$20,000.

CCAF will be working with Hal Hill to develop a building campaign to **renovate all the cabins** at Crestridge. Information on how to get involved in this exciting project

is coming soon.

The board set a **goal of \$12,000.00 in scholarships** to be given in 2006. Diligent fundraising will be required to meet this goal.

A book commemorating the **history of Lifeway and the camps** is being put together for Ridgecrest Conference Center's 100th Anniversary. Please send any significant pictures or information to Hal Hill at Lifeway.

The next CCAF board meeting will be at Maintain the Memories weekend in May 2006.

A note from Marva

Marva Rawlings, Summer Director of Camp Crestridge, wrote in September:

"The chapel renovations were wonderful. Being able to get everyone in the chapel was so nice this summer. Also, the addition of the screen and computer system made it so nice for singing and Scriptures. Thank you for all the alumnae have done to make improvements in camp.

Please send a special thank you to all who clean camp and work so hard to get camp ready before staff week (Maintain the Memories). We are able to do so much more staff training during staff week since the alumnae do so much before we even arrive.

In Christ,
Marva"

Make a difference for a new generation of girls

If you are reading this newsletter, chances are that Camp Crestridge for Girls has made a significant impact on your life. Perhaps camp is the first place that you ever felt independent. Maybe it is where you learned to ride a horse or make a bed. Maybe you got your first speaking part in a play in the Crestridge Chapel. It's very likely that Crestridge has blessed you with friends, memories, and skills that are a priceless part of your life. Even more important, perhaps Camp Crestridge is the first place you ever heard about Jesus Christ or the place where you

choose to open your life to Him. Maybe you rededicated your life to Jesus. Undoubtedly, you found a safe place at Crestridge where you were free to learn and grow in your relationship with God and other areas of your life.

Think about what Crestridge has meant to you or your daughter or granddaughter, and how you can share that with a new generation of campers. Camp Crestridge Alumnae and Friends has pledged \$12,000.00 for full or partial scholarships for the 2006 summer. This matches last year's scholarship fund and will al-

low first-time and returning campers to discover how Crestridge can make a difference in their lives.

We ask you to prayerfully consider making a donation to the scholarship fund, and want to thank you in advance for the difference your generosity will make. No donation is too small or too big, and all will go directly toward sending girls to Crestridge in the summer of 2006. Be sure to mark your donation "scholarship fund" and send to Camp Crestridge Alumnae and Friends, PO Box 22038, Lexington, KY 40522-2038.

Membership

Many thanks to those who responded to our membership dues mailing. More than 125 renewals have been received and donations have been generous. Your dues provide operating expenses (i.e., this newsletter). And congratulations to Celia Brown Layman, winner of \$25 in CCAF merchandise in our contest that was sent with the dues notice.

If you haven't yet sent in your 2006 dues of \$15, be sure to do so. A dues and donation form is located below.

We now have more than 800 on our master list, but about 125 of those are "lost"; that is, we had their addresses at one time, but for some reason the postal service has returned a mailing as undeliverable. We make every effort to find these folks, but sometimes, we hit a dead end.

So if you know the whereabouts of anyone listed below—or any Crestridge alum who is not receiving our newsletters—please let us know by mail or at calumnae@bellsouth.net. Thanks for helping us find our alums!

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Laine Adams | Feriel Forbus | Haley McCoy | Mrs. W. P. Reeves |
| Allison Ashley | Courtney Dodge Gaynor | Ashley McCue | Frances Richardson |
| Joy Barwick | Leoma Gilley | MD & Cathie McCue | Lauren Leary Roper |
| Polly Blackerby | Pam Breedlove Green | Kathleen McKinney | Ginger Sampson |
| Melissa Sanders Blankenship | Faye Rowland Gregory | Susan Kitchens McMahan | Cyndi Howell Saunders |
| Lorrie Bonner | Cynthia Crouch Gunter | Stacey Hensley Miles | Lynn Perry Swarz |
| Katie Graves Booher | Kelly Hagen | Michelle Sykes Mills | Jane Brummett Shirley |
| Aimee Bothwell | Patricia Moore Harvey | Katie Moerman | Becky Pope Slugg |
| Ashley Bothwell | Emily Friday Hodges | Linn Morse Moore | Sally Riggsbee Smith |
| Amanda Bourne | Kaye McGuire Holmes | Dana Gibson Morace | Rita Springer |
| Jennifer Braddock | Ashley Householder | Dawn Bagwell Moss | Jennifer & Michelle Stauffer |
| Ashley Brand | Laura Howell | Kate Murphy | Melanie Strickland |
| Heidi VanHorn Brimm | Cindy Neel Huguley | Shannon Elam Lott Neer | Rhoda Rix Strode |
| Lynn Greenleaf Brown | Lynn Parham Jackson | Jeananne Nichols | Paula Tewell |
| Melanie Overby Burke | Christy Jennings | Nicholas Nickolas | Elizabeth Thomas |
| Leslie Cahill | Karen Jones | Renn Robbins Niquette | Beth Thornton |
| Betty Calhoun | Laura Summer Jones | Ginger Cole Nolte | Lynn Tolbert |
| Christina Carpenter | Lisia Jordan | Kashana Nunn | Claudia Tomlinson |
| Kim Chaplin | Karen Klacsmann | Lisa Kitchens O'Hanlon | Heather Elise Townsend |
| Rachel Andrews Childress | Celeste Krueger-Casper | Sarah Parker | Christy Tullis |
| Mike & Karen Crouch | Kim Lancaster | Patsy Yeary Patterson | Ann Strickland Twehues |
| Walter & Sara Cutts | Julie Law | Vicki Patterson | Adrienne Wade-Hill |
| Dinah Dale | Christine Roth Lecroy | Kelly Penn | Holly McCoy Waldrop |
| Ruth Deaton Dale | Lisa Ruthven Lee | Tiffany Pesonen | Mary J. Wasden |
| Angela McGaha Darby | Ginger Shirley Lewey | Cathy Lane Polentz | Leslie Mitchell Weaver |
| Betty Pritchard Dicken | Kathy Creech Linder | Ruby Payne Ponder | Margie Weeks |
| Maria McGaha Dunlap | Nancy Atkinson Linton | Suzanne Prince | Julie Westrick |
| Joyce Cochrane Earnhart | Aime Southern Litz | Libby Puckett | Madonna Vailes White |
| Christine Massey Edmondson | Carol McGaha Loescher | Marilyn Gardner Racine | Nancy Bottorff Whitneck |
| Heide Eitel | Meghan Magee | Ginger Rakes | Gayla Breedlove Wilkinson |
| Sharon Goins Evans | Shelah Mayo | Gary & Leslie Ransom | Elizabeth Groff Williams |
| Robin Sue Fink | Gerhue Brickle McClam | Kim Childress Reeves | Helen Helverston Williamson |

CAMP CRESTRIDGE ALUMNAE & FRIENDS, INC.
P.O. BOX 22038, LEXINGTON, KY 40522-2038

Enclosed are my **2006 MEMBERSHIP DUES** of \$15.00, payable to CC Alumnae & Friends.
 Enclosed are my **LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP DUES** of \$500.
 I also enclose additional donations of: \$_____ for general support (includes Maintain the Memories);
 \$_____ for the Arvine Bell Scholarship Fund;
 \$_____ for Special Projects

NAME _____ PHONE _____
 First *Maiden* *Last*
 ADDRESS _____
 Street or P.O. Box *City* *State* *ZIP*
 E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

THE GRAPEVINE

by Anja Aloia Cleveland

Greetings to all, and thank you for sending your updates so we can share them with your Crestridge friends around the globe.

Rick Johnson received an invitation to the National Prayer Breakfast, thanks to **Parish Hardy**, who is working in Senator Bill Nelson's office in Washington.

Michelle McClure Van Kramer was at camp from 1987 to 1996 and is now the mother of two children, Alexandra Marie, 5, and Hayden Clure, 6 months.

Sandy Brown Lovette wanted to share with everyone how her 11-year-old granddaughter and Crestridge, **Catie Swinsick** (Holly Lovette Swinsick's daughter), raised \$129 selling lemonade one weekend and planned to follow with a bake sale to raise money for the hurricane victims. Way to go, Catie! Catie knows first-hand about the tragedy of storms, as her family lost their home to a tornado several years ago.

Carroll and Rubye Carol Lamb shared the following news about their two children who attended camp in the '70s and '80s. They credit Crestridge and Ridgecrest with helping both children become successful adults who have Christian homes. **Jennifer Lamb Oppenheimer** lives in Alpharetta, Ga. with her husband, Bill, and two boys. **William Lamb** lives in Tallahassee, Fla., with his wife, Margaret, and their son.

A special note from **Alicia Treat Watts**: "Arvine Bell enlisted me late in spring because she still needed a Junior Choir Director/Cherokee Cabin Leader. When I got to camp, her Senior Choir/Staff Choir Director had decided not to come, and I had to do all three choir jobs until **Sharron Pou** offered to do the Senior Choir. It was the 25th anniversary year, and nice musical productions were expected. It was one of the greatest times of faith and growth I've ever known. God led all the way ... and I loved directing the staff choir. My junior choir was won-

derful, and I got teased by the staff when I taught them "That Good Old Baylor Line" and had them sing it in the dining hall. Speaking of singing at meals, I can still hear the floorboards rattle whenever we sing "Farther Along" at the country church my husband pastors. God has been good, and even one year at Crestridge made an impact on my life. I've come back to walk the hill on a number of occasions."

Laura Seay is working on a Ph.D. in Government at the University of Texas in Austin. She heads to eastern Congo this month to do research on the war there for her dissertation. Please pray for her as she will be in Africa for 6 months. **Kathryn Seay** is finishing her second year at Truett Seminary in Waco, Texas, in preparation to be a Bible translator with Wycliffe.

Sara June Davis Osborne and her husband, Rusty, are expecting their first child. Sara currently works as an instructor of English as a Second Language at the University of Louisville while her husband works on his Master of Divinity at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Andrea Hays Perkins is married with a 2-year-old daughter, Emma. She is studying to become a certified yoga instructor.

Niki DeLoach works at the Baptist Citizens Medical Center Emergency Room where she is starting a bereavement program for families suffering from miscarriage or infant death. This is something she felt called to do after the loss of her own daughter, Ashley. Anyone wishing to make donations of tiny hats, blankets, and other mementos for families can contact Niki at NikiAngelaW@yahoo.com. Good news for Niki and her husband: After two years of fertility treatments, she is pregnant again!! God is Good!

Susan Chaplin Worst says hi to all. She says her family (husband Ben, kids

Lily, 6, and Luke, 4½) has grown by 11 fish and one rat in the last year. They live in Ketchum, Idaho, where the whole family enjoys skiing, snowboarding, swimming and sailing. Susan is volunteering for the campaign of a U.S. Congress candidate and thinking about a possible return to teaching or another "real job."

Here is a wonderful story that should prompt you to look at our merchandise and place an order—you never know when a Crestridge might be around. From **Susan Morgan Washinsky**: "At work one day, a colleague I had recently met approached me and commented on the mug from which I was drinking coffee. It happened to be a Camp Crestridge for Girls Alumnae mug. She recognized the Crestridge emblem, telling me that she was a former Crestridge. Interestingly enough, **Jennifer Henson** and I now work on the same team as employee benefits programmers and sit right next to each other. Although we didn't attend at the same time, we enjoy talking about Crestridge, especially about sock wars, which our colleagues couldn't quite 'get' (I have no clue why, but I think you had to be there!!)."

I (Anja), too, have a personal story. I was in a Bible study and saw light reflect off a silver charm bracelet of the teacher (**Suzanne Sinyard Chambers**). I saw one of the more than 50 charms as if it were the only one on the bracelet—it was the Crestridge emblem. I knew I really liked this lady and that she was something special, and it was confirmed right then and there. It was all I could do to hold my tongue until class was adjourned so I could talk to her.

Please send us your latest news so your friends can read about you and reflect back on their friendship with you. Simply e-mail to calumnae@bellsouth.net and you'll see yourself in our next newsletter.

DRAMA DEN NEEDS COSTUMES!

The Drama Den is in need of unique old clothing that could be used for costumes. Particularly needed are biblical costumes, Western wear, old prom dresses, and dress-up clothes. Hats and other accessories are always welcome. We already have plenty of men's blazers. Please send only clean clothing in good condition to Camp Crestridge Drama Dept., PO Box 279, Ridgecrest, NC 28770.



MAINTAIN THE MEMORIES

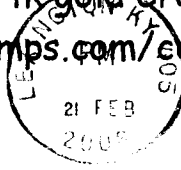
May 19-21, 2006

Calling all alumni, friends and family! Join us for our annual work weekend at camp the third weekend in May. Bring your tools, gloves, strong backs and willing spirits as we help get camp ready for the summer. Meals are provided by CCAF, and lodging is only \$15 per night at the conference center. If you can come, please make your reservations with Karen Stitt at karenstittaiken@yahoo.com or drop her a note at 463 Ben Avenue, Lilburn, Ga. 30047.

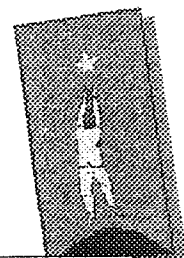
Check out our Web site for lots of information about projects, reunions, and great CCAF merchandise. You can pay your dues, make a donation and purchase everything from Chapel prints and note cards to sterling silver or 14k gold Crestridge charms! Find us at www.ridgecrestcamps.com/ecalumnae



Camp Crestridge Alumnae and Friends
P.O. Box 22038
Lexington, KY 40522-2038



Katie Waggener Dicks
469 Marblerock Way
Lexington KY 40503



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