

CAMP MERRIE-WOODE

Situated, Celebrated on Fairfield Lake

Fall 2015

In The Beginning: The Merrie-Woode Foundation

*“Though for no other cause, yet for this;
that posterity may know we have not
loosely through silence permitted things to
pass away as in a dream.”*

-Richard Hooker

With the above words of 16th century philosopher, Richard Hooker, Hugh concluded his first letter to the Camp family following the fateful Summer of 1979. Having come so close to seeing the gates of Merrie-Woode close permanently, a sense of relief permeated his message to the alumnae and campers. The immediate crisis had passed, and Camp was beginning its next chapter under the leadership of a non-profit foundation made up of those “who through the years had loved it and given it their best.”

Just one year earlier, these same alumnae and campers had received another letter with quite a different message. Fritz and Dottie Orr were retiring as directors of Merrie-Woode, and the Summer of 1978 would be Camp’s final season. Phones immediately began to ring up and down the East Coast, as Merrie-Woode alumnae scrambled to formulate a plan to keep their beloved Camp from closing.

In the Fall of 1978, Hugh Caldwell, Professor of Philosophy at the University of the South in Sewanee, TN, and Merrie-Woode’s longtime head of Tripcraft, began organizing a group of alumnae to meet in Atlanta to explore options for purchasing the Camp. Sherwood Smith of Raleigh, NC, father of campers Cameron Smith Callaway and Eve Smith Davis, quickly arranged for an appraisal of the property. A group



Hugh Caldwell, first Executive Director of the Merrie-Woode Foundation, meets Camp families

of former campers, as well as several of their family members, met on November 23, 1978, the day before Thanksgiving, at the Piedmont Driving Club in Atlanta, GA. Gathering in the Georgian Room, plans began to take shape for the establishment of a non-profit foundation, with a Board of Trustees to guide the Camp’s future and an Executive Director to run its day-to-day operations. Some of those in attendance at this early meeting included: Virginia Neal Almand; Kathy Barnes Hendricks and her husband, Pete Hendricks; Dana Borden Lacy and her husband, Scott Lacy; Hebe Dowling Murphy; and John Kinnett. Several of these individuals

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At Wit's End...

We hope this newsletter finds you doing well. The leaves have begun to change and the colors have created stunning depth to our Merrie-Woode forest. We are writing to you from the Program Office, our temporary home until the Main Office is complete in the spring. As Lindsay likes to remind us, our temporary home is a wonderful social experiment and our smaller space is much like “cabin living” during the summer. We are all still speaking, so it’s going well thus far!

Our 2015 summer season has come and gone, but the memories linger for all of us. Our addition to the Dining Hall was well received by campers and staff. The biggest compliment we received over and over again regarding this project is that it looks like it has always been a part of the Dining Hall. Careful planning on the part of the Board and terrific construction on the part of our Facilities Crew helped to make this happen. We also want to praise our 2015 counselors as we strive to keep our special camp along the shores of Lake Fairfield forever “Unplugged.” They took it a step further this summer. In an effort to be more committed and connected to their campers, our counselors turned in all of their electronics to the Main Office and only checked them out for their time off. This is different than in past summers, where they kept their electronics in the counselor lounge (the Ark). This was decided at the Counselor

Retreat in January; when this group of determined young women and men make up their mind to do something, they do it and they do it well!

It has been a busy fall thus far. We just finished our 2016 camper enrollment process, and camp is full for the 98th summer. We are switching our attention to the archival organization, and the 100th Anniversary book is under way with the assistance from many Board and former Board members. Plans for the upcoming celebration in 2018, our 100th camp summer, are being discussed and many volunteers are needed. We hope that you will all consider making plans to join us. After all, we know that “Going back is the best of all.”

We look forward to the holiday season and maybe a little snow in our valley. Jim and I celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary this December, and we are happy to call Camp Merrie-Woode home for more than half of our “merried” life. What a blessing to be a part of this special family and to have raised our own family here. May you all have a happy and safe holiday season. Hopefully, we will see many of you on the road after the first of the year.

Chug-A-Wump,



In The Beginning: The Merrie-Woode Foundation (cont. from page 1)

were later among the first Board members of the Merrie-Woode Foundation.

The group explored a range of ideas, with all possibilities on the table. At one point, Hugh suggested that they sell stock in the camp, to which Scott Lacy, a corporate attorney, responded “Hugh, I’m not sure we really can do that.” Hugh replied, “Why not?” Scott Lacy

explained, “Well, for starters, the SEC might not have a good opinion of a transaction like that.” Puzzled, Hugh responded, “What does the Southeastern Conference have to do with Camp Merrie-Woode?” With a bit of humor and a great deal of resolve, these committed individuals crafted a plan to organize a non-profit foundation that would run Camp in the

future.

On December 22, 1978, the Merrie-Woode Foundation, Inc., was officially established as a non-profit corporation with the sole purpose of owning and operating Camp Merrie-Woode. Hugh agreed to serve as the first Executive Director without a salary, running Camp operations during the year from his office at Sewanee. The first Board

of Trustees formed, including John Kinnett of Columbus, GA (President); Pete Hendricks of Atlanta, GA (Vice-President); Scott Lacy of Greensboro, NC; Cecil Pitman of Fairhope, AL; Hebe Sanders Dowling Murphy of New York, NY; Virginia Neal Almand of Atlanta, GA; and Vernon Smith of Raleigh, NC. Scott Lacy prepared the documents for incorporation of the Merrie-Woode Foundation, while Pete Hendricks began negotiations for the real estate transaction with the Orr family.

The Merrie-Woode Foundation entered into a one year lease agreement with an option to purchase, a somewhat unusual arrangement for that type of transaction. Hugh immediately began communicating with Camp families to advise them that Camp would be open for one six week session in 1979. With just the minimum amount of funds raised to make the first lease payment, the early Board members began efforts to launch a fundraising campaign to

purchase the Camp. Over the next eight years, many alumnae and friends generously donated to the Merrie-Woode Foundation, allowing it to purchase Camp for a total of \$600,000. Due to the extraordinary efforts of many alumnae, who pitched in through fundraising, volunteering as counselors without pay, culling through old directories in High Heaven and calling as many alumnae as could be found, they were finally able to achieve their goal of preserving Merrie-Woode for generations to come.

For their relentless dedication to the Merrie-Woode Foundation in its early years, we offer our special thanks to **John and Betty Kinnett; Pete and Kathy Barnes Hendricks; Scott and Dana Borden Lacy; Cecil Pitman; Virginia Neal Almand; Vernon and Willis Smith; John Dowling and Hebe Sanders Dowling Murphy; Frank Troutman; Mary Moren Sellers Crommelin; Mary Ann Cooper Broughton; Lindsay Graham Halsey; William "Bill" Kemp; the Flowers family; Walter**

McRae; Earl Johnson; the Bill Graham family; Read Branch; Sharon Bleakley Ansley; the Callaway family; Lenore Caldwell Woodcock; Neil Webre and Anne "Annie" Wortham Webre; Doug and Ann Cameron; Frances Taylor Boone; Charlotte Carroll; Mary "Peachy" Mobley Kohler; Elizabeth "Bunch" Sanders Griffin; Caroline "Cobbie" Cobb Parker; and Beth Greenlee.

In preparing for our upcoming Centennial Commemorative Book, we wish to honor all of those individuals who worked tirelessly to ensure Merrie-Woode's continued operation. We would welcome any additional information regarding individuals who were involved in the early years of the Merrie-Woode Foundation. If you know of others whose names are not listed in this article, please email robin@merriewood.com or call 828-743-3300. Thank you.

Staff News



Katherine Almquist Ryker, Toni Gibbons Carter, Lindsay Garner Hostetler, Anna Almquist Branam, Nancy Dameron Almquist in Bloomington, IN.

We love hearing from all of our staff during the off-season; keep the news coming and stop by camp if you are ever in the area! **Madison Beaver** is balancing the time commitments of her hectic class schedule with her new job working for the Western Carolina University football team. We love seeing Madison around camp from time to time when she babysits

for Owen Helms! **Mary Grace Bowers** reports that she is loving life at UVA and really enjoys catching up with so many CMW ladies there. Mary Grace recently had a chance to spend a few days with her brother, **Tee Bowers**, who was in town for the Lock'n Music Festival. We can't wait to hear more from **Mary Hill Brooks** who is super excited about going to school at



Adrienne Rich and AVT are all smiles

St. Andrews in Fife, Scotland! Owen Helms' best friend and summer nanny, **Sarah Ellison**, recently moved to Salem, VA to pursue her teaching career. Sarah is living with **Kailey Sitzberger** who is finishing her senior year at Roanoke College. At Clemson, **Corinne Foster** is enjoying life as part of a research team working to uncover parts of Clemson's past not often discussed. The team is looking into the Cherokee tribe of Essenecca who lived in the area prior to the plantations. The location of the Essenecca village is now under Lake Hartwell. Corinne likes being part of the team and is finding the project quite interesting! In other news, Corinne and her sisters, **Courtney Foster** and Cara Foster, were recently in



Rachel Garrett and Ivory Sparks after a caving adventure

the area hiking Old Bald. While on their trip, they ran into June Session campers Libby and Kate Rau! **Rachel Garrett** is in her second year of teaching

high school math at Kinston High School in Kinston, NC. So far this year is much easier than the first, but she is still learning a lot. Rachel strives to bring a little bit of camp into her classroom every day! Rachel stopped by camp over Labor Day weekend with **Mackinsey Cole** and **Dan Woodall**. They were here to enjoy the cooler weather and do some climbing. It was great to catch up with them! We recently heard from



Dining at Hogwarts are Sarah Davis, Ashlee Collins, Olivia Hayhoe, and Carter Rice

Alexis Gascon who transferred to Portland State University this semester. She says Portland is perfect for her, and she is really enjoying school. Alexis is hoping to return to Merrie-Woode's mountaineering staff in 2016. We are glad to report that **Sarah Hagenbuch** is enjoying her first semester at Texas A & M University. **Anna Hamilton** is a sophomore at Indiana University where she is raising money and dancing for Indiana University Dance Marathon in October to benefit all of the children at Riley Hospital. **Lindsay Garner Hostetler** recently visited **Toni Gibbons Carter** in Bloomington, IN where they were thrilled and surprised to run into the entire Almquist family at a street festival, including **Nancy, Katherine, and Anna!**



Boat Head Bolling Winborne keeping things ship shape at the docks

At Northwestern University, **Mollye Lent** is helping with a freshman leadership trip before classes start. The trip is hosting 80 freshman, so Mollye is certainly using her camp counselor skills as she prepares the incoming freshman for college life. Unfortunately it doesn't sound like Mollye will be back at Merrie-Woode in 2016, but we hope she will stop in for a visit! In Ohio, **Bridget Oliver** is settling into her new role at Camp Joy. Last off-season Bridget worked at Camp Joy as an educator, and this year she has moved up the ranks and is the Assistant Manager of Outdoor Education. Congrats, Bridget, on the promotion! After a fun-filled week at camp as **Nice Nurse Nancy's** friendly assistant, **Katherine Almquist Ryker** is settling into her second



Alex Ervin and Sara Sims Wilbanks, Assistant Stage Managers for Nancy Drew

year as Assistant Professor of Earth Science Education at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, MI. Katherine is "All



Sophie Sussman and Jennings Mabry on the waterfall field

in to EMU,” meaning that she tries to be involved with as many university activities as possible. As a result, she has been able to get involved in some neat multidisciplinary projects. Right now, Katherine is leading the charge on building an augmented

reality sandbox that will combine geology, geography, GIS, and computer science. Well done, Dr. Ryker! **Maria Schmitt**, who spent some time as camp nurse this year, is finishing up her Masters with plans to graduate in May 2016 from UNC-Chapel Hill’s Nursing School with a Nurse Practitioner degree. We hope Maria will come back in 2016 to put her advanced skills to work at camp! We heard that **Davis Straske** and **Layne Nalty** are just getting started in their freshman year at Washington and Lee and loving it! After camp,

Tara Tecce moved to Durham, NC and is loving living in North Carolina! She’s been busy with her new job as the program assistant for Duke University’s outdoor adventure program, working with the student staff and leading trips. Although **Alex Webster** hopes to return to Merrie-Woode next summer, she is auditioning for summer theatre work and does not yet know her summer plans. We hope to see Alex again but wish her luck in all of her auditions. Stay in touch, Staff; we love hearing from you!

Alumnae News

Thanks to all of the Alumnae for sending us updates about your exciting adventures and educational achievements! **Mary Ella Mead Baker (28-35)** wrote to wish us a great summer 2015. She says that a lot has happened at Merrie-Woode since her first camper summer in 1928, but that the charm is still there, “Dammie would be proud!” **Sarah Nash Bumpas (87-98)** earned her PhD in Education



Mary Ella Mead Baker (28-35) enjoying a visit at CMW with Denice Dunn and Julie Griggs Newton in 2006.

and Social Change on May 9th from Bellarmine University in Louisville, KY. **Carol Ann Brown Cannon (62-63)** shared



Sarah Nash Bumpas (87-98) received her PhD in Education and Social Change on May 9th.

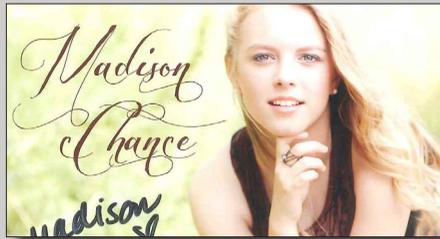
that her granddaughter, **Carolina Wessel (15)**, had a blast during her first year at Merrie-Woode this past August. She has already told her mom, **Carrie Cannon Wessel (85-95)**, that she would like to return for a longer session next summer! **Landis Carey (92-05)** enjoyed living with **Amber Skye (97-08)** in Amber’s NYC apartment this summer. **Betsy Steele Carr (53)** is living in Greensboro, NC and loves to tell her granddaughters all about her 8 weeks at Merrie-Woode so long ago! **Carol Mathis Cartus (70-75)** returned to the

Atlanta area after 27 years in Birmingham, AL. She and her husband work for AT&T, have 5 grown daughters, 3 sons-in-law, and 7 grandchildren. Carol feels blessed to have made wonderful memories and lasting friendships at CMW! **Madison Chance (10-15)** released her first album, *Worth the Fight*, on September 23rd. She wrote all the lyrics and music herself! Clay Cook of the Zac Brown Band plays on the album, along with Rafa Pereira, a world-renowned drummer. Like her Facebook page “Madison Chance Music” for updates and information on how to order your very own copy of her EP. **Ginny Jones Charest** is now living in Tampa, FL. She is married to Wayne Charest, and they have two sons: Ryan, age 14, and Connor, age 12. **Lindsay Chatel (97-08)** relocated to the Washington, D.C. area in June

2015. **Hastings Crockard (98-01)** recently moved to Raleigh, NC. Sister **Comer Crockard (01-11)** has moved to San Francisco. **Maria Crosswell (06-13)** started her freshman year at Elon University this fall. **Perry Ellis (98-10)** and her boyfriend Justin enjoyed a visit to Camp during Main Session. They spent the afternoon hiking Old Bald and paddling on Lake Fairfield. **Kelly Friedlander (02-08)** graduated cum laude from Tulane University with a major in Business Marketing and a minor in Art History. She is working as an event planner in New Orleans, LA. **Abigail Glisson (06-08)** completed her second year at the University of Alabama. **Samantha Glisson (03-07)** recently completed her second year of veterinary school at the University of Florida. Ten members of the Captains of 2000 joined **Betsy Reese Helms (89-present)** for a reunion dinner at Cornucopia this summer. The group included **Mary Coleman Rogers Clark (94-07)**, **Mary Stuart Couch Hurst (94-07)**, **Kathryn Calder Barmore (93-05)**, **Elissa McCarty Oliver (95-03)**, **Lindsey von Thron (93-03)**, **Corbin Dunlap Page (94-05)**, **Carolyn Gabbert Estopinal (97-05)**, **Pattie Gabbert**



Third-generation camper **Carolina Wessel (15)** joined by her mother, **Carrie Cannon Wessel (85-95)**, and her grandmother, **Carol Ann Brown Cannon (62-63)**.



*Madison Chance (10-present) released her first album, **Worth the Fight**, on September 23rd.*

Glassick (97-06), **Elizabeth Tessier Crescenzo (94-02)**, and **CT Stroud Anderson (94-01)**. **Sallie Reeves Campanelli (92-06)**, who made Captain in 1999, met them for dinner as well. Congratulations to **Laughlin Kane (97-08)** on her graduation from the University of Georgia School of Law in May 2015. She will join Hall Booth Smith, P.C., as an associate in the Atlanta office. **Laughlin and Sarah Josey (97-08)** stopped in for a visit at Camp when they were in town for a sorority sister's wedding in Highlands. Sarah is in her third year at Emory School of Law. **Leah Keys (87-96)** is working as an independent producer of true stories and recently referenced Merrie-Woode in a story-telling segment called "Three in a Row" that she performed for Memphis Monologues 2015. You can find a recording of her heartwarming tale of the struggles of adolescence on YouTube! **Emily McAdams Koontz (94-04)** recently moved to Seattle, WA. **Blain Lewis (03-08)** graduated from Sewanee in May 2015. She plans to continue on to graduate school this fall. **Whitney Dunlap McLeod (89-04)** reports that she and husband Kent are in the process of buying and renovating an 1890s farmhouse

in Cary, NC. They are starting with 4 walls and a roof, so there is lots of work to be done. They are hoping to move in by April 2016! **Jane Potts (63-67)** spent a week in San Francisco with fellow CMW Richmond alumnae **Nancy Robertson McAteer (62-65)** and **Tassie Boshier (62-65)**. All three were campers together in the 1960s. Tassie now lives near Chicago, and Nancy lives in San Francisco. **Katherine "Kaki" Neville Rottler (55-57)** contacted us when she saw a photograph of herself and friends from her cabin, Sign of the Hemlock, on the cover of the Spring 2015 newsletter. Kaki is doing well and currently living in Texas. She sent us some wonderful 1950s CMW memorabilia for the Archives.



*Denice Dunn with **CT Stroud Anderson (94-01)**, **Lindsey von Thron (93-03)**, **Pattie Gabbert Glassick (97-06)**, **Carolyn Gabbert Estopinal (97-05)**, **Walker Freeman Jones (93-04)**, and **Sallie Reeves Campanelli (92-06)** at Sunday Chapel.*

Caroline Mix Stapleton (98-99) is working as an attorney at BuckleySandler LLP in the Washington, D.C. office. Sister **Gracyn Mix (99-02)** is enjoying a busy career acting and modeling in New York. **Frances Symes (95-99)** earned an MBA from Yale in 2014 and now works for Deloitte Management Consulting in NYC. Please continue to send us updates. We love hearing all of your news!

CMW Marriages and Engagements



Meredith Ashcraft (94-07) married Jonathan Schulz on October 22, 2014.

Meredith Ashcraft (94-07) married Jonathan Schulz on October 22, 2014. They are now living in Charlotte, NC, where Meredith is working as a nurse. Meredith's mom reports that Meredith was wearing her Merrie-Woode bracelet one day while they were with one of Jonathan's groomsmen and his wife, **Katie McCormick Hubler (91-92)**. Katie noticed the bracelet and guess what, she was a CMW camper too! **Betsy Beveridge (95-05)** and Randy Cotten were married June 13, 2015, at the Homestead in Hot



Betsy Beveridge (95-05) and Randy Cotten at their June 13th wedding with sister, Glory Beveridge (99-09).



Nicholas and Molly Cousar Davis Foukal (98-09) at their wedding on March 7th.

Springs, Virginia. Sister **Glory Beveridge (99-09)** was the maid of honor. **Molly Cousar Davis (98-09)** married Nicholas Foukal on March 7, 2015. Sister **Elizabeth Davis (97-06)** and CMW friends **Libby Page Sibley (97-06)**, **Olivia Head (97-09)**, **Elizabeth Harrison (00-09)**, and **Carter Grey (99-09)** attended the wedding. Molly and Nick met on a canoeing trip during their freshman orientation at Dartmouth College. Molly is completing her 3rd year of a clinical psychology PhD program at UVA, and Nick is getting his PhD in physical oceanography at Duke. While they will continue to go back and forth to see each other this year, they will be living together in Durham next year. Almost every weekend they see Molly's sister, Elizabeth at UNC- along with **Maggie Dodson (04-14)**, **Laura Gill (03-14)**, **Caroline Taylor (03-14)**, **Sarah Merrill Barringer (03-14)**, **Ali Alford (04-11)**, and more CMW girls! **Madeline "Maddie" Marion (08-14)** married Dakota



Emma Driver (07-13), Corinne Driver (02-present), and Christina Stixrud (07-present) with bride Madeline "Maddie" Marion (08-14) at her September 19th wedding.

Rathbone on September 19, 2015, at the historic Balsam Mountain Inn. They met through Merrie-Woode, when Maddie was a member of the riding staff, and Dakota was working as a large animal vet tech for Dr. David, the veterinarian who treats our Camp horses! Maddie was thrilled to have dear friends **Emma Driver (07-13)**, **Corinne Driver (02-present)**, and **Christina Stixrud (07-present)** attend the wedding, as their support and love have meant so much to her over the years.



Molly Cousar Davis Foukal (98-09) with CMW friends Libby Page Sibley (97-06), Olivia Head (97-09), Carter Grey (99-09), and Elizabeth Harrison (00-09).

CMW Births



Jane Nash Bumpas, daughter of Alex and Sarah Nash Bumpas (87-98).

We are happy to report that many new babies have joined the Merrie-Woode family this year! Jane Nash Bumpas was born April 15th, joining her parents, Alex and **Sarah Nash Bumpas (87-98)**, and her sister Frances. **Mary Craven Hines Dawkins (92-95)** and husband, Burney, welcomed their new baby girl, Cora, on November 20, 2014. She and big sisters, Johnsie and Tate, look forward to becoming CMW campers one day. Patrick and **Emily Pittman Funderburk (87-01)** welcomed future CMW girl, Lelia Langhorne, on July 10th. Brothers, Patrick and Wells, adore her! **Elizabeth Jernigan Harrison (94-00)** and husband,



Burney and Mary Craven Hines Dawkins (92-95), with big sisters Johnsie and Tate, welcomed Cora on November 20, 2014.



Patrick and Emily Pittman Funderburk (87-01), Patrick and Wells welcome Lelia Langhorne.

Webster, welcomed Webster “Webb” Glenn Harrison, Jr. on March 10th. He weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces, and measured 22 inches long. Chris and **Rebecca Pillow Hovater (88-08)** brought home a surprise for son George - twins! Walter Patrick and Frances Rose Hovater arrived on November 22, 2014, weighing 5 lbs, 13 oz and 6 lbs, 6 oz, respectively. Both measured 20.5 inches. **Mary Stuart Couch Hurst (94-07)** and husband, Stuart, had a baby boy, Charles Robert Hurst, on September 2nd. John and **Elizabeth Dempsey Merritt (88-98)** and big brothers, Jack and George, welcomed William Fleming Merritt on September



Chris and Rebecca Pillow Hovater (88-08), along with big brother George, welcome twins Walter and Rose.



Webster and Elizabeth Jernigan Harrison (94-00) welcome Webster “Webb” Glenn Harrison, Jr.



Charles Robert Hurst, son of Stuart and Mary Stuart Couch Hurst (94-07)

27th. **Jennifer Hobby Rivera (88-95)** and husband Grant welcomed their second daughter, Reese Nancie, on September 18th. Big sister, Lauren, was thrilled to meet her! **Caroline Mix Stapleton (98-99)** and husband Alexander are expecting their first child in early November.



Grant and Jennifer Hobby Rivera (88-95), and big sister Lauren, welcome Reese Nancie.

2016 Mother Daughter Weekend

Feeling homesick for your home away from home in Sapphire Valley? Get ready for the annual Mother-Daughter weekend in spring 2016! Calling all Alumnae of every age to join us for a fun filled weekend at Merrie-Woode! If you miss spending your days staying in cabins lake side and gathering by the campfire roasting s'mores with great friends and family, then you are in luck. Even if you were not able to make it to last year's Mother-Daughter weekend, this is the year to relive your summer camp days with your daughters and share some

memories beside Lake Fairfield. Camp will open up its cabins to our Merrie-Woode mothers and daughters this Spring from Friday, April 29 – Sunday, May 1, 2016.

The weekend will be full of a wide range of activities geared towards mothers and daughters of all ages. You're never too old for Merrie-Woode's traditional programming including a hike up Old Bald, fun on the waterfront, Evening Program, and Chapel. We look forward to Merrie-Woode mothers and daughters gathering

around the campfire, singing camp songs and enjoying the never out-of-style s'mores.

Registration is easy through our website (www.merriewood.com)! The cost per mother/daughter pair is \$550 and \$110 for each additional daughter. These fees include all meals and cabin lodging. We encourage you to sign up early as space is limited. At least one member of each party must be either an alumna or a current camper. The event promises to bring back old camp memories for a fun weekend.

Hilltop Renovation - Construction Zone!

Our major maintenance project for this off-season is the renovation of the Camp's administrative office – Hilltop. On the Monday after August Session closed, the office staff moved out of Hilltop and into the Program Office. We are spread out all over the building. Joni is manning the desk in the reception area, Denice and Betsy are at either end of the conference table in the Board Room, Lindsay is in the Archives room, Cameron, Robin, and Phyllis are in the Computer Lab. Debi is in the Stock Shop, and Jim and JP are sharing the Stock Shop storeroom. Tight quarters for sure, but so far, all is going well.

Camp's year-round maintenance team has been hard at work preparing Hilltop for a complete overhaul. The whole building has been gutted, and the new construction will add a second story across the entire structure. Structural work on the foundation has prepared the building for the additional square footage on the second floor. When the new building is

complete, a front porch will stretch across the first floor front of the building. Jim, Denice, Betsy, Lindsay, and JP will have offices on the second story, while Joni, Robin, and Debi will remain on the first floor. A large workroom will provide space for group meetings and special projects. The office staff is looking forward to moving into the new space in Spring 2016!



CMW Riding Program Wrap-Up



It has been a big summer down at the barn for the Riding program! We achieved two important goals this year. First, we hosted our first on-site Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA) certification course, which allowed nine of our staff members to become CHA certified instructors. Second, we had record numbers of campers riding during all three sessions. It was our busiest summer yet, and we had a blast!

In 2014, Merrie-Woode underwent a rigorous process to become an internationally accredited site through the Certified Horsemanship Association. This accreditation allows us to host our very own instructor certification clinics. In addition to providing certification to our own staff, we can also offer certification to anyone in the general public interested in furthering their knowledge of safe riding instruction and horse care. In previous years, our instructors had to travel to other

sites to become certified, but we now offer CHA training as part of our staff's 5 day pre-orientation training right here under Old Bald. This intensive certification course covers various instructor-student scenarios including: mock classes, development of lesson plans, trail and barn safety, along with horse care and health. After 40 hours of training, nine instructors achieved a final level of certification, the highest number of certified Riding Staff in Merrie-Woode's history. Many of the staff also obtained certification in Wilderness First Aid and Advanced Wilderness First Aid. These achievements in return increase the skill level of Merrie-Woode staff as a whole. Our campers receive a direct benefit from this increased level of training, which will result in a superior riding program for years to come.

In addition to a successful clinic, the Riding program was able to have record numbers of campers riding. The most

campers we had riding in a single day was 86 during the August Session. Other days averaged 80-84 campers riding per day. To put this in perspective, we had 22 horses at camp, 5 class periods per day in August and 4 per day during the other sessions, plus the occasional bonus riding period during rest hour. These classes included regular lessons in the ring and trail rides around our beautiful grounds. We were so pleased to be able to get as many campers in the saddle as possible!

Riding Director's Statement

What a whirlwind the summer of 2015 was! Starting with the CHA clinic in May, to closing day of August, we had a great summer. The Riding staff were extremely hard workers, enthusiastic, and succeeded in giving our campers some fantastic experiences at the barn. When you see the smiles and hear the laughter of our campers, then we know we are doing things right. It's always rewarding to have former campers and generous benefactors stop by to see the wonderful improvements to the facility and program due, in large part, to their kind support. I'm honored to be a part of the CMW Riding program, and I so appreciate our Barn Manager, Jody Pressley along with our entire riding staff for the amazing job they all do in taking such great care of our campers and horses.

Intern Introduction



We are happy to introduce our new camp intern, Cameron Ward, to the Merrie-Woode community! Cameron was born in Rocky Mount, NC and spent much of her childhood in Florida. She was a camper in 2000 and 2001 and returned to Merrie-Woode after graduating from Western Carolina University to work on the Riding Staff in 2014 and 2015.

As a member of the summer staff, Cameron worked most recently as the Assistant to our Riding Director, Corinne Driver. Cameron learned a great deal from her summer responsibilities and got a taste of many facets of the horse program. Cameron liked helping with activity sign ups because it put into perspective how many girls wanted to ride and how important it was to get as many girls in the saddle as possible. Additionally, Cameron was

tasked with making more horse care decisions and taught as a lead instructor for Page and Yeoman classes. Cameron reports that it was “exciting to share my knowledge with the campers. I loved being able to put skills and concepts into words and have my students get them.” Throughout the summer, Cameron felt a strong sense of responsibility for the campers in her classes, and she took their successes and challenges to heart.

When asked why she wanted to work at Merrie-Woode as our year-round intern, Cameron indicated that she loves the Merrie-Woode family, the opportunity to learn more about youth development, and to see what camp can give to the community. She looked into other employment opportunities for this year but was most enthusiastic about spending her time here at Merrie-Woode. Although she has only been with us for a few months, Cameron notes that she is already learning about the intricacies of camp business. She is impressed with what it takes to make all of the pieces work together, and she

looks forward to learning more. Cameron is particularly excited about diving more deeply into the Merrie-Woode archives, communicating more with alum and staff, and participating in the college recruiting tour this spring. Cameron’s office responsibilities will wrap up in early May—just in time for her to return to the barn for another summer with the horses!

We are thrilled to have Cameron as part of the year-round team and hope you will welcome her warmly if you happen to hear her voice on the other end of the phone. Thanks for joining us, Cameron!

The Merrie-Woode Internship program is designed to help promote and support camp’s Mission and Strategic Plan moving forward. This program is mutually beneficial to the camp community and the intern as she learns more about the off-season workings of the camp. If you are in college or if you have recently graduated and are interested in learning more about the Merrie-Woode Internship program, please contact Denice Dunn at denice@merriewood.com.

Your Annual Fund Dollars At Work!

Camp Merrie-Woode continuously strives to improve both our programs and our facilities to provide an outstanding experience to our campers each summer. Whether through outdoor adventures, visual and performing arts, or

traditional programs, campers will benefit from our devoted and talented staff members, as well as our first-class curriculum and equipment. The summer of 2015 reinforced this idea, as we enjoyed several improvements to camp.

The most significant project completed this past season was the extension of the Dining Hall. Significant care was taken both in the design and workmanship to make the addition behind the chimney appear seamless both inside and

out. Adding two new tables, as well as space for one of the salad bars and the counselor coffee station, greatly improved the overall flow of traffic at meals. The entire Camp community benefitted from the extra space, as we gathered together for meals each day.

Merrie-Woode is also proud to be able to offer the camp experience each summer to several girls through “camperships.” A scholarship fund in place each summer not only provides financial assistance to many camp families, but also works with leadership programs,

such as the Henderson County Young Leaders Program, to identify potential campership recipients. Through this partnership, we are able to grant full tuition camperships to young girls who would not otherwise have the opportunity to attend summer camp. These girls have earned recognition in their school communities for leadership skills, a strong work ethic, and positive attitude. All of us at Merrie-Woode believe that camp provides a unique experience for youth development, character building, and self-discovery, and we are thrilled to be able to

offer that experience to Merrie-Woode girls, old and new, each summer.

The funding for camp’s programming and facilities, as well as campership funds, are directly supported by the Merrie-Woode Annual Fund. Without your donations, projects like these would not be possible. Thank you to all of our contributors! We are already looking forward to the next projects on our list that will influence the quality of camp for our 98th season!

In Memoriam: Ettie Minor Luckey



Ettie Minor Luckey and musicians performing in Merrie-Woode Chapel

The Merrie-Woode family mourns the loss of a dear friend, Ettie Minor Luckey, age 61, who died peacefully on May 1, 2015, following a courageous battle with cancer. A camper from 1967 to 1970, Ettie made Captain in 1970 and returned as a staff member from 1981 to 1983, and again from 1997 to

1998. Above all, Ettie will be remembered by generations of Merrie-Woode campers for her love of classical music and exceptional talent as a cellist. She often performed at Merrie-Woode Chapel services and Evening Programs.

Through her unceasing generosity and inexhaustible

love, Ettie exemplified the Merrie-Woode spirit. She continuously applied her exceptional musical abilities to bring joy to others, both as a performer and as a cello instructor. Ettie is survived by her daughter, Kit Luckey (97-00), her son, Walker Luckey, and five siblings, including Katie Minor (63) and Hardin Minor, better known to campers as “Captain Rainbow.” She was predeceased by her husband of twenty-nine years, Thomas Walker Luckey. Ettie’s spirit will continue on at Merrie-Woode through the ongoing tradition of chamber music performances endowed by the Hugh Caldwell Music Trust, which flourished under her stewardship as its trustee. We were greatly blessed to have Ettie as a member of the Merrie-Woode family.

Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust Hosts Eco-Tour of Old Bald



CMW Staff Robin McKinney, Joni Wavra, and Cameron Ward on the HCLT Eco-Tour.

On September 17, 2015, the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust (HCLT) hosted an Eco Tour hike up our very own Old Bald. These regular outings provide an opportunity for HCLT members, as well as members of the public, to learn about local flora and fauna and to view scenic areas, some of which are located on private property. Kyle Pursel, Stewardship Coordinator of the HCLT and husband of former Merrie-Woode riding staff member Sarah Pursel, led the hike, stopping along the trail to point out remarkable characteristics of trees, such as the Sourwood and the American Chestnut. Merrie-Woode staff members Joni Wavra, Cameron Ward, and Robin McKinney joined the group for the hike. They were pleased to discover two other hikers with Merrie-Woode connections, alumna **Maggie Leonard Douglas (65-66)** and Cathy Temple, mother of alumnae **Katie Temple (92-00)** and **Maggie Temple (92-97)**. Everyone enjoyed the fantastic

view of Camp Merrie-Woode from the top of Old Bald.

Originally known as the Highlands Improvement Association, the HCLT formed in 1883 “to protect, preserve, and promote the natural beauty of Highlands.” In 1909, the group collected \$500 and bought 56 acres of land on Satulah Mountain to prevent its development as a hilltop hotel. The Ravenel family of Highlands donated Sunset Rock to the group in 1914 to preserve it as a scenic overlook for public use.

In 1934, the Highlands Improvement Association merged with the Highlands Community Club to become the Satulah Club. After a second merger with the Ravenel Park Association in 1987, the group took the name Highlands Land Trust. At the same time, development in Cashiers had increased, leading the group to expand into Jackson County and change its name to the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust. New opportunities for charitable deductions and conservation easements soon became available, and the HCLT qualified as an agency that could accept development rights through a conservation easement.

By creating a conservation easement, the owner of a property maintains ownership, but permanently restricts development and future use of land. The development rights are given to a qualified non-profit entity, such as a land trust, to hold and monitor. Since

1996, the HCLT has accepted 875 acres in conservation easements in both Macon and Jackson counties. Within Merrie-Woode’s own property, 35 acres recently acquired from the Bald Rock community, are protected from development under a conservation easement. Other local mountain tops protected by conservation easements include Chimney Top, Rock Mountain, and Timber Ridge. Together with lands held by the U.S. Forest Service, these properties will remain in their natural state for the enjoyment of generations to come.



Kyle Pursel, Stewardship Coordinator of the HCLT, leading an Eco-Tour of Old Bald.

Stock Shop 2015!

Who doesn't love Merrie-Woode? Our CMW clothing is unisex so let's not forget to order for all members of your family, or send a little something to a future camper. If you don't already have everything checked off this year's Christmas list, don't forget all of the great items Merrie-Woode has to offer!

We have goods to match every season of the year, offering a huge array of CMW apparel and accessories that make excellent stocking stuffers and cherished gifts.

- CMW embroidered pocket Bathrobe
- Stylish Beanie
- CMW Comfort Colors Sweatshirt in a beautiful shade of aqua green
- Running Shorts
- Camp Merrie-Woode Spirit Jersey
- Black Watch Fleece PJ pants
- CMW Map-never get lost in camp again!
- Camper's Tin Cup with our Logo
- Vineyard Vines Belt
- Vineyard Vines Bag
- Classic Merrie-Woode Pin
- Merrie-Woode tube socks (for any occasion!)
- Darling Merrie-Woode embroidered bows

Camper's Tin Cup, Camp Merrie-Woode Spirit Jersey, and featured CMW Comfort Colors Sweatshirt are only available from our original store on campus, so place your orders

by contacting **Joni in our Main Office at joni@merriewood.com or (828) 743-3300**. Many old Stock Shop favorites can be found online through EverythingSummerCamp, which you can access from the bottom of our homepage at www.merriewood.com.

Move quickly before we run out of these goods!



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Around Camp!



Riding staff celebrates with the Main Session 2015 Horsemasters



June Session Horsemaster with Riding Director and Riding Staff members



2015 Mountaineering Staff congratulates many campers' achievements in mountaineering



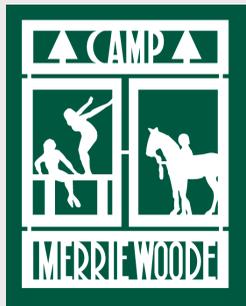
Introducing the King's Players of 2015



August Session campers and staff who hiked Old Bald



The Captains of 2015 with leaders, Tara Tecce and Stuart Bowers



Camp Merrie-Woode®
100 Merrie-Woode Rd.
Sapphire, NC 28774
828.743.3300

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To The Household Of:

CMW Archives Collection

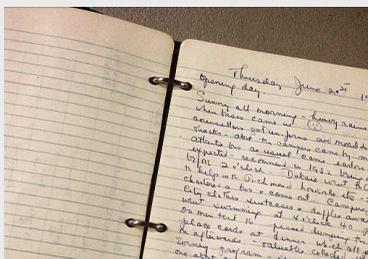
Does your mom or your grandma still have their old camp trunk up in the attic? Bring it down this Thanksgiving and see what treasures are inside!

As we look towards our approaching Centennial, we are in the process of growing our camp archives collection.

At this point, we don't need very many photos. Our image collection is quite extensive. We are now specifically looking for the following:

- Camp uniforms (1920s – 1970s)
- Old Merrie-Woode bracelets
- Camp memorabilia (letters, awards, keepsakes, etc.)
- Old camp scrapbooks
- 1974 Six-Week Session Log
- Ripples (1934 – 1980s)

If you are willing to donate any items to the CMW Archives, please send them to:



Lindsay Hostetler
Camp Merrie-Woode
100 Merrie-Woode Road
Sapphire, NC 28774

