



# Dixie Doings

Camp Dixie Newsletter - Fall 2010

## What's inside

Director's Message.....	1
Thought of the Day.....	2
Special Thanks to.....	2
What's Happening in Dixieland.....	2
What's New in Dixieland.....	2
Babes in the Woods.....	4
Follow us on Twitter and Facebook.....	4
Last of the Summer Bug Juice.....	5
SpringBoard.....	6
Put on the Skillet.....	7
Out of the mouths of Campers.....	7
Surveying.....	8
Last of the Summer Bug Juice - Extra Helping.....	8
Camp Dixie Alumni Association.....	9
In Closing.....	10

ran for 7 fun filled weeks - that went by way too fast. Once camp was over we had the privilege of having a mentoring group from Atlanta with us for a week. They were a great group and enjoyed their time in Dixie. Next, Marietta High School Football team came and was with us for a weekend. They to enjoyed their time in Dixie. Shortly thereafter, the "Babes" came to Dixieland for Labor Day Weekend. What a great group of women!



*Former staff Ameila Brown and Director Rhonda Conrad*

Now, our attention turns to getting the equipment, facilities, and grounds ready for the winter months. On October 8 -10 the Fall Alumni Work Weekend is planned, we are looking forward to having you all join us and help with repairs and maintenance. The to do list is constantly growing and ever changing. Never a dull moment here in Dixieland.

I am sad that the summer of 2010 has come to a close. It truly was a good summer. Dear friends, precious memories and good times are stored away. Now I will look forward to 2011 and hope/pray that we will once again be blessed with another wonderful summer.

- **Rhonda Conrad, Director**

## | Director's Message

*And when September comes, I'll think of all the fun of dear old Dixie Camp and you. Seriously. I'm just saying. What an amazing summer we were given - the campers, the staff, the various camp moms, the weather, the program all were blessings sent to Dixieland.*

The summer of 2010 has come to an end leaving me with such wonderful memories and friends. Our summer program

# |Thought of the Day

## Be Thankful

“Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire. If you did, what would there be to look forward to?”

Be thankful when you don't know something, for it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times. During those times you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations, because they give you opportunities for improvement.

Be thankful for your mistakes. They will teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you're tired and weary, because it means you've made a difference.

It's easy to be thankful for the good things. A life of rich fulfillment comes to those who are also thankful for the setbacks.

Find a way to be thankful for your troubles, and they can become your blessings.”

- **Author Unknown**
- **via [inspiringhots.net](http://inspiringhots.net)**

# |Special Thanks to

## Claire Phelps Barber

for being the camp nurse and mom this summer. She did an awesome job.

## Connie Mae Strickland

for being the camp mom and helping us with the camp songs. She was a sweet gift from above.

## Janis Jones

for also being the camp mom and running errands. Thanks to Janis for being the camp photographer.

## Brett Brown

for spending his two weeks of vacation time with us. It was absolutely wonderful to have Brett back with us.

## Summer Staff

**Sara Brown, Emily Springer, Matt Hartwell, Matt Faller, Merry Faller, Laurie Owens, Tara Mercurio, Amelie Middlemas, and Kendall Kincade** and CT's **Cassie Cobb, Brandon Steele, Thomas Hartwell** and **Ashton Elser** for all your hard work and dedication.

# |What's Happening in Dixieland

## October 8 - 10

Fall Alumni Work Weekend

## Scheduling Recruitment Trips

Please sign up to host a showing

## In Progress

A Camp Dixie cookbook is in the works.

# |What's New in Dixieland

## Camp Dixie has a new camp mascot

Meet Chuck Finley. He will be a great addition to the camp staff.



*What is this round green thing again?*

# |Babes in the Woods

We have heard from all the Babes who attended the first weekend. It is unanimous that it was a **fantastic** weekend. Thanks for all your kind words.

Wow! Wow! What an amazing group of women. This weekend was such a **blast** that we have already scheduled the 2nd Babes in the Woods for May 13 - 15, 2011. Mark your calendars and save the date - the Babes are returning to Dixieland.

## From our guests:

### Janis

A big, big Dixie thank you to Rhonda and Jason for treating us like royalty (well, one of us was already a princess!) and giving us the best possible week-end. And to Cassie and Springer for all they did. Wonderful is a small word to describe it. Look forward to the next one in the spring. And, believe me, we were sad to go.

### Leslie

What a great group of gals! And what a great camp!!

### Carrie

Rhonda, I had such a special time. You all made it a great weekend. And everything was super. I loved it and can't stop talking about it to everyone at home and work. I've already started recruiting friends for May. And I love my shirt. Thanks again for everything! Sending hugs to you and Jason.



*1st Babes in the Woods group*

**Top Row:** Leslie, Cassie, Laura, Julie, Rhonda, Claire, Sandy, Debbie, Carolyn  
**Bottom Row:** Darlene, Carrie, Janis, Claudia, Emily

## |Follow us on Twitter and Facebook

Find us on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Clayton-GA/Camp-Dixie/98614354566>

Follow us on Twitter:

<http://twitter.com/campdixie>

Keep an eye out for us on YouTube

<http://youtube.com/CampDixie/>

# Last of the Summer Bug Juice

## Alumni Stories

Send in your stories to us at:  
[info@campdixie.org](mailto:info@campdixie.org)

### Caroline Celments Macomson - The "S"s of Camp Dixie

#### Scents - Sounds - Sights - Sisterhood - Spirituality

When Rhonda asked me to write about Camp Dixie and what it meant to me, so many thoughts came to mind. Like most parents I am certain that mine sent me to camp that first year but after that it was all my choice. I totaled up the weeks and it came to 56 ~ over a year of my life was spent closer to God at Camp Dixie.

As I began to compile my thoughts a theme stirred in my mind about Camp Dixie and how it affected practically every sense that I possess. Being from South Florida - I equated summer with extreme HEAT! So when I experienced my first cool night the "**scent**" of Dixie had its beginning. I would inhale a deep long breath and the cool air would fill my lungs with the scent of the pines and woodsiness (if there is such a word), there was something very pacifying about that aroma. Next in the scent category was the smell of the Council Ring as we walked quietly to Council Fire, the scent of the fire would conjure up anticipating thoughts regarding awards from the past weeks activities. Again being from such a warm climate, fires in a fireplace were rare. I would be remiss if I didn't include the scent of the stables, don't laugh. A few of us really got hooked into riding when Jo Miller was the instructor, she had us going way beyond our wildest imaginations in regards to our equestrian talents. Jumping horses and actually competing in a cross country/camp

competition was a highlight for me. Along with the fun came the responsibility of taking care of the horses which included feeding and yes shoveling, both very aromatic indeed. To end on an elevated note...the smell of those home baked yeast rolls wins the prize, my mouth is watering even as I type. And yes I gained 10 lbs. one summer just on those rolls alone!

Now to the "**sounds**" of Dixie. On any given day, well really everyday there would be singing, much laughter, and even the quiet of rest hour was special. On the humorous side for some reason the sound of the slamming of the lighthouse door came to mind...at all hours.

Isn't it strange what you recall from your childhood?

The old pump organ out at the chapel where we received thought provoking and spiritual messages. The "Babbling of the Brook sermon" taught us the respect of nature, one of my favorites! Oh and the crickets and frogs would lull one to sleep in a nano second.

"**Sights**" where do I begin? The first thing I remembered as my parents brought me to camp in 1965 (eeeek) was the beautiful azure blue lake □ with the whitewashed decks and mud turtle. Next was the gigantic hill we had to climb to find out our cabin assignments. (my legs ache just thinking about it ~ though as a child I more than like ran up the hill in anticipation! The mist that covered the ground at flag rising. Hiking up behind the barn heading to Black Rock, now talk about a view? From the mountains to the lakeside, seeing Lake Rabun's emerald green water was breath taking, so clean and such fun! Learned how to water ski and then became an instructor. Other sights that come to mind are the tears at the end of camp. My Mom told me I cried all the way to Atlanta and that was before they improved the highway! Talk about a tear-fest?

“**Sisterhood**” being the only girl in my family I never knew what I was missing until camp. The friendships that Camp Dixie blessed and continue to bless me with, are lifelong. In this day and age of transient living, people rarely stay in touch. But not me and my Dixie Chix! We have even started to use Skype to communicate as recently as last night! (Darlene Brown and Sally Dicharry are together in New Orleans) Another blessing occurred this last summer when Rhonda & Jason held the Camp Dixie Reunion. It was then that God blessed me with an introduction to the mother, Mary Ann Bresse (sp) of one of my dearest yet tragically departed friend Mary Clarkson, who was also nick-named “Frog”. It reminds me of the quote from “Sound of Music” ...when God closes a door, He will surely open a window. This He did indeed. Mary Ann and I have become pen pals and we are trying to work out a visit in the Spring.

This leads me to the last “S”, but definitely not the least, “**Spirituality**”. Through the beauty of nature and an inspirational counselor Kathy Morton, God opened my eyes and my heart to His Grace and peace. For years following my days at Dixie I would recall all of the above “S” and be so thankful to God for the gift of Camp Dixie and all its joys!

– **Caroline Celments Macomson**

## |SpringBoard

### 7-9-12 = Life

I, unfortunately, am absolutely positively no good at 7-9-12. For those of you unfamiliar with the game, it involves someone (usually Rhonda) chucking a tennis ball at you at terrifying velocities while you simultaneously jump off the diving board. Not only that, but you are expected to catch the miniscule yellow devil mid air! I usually end up somewhere in between missing the ball entirely and getting smacked in the face with it. This experience had lead me to

swear off ever playing 7-9-12 for fear of hospitalization and humiliation (mostly humiliation).

Why then, you may ask, am I writing an article about how 7-9-12 is a metaphor for life? It's very simple actually. For you see, some people are naturally good at 7-9-12, they just get it on the first jump. Watching these 'naturals' is very demoralizing to people like me, who are hazardously uncoordinated to the point of fearing the consequences of everyday tasks. This



*Salty, reaching for the ball*

happens in everyday life too. When someone is naturally good at any task, be it in their personal or public lives, too many of us give up before we even try. We see the people who excel at everything and figure we're just not cut out for that line of work or that activity, so why even bother trying?

That is why, this summer, I finally took it upon myself to try and conquer 7-9-12, no matter the potential for failure and/or

mortification. Of course, it took me several jumps, but I found that my fellow campers and staff were cheering me on with every missed catch, encouraging me to try again. And wouldn't you know it, as Sara Brown can attest because she caught it on film, I eventually caught that cursed tennis ball. I am still no good at 7-9-12, and chances are, I never will be. But you know what, how will I ever know if I never jump?

– **Emily Diane “Springer” Springer**

## |Put on the Skillet

### Recipes from the Dixie Kitchen

#### S'More Squares

- 18 whole graham crackers
- 1/3 cup butter; melted
- 1 ¼ cup sugar, divided
- 4 8oz. Pkg of cream cheese
- 1 tsp. Vanilla
- 4 eggs
- 6 1.5 oz chocolate bars, chopped
- 1 cup mini marshmallows

Process 14 graham crackers until finely ground. Add melted butter and ¼ cup sugar. Mix well and press into the bottom of a 13x9 baking pan. Coarsely chop remaining crackers and set aside.

Mix cream cheese, 1 cup sugar and vanilla until well blended. Add eggs, one at a time. Stir in ½ of chopped chocolate. Pour over crust and top with remaining chocolate, marshmallow and crackers. Bake at 350 for 40 minutes or until center is almost set. Cool – refrigerate 4 hours and cut into bars.

## Out of the mouths of Campers

### Snakes and Fear

Don't kill snakes on landscaping in your yard because without snakes we would have pests like rats going around all over the world. If you see a banded water snake or a ringneck snake do not panic. These snakes are really nice, and they do not have fangs or venom. If we don't have snakes in our world, their venom could not be used as medicine. Did you know that some snakes may help with Cancer? Snakes in our world can do a lot to help us. If you see a timber rattler or copperhead tell everyone to get back no matter what, remember unless they are bothered they are non-aggressive. One live snake can eat like 100 rats! Rats in the wild carry bad diseases and snakes don't.



*Ringneck Snake*

Keep your eyes peeled for snakes because of their camouflage in the leaves and rocks. Always look closely in the leaves and don't be laying on the ground when you are on a hike. If you see something that catches your eye or is moving and looks like a stick, stop and back away. From a safe distance figure out what type it is. If it's a venomous snake, go slowly away and warn others and do not mess with it. If it is non-venomous like a banded water snake or a ringneck snake please do not kill it. They can help our planet. If you see these just move it into the

bushes. If you see something floating in the water that looks like a stick, it could be a banded water snake or a black rat snake or a copperhead swimming in the water. Always move away from any snake in the water as fast as you can.

On June 5, 2010 a baby banded water snake was killed at Burton Beach, Lake Burton. I wished it could just be moved into the bushes where it wouldn't scare anyone. Do not kill a banded water snake if you see it.

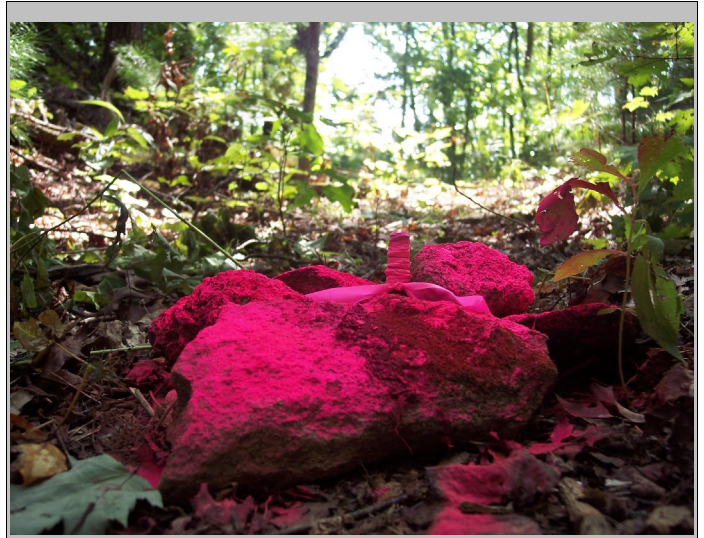
– **Jeremy Nash (age 8)**

## | Surveying

It has been something that has needed to be done. It was something that we wanted to get done but we just couldn't. And now we can say that "It is DONE! "

On September 16, 2010, the Tomberlin Surveying team finished surveying Camp Dixie. They spent about 3 weeks researching old deeds and plats, finding old survey markers and walking around camp property. After many trips to the court house and many trips up to Black Rock and Millionaire, they feel that they know exactly where Camp Dixie is. Everett and Shon Tomberlin are from Alma, Georgia - my home town. Being from flat South Georgia, the mountains of North Georgia were a challenge for them. Even though they were able to get around a lot of camp by 4 wheeler, they still had to hike the boundary with equipment in tow. The weather was beautiful for them and they even enjoyed a dip in the lake one afternoon. Yes, it was COLD to them.

Camp is now marked by hot pink - tape, rock piles, iron pins and slashes on trees. I really can't take credit for this color because it is their identification color but I did pick them for the job. Since the surveyors in Rabun County use orange and blue - the hot pink definitely stands out. Camp does look good with hot pink markers at each of her many corners.



*A corner pin near the front entrance.*

I did enjoy having Shon ride me around to look at the property lines. The 2 mile ride up to Millionaire was tricky but the view from the top was AWESOME. From Millionaire to Black Rock to Grouse Ledge to Boy's Ridge to just above Sliding Rock to below Possum Trot to Germany Road, it was amazing to see what is Camp Dixie.

This has been a long time coming and now that it is complete. We are very thankful for all our many blessings and the new friends that this survey has brought to us.

## | Last of the Summer Bug Juice - Extra Helping

### Alumni Stories

#### Darlene Pipkin Brown - Dixie Friends Old and New

My name is Darlene Pipkin Brown and I was a camper at Dixie from 1966 - 1974. My Sons, Brett and Casey Brown, have also been campers and Brett continues to frequent Dixie as a camp counselor when his schedule permits.

Over the many years that I have been associated with Dixie it has continued to inspire and impact my life. From those childhood friendships evolved some of my

closest and dearest friends who I continue to stay in close contact with to this day. We have also grown new friendships through attending various gatherings such as the 95th Dixie Reunion this past August. Last year, when Brett and I arrived for the reunion, we met up with some familiar faces and some we didn't know, but at Dixie you never meet a stranger. We proudly displayed our photo albums and other memorabilia in the dining hall bringing back those fond memories of the past. Well, Caroline Clements Macomson and I had the most amazing experience as we realized that the Edmundson clan and the two of us shared a very special bond. Mary Ann Bresee, who is one of the four siblings who attended camp as a child back in the 1940's, is the Mother of "Frog" Mary Clarkson. "Frog" was a year younger than Caroline and a year older than me, but she was one of the most loved Dixie Campers of all times. Her last year at Dixie, she received the Honor Camper award for the entire summer. Through this reunion last summer, Caroline and I have enjoyed getting to know MaryAnn, (Frog's Mother) and exchanging our fond memories of our dear friend and her beloved daughter. We spent a day this past April driving to Jacksonville to have lunch and visit with MaryAnn and her sister Laura. Since then, we have exchanged letters, photos and phone calls. It is truly amazing the magic that Dixie continues to bring into our lives. We look forward to getting back together hopefully this coming Labor Day for the Dixie Chix weekend. MaryAnn and her siblings are a talented bunch and were quite entertaining during the sing along in the Rec Hall during the 95th reunion last summer. No matter your age when you come back to Dixie, the "Magic" is there just waiting to captivate you once again.

One of the newer ways we have tapped into the happenings at Dixie is through Facebook. I love how we are all connected and can share our photos of the "work weekends", Camp Fairs, staff training, snowy days at Dixie and other Camp activities. This

has been an amazing tool for even us "older folks" to tune in and see what is happening at Dixie. It keeps us all in touch, it brings a smile to our face when we can hear from and see the place that is near and dear to all our hearts. Be sure and join the Camp Dixie Facebook Group if you are not already a member. Wow ... what would Pop "J" and Miss Ann think about this amazing way to promote Dixie and stay in touch with everyone?

When you finish reading this article, do me a favor and either call one of your Camp Buddies or put a post on Facebook letting your Dixie Family know you are thinking about them today. Friendships are one of your greatest assets in life ... you can never have too many of them.

All the Best,

- **Darlene Pipkin Brown**

## **Camp Dixie Alumni Association**

It is hard to believe that after almost 100 years Camp Dixie has no official Alumni organization. We have thousands of alumni, but we are in touch with little more than 100.

We have always felt here the presence of those who came before us. It is a comforting, and at times, awe inspiring feeling connecting in some small way with the History of Camp Dixie. However Alumni have had no good way to stay connected with Camp Dixie and so over time some of that History, tradition, and camaraderie is lost.

In 2004 when our mentor Miss Ann Taylor passed away suddenly, we were lost. For Rhonda and I, Miss Ann was the heart and soul of Camp Dixie, and we did not know how to proceed, or even if we could. With help, some luck and a lot of effort we stayed above water. Miss Ann made an indelible impression on us, Camp Dixie, and all those that came through Dixie during her time

here. But Camp Dixie is more than just one person and more than just our vision of Dixie.

We would like for an Alumni Association to be formed, so that the Alumni can have a say in what Dixie is and will become. The Alumni Association can start by finding Alumni and building a contact database. In the future the association could expand to planning events, recording and preserving camp history, and eventually perhaps fundraising and even running camp.

Running camp?! Our dream is for the Alumni Association to take over Camp Dixie. One final sale of Camp Dixie, to the Campers. But that is quite a ways off, and the decision up to the association, first things first.

So we are putting out a call, do we have any volunteers to start and run the Camp Dixie Alumni Association?

– **Jason Airlie**

## | In Closing

Thanks to all who helped make the summer of 2010 possible. We are truly blessed to have your friendship and support. We will be here in the heart of Dixieland following the gleam.

