

The Sundial

A publication of the American Camping Association Southeastern
Fall Issue 2004



A message from Rhonda Mickelson, ACA Southeastern Executive Director

It is the middle of August, kids are back in school and I am not sure where the summer has gone! I have been in the role as Executive Director of ACA Southeastern for two months and it has been great. I tell family and friends that I have one of the best jobs in the world. I get to work with people who truly make a difference as they make the camp experience possible. I have been involved in camping since I went to day camp when I was eight years old... and it is still my passion. During that time, I have had the opportunity to work in the private camp sector, with agency camps and with both resident and day camps. Since I graduated from high school, there has only been one summer when I did not live and work at camp (and that summer, I worked with my local recreation department to offer a camping opportunity for kids, so I still got my camp fix).

As I begin working in another avenue of the camping industry, I continue to have the opportunity to work with individuals who share my passion for both the camp experience and the opportunities this experience gives campers. I have had the chance to visit many camps in the section and have seen some amazing things – interactions between campers and counselors, the wonderful facilities at two new camps located in our section, campers experiencing things they would never try elsewhere...I could fill the entire newsletter with my observations (ask me about the camp talent show I had the chance to see!)

I look forward to continuing my adventures and journey as I meet more camp directors, program directors and counselors... all of those folks who make the camp experience possible. I hope to see many of you at the Southern States Camping Conference in September or at one of the District Meetings to be held this year. As we work to move the Southeastern Section forward, I welcome your ideas and your input. And, thanks to you for all you do!

Please help welcome the newest member of the camp community!

Congratulations Dan & Heather Mathews for the birth of their daughter, Mary-Katherine Ruth Mathews, born June 20th, 2004, weighing 8 pounds 15.



News from the ACA-SE office!

Many of you have had contact with Julia Rowland, the “voice” at the other end of the phone when you call the Southeastern office. I am very please to announce that Julia is now the Membership Services Director (as opposed to Coordinator – she does much more than coordinate). She will continue to work with all aspects relating the ACA membership, maintain our member database, be our web “guru”, publication editor and be the main support for the Standards Chair. Julia has gained an incredible amount of knowledge of ACA and the camping industry in this past year and is a true asset to our Section.

North Carolina Public Policy News

The North Carolina General Assembly approved and Governor Mike Easley signed House Bill 1464, which initiates an August 25 start date and June 10 end date of classes for students beginning 2005. School systems that experience severe weather will have the option to apply for a waiver to begin classes earlier than August 25. A summary of the specifics of HB 1464, as enacted, is posted on the SOS-NC Website, www.saveoursommers.com.

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Creating Families through Camp Connection

- Submitted by Bill Frye, originally published in "The Rancher", Florida Sheriff's Youth Camps



This adoptive dad brought along his camera to capture some of the natural beauty at Caruth Camp.

out of the building. He said, "Mister? Do you know anything about adoption?" A bit surprised by the question, but wanting to build every relationship on honesty, Mr. Jones knelt down and said, "Sure. What's on your mind?" The boy looked him straight in the eyes and said, "If you adopt me, I promise I'll be a good son."

Camp Connection's goal is to bring parents/families interested in adopting a child together with the children who are available for adoption and give them a chance to get to know one another in a peaceful, outdoor setting. As the story has been told...

Mr. and Mrs. "Jones" had a strong desire to adopt a boy. They thought Camp Connection would be the perfect opportunity to meet some of the available children. With the help of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) staff, the Jones' prepared to spend a few days at the Florida Sheriff's Caruth Camp, an ACA accredited camp. One of the key rules for the parents was not to mention the possibility of adoption to any of the children. No pressure or formalities...this was just to be a time of fellowship and family-oriented fun...

Because there were more "available children" that "adoptive parents" at camp, the Jones' met several different boys and girls, along with "Charlie." After lunch, Charlie followed Mr. Jones



Governor Jeb Bush visiting with Camp Cool Kids.

We do not know, but maybe, just maybe, this was the birth of a new family.

Many children in the care and custody of the Florida Department of Children and Family Services are available for adoption. However, sometimes the search for a suitable adoptive family is not easy. Florida Governor Jeb Bush has initiated this new program piloted at the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches Caruth Camp in conjunction with DCF/Orlando. We called this adoption program "Camp Connection" and soon thereafter a similar week led by Youth Ranches staff called "Camp Cool Kids" was hosted by Hillsborough Kids, Inc.

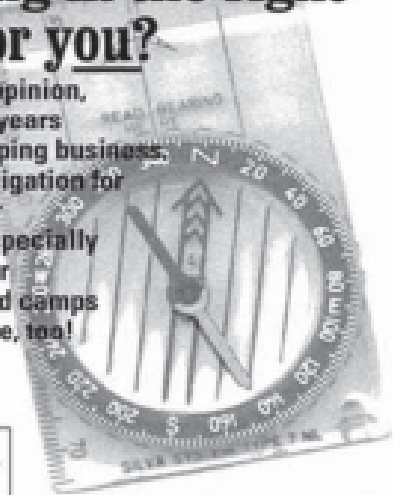
We are proud to be a part of this dynamic, collaborative effort to help create new families by placing them in loving adoptive homes. With your support, the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches will continue to seek new and unique ways to help build and strengthen the families of Florida.



At Camp Connection, each child received a huge bag filled with their very own sleeping bag, pillow, towel, toiletries, flashlight, bug spray, water bottle, bandana, sunscreen, rain gear, hat shirt, back pack and many other fun items...everything they needed for a great adventure at camp!

Are your insurance dollars going in the right direction for you?

If you'd like a second opinion, we have more than 25 years experience in the camping business. Call us - there's no obligation for you to find out how our unique programs and specially designed coverages for protecting campers and camps could get you on course, too!



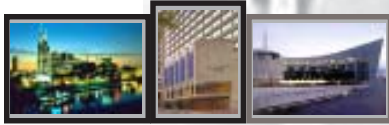
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2004 Southern States Camping Conference
September 27 - September 29, 2004
Doubletree Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee



Two southern sections of the American Camping Association, Heart of the South and Southeastern, are joining together 10 states for the 3rd annual Southern States Camping Conference. By combining our resources we are able to offer one fantastic conference with high quality speakers and sessions, not to mention fantastic special events. Look for a brochure in your mailbox soon! For more information and a registration form, please visit www.southeastcamps.org, call (828) 263-0934 or email Julia at julia@southeastcamps.org. We hope to see you there!

!!! Attention !!!

Camps Planning on Accreditation in 2005

All Directors must attend a Standards Course prior to next summer. The only exception for attendance is if you are a current Standards Visitor.

The first Standards Course of the year will take place at the Southern States Camping Conference in Nashville, TN, September 27th, from 12:00pm - 4:00pm. This course will be for camps new to accreditation, new camp directors, directors who have been through the Standards Visit only a few times, and/or any persons interested in becoming a Standards Visitor (this course is a pre-requisite). Registration for the course can be found on the conference registration form. Pre-registration is required.

We will be offering a new, abbreviated Standards Refresher Course at the conference, and ask that only those camp directors who have been through accreditation several times attend this course. This is currently the only refresher course of this type scheduled this year.

We will also have a Visitor Refresher Course at the conference as well. If you have not attended or taken the refresher course in three years, it is required that you do so. For more information on any of these courses, please contact Julia at the SE office.

Standards Visitors

A great big thank you goes out to all of our Standards Visitors who made this accreditation season such a success!! We truly appreciate your spirit of volunteerism and your willingness to participate in the Standards program during your busiest season. We will be analyzing your feedback and comments and will continue to improve and make the Standards program more efficient and user friendly. Thank you all again!

A.L. Ferriera	Curly Stumb	Gwynn Powell	Ken O'Kelly	Otto Paier
Allan Hodes	Cyd Quarterman	Gwen Whittington	Kendra Smotherman	Peggy Adams
Andi Johnson	Dan Donaldson	Helen Fondren-Lingle	Kenneth Evans	Pop Hollandsworth
Andria Johnson	Dan Matthews	Ian Deane	Laura Byard	Randy Pasqua
Anna Gaultney	Daniel Redding	James Dawson	Leigh Longino	Rhonda Mickelson
Armand Ball	David Schar	Jamie Cosson	Leslie Conrad	Richard Hamilton
Arrington Cox	David Sullivan	Jeff North	Leslie Robinson	Robert Feemster
B.J. Davis	David Trejo	Jenn Dickson	Linda Burdick	Robin Dake
Bill Frye	David Treybig	Jeremy Gillespie	Linda Nelson	Ron Springs
Blaine Wheeler	Deb Beauford	Jill Allison	Lois Graves	Ryan Finney
Bonnie Nichols	Deb Bialeschki	John Dovic	Lynn Arve	Sara Price
Brooke Bradley	Deb Dowling	John Hicks	Manella Calhoun	Steve Bostick
Carrie Myers	Debbie Knight	Jon Vance	Marie Aimone	Steve Owen
Cate Egan	Diane Dicerbo	Jude Bevan	Mark Case	Susan Breen
Cheryl Gans	Doug Gregory	Julia Rowland	Mark Woodall	Susan Gagan
Chris Maslin	Duvalle Elliott	Karla Henderson	Martyn Armstrong	Teresa Morris
Christy Pieper	Fay Binning	Kat Shreve	Matt Fitzwater	Terri Ison
Chuck McGrady	Gae Deangelo	Kate Hoppe-Weidner	Michaux Crocker	Tom Rosenberg
Cindy Lackey	Garrett Graham	Kate Kearney	Misty Phillips	Tony Oyenarte
Cindy Skelton	Gayle Taylor	Kate Weidner	Nancy Brune	Wes Voigt
Cliff Satterwhite	Genie Gunn	Keith Russell	Nanette Baughman	
Coach Montgomery	Glenn Greet	Kelly Moxley	Norman McGee	
Craig Bell	Gwen Whittington	Ken Evans	Randy Youngquist-Thurrow	



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We hope everyone had a great summer!



Campers posing at the end of a session of camp at Mount Shepherd Retreat Center, Asheboro, North Carolina

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” -Nelson Mandela