

VALKAZON



Karen's Commute, Karen's Corner

Nakanawa Love

Nakanawa is a place that holds a piece of our hearts, a spot that we all hold dear. It's where we feel a deep, lasting love-love found in moments that take our breath away. Surrounded by nature's beauty—the towering trees, the serene lake, and the starry skies—it's where countless memories have been made. It's not just the landscape that draws us back, but the connection we share here—the laughter, the quiet moments, and the bonds that grow stronger with every visit. This is our place of peace, joy, and endless love.

As we prepare for the summer, we can't wait to welcome new campers and counselors to experience the same love and magic we've always felt here. We are honored to preserve this place, ensuring its warmth and spirit are passed down for generations to come, creating a legacy of love and togetherness that will continue to grow.

All my Nakanawa love,
Karen





Nakanawa Fund Special Project: Security Enhancements coming to Nakanawa

"I come to this place to find myself.

It is so easy to get lost in the world." -Colonel L.L. Rice

Nakanawa helps us find our way in different stages of our lives, as the founder so simply and eloquently said. The sense of safety, privacy and youthful companionship, a place apart, is dear to us all. Yet *the world has come to us* in this era of online maps, wireless media and intrusions on privacy. Thus *we come to you* on the supremely important topic of Camp security and safety.

This fall, Karen and the board engaged outside security consultants for a current assessment of our security and safety measures. Their final recommendation is a phased approach to upgrade and enhance security, communications, training and preparation for our summer session.

Please contribute to this special project of the Nakanawa Fund.
Our goal is to raise 100k by May.

That will provide:

- Installed Security Gates with Controlled Access; each gate is \$35,000 to \$40,000;
- Increased No-trespassing Signage along Camp's borders \$500;
- Strategically Placed Cameras \$3500;
- Closed Radio System \$20,000;
- Staff Safety and Security Training with Printed Manuals \$2500.

For our fair Nakanawa!

[Donate to Security Enhancements Here](#)



Thanking the village:

- **Amanda Forgason Dempsey** and **Patty Lankford Akers** for ongoing leadership and wisdom
- Friends of Camp **Kevin Tobin** and **Garrett Greene**, Camp-hearted professionals
- **Officer Jackson**, Cumberland County Sheriff's Department
- **Agent Phillips**, Tennessee Department of Homeland Security
- **Donathon Reeves** and **Corie Wilson** for their dedication above and beyond work hours.

Congratulations, Gratitude and Good Wishes!

The greenest of green thumbs, patience and skill in building and repairs, and a contagious smile: put them all together and what have we got? **Camp Nakanawa's Bunk Hall, newly retired after 58 years with Camp.** Job well done, sir, and retirement more than earned!

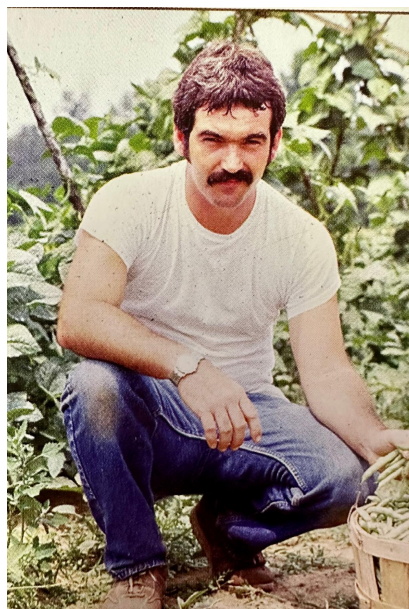
You could say that Bunk got an early start at Nakanawa. As a teenager, he worked both in the kitchen and as a garden helper to Mitch's friend and right hand "Eva B." (Eva Boylston), who was dedicated to planting and maintaining Nakanawa's colorful flower beds. Bright and early on the Saturday morning after Bunk graduated from Cumberland County High School, Carson Tays knocked on the Halls' front door to tell Bunk he wanted him to come work at Camp. That very Monday, the 58 years began.

Click here to read about Bunk's rich history with Camp and join us in celebrating his MANY contributions and endless dedication to Nakanawa.

[Bunk's Camp Story](#)

A special "Bunk Edition" of The Valkazon will be sent out in a few weeks and will include tributes and more photographs and memories. If you would like to send Bunk a congratulatory message, fill out this form so we can share it with Bunk and Camp friends in the special Valkazon issue and our website blog post.

[add your tribute to Bunk](#)

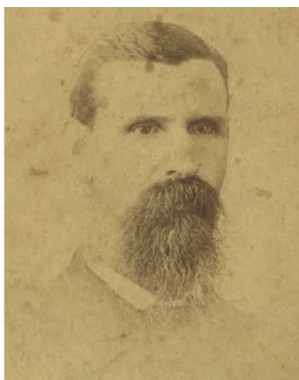




A Legacy Revisited: Ron Witt's Visit to Lake Aloaloa

This month, Camp welcomed a rare visitor: Ron Witt, the great-nephew of William Cooper, the visionary behind the creation of our lake. Cooper had plans for a grand fishing camp development on the Cumberland Plateau but died tragically in 1913 while attempting to save the dam during a cold, heavy rainstorm. The all-night effort led to pneumonia which ultimately claimed his life. Cooper is buried under a large tree in the cemetery near the camp entrance.

Ron shared that Cooper and his business partner had agreed that the surviving friend would plant an oak tree in memory of their bond, and he expressed his excitement to see the tree still standing today. Ron also revealed that Cooper was one of the region's largest landowners, but his heir squandered the fortune by 1919, allowing Colonel Rice to purchase the property. It was a privilege to share Ron's enthusiasm as he connected with his great-uncle's enduring legacy, including Lake Aloaloa, the dam, and Cooper's Stand, the shelter which honors his name.



Counselor recruitment is going strong!

New recruits will begin connecting this month in Zoom meetings to get to know one another and prepare for the incredible job of being Camp Nakanawa Counselors.

Here's where we stand:

Two Week Session 1: Most positions filled

Two Week Session 2: Cabin counselors needed

Four Week Session: Cabin counselors

needed
Medical staff positions filled for all sessions.

**Apply now if you would like to be on the
2025 Counselor staff, time is running out!**

If you would like to learn more about counselor opportunities or know any young women who would make fantastic Camp Nakanawa counselors, please contact Blair Rissing at blair@campnakanawa.org or click [HERE](#) to learn more.



**apply to be a
counselor**

Service Weekend 2025 - Join Us!

High on the top of the Cumberland Plateau
Service Weekend calls your name
You've heard tales of fun and laughter
During this weekend in May

Every tie is tied, each award is wood burned
Gardens are planted and cabins prepped
When girls arrive for a special summer
Nakanawa will look her best

So sign up today and plan to join us
For some time at the spot we all hold dear
A little work, a lot of fun
The best weekend of the year!

We hope you'll join us for this year's Service Weekend May 16-18. Nothing is better than a few days spent beside Lake Aloaloa, doing light work to help prep camp for the summer season. No special skills required - just a willingness to pitch in alongside other Nakanawa volunteers. Questions? Contact Alex Seblatnigg at alexseb13@yahoo.com for more information or click the button below to register.



register now for service weekend



When Can Your TR Gather at Camp?

Rally your group and pick a weekend to have a reunion beneath the pine trees. Registration for both weekends will open soon on the Nakanawa website.

MAY 16-18, 2025

Plan a spring reunion and enjoy staying in cabins, hiking, canoeing and reliving your camper days. This happens the same weekend as Service Weekend but reunion-ers come for fellowship and play. For details about accommodations, both at camp and off-site, and to plan your activities, contact Margaret Matens at margaretmatens@gmail.com.

JULY 18-20, 2025

Or come in the summer when camp is in full swing! See for yourself that “*things never change.*” For lists of area accommodations and weekend schedules, contact Donya Rose at to.donya@gmail.com.

Note: While we give special focus to anniversary groups (10th, 25th, 50th etc.), we welcome all TRs and any former campers or counselors on either weekend.

Alumnae Announcements

Out & About

Nakanawa love and support at Barbara Green Moate's funeral.

Amanda Forgason Dempsey TR 97
Mieke Randolph Griswold TR 94
Bree Pattillo TR 91
Elizabeth Page Ryll TR 91
Simonne Brown Wortham TR 97
Allison Prickett Pack TR 97
Marci Perry Peters TR 94
Marly Moate Page TR 94
Miller Moate Wilson TR 97



Day Lilies and Sunshine



Congratulations!

Kayleigh Lott (TR 11) and Tyler Hebert said "I Do" on January, 27.

Dancing Flames

Do you know someone with a

new baby?

Send us their info so we can include it in the Valkazon.

Also, author/illustrator Margaret Matens will mail them a copy of **Lullabies for Nakanawa Babies**.

LULLABIES for NAKANAWA BABIES

"As We Sing One Last Good Night"



Setting Suns



Eloise "Bootie" Farnsworth TR 57 & 58

On Sunday, December 1, Eloise "Bootie" Farnsworth earned her angel wings at the age of 83. She died peacefully with both of her children at her side. Bootie spent over 10 summers as a camper and counselor at Camp Nakanawa. Nakanawa was foundational to many aspects of Bootie's personality, offering her the time and space to try new things and make lasting friendships. Following her mother's example, Bootie shared this camping tradition with her daughter and her granddaughters, establishing 4 generations of Nakanawa campers. Though she will be missed by friends and family alike, you can bet if you are listening to good music and enjoying good food, Bootie will be there, tapping her toe right along with you. [Click here](#) to learn more about her amazing life.

Amazon: 1940 - 1958

Amazon Lieutenant and "N" girl: 1958

Counselor: 1960 + 1961

Daughter of Eloise Colock Born, Amazon 1933

Mother of Susie Weston Davis, TR 89

Grandmother of Ann Eloise Davis, TR 22 and
Helen Hayward Davis, TR 25

Adelaide Gonzalez Few TR 55

Adelaide Gonzalez Few, mother of Terrin Few McKay (TR 76) and Jennifer Few Burchill (TR 85) passed away on October 18, 2024. Adelaide was a camper and counselor and a staunch Nakanawa supporter. She was a camp representative and hosted slide shows for potential new campers for many years in Tampa, Florida. In addition to being a very accomplished speech pathologist, she was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, an attorney

and earned the titles of Miss University of Florida and Orange Bowl Queen.

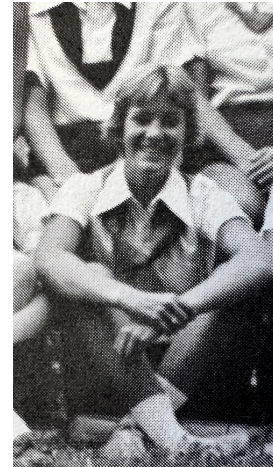
[Click here](#) to enjoy learning more about Adelaide's full, rich life.



Adelaide and her daughters,
Terrin and Jennifer

Laurie McNulty Bartholomew TR 76

Laurie McNulty Bartholomew passed away after a lengthy illness on January 4, 2025 in Jacksonville, Florida. Laurie was a camper in Senior and could almost always be found on the tennis courts. She was an accomplished tennis player, an all around athlete and a delightful friend with a beautiful smile. We will all miss Laurie.



Alumnae Giving
Honor someone you love with a gift to the Nakanawa Fund

In Memory of:
Laurie McNulty Bartholomew
Emily Martin Carney
Mary Bashie Steele Evans
Eloise "Bootie" Born Farnsworth
Adelaide Gonzalez Few
Kathleen "Teena" Greer King
Bashie Lindsley Martin
Elisabeth "Mitch" Mitchell
Barbara Green Moate

In Honor Of:
Ann & Pepe Perron
Wyeth Outlan Burgess

[give now](#)

Nakanawa in the Know

[Service Weekend: May 16–18, 2025](#)

[2-Week JR. \(Session 1\): June 1–13, 2025](#)

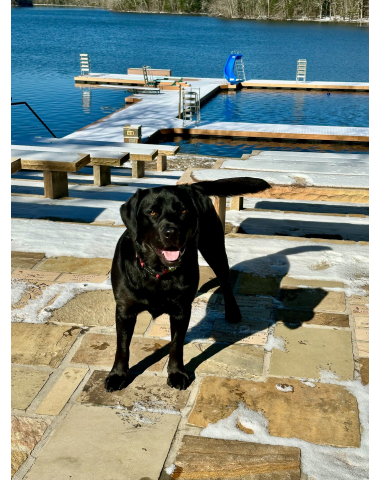
[2-Week \(Session 2\): June 15–27, 2025](#)

[4-Week Session: June 30–July 26, 2025](#)

[May Reunion Weekend: May 16-18, 2025](#)

[Reunion Weekend: July 18–20, 2025](#)

[Mother/Daughter Weekend: September 12-14, 2025](#)



Camp Nakanawa's regular business hours are Monday–Friday, from 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Central Time.
Messages received outside of those hours will be answered on the next business day.

Camp Nakanawa | 1084 Camp Nakanawa Rd | Crossville, TN 38571 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!