



Georgia Lions Camp



August 2020

In 2014 and 2016 the camp was fortunate to have a mission group from our North Georgia neighbors to come to the camp and help with several projects here at the camp. Projects that were needed to expand on some of the camp's current activities. They are the First Baptist Jasper Church in Pickens County. Some members in the church are also members of the Jasper Lions Club. For the past several years Kyle Rasco and Patton Childers are two of many who put together and organize how they can help organizations with various projects and needs.

First Baptist Jasper has been doing mission work since 1976. In 1976 Rev. David Stuart began this annual mission to reach out and help those who were also trying to help others but needed a little help themselves.

Along with Rev. Stuart was Mr. Glenn Rasco. These two worked together for decades reaching out to minister and help others. (Mr. Glenn is Kyle's Dad). I do not know every detail of what they have done over the years but I'm sure many have been touched by what they do. I can speak from experience, I have! I was fortunate to first meet Mr. Glenn in 2014 here at the Lions Camp.

During each mission trip while performing various jobs, not only do the adults lead in these projects they help to teach trade skills to the school age volunteers. The church's Youth Group. For the past several years they have about 80 total volunteers and their numbers are starting to increase each year from others who want to help.

Some of their recent mission trips have been over to Morning Star Children's Home in Brunswick, Ga. Check out Morning Star's Facebook page and see what they are all about.

First Baptist Jasper has travelled all over the state of Georgia. During the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, they were able to help many who had been displaced by the storm. They have extended a helping hand and have traveled out of state to Wyoming, Alabama, and Florida. Each year they put together a group of volunteers from school age individuals to older adults. Taking a week to ten days out of their summer schedule to work on various projects.

They are a self-supportive group and place no burdens on the organizations they are helping. All meals, which includes preparation, sleeping arrangements, travel and supplies are provided by the volunteers. This is all done with donations from their church, fundraising events, business' and some Lions Club members. Through generous giving of others and fund-raising events, they are usually able to help with the cost of projects during their mission trips.



First Baptist Jasper Church Volunteers

In 2014 they came to the Lions Camp and did several projects that included the widening of our Horse Arena. Which would allow us to expand one of the camper's favorite activities. The expansion would provide room to add therapeutic obstacles to arena.

Many of our campers need some assistance when mounting the horse's. Lifting them up from a wheelchair. Some just can't pick their legs up high enough to mount safely so they need assistance. With that in mind, a handy-cap accessible ramp was constructed at the arena. This helped the campers and relieved stress on those who assisted in the mounting of campers.

Now I would want to leave out Mr. Tim Burton. He led the construction crews for many years. He was the driving force behind getting all the workers motivated. He was a leader like no other and all who worked with him respected him.

One of the projects they done that year was to renovate what is known as the outdoor amphitheater. Many Lions did not even know we had such a place. Over the years past it had been over taken with weeds, vines, and tall grass. Seating was rotten and unsafe to sit on. That year, Kyle asked that if they cleaned up the area and rebuilt all the seating would we be able to use it for the campers? The answer of course was, most definitely!

Not only did they clean and rebuild they also added some guide ropes and built a small bridge to assist with the entrance to the outdoor theater.

For those who remember, this is where one of our camper's (Volly Nelson) asked to speak to the campers. Afterwards he and the campers gave a contribution to the camp because they wanted to help make sure the camp did not close. Thus, Volly's Jar promotion began.

We still ask that you reach down in your pocket and pull out that change, put it in a jar and donate it to the camp. We all seem to throw it in a drawer when we get home so why not put it to good use.

Shelters were built over the fishing docks. Helping to keep campers a little cooler when fishing and for those waiting their turn a shade to sit under.

In 2016 they came back to the camp and built a shelter near the climbing wall to provide shade and a place for campers to sit while anxiously waiting their turn to climb the wall. Other activities could be offered to campers while others climbed the wall. Campers used to sit only under a tree for shade. The shelter has been a blessing. This is where we combined the Recumbent Bike riding activity last year. (2019)

While here at the camp they have assisted staff with activities for the campers. Helped out in the camp's kitchen and provide treats for the campers. Home-made Kettle Corn during the annual Talent Show was one of the camper's favorites.

All of the above projects have benefitted the campers and programs we offer here at the Camp. All of these projects have been totally funded by this mission group. There has never been any cost to the camp. There are many other tasks they have done here at the camp and they were planning on coming back this year, 2020 with a full crew to help the camp. 80 plus volunteers!

This has been one unusual year to say the least! Due to COVID-19 plans changed. With the uncertainty of the events the health and wellbeing of others, all parties involved thought it would be best to cancel their mission trip to the camp this year.

While having several phone calls with Kyle on their disappointment of not being able to come. Although he still had a desire to help if he could. He felt that if there was some project the camp needed to this year, he would ask members of his church if they would be able to come and help. Making sure no one would be in jeopardy of risking their health. He was wanting to see if they could put small group together and do whatever we needed.

As you know our summer camping season was cancelled and this provided us some time to complete the landings and ramps needed at the Staff Building Renovation. This was one of the projects they were going to complete during the previously scheduled trip here. They would form up landings and ramps and then pour the concrete needed.

Now that our Summer Camping sessions were cancelled, we could possibly complete the proposed sidewalk widening project. If time permitted and the volunteers felt like they could get it done. This could not have been done with camper's present and we would have had to hire a contractor to come in and complete the sidewalks at a later date.

As Kyle put together a group of twenty volunteers they planned to come down over a long four-day weekend and try to get as much done as possible. They would be here on July 10th and leave on July 14th. It was going to be a lot of work to get all this done but I have seen this group work before. I felt that if I could get some prep- work done before they arrived, we would have a great chance to complete all these projects. Landings, ramps, the removal and widening of over 400' of sidewalks that needed to be up to ADA Standards.

With some pre-planning and help from some Lion volunteers we were able to have some of the sidewalks 90% ready to pour on a Saturday morning. Arrangements for concrete delivery was to start at 7:30 am on Saturday morning. Finish up on Monday.

I know I have said a lot to get to this point but there is much to be said!

The following is an update on the Landings and Ramps needed at the renovated building. Most of you know it as the Staff Building. Also included is the completion of the widening of the sidewalks.

Pictures speak louder than words. Final preparation on sidewalk form work by Lions and volunteers. We were also able to improve the entrance to the pool area also. Then It Began to Pour. Concrete That Is!!!!



Lions and volunteers prepping sidewalk for concrete

Concrete rolled in right at 7:30 and the first pour started quickly. This is a job you want to get done before it starts to get hot. Weather wise that is. This is Southeast Georgia; it's July and it gets hot by 10:00 am.

While one group was beginning to pour and finish these sidewalks there was another crew who were helping with the forming up of the landings and ramps located at the renovation building.



Concrete truck

This prep-work was so we could pour concrete on Monday morning.

After a long day of working on Sunday, the trucks rolled in early Monday morning. Time to get busy. By around 11:00 am Monday morning The Jasper Group had poured and finished about 44 Yards of concrete. Landings, ramps, and sidewalks were completed. About a half of a day ahead of schedule. Great Job!! It gave them time to remove most of the form boards used for the sidewalks. One less job we here at the camp would have to do!

With all the work done by the men and young men of this group, there were two young ladies that could out work most any other guy you could think of.

One of them, Katherine has been here on previous trips and the other young lady Kimmie this was her first time. Anyone who has worked with concrete knows that screeting the concrete is a labor intense job. This was their job, especially with the pouring of the sidewalks.

I said earlier that Kyle took over after his dad decided it was time to hand over the reins. Well, Kyle is training some young Rasco's of his own (not to be confused with rascals!) to take over when he is done. Kiptyn, Christian, and Chance. A Job Well Done!!!

Thanks also goes to the Camp's Board of Directors for approving these projects. Providing the funding for the materials needed. All of these projects will help the camp with projects and programs that will benefit all who come to use this facility. Most particularly our campers!

New outreach programs that can be offered with the renovation of new sleeping quarters in the building formerly known Staff Retreat. Outreach programs such as Family Camp. Private rooms where parents with young campers can stay together if they desire. Easy and safe independent passageway between all building's on site.



Crew forming the ramps

With the help of these volunteers and some others, the camp was able to stay within the proposed materials budget. I believe when all the final cost is tallied will actually be a little under budget.

With the help of these volunteers the camp actually saved around \$4,500.00 to \$5,000.00 that would have been an additional labor cost if we would have had to hire an outside contractor.

With the dedication and willingness to serve like these individuals from Jasper and even fellow Lions and Leos, the Georgia Lions Camp is able to grow and expand our goals and missions. By donating your time,

knowledge, leadership, and Yes, your generous contributions we can continue to be the best camp around.

By all means: “LET’S KEEP THE CAMP FIRES BURNING”

First Baptist Jasper is wanting to continue working with the camp and its mission. Help with projects that will benefit the growth of the Georgia Lions Camp facilities and future Program needs.

They have asked to partner with the camp. Helping in any way they can through their mission work.

Because they could not send the full crew of volunteers this year, 2020. Their plans are to schedule a trip back to the camp next summer in 2021. And, every Three years after then. To work on projects presented through Long Range Planning, the Camp’s Board of Directors and Staff.

When the grass grows back and the rails at the renovation are installed I will present you with photographs of all the finished projects mentioned.

Thanks to all of you who “SERVE”

Mike Williams
Camp Director
Georgia Lions Camp Inc.

When you heard the call, you came a Roaring: ADA Handy-Cap accessible sidewalk widening projects began on July 6th, 2020 with the widening of four sidewalks began with the help of District N Governor Lion Mark Anners.

Coming the next day was Lion Hal Simpson of the Smyrna Jonquil Lions Club. Mark is the COG representative to the Camp and Lion Hal is on the Building and Grounds Committee.

Mark came on Thursday July 9th and helped with the layout of the formwork needed to get this project started. Mark put in a good long hard day’s work to help us get prepared for the upcoming pour. Scheduled to begin on Saturday morning.

As usual here at the camp it was one of those days that just seems to get hotter as the day goes by. I know Mark had to change his shirt at least three times during the day because of the heat.

Hal came down from Atlanta and arrived at the camp on Friday morning. Along with his help and his knowledge of construction we were able to make sure all the sidewalk form work was ready to go. Hal also helped with some of the preparation work for the landings and ramps that were part of the renovation project at the Staff Building.



Forming of ADA Accessible Sidewalks

The Georgia Lions Camp has awards for clubs in each District but there are also awards on the State Level. Below are the winners of the State Awards.

Dr. C. M. Blanton Fellow Award. A plaque is presented to the District Governor for the highest contribution average per club member.

The award for 2020 goes to District I PDG Steve Williams

Thomas T. Purvis Award. A plaque is presented to the Club President with the highest contribution per club member in first and second place standings.

First place for 2020 is the Bainbridge Lions Club

Second place for 2020 is the Woodbine Lions Club

Don Anderson Award. Plaque is presented to the Club President with the increase contribution per club member over the previous year for both first and second place standings.

First Place for 2020 is the Woodbine Lions Club

Second Place for 2020 is the Norcross Lions Club

Dr. C. M. Blanton Fellowship Award. A certificate is presented to individuals of Clubs that contribute \$300 to the Camp in honor of or in memory of a person who has made an outstanding contribution to the camp.

For 2020, Dawsonville Lions Club for Buster Roper

The Highest Per Capita Award. A certificate is presented to the Club President for of the four Districts. The winners for 2020 are:

District L Marietta East Cobb Lions Club

District I Clayton Lions Club

District O Bainbridge Lions Club

District N Woodbine Lions Club

Want to win a T-shirt, sweatshirt or collared shirt from the Georgia Lions Camp? We've started a contest for you to learn about the camp. In the newsletters and on the website will be information about the camp. All that will be available to everyone. Each month there will be at least one question in the Georgia Lions Camp Newsletter.

The answer to the questions will be somewhere in the newsletter and on the camp website, www.glcb.org. When you know the answer, send your answer to Camp Director Mike Williams at director@glcb.org or call the camp at 912-283-4320. They will need your name and your answer. You will not be told whether you are correct or not. Your name and answer will be recorded and the person with the most correct answers wins prize. In the event of a tie, a coin flip will determine the winner.

The prize will be determined by both your choice and availability. The contest started with the April issue and the winner will be announced in January 2021.

THE CAMP NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The Georgia Lions Camp newsletter is created to let the Lions of Georgia know what is happening now, next month and in the future at your camp. Information we have received says that there are 4600 Lions in Georgia but only 3000 are in the Constant Contact list at the state office. There are no Leos receiving this information and they are supposed to be our future Lions. What we at the Georgia Lions Camp request are that if you receive our newsletter, please share with your club and friends. If your club is sponsoring a Leo Club, share the newsletter with them but also send us the contact information for them so we can add them to a group and assure them that they receive the information.

The following projects will be updated monthly in our camp newsletter. If you see a project that you or your club would be interested in helping with, please email your interest to director@glcb.org

1. Repair 4x4 post bracing damaged by carpenter bees at the Arts and Crafts Building
2. Paint bracing and post at Arts and Crafts building
3. Paint Porch on Arts and Crafts Building
4. Install Braille Signs- **70% completed**
5. Some minor sheetrock repair in kitchen serving area and then paint ceiling
6. Paint entry sidewalks at the exit doors to the bunkhouse.
7. (Looking for a set of three seat aluminum bleachers for campers to have easy access). **Still looking for bleachers.**
8. Pull up carpet in kitchenette of Activity Building, prep for tile installation. **Ready for tile installation.**
9. Foyer carpet in activity building needs to be replaced. (some floor tiles are on hand and available to be placed in this area. Ready for tile installation.
10. Repair Emergency exit door at restrooms in the Dining Hall.
11. Repair damaged handrails leading to the floating dock.
12. Paint the railing around the playground
13. Limbs on oak tree located at the rear entrance of the kitchen need to be trimmed (this may have to be done by a professional to prevent damage to the roof)
14. Memorial Garden, there are sections that need new flowers.
15. Clean and paint swing frames at the fire pit area.
16. Swings at the fire pit need to be painted.
17. Facia boards at pool shelter need to be replaced and repainted
18. Some areas of screens at the bar-b-que shelter needs to be re-stapled.
19. Hang new screen door to bar-b-que shelter.
20. Pressure wash all buildings.
21. Paint water heater room located behind the newly renovated Staff Building.
22. Paint the pump house at the pond
23. Paint the Water Tank
24. Interior Dining Hall to be repainted (Covington Lions Club had offered to do this job before today's health issues happened) (Still can be done safely)
25. Kitchen serving area needs walls to be painted
26. Kitchen paint to match serving area.
27. Nature Trail – clean up and rocks and dirt applied where needed. Project has started with donation of crushed Asphalt (two loads) by Douglas Lions Club and Douglas Road

Pavers. To build up low lying areas we still need THREE more loads of crushed asphalt and two loads of fill dirt.

28. Remove soiled carpet from (Rental House) (Directors house) Replace carpet with either laminate flooring or ceramic tile Camp has some tile- enough to do maybe three of the four rooms.

29. Install gates at two entrances to camp located near Main Dormitory: these are 28' openings and what is called cattle gates would be sufficient. Gates needed.

30. We have several wooden picnic tables that need repairs or replacing.

Projects not on list;

Sidewalks widening – **Completed**

Landing, Ramps at Renovation Building – **Completed**

Safety Railing and Handrail installation at Renovation Building – **Pending arrival of materials.**

Next Schedule Lions Service Work Date Is: October 23-25, 2020

Spring 2021 date will be determined by the November camp Board meeting

This is a project that has been part of the Camp's goal to help Blind and Visually Impaired campers and visitors with their independence to move around the camp.

Building names, room accessibility and mobility is one way we are moving forward to become more adaptable to all who visit.

Directional signs will be installed after the sidewalk widening project is completed.



Braille Sign for restroom

Dear Fellow Lions and Friends,

2020 was probably one of the most challenging years that any of us have ever seen. It has been hard on our clubs, our communities and places like the GA Lions Camp. Many of our clubs could not raise funds, and in turn could not support the Camp. We understand that, but want to reach out to YOU and ask for your help personally. We are going to try and resurrect the 1976 society that came about as an idea of a great Lion, former camp treasurer Jon Winters... 1976 is the year the camp became a Multiple District project, and this is our 45th anniversary of The GA Lions Camp! It is quite simple, the challenge is to pledge \$19.76 a month to the camp for a yearly total donation of \$237.12. If we can get 100 individuals to make this pledge, we can raise over \$23 thousand dollars for the camp. This donation works out to about 65 cents a day, less than \$5 a week to help us provide camp for those who are less fortunate than most of us. Remember WE SERVE is the Lions motto and I am personally asking you to support this great cause, help us grow the camp and make it a place for all our campers to love and enjoy!

Your fellow Lion,

Jay Taylor
Camp Director 18-O
Fundraising Chair



1976 Society



The Beginning: In 1972, the Waycross Okefenokee Lions saw a need to provide recreational opportunities to the vision impaired children of Georgia. By 1974, then Governor Jimmy Carter met with a delegation of Georgia Lions to secure 61 acres of state land. The Department of Natural Resources approved the land transfer to the Georgia Lions and on September 12, 1975 the Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind was chartered as a non-profit organization. Then in 1976 the Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind became a multiple district project.

The 1976 Society: The idea of the 1976 Society ($\$19.76 \times 12 \text{ months} = \237.12) was proposed by Jon Winters, then Camp Treasurer at the annual Winter Camp Meeting on February 5, 2012.

Georgia Lions Camp –The 1976 Society

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Lions Club _____ District _____

Email _____

Phone (Home) _____

Cell _____

To promote a "Vision for a Brighter Tomorrow" at the Georgia Lions Camp, I hereby request membership in 1976 Society.

_____ I am donating a minimum of \$237.

Make check payable to Georgia Lions Camp. For more information, or to send your Contribution Contact: Georgia Lions Camp Inc.

5626 Laura Walker Road
Waycross, GA 31503
(912) 283-4320
www.glcb.org

Signature _____

Date _____

Upcoming Events

October 23-25, 2020

You're invited to Lions Camp Work Weekend on October 23-25, 2020. For more information, visit www.gclb.org.

Contest Questions:

**What year did the Jasper mission group first come to work at the camp?
Where did Volly's Jar promotion idea originate? Location at Camp.**

Lions Camp Information

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Georgia-Lions-Camp-Inc-152370411465833/>

Website: <https://www.gclb.org/>

Telephone: 912-283-4320

Fax: 912-283-5130

Address: 5626 Laura Walker Road, Waycross, GA 31503

Camp Alumni Contact Information

Camp Alumni Association Contact: Brian Donegan: doneganbrian1@gmail.com