

The Bell  
Issue 59, November 1, 2023



THANK  
YOU  
TIMES



15

and



CONGRATULATIONS!

**Dear Camp Sertoma Golf Tournament Committee,**

**What a great event you've put on! The course was beautiful, the volunteers were cheerful, food and drink were bountiful, joy was plentiful...and the preparation was very obviously thoughtful.**

**That's A LOT of "ful's!"**

**But I want you to know that we all out here in Sertomaland are mindFUL of all of the time you put into this event. Months of meetings. Countless calls. Endless emails. Tons of texts. Rounds of reminders.**

**You doubtless missed out on time with your family, work around your yard and home and the liberty to lounge around on a Saturday morning.**

**Don always says "It's all about the kids." And boy, do we love our kids! But it has been so encouraging to my heart to see so many Sertomans working for camp...so many different clubs working toward the same goal...and so many non-Sertomans hearing about the best kept secret in South Carolina.**

**OUR Camp Sertoma Golf Tournament has become an extension of our camp. Not only does it support kids and the clubs who send them. This tournament enhances our mission to unify Sertoma clubs of South Carolina. And it does it in a brilliant and beautiful way.**

**240 Thank you's!**

**Dale  
(on behalf of the 29 Sertoma clubs and 700 Sertomans of SC)**





Seeing old friends



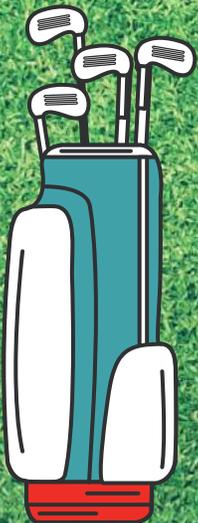
Putting Contest!



SUPER organized!



HUGS all around!



warming up...





**READY TO GO!**



**HUGE TURNOUT!**



# ABSOLUTELY BEAUTIFUL COURSE





## Sertoma Bell Ready to Ring in Its 15th Summer

How the bell came to be is a terrific story that mirrors Camp Sertoma's growth and success. As most Camp Sertoma stories do- it started with volunteers. Not Sertomans, but young men who were members of a national collegiate fraternity who philanthropic outreach involved serving and supporting places that helped persons with disabilities.

The beautiful bell tower that sits in the center of Camp Sertoma did not start as a bell tower. It was actually a "treehouse" conceived by then camp director- Norman McGee. "A professional architect, who volunteered his services, designed the structure that has now become the bell tower. Originally it was also built to house a commercial kitchen sink and cabinets to honor and remember Milledge Clyatt a member of the original Camp Sertoma board of directors. Milledge loved to cook. That kitchen, at the bottom of the bell tower, adjacent to our pavilion is still used daily during camp to facilitate activities from meal prep to crafts.

After the design of the tower and approval by Clemson University, the tower (aka treehouse, kitchen and activity closet) construction began on a cold early March day in 2006 by young men from several schools in the Midwest and Southeast. With great leadership from Ken Greene (a local home builder and volunteer), the collegiates completed the tower in less than 5 days. The distinctive "upside down" roof was purposely designed to make the tower stand out and it certainly does to this day.



## **A bell in a camp for deaf children?**

**I grew up attending a boys camp with a big bell which was rung to announce events and welcome visitors to the grounds. It was an honor for campers to race up the hill to be the first to ring the bell as they spied a car pulling into camp.**

**From my camping roots, I hoped that someday, the Outdoor Lab could have a bell to be remembered by campers as part of their time in this magical place. Until a deaf staff member helped me understand, I thought a bell in Camp Sertoma might be perceived as a cruel joke. The staff member patiently explained that he felt sounds more than he heard them. To hearing people, it might be a jet plane flying overhead or a bass drum in a marching band. This deaf summer staff member explained that he knew where his campers were by the vibrations of their foot steps on the cabin floor, docks or even the trails around camp.**

**Taking that valuable information, it was important that we found a bell foundry who could forge a bell and properly tune the bell so that all could “hear” it. Sonny Powers (former co-chairman of the Camp Sertoma board) found McShane Bell Company of Baltimore. The board voted at their spring, 2007, meeting to have that company (in business since 1856) build the shining 21” brass bell that now stands over our camp.**

**Each Sunday of Sertoma’s summer, the bell is rung to welcome every visitor and camper to arrive. Before they meet their counselors- even before they get out of their cars or buses, the campers know that they are welcomed and that someone (actually every single staff member) is glad that they have arrived.**

**Like camp, the bell started with an idea and committed volunteers. That’s why Camp Sertoma of SC still stands ready to ring the bell next summer and for many many summers to come.**





Norman McGee has been involved with the outdoor lab for over 30 years. After his long tenure as Camp Director/Director of the Outdoor Lab, he became the “Camp Ranger,” finding ways to keep camp campy. You can stand anywhere in camp without seeing his handiwork..and his heart.



INSERT HERE

NEWS!

YOUR CLUB

ABOUT

EVENTS-FUNDRAISERS



WHEN, WHERE

HOW WE CAN HELP

WHO TO CONTACT

EMAIL [CAMPDOC240@YAHOO.COM](mailto:CAMPDOC240@YAHOO.COM)