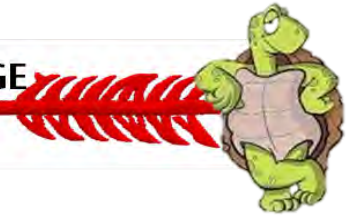


TORTOISE TALES



WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE

South Georgia Council
1841 Norman Drive
Valdosta, Georgia 31601



2014 No. 2 (MAY)

The 2014 SR-9 Conclave Experience

Fifty-four Withlacoochee Lodge Arrowmen joined nearly 600 other Arrowmen from Southern Region Section 9 for the SR-9 Conclave held April 25-27, 2014 at Moundville Archeological Park, Alabama. This year's conclave was a special event for several reasons. First was the location. Moundville is located on the Black Warrior River in central Alabama. The site was the political and religious center of the Mississippian culture from around 1000-1450 AD. At its height the site was home to an estimated 1,000 occupants with another 10,000 occupants in the entire valley. Even after its decline as a settlement, the site retained its importance as a religious site to Native Americans. Arrowmen had a chance to walk through the museum, attending lectures on the history of the site, and climb to the top of the Visitor's Mound. The second reason this year's conclave was special was the weekend marked the one-year anniversary of Withlacoochee Lodge. Our one year anniversary is noteworthy considering everything the lodge has accomplished since we formed. The leadership of Section 9 recognized our anniversary in the conclave newsletter and our Arrowmen received numerous compliments on our achievements and progress. This conclave had something for everyone. Formal training, American Indian Affairs Pow-Pow and dance competitions, lodge sports competitions, adult fellowship, and many opportunities to trade patches! By the way, our lodge flaps are still very popular with patch traders. The lodge would like to give a special thanks to Council Executive Matt Hart for not only giving up his weekend to be with the lodge but also for driving the bus to get us safely to and home from conclave. Mark your calendars right now with the dates for the 2015 SR-9 conclave which will be held April 24-26, 2015 at Camp Sidney Dew near Rome, Georgia.



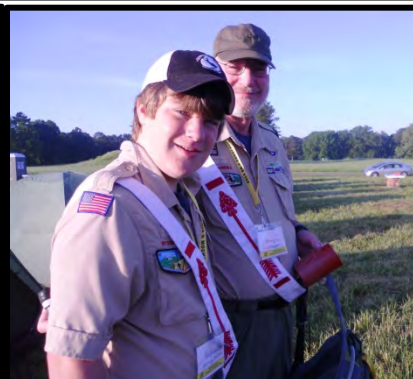
Withlacoochee Lodge Garners Awards at SR-9 Conclave

Withlacoochee Lodge left its mark in Moundville by competing and placing in several competitions. The results included:

	First Place for our lodge newsletter, <i>Tortoise Tales</i> .
	First Place for our 2014-2015 Lodge Planbook.
	Second Place for our Lodge Display.
	Third Place for our Lodge Facebook Page.
	Second Place overall for Administrative competitions.
	Jonathan Thomas and David Stokes, III competed in the Vigil Ceremony. Jonathan received honors.
	Ben Bennett placed first in Old Time Sioux outfit and second on Old Time Sioux dance.
	First Place and Third Place for Adult Fellowship Hot Wings competition.

What it Means To Be Called An Arrowman

For many, the Order of the Arrow may be the first fraternal organization with which they will be associated. As Scouting's national honor society, the OA attracts Scouts with high standards of conduct. Arrowmen display the Scout Law and Scout Oath, whether in uniform or not. Arrowmen are comfortable in the outdoors. They tend to be good team mates, and are self-reliant. Arrowmen know how to take care of themselves so they can take care of and serve others. Arrowmen deliver cheerful service without expecting reward or recognition. The OA is certainly a unique organization and the only organization in which members are elected from outside of the organization. Membership in the OA comes with great responsibility. Not only must an Arrowman continue to serve his unit, he must also support the lodge and serve the community. Supporting the lodge means paying annual dues, attending lodge functions, and upholding the customs and traditions that has made our Order thrive for nearly 100 years.



Memories of an unforgettable conclave



Withlacoochee Lodge is finalizing plans to bring a contingent of Arrowmen to the National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC), August 3-8, 2015. This will truly be a once in a lifetime experience for Arrowmen as we celebrate our Order's 100th anniversary with 10,000 of our brothers from across the U.S. for 6 days at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. Attending Arrowmen will get a special edition red sash. These sashes will differ from those currently worn in that the colors will be reversed, with a white arrow emblazoned on a red sash. We intend to publish an information letter and local registration form so Arrowmen can register on-line for the event. Please contact Mr. Mike Johnson, NOAC Contingent Adviser, at mike@srjarchitects.com for more information.

One of the most important things an Arrowman can do to support the Order of the Arrow is to pay their annual dues to their local lodge. Paying your dues entitles you to wear the lodge flap and attend lodge events. Paying your dues also helps the lodge achieve its Journey to Excellence goals by showing positive member growth. If you paid your 2014 dues; we thank you for fulfilling your obligation. If you know of Arrowmen in your troop who have not paid their dues, please encourage them to remain active in the lodge and send in their dues. Withlacoochee Lodge membership dues are \$10.00. You may pay your dues at any lodge event, at either SGC Service Center, or through the mail by sending a check to the SGC Valdosta Service Center.



Withlacoochee Lodge intends to offer two new lodge flaps in 2015. One flap, with a pocket chevron, will be made available to Arrowmen who attend NOAC. The other single flap will be our Centennial Flap to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Order of the Arrow and will be available to all active members. The Lodge Executive Committee (LEC) will be accepting designs for both of these flaps between now and August 8th, 2014. Designs must fit the exact size and shape of the uniform pocket flap and include: WITHLACOOCHEE, our Gopher Tortoise totem, WWW, the BSA fleur-de-lis, and the OA Centennial logo or totem. Designs can be hand drawn or digital. The branding guide for applying the OA Centennial logo and totem is available at www.oa-bsa.org. Designs must be sent to Mr. Merrill Dickinson, Lodge Adviser, at dickinsons112@gmail.com by Friday, August 8th, 2014. The LEC will vote on the designs meeting the criteria at the August Summer Fellowship and the selections and designers will be announced on the lodge website.

If you haven't had a chance to see the lodge's new website, then you are in for a real treat. The site is located at: www.withlacoocheelodge.org. The site is maintained by our lodge historian and Vigil Honor member Mr. Mike Greene and contains all current information, lodge history, and loads of photographs from past events. Mr. Greene spends many hours each week maintaining the site so it can be a one-stop shop for all lodge news. Please thank Mr. Greene for his commitment to our lodge next time you pass him on the Scouting Trail.

UPDATE ON OUR 2014-2015 LODGE EVENT CALENDAR

Withlacoochee Lodge exists to support the South Georgia Council. As such, the lodge event calendar is nested in the council program year calendar. We will have a summer fellowship in August, support our troops with unit elections July-September, host service days at each of our camps, be an integral part of the council's fall camporee, hold a fall fellowship and Ordeal weekend, have an LLD and banquet, and a spring fellowship and Ordeal weekend. The council's 2014-2015 program year calendar will reflect the dates and locations for these events. All Scoutmasters and committee chairman are encouraged to attend the program kick-offs this summer which will be held for each district.

Firm Bound in Brotherhood



WITHLACOOCHEE