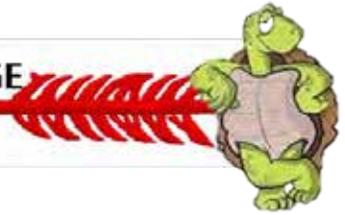


# TORTOISE TALES



## WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE

South Georgia Council  
1841 Norman Drive  
Valdosta, Georgia 31601



2016 No. 2 (May)

## Section SR-9 Conclave Recap

Fifty-one Withlacoochee Lodge Arrowmen attended the SR-9 conclave 15-17 April 2016 at beautiful Camp Rainey Mountain. Our Arrowmen came from 14 different troops in South Georgia Council and included 9 new Ordeal members. Everyone enjoyed perfect weather, fun, fellowship, great food, patch trading, training sessions, and Native American activities with over 1,000 other Arrowmen from across the section. Our exceptional Arrowmen took full advantage of everything that conclave had to offer and made memories to last a lifetime. Withlacoochee Lodge performed with distinction placing in several competitions and events. Not only did we compete well but our members made contributions to the event. Four of our well-respected members led training sessions. Our Training Adviser, Mr. Andrew Smith worked tirelessly with the conclave press corps to publish the conclave newsletters. Jonathan Thomas and David



Stokes, III performed the Vigil Rededication Ceremony. Our former two-term lodge chief, Noah Phillips, ran for Section Vice Chief. Four of our dedicated adults served as event judges. The lodge would also like offer a special thank you to our Quest event team captains that helped the lodge compete; thank you John Crowder, Rhett Redshaw, Noah Phillips, and Chris Kinchens for your leadership.

For many Arrowmen, section conclave is the largest OA event they will ever attend. Be sure to mark your calendars now to attend the 2017 SR-9 conclave scheduled for April 21-23 at Camp Lumpkin in LaGrange, Georgia.

Withlacoochee Lodge Awards at SR-9 Conclave	
	First Place for our lodge newsletter, <i>Tortoise Tales</i>
	First Place for our 2015-2016 Lodge Planbook
	Overall Admin Competition Champions
	Second Place for Chief's Annual Lodge Report
	Honor Lodge Designation
	First Place Tug-of-War Competition
	Third Place Tailypo Champions
	Bill Windmoller won the candy guessing competition
	David Stokes, III received Honors for the Vigil Ceremony
	M. Stokes, J. Thomas, C. Phillips and D. Stokes, III received Honors for the Brotherhood Ceremony



Annual dues for Withlacoochee Lodge is \$10.00. You may pay your dues at either South Georgia Council Service Center or through the mail by sending a check to the South Georgia Council Valdosta Service Center.

Make checks payable to "South Georgia Council-OA Dues".

OA members may only wear the lodge flap of the lodge where their dues are paid.

Memories  
of the  
2016  
SR-9  
Conclave



## Withlacoochee Lodge Welcomes New Members at Spring Fellowship

Withlacoochee Lodge welcomed 12 new Ordeal members at its Spring Ordeal and Fellowship weekend held March 4-6, 2016 at Camp Patten near Lakeland, Georgia. The new Ordeal members are:

Noah Crumpton	Timothy Jernigan	Cecil A Gibbs	Dalton H Comer	Flint White
Caleb Duggan	Gaven Roberts	Tye Henderson	Ethan Hyer	Caleb Chaney
Nathaniel Brown	John Frost			

In addition to our new Ordeal members, 13 members completed the induction process and achieved Brotherhood member status. Our new Brotherhood members from the Spring Ordeal and Fellowship weekend 2016 are:

Davis Comer	Mike Causey	Roland McCarthy	Dillan Conner	Anthony M. Petty	Helen Chaney
Jacob Buckner	Chance Causey	Wyatt Kinchens	Kameron Nez	Donald M. Petty	Michel Cone
Nathan Strom					

The 2016 Spring Ordeal was the first time we had more Brotherhood candidates than Ordeal candidates at an induction weekend. The 2016 Spring Brotherhood class was also the largest we've ever had at Camp Patten! All members enjoyed an all-you-can eat feast on Saturday evening prepared by our award-winning lodge cook team consisting of BBQ ribs and chicken with all the fixin's. Saturday evening's program included the first ever *Withlacoochee Shows* multi-media production by our Vice Chief of Programs, Matthew Stokes. Members also competed in Ga-Ga ball, lodge ball, and a variety of other activities. Please make plans to attend our Summer Fellowship 12-14 August and be sure to welcome our new Ordeal members and congratulate our new Brotherhood members the next time you pass them on the Scouting trail.



*"The greatest gift of life is friendship, and I have received it."*

**Hubert H. Humphrey**

## CAMP PATTEN OA CEREMONY RING

Lodge members attending the Spring Ordeal and Fellowship weekend at Camp Patten this past March rolled up their sleeves and got dirty making much needed improvements to the OA ceremony ring at Camp Patten. The member service project was the idea of Lodge Chief Saul Crumpton. *"Our members are honored to do a service project at our camps and there is no better location than at our ceremony ring,"* explained Saul. The project consisted of permanent enhancements to the ceremony ring including: a new fire pit, sash holder, 15 posts on the perimeter to hold the ceremony shields, benches, and clearing brush. The results of the 100% youth-led project were outstanding and the OA ceremony ring at Camp Patten is a place where our members can be inspired. Additional improvements are planned for next year.



*"True greatness, true leadership, is found in giving yourself in service to others, not in coaxing or inducing others to serve you."*  
*-J. Oswald Sanders*

**INTERESTED IN  
SERVING ON  
THE 2017  
JAMBOREE  
STAFF?** →



**Follow us: withlacocheelodge**

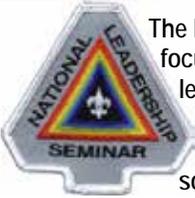
**@withlacochee98**





I would be true, for there are those who trust me;  
I would be pure, for there are those who care;  
I would be strong, for there are those who suffer;  
I would be brave, for there is much to dare.  
I would be friend of all--- the foe, the friendless;  
I would be giving, and forget the gift;  
I would be humble, for I know my weakness;  
I would look up, and laugh, and love, and lift.

- John C. Maxwell



The National Leadership Seminar (NLS) is a weekend conference focused on the skills and attributes of leadership and the highest level of youth leadership training available in the OA. NLS prepares Arrowmen to become better leaders both within and outside of the Scouting program. The next NLS for the southern region will be November 11-13, 2016 at Shocco Springs, AL (between Anniston and Talladega). Cost is \$210.00 **BUT** if you register by Friday, July 15, 2016, you will be eligible for a scholarship for half of your registration fee! These NLS scholarships are available on a first-come, first served basis. Transportation will be coordinated based on the number of attendees. Don't miss this opportunity to attend a close NLS at a discounted fee. Please call Mr. Merrill at (229) 347-6120 or email at dickinsons112@gmail.com for registration details. FMI: <http://southern.oa-bsa.org/nls/>

**WITHLACOCHEE LODGE ROCK FINDS ITS HOME**

This is a photo of the Withlacochee Lodge rock taken by our good friend who attended the OA ceremony ring dedication on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016, at the Summit Bechtel Reserve. The OA ceremony ring, referred to as the Summit Circle, was a project made possible by the Centennial Campaign to preserve the past century of our Order while building upon a new second century. The path to the Summit Circle begins with a reflection trail. At the base of the trail is Legacy Lodge Plaza which contains the legacy rocks from former lodges that no longer exist. After passing through Legacy Lodge Plaza, the trail features fifteen columns of fire which house the rocks from current lodges. The Summit Circle is constructed of rocks from the original ceremony circle that were relocated from Treasure Island Scout Reservation in Philadelphia, PA. Be sure to see our lodge rock the next time you visit SBR!



**Patch Trading and the Order of the Arrow** Nobody knows when the first swap of Order of the Arrow emblems took place, but it had to be soon after the first badges of Wimachtendienk appeared. In the early years there was no trading of OA insignia. The first insignia in 1916 were pins. Pins were made of silver or gold. They were relatively expensive, certainly when compared to patches. A Unami Lodge gold Second Degree pin in 1919 might have cost \$2.00; the cost of 20 die-cut felt camp monogram patches. No one was trading them with each other.

At the first Grand Lodge Meeting in 1921 most of the delegates were professional Scouters. They had much to discuss, but they were not trading. The first badges of the Order were issued shortly thereafter. The first chenille shaped badge from Minsi Lodge of Reading, Pennsylvania was issued circa 1922. But there was really no one to trade it with and no real location to wear it (OA Insignia was forbidden from the uniform until 1942, and that was for just the Universal Arrow Ribbon.) It was not until 1945 that pocket patches (not flaps) were approved for uniforms.

Learn more about the history of the Order of the Arrow at:  
<http://history.oa-bsa.org>

