

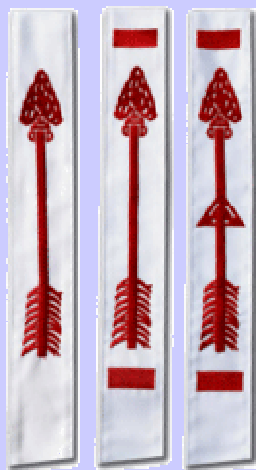


September 23rd, 2011

## Octoraro Lodge 22's Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 4

**"We hope  
you enjoy  
this as  
much as  
we enjoyed  
bringing it  
to you".**



### Welcome to the 85th Anniversary Celebration!

Brothers,

Welcome to the 85th Anniversary Celebration of Octoraro Lodge 22, and this year's September weekend. As the 85th Anniversary Committee, we are proud to present you with an event that you will certainly enjoy. While this year marks our lodge's 85th Anniversary, we also celebrate the important progress in the completion of our lodge building. Once the lodge building is opened on Saturday, we hope you will come down to see the incredible progress on the structure as well as the

new museum where our memorabilia will finally be shown. Aside from the ceremonies this weekend, you can enjoy stations promoting national, regional, sectional, and lodge events on the parade field, games for youth, tours of the camp, and dinner on Saturday night. Many thanks go out to the volunteers who helped prepare the lodge building and to those who are giving up their time this weekend to help work on and run the many events. We on the committee thank everybody who took time out of there busy

schedule over the past year to make this event happen. We also want to thank you for spending the day or weekend with us. We hope you enjoy this as much as we enjoyed bringing it to you.

In Brotherhood,

Alex Hughes

85th Anniversary Co-Chairman

### History of the Lodge

During the summer of 1915, Dr. E. Urner Goodman, Camp Director of the Philadelphia Council's Treasure Island Camp, desired to find some means of definite recognition for those scouts who had best lived up to the spirit of the Scout Oath and Law. From this desire, and from the rich Native American traditions of the area, Dr. Goodman and his assistant, Carroll A. Edson,

developed that we know now as the Order of the Arrow. The organization grew slowly during the next few years, but as the 1920's began, the small camp honor society of 1915 had taken hold in several nearby councils.

-Taken from octoraro22.org



In 1924, Charles M. Heistand, then Scout Executive of the Chester County Council, B.S.A., wrote to the National Chief for in-

## Summit Corps 2011

Octoraro Lodge 22 sent a contingent of 15 Brothers to attend the Summit Corps in Glen Jean, West Virginia during the week of July 3<sup>rd</sup>. We arrived Sunday afternoon, after registration and attending training, we set up our tents and prepared for the coming week. Everyday, we were up early, met up with our "Crews" – led by our Crew Leaders – iCorps

(Instructor Corps), picked up our Philmont style breakfast and lunch, and then boarded the buses for our departure to our work sites. The buses were on the move by 6:45 AM – complete with State Police escorts.

Our mission was to build mountain biking trails through the Craig Branch section of the New River Gorge National Park. Work-

ing with the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) and the National Park Service, using only hand tools, we began our task. By the end of our four days of work (Friday was our day of recreation), the 202 volunteers from across the country completed 14,800 feet of trail.

Each of the 4 weeks sponsored a patch auction, which

**"Sunday, the  
12.8 mile  
loop trail was  
completed  
and opened  
to the  
public..."**

## Summit Corps 2011, Cont.

netted \$15,358 in total. All proceeds from the auctions were donated to area organizations including the Mt. Hope Children's Health Council, the Youth Museum of Southern West Virginia, Just for Kids, Inc, (a child advocacy center), the Bur-

lington United Methodist Children's Home, the Women's Resource Center, Brian's Safehouse, and Three Rivers Avian Center, an animal shelter for endangered wild birds.

During the four week period of the Summit Corps, with a

fresh group of volunteers arriving each Sunday, the 12.8 mile loop trail was completed and opened to the public on Friday, July 29, 2011. The trail has been officially named the Arrowhead Bike and Hike Trail. The National Park Service commemorated

## Summit Corps 2011, Cont.

the official opening of the trail in Fayetteville, West Virginia, with a ribbon cutting ceremony held Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2011, just down the road from the Summit Bechtel Reserve.

-Jackie Palmer

Here are several links to various web sites for additional pictures and information:

\*[www.summitcorps.org/](http://www.summitcorps.org/)

\*[summitcorps.blogspot.com/](http://summitcorps.blogspot.com/)

\*[s1133.photobucket.com/albums/m595/SummitCorps2011/Week%201%20Photos/](http://s1133.photobucket.com/albums/m595/SummitCorps2011/Week%201%20Photos/)

\*[www.youtube.com/watch?v=5QJa4Wf8oWQ&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5QJa4Wf8oWQ&feature=player_embedded)

\*[oa-bsa.org/annc/g11/summitcorps/Arrowhead-Trail Daily Detail 07282011.b.pdf](http://oa-bsa.org/annc/g11/summitcorps/Arrowhead-Trail%20Daily%20Detail%2007282011.pdf)

## History of the Lodge, Cont.

formation on the new organization then known as the "Wimachtendienk" or "Brotherhood." He had become interested in the program through Mr. Horace Kern, Scout Executive of the Philadelphia Council at that time. "Chief" Heistand's interest in the organization became an integral part of his planning for the 1926 summer camping season at Rothrock, the council's camp in the South Mountains of Cumberland County.

In preparation for the camp season, the charter for Lodge #22 was approved on May 17, 1926 and a nucleus of nine new members were given their induction by founder Goodman. This group was given both the First (Ordeal) and Second (Brotherhood) Degrees at this ceremony which took place at Hilldale, a weekend campsite of the council, located along the banks of the Brandywine in the western part of the county. Six of these nine charter mem-

bers were to receive the Vigil Honor before the decade was out and several went on to hold national positions in the Order and in Scouting. "Chief" Heistand continued in Scouting as a Scout Executive, Regional Executive, National Program Director, and Assistant Chief Scout Executive as well as serving for many years on the National Order of the Arrow Committee.

As plans for summer camp were unveiled in the May

"By completing your Brotherhood, you show your appreciation of those who selected you..."



## Seal your Membership... Complete Brotherhood!

Sealing your membership in the Order of the Arrow by participating in the Brotherhood ceremony allows you to conclude the journey that you started when you were called-out as a candidate for the Ordeal. When you completed the Ordeal, you took your first steps on a path to greater understanding of the Spirit of the Arrow. By completing your Brotherhood,

you show your appreciation of those who selected you for membership in the Order of the Arrow while gaining further understanding of the Order's purpose.

Moreover, you help your fellow Arrowmen in the Octoraro Lodge 22. By completing your Brotherhood, you help the lodge achieve Quality Lodge status. Why is

that important? *Quality Lodge* status signifies to the greater community what our lodge brothers already know: that Octoraro Lodge 22 achieves excellence in both program and service to the Horseshoe Scout Reservation. Additionally, *Quality Lodge* status allows the lodge to apply for grants from the national organization for matching funds for vital

## Seal your Membership, Cont.

improvement projects at both Camp Horseshoe and Camp John H. Ware III.

*Am I eligible to complete my Brotherhood?*

If you took your Ordeal at the June 2010 service weekend or before, then you are eligible to seal your

membership with the Brotherhood ceremony at the April 2011 service weekend.

If you took your Ordeal at the September 2010 fellowship weekend, then you are eligible to seal your membership with the Brotherhood ceremony at the September 2011 fellowship weekend.



The only other requirement is that your lodge dues are paid.

Yours in Brotherhood,

David McConaghy

## History of the Lodge, Cont.

edition of TRAILING, the council newsletter, the scouts of the county learned that: "This year we will institute a lodge of the W.W.W., a Lenape Indian fraternity, for honor campers." The article went on to explain that each troop would be able to select one scout for every eight it had attending camp. The new society proved to be a popular one as forty more new brothers joined the ranks of the lodge during that first summer. Under the leadership of Scout Executive Heistand and the Lodge's first Chief, Joseph Brinton, the Chester County chapter became a firmly established part of the W.W.W. In November of the same year, a delegation of Chester County brothers journeyed to the Reading-Berks County Council Camp at Indiandale for a meeting of the Grand Lodge, the forerunner of today's National Conference.

Little is known of lodge activities of the next two years although it is evident, in light of continued achievement of the Vigil Honor by Lodge 22 members, that the lodge continued to develop during this period. The primary focus of the council's activities during these years was the selection of a new council camp, an event that would provide the young lodge with a home, a name and a focal point for its service.



Guided by the vision of Scout Executive Heistand, the council selected the old Reynolds property along the banks of the Octoraro Creek near Rising Sun, Maryland as the site upon which to build the new camp. A tribute to the foresight and dedication of the council leaders of the day, the beginnings of Horseshoe Scout Reservation are as significant in the development of the lodge as they are in the growth of the council. As years passed and the camp expanded, members would come to surround the camp as completely as the muddy stream "Octoraro" from which the lodge takes its name.

Purchased in the early 1800's for \$300 in sheep and dried peaches, the property became the home and family farm of Samuel Reynolds and three generations of his offspring. Much of the heavily wooded land was cleared for use as farm and pasture land. During their 100 years on the land, the Reynolds family left many monuments. Their family home, the "White House," was used, after a brief occupation by bootleggers and assorted shady characters, as the Headquarters building and infirmary for the scout camp, while the barn and carriage shed provided the foundations for the Kindness Center and Browning Lodge, respectively.

Following crop failures and an aborted attempt to divert the Octoraro through a tunnel under Flagpole Hill, the land passed to a mining company, whose discovery of several low grade ores, including gold, sparked interest in the area. The problems of extracting the ore, however, soon put an end to the venture.



## Photos from Summit Corps 2011





## History of the Lodge, Cont.

Located and identified as a possible campsite by the Philadelphia Council, the area was passed over as being too far from council headquarters to be a practical council camp. On a bright Saturday morning in 1927, however, the Camping Committee of the Chester County Council, with several brothers of the Wimachtendienk among them, traveled the old wagon road over Goat Hill to view the property and, shortly thereafter, purchased the site for development as the new council camp. A new camp was required to replace Rothrock, a victim of encroachment by various resort communities.

As the camping season of 1928 approached, the lodge was figuring prominently in the building of the reservation. Brother Gilbert McIlvaine of Downingtown served as Camp Architect, and the mainstays of the camp staff are recognized as being among the Charter Members of the Class of 1926. Camp Director Heistand with Joe Brinton and Ben Thomas as his assistants set to work with a staff that included charter members Raymond Watson and Thomas Gillingham. With five campsites and a capacity of 160 boys, the first season proved a great success and a bright future was forecast for the camp and the lodge.

During 1929, the procedures of lodge organization became standardized. Regular meetings, both throughout the county and at camp, were held for the planning of activities. The slate of officers was decided upon: The Lodge Chief, Senior Vice Chief, Junior Vice Chief, Lodge Recorder, Guardian of the Trail, Deputy Guardian, and Chaplain. This system of two vice chiefs, which fell into disuse in the Thirties, was destined to be revived in 1969.

In May of 1929, Octoraro Lodge played host to a regional meeting of the Order held at Camp Horseshoe. This meeting was the equivalent of the Section Conclave of today. In the fall of the same year, the lodge undertook the establishment of a tree planting project to honor the Eagle Scouts and Adult Scouters of the County. Known today as Eagle and Scouter's Groves, these trees stand at opposite ends of the camp athletic field in lasting tribute to the early scouts of the council.

Continuing its tradition of participation in national affairs, the delegation of Scout Executive Price, Lodge Chief Donald Hughes, Vice Chief Ray Watson, and Ben Thomas attended the 1929 Grand Lodge Meeting held in Philadelphia at the end of October.

Lodge activities continued in earnest as the thirties dawned. The year 1930 saw the lodge meet several times at camp to promote work on Eagle and Scouter's Groves as well as other projects. The lodge's primary camp project during these years was the construction of a camp chapel on the hillside overlooking the camp. This open air chapel, with its breathtaking view of the surrounding countryside, has been a place of inspiration for generations of Horseshoe campers. The final meeting 1930 was a ceremonial weekend at camp held in late December. At this meeting, eleven of the lodge membership were elevated to the Brotherhood Degree and four more were nominated for the Vigil Honor.

The lodge grew slowly over the next several years as we see only 17 new brothers inducted during the summer of 1936. By the end of that year, however, 20 additional brothers were inducted, and a period of new growth was underway. Seventeen lodge members attended the National Conference that year, held at the birthplace of the

## History of the Lodge, Cont.

Order, the Treasure Island Camp on the Delaware . In addition to a schedule of camp activities, the lodge was expanding into the social scene as well. The first lodge banquets were held during this period and they set the precedent for these events which were to become the highlight of the lodge calendar in years to come. The 1937 banquet was held on December 27, and featured as its guest speaker Joseph Brinton, first chief of Octoraro Lodge, who was then serving as National Chief of the Order.



While the year 1941 found the world at war and the young men of Chester County answering the call of the country, the year is equally significant in that it marks the arrival of a man under whose leadership Chester County and Octoraro Lodge would begin a period of continual growth and success. Louis L. Lester began his sixteen year term as Chester County's Scout Executive by immediately establishing himself as both a leader in Scouting and in the Community. His vision and dedication to the improvement of the council and, especially, the Horseshoe Scout Reservation, moved him into an association with Octoraro Lodge which set the lodge on a course of vital growth and development from which it emerged as a vital force in the life of the council and the camp.

On September 7, 1946, the Lodge officers, degree team, and several members journeyed to Darden Scout Reservation of the Tidewater Council in Norfolk, Virginia to install and induct the charter members of Lodge 349 to be known as Blue Heron Lodge.

During 1944 a fund was created in Octoraro Lodge for the construction of a Lodge building at Camp Horseshoe . Ground was broken in 1952, and on June 20, 1959, in a gala celebration, Octoraro Memorial Lodge was dedicated by former Scout Executive Louis Lester.

Three days before Camp Horseshoe was to open for the summer 1972 season, the devastation wreaked by Hurricane Agnes shut the camp off from the world. Through herculean efforts of the lodge, after being totally inaccessible with extensive flood damage in many areas, camp opened on time and campers arrived Sunday afternoon as usual. Damage to the camp included destruction of the OA swinging bridge, built only 4 years earlier. Loss of a campsite, the pool was filled with muddy Octoraro water, the camp road nearly impassable and extensive damage to many buildings and campsites.

In June of 1974, Octoraro Lodge 22 was the host of the first Northeast Section 5A Conclave. With an all-out effort to prepare the camp for the conference, roads, bridges and buildings were repaired. The conference set the standard of excellence for the next decade.

Today, Octoraro Lodge remains an active, working Lodge striving to uphold the high principles and traditions upon which it is founded.



## Octoraro Lodge 22

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**VISIT THE  
LODGE'S  
WEBSITE AT:  
[octoraro22.org](http://octoraro22.org)**



### Upcoming Events from January to June 2011:

- January 2nd -Lodge Meeting
- February 6th -Lodge Meeting
- March 6th -Lodge Meeting
- March 12th -Annual Lodge Banquet
- March 26th -Trail Crew Work Day
- April 3rd -Lodge Meeting
- April 16th -Work Day
- April 29th - May 1st -Service Weekend
- April 30th -Lodge Meeting
- June 3rd - 5th -Service Weekend
- June 4th -Lodge Meeting
- June 10th - 12th -Conclave

### Upcoming Events from July to December 2011:

- July 30th - August 3rd -NOAC
- September 11th -Lodge Meeting
- September 23rd - 25th -Fellowship Weekend
- September 24th -Lodge Meeting
- October 21st - 23rd -Blue Heron Fellowship Weekend
- November 6th -Lodge Meeting
- December 4th -Council Service Center Clean-Up
- December 4th -Lodge Meeting