



The Bear Growls

Nendawen Lodge 618

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April-June



Spring Fellowship

This year's Spring Fellowship will be held on April 7-9 at Camp Kootaga. This will only be the second Spring Fellowship we have had. For those of you who remember last year's trial Spring Fellowship, this year's promises to be much different. If you haven't already sent in your registration form, please do so as soon as possible. If you have misplaced your form, please call the council office at 1-800-654-5272. Although there will be work available for those who wish to volunteer, it will be a weekend made purely for fellowship and strengthening the bonds of brotherhood. **There will be a general lodge meeting held on Saturday** to discuss the important business of the lodge "lodge". At the January LEC meeting, James Kane proposed the idea of building a log cabin style building at Camp Kootaga for the lodge to use. It is not mandatory that you attend, but it would be a good time to see what ideas the lodge has and to give some of your own ideas. Come on out and have a good time. Let's make this event a success!

The Conclave is Coming!

If you don't know what the Conclave is, you probably haven't been getting a good dose of your Bear Growls. Conclave is where the ten lodges in our section get together for one great event! There will be training, fellowship, dance and drum competitions, ceremony competitions, and tons of fun. This year's Conclave will be held by Menawngihella Lodge at Camp Mountaineer, near Morgantown, WV. If you haven't registered yet (which, most of you haven't) you can do so at conclave.aa-c4a.org. Our lodge's attendance goal this year is ten percent - 60 people. This should be a realistic goal given how close the camp is to our council. Please come out to Conclave and let the section know what kind of a lodge Nendawen can be!

Online Forum

If you have visited the lodge website, nendawen.aa-c4a.org, recently, you should have noticed the link on the main page for our new forum. This new feature replaces the old Chatterbox and is much more organized. You must register to use this feature. All you need to register is a valid email address. Please choose a name that identifies who you are, and that will be easily recognized by the moderators, James Kane and Brian McQueen. Registration only takes less than a minute, and the forum can be a powerful tool for the lodge.

Calendar of Events:

April 7-9
Spring Fellowship
Camp Kootaga

April 28-29
Spring Ordeal
Camp Mahonegon

May 19-21
Conclave
Camp Mountaineer

June 9-11
Vigil Weekend
Camp Kootaga

June 22, 29,
July 6, 13, 20
Call Outs
Camp Kootaga

July 28-August 3
NOAC
Michigan State U.
East Lansing, MI

Spring Ordeal

This year's Spring Ordeal will be held at Camp Mahonegon on April 28-29. Our Elangomat Vice Chief Zach Baker still needs volunteers to be Elangomats for the new Extended Elangomat System. If you are interested, please contact him or James Kane as soon as possible. All lodge contact information can be found on nendawen.oa-c4a.org.

Brotherhood conversions will also be done during the weekend. It is possible to both be an Elangomat and to do your Brotherhood conversion. Even if you don't have to do Brotherhood or be an Elangomat, you can still come out and help both the camp and your lodge. I hope to see you there!

Witahemui Weekend

On March 17 and 18, 22 members of our lodge went to Camp Kootaga for the first annual Witahemui Weekend. This new event is a work weekend with a twist. We stayed the night Friday night and had a cracker barrel that evening. We also had breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Saturday. The Camp Ranger, Scott Clay, was very impressed with the amount of work that was completed for the camp. Make sure not to miss the next one.

I would like to give a special thanks to Gary Shifflett, Jake Shifflett, Jim Kochman, and Steve Zirbs for helping Troop 40 and Pack 39 clean up trees at Camp Mahonegon on March 11.
-Brian McQueen

Summer Camp Brotherhood

This year, Nendawen Lodge is trying something different. We are giving more people the opportunity to do their Brotherhood conversion by offering them the chance to do it at Summer Camp at Camp Kootaga. Each week on a day yet to be determined, the OA coordinator will be organizing the brotherhood class and ceremony. More information on this will be given to troops at the beginning of each camp week. Because of this new chance, Brotherhood classes and ceremonies will not be done at Fall Fellowship this year.

2006 Puzzle Patch

The puzzle patch program started last year is continuing into this year. The 2006 puzzle patches are in, and one piece will be given to each member for each lodge event they attend. There are four pieces to collect, and our puzzle patches are quickly becoming a HOT item. Make sure not to miss out on yours.

The Bear Growls is a quarterly publication of Nendawen Lodge 618, Order of the Arrow, Boy Scouts of America. A copy of this newsletter can be found online at: www.nendawen.oa-c4a.org. To submit an article for the Bear Growls, Please e-mail your completed article to:

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If you have had a special experience with the lodge that you would like to share, or if you would like to recognize an Arrowman for something, please email an article to Brian McQueen at Cokecollector42@aol.com with the subject line "Bear Growls Article."

