

Lake Oconee Elks Lodge #2849

In the News



MARCH 2024

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IT'S ALL ABOUT THE NEW LODGE

Fundraising has taken off for the new lodge and continues to flourish! There have been so many volunteers that have come out and spent endless hours in making our new lodge a place that everyone can be proud of! Coolers are in place, the bar is in place, built in tables have been added and storage areas have been closed in. The proposed move is still slated for March 25th through March 29th, but be sure to keep an eye out on your weekly e-mails just in case those dates have to be amended. Volunteers will be needed to help with the move. Below are a few pictures of our Lodge members collective hard work that has been done in the main building. Thank you to all who have helped out! **Special thank you to Exalted Ruler Mary Zachary for providing our volunteers with lunches while they work!**

The current lodge will be closed from March 25th until March 31st as we move into our new building



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE NEW LODGE



LODGE FUNDRAISER

Lake Oconee Elks Lodge member Scott Deering and the Usual Suspects will be playing at the Oconee Brewing Company on Saturday, March 2nd at 6:30 p.m. Also appearing will be Kirk Jay who was a top 3 vocalist on The Voice.

Scott has graciously offered to donate the proceeds of the concert to our new Elks Lodge Building Fund. More tables have been added but the tickets are selling out! Go to www.oconeebrewingcompany.com and purchase tickets to have a great evening out and support your lodge as well.



SCOTT DEERING
AND THE USUAL SUSPECTS

WITH
KIRK JAY
Top 3 Vocalist on The Voice... A major talent!

• MARCH 2ND •
DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 PM

General Admission - \$30
Table for 6 up front - \$275
Scottdeering@gmail.com Table for 4 - \$180 Scott Deering 766-817-8795

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLY AT
Oconeebrewingcompany.com

Event to benefit The Lake Oconee Elks Lodge 2849 new building fund.

BUILD IT BETTER—”BIB” FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

After many years of leasing a building to house the Lake Oconee Elks Lodge, the decision was made to purchase a building and transform it into your lodge. The established committee to oversee this huge undertaking is doing a great job of transforming the space and maximizing the potential space of each area, all while being fiscally responsible and staying within the approved budget. Phase 1 has been completed and now we look to Phase 2 and beyond.

Many members have come forward and voiced their “wishes” that they would like to see considered and possibly included in the new building. Some of the proposed items on the “Wish List” are audio and video upgrades, a band stage, bar stools, bathrooms and HVAC for the secondary building, charcoal grill upgrade, new deck furniture, gas grill, offices and storage space for the secondary building, paved parking lot, rear deck, refrigerated salad bar and restaurant furniture.

The Lake Oconee Elks Lodge doesn’t operate as a regular business. Most of the funds raised or earned goes to support numerous charities, local and statewide, civic and Veteran’s endeavors and programs. With that said, the “Wish List” or extras that members would like to possibly see in our new building, will have to be accomplished through additional funding beyond the existing approved budget. So, a Build it Better, or BIB, fundraising campaign has been launched and is underway to be able to make some of the “wishes” a reality!

Donations are voluntary and no amount is too small or too large. The purpose of this campaign is to raise money through donations to address some or all of the desires and long-term needs for our lodge. While each of us are at different stages in our lives and we are all blessed in different ways, we ask that you please consider making a donation that is most suitable for you. All donations are greatly appreciated and donors will be recognized at the following levels:

STARTER: \$50.00—\$249.00

HELPER: \$250.00—\$499.00

FRIEND: \$500.00—\$999.00

SUPPORTER: \$1,000.00—\$1,999.00

DREAMER: \$2,000.00—\$2,999.00

VISIONARY: \$3,000.00—\$4,999.00

LEADER: \$5,000.00—\$9,999.00

LEGACY: \$10,000 & OVER

Upon completion of our new building, a commemorative of the donors will be designed and installed. Thank you for your consideration on this request for support. All donations should be made payable to Lake Oconee Elks Lodge and marked as “BIB Campaign.” Also, Thank you to Mike Langdon for helping to get this fundraising campaign up and running.



SECOND HARVEST

On Saturday, February 17th, Lodge members participated in the monthly Second Harvest event. If you're interested in helping out with this monthly event, check your calendar or newsletter each month for the date and time or for any changes that might arise. Second Harvest is held at the First Methodist Church in downtown Greensboro. In and out in a couple of hours and ready to enjoy the rest of your Saturday after helping out your community!



2023-2024 Gratitude Grant

The Gratitude Grant from Elks National Foundation to Lake Oconee Elks Lodge #2849 was used for a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) program (a.k.a. "CrunchLabs") focused on Greene County, Georgia's 4-Her's (grades 4-12). The grant provided the funding for 24 students to learn engineering principles and apply those principles building weekly laboratory experiments that applied the engineering theories in practical manners. The projects included, Rocket Launchers, Boomerang Cars, Ball Levitation with Air, Catapults, etc. Engineering principles included rotational energy, worm gears, momentum transference, Coanda effects on cylindrical items and much more. At the conclusion of the course, 28 students were offered a campus tour of the Georgia Technical Institute of Georgia. This program increased the overall participation of area students in the 4-H program that has benefited from past Elks Gratitude Grants (i.e., Archery, Audio Visual Training).



Community

B

Lake Oconee News
Friday, November 17, 2023



Think like an engineer: Greene County 4-H Crunch Labs

Greene County 4-H believes in offering a space for students to explore new opportunities, create new ideas, and expand their horizons. By using CrunchLab Build Boxes, Greene County 4-H offered an after-school project club focusing on the engineering design process. Over the course of six weeks, 4-H'ers built a disc launcher, a trip wire, a domain catapult, a boomerang car, an air ball, and a rocket revolver. Through these build boxes, students engaged in games and challenges to test their builds. This after-school project club fostered an environment of determination, resilience, patience, and creativity. This program would have not been possible without our 4-H Volunteer and Lake Oconee ELK, Jon Dill, and the Lake Oconee Elks Lodge Gratitude Grant, which sponsored this project club. If you are interested in your child participating in 4-H programs or becoming a volunteer, contact Becca Velasquez, your 4-H Agent, at the Greene County Extension Office at 706-453-2083 or by email at Rebecca.velasquez@uga.edu.



18 USC 707

4-H'ers take on Georgia Tech's Campus



On Oct. 19, 28 Greene County 4-H'ers from Nathanael Greene Academy, Carson Middle School, and Lake Oconee Academy spent the day as Yellow Jackets. Georgia Tech Admissions welcomed us on campus with a full day of exploring. Students ate lunch at the John Lewis Student Center, went on a walking campus tour, attended an info session, and got a behind-the-scenes look at the Flowers Invention Studio. This day would not have been possible without our faithful volunteers: Emily Bednar, Jon Dill, Wendy Dill, and Ray Deaton. This trip was sponsored by the gratitude grant extended by the Lake Oconee Elks Lodge, leaving no charge to the students. Snacks and drinks were gifted by the Lake Country Yellow Jackets. A day on campus gave 4-H'ers confidence in their abilities as students. One 4-H'er said, "I didn't want to go to college but now I want to try." If you are interested in your child participating in any 4-H programs, contact Becca Velasquez, the 4-H / Youth Development Agent, at the Greene County Extension Office at 706-453-2083 or by email at Rebecca.velasquez@uga.edu.

The Insider Scoop: Greene County 4-H highlights a few of the activities in which the 4-H'ers have been involved in and the dramatic increase of the participation rate in programs that the Elks have been a part of this past year, with an increase of 71% from last year! The Elks have been an integral part of strengthening the 4-H motto "To Make The Best Better" !!!

**INSIDER SCOOP:
GREENE COUNTY 4-H**



WHAT WE ARE CURRENTLY UP TO:

- Science Based Club Meetings
- Cotton Ball & Consumer Judging
- Horse Quiz Bowl
- Crunchlabs
- Leadership Focus Groups
- Girls Yaga
- Community Service
- GA Tech Tour
- Hiking
- Livestock Shows
- Archery & Shotgun

MAKING THE BEST BETTER

QUICK FACTS 2022 TO 2023:

- 71% increase in number of 4-H'ers
- 216% increase in Summer Activity Count
- 240% increase in number of participants in Summer activities
- 126% increase in volunteer hours
- 168% increase in 4-H'er volunteer hours

I DIDN'T WANT TO GO TO COLLEGE BUT NOW I WANNA TRY



CREATING A SAFE PLACE FOR ALL, TO LEARN, TO GROW AND TO CREATE.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXALTED RULER



Mary Zachary
Exalted Ruler

I can't believe this is my final ER message! It has been a really interesting and action packed year for sure! I want to thank all of the officers and Board members for their help and support. I am so very proud of our 2023-2024 accomplishments. I would like to especially thank all of the folks who have volunteered time and skills to the new lodge project. I am grateful to be a member of such a community spirited group. My very best wishes to the new leadership team, I know they will do a spectacular job!

Mary

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK



Steve Petrie
Secretary

Well Friends, Brother and Sister Elks,

It is the end of the road for this Lodge Secretary.

In closing out my tenure, it is my hope that I will be remembered for having been a productive contributor to the growth and success of our terrific Lodge.

Furthermore, I want to thank everyone for the many, many kind and warm encouragements I have received along the way. I hope that I have given out at least 1/100th of the number of kindnesses that I have received. The generous spirit of our Elks leaves me with great memories of this chapter of life in this great Order.

It has been an honor and a privilege to work, laugh, and share an occasional glass of suds with our Elks, with you.

Fraternally,
Steve Petrie



STRAIGHT FROM THE BOARD

The Board is starting to work on the new fiscal year budget beginning April 2024. Time for the individual committees to submit their financial requirements for the coming year. Also, the fundraising for the new Lodge building is underway. Our building committee is committed to making this facility top-notch for the benefit of all our members. Your dollars will help make this possible. A big thank you to those who already responded to our fundraising letter and to the folks who have donated their time and effort.



Dave Zimmer
Chair, BOD

GA. WAR VETERAN'S HOME NEWS

Volunteers from the Lake Oconee Elks Lodge traveled to the Ga. War Veteran's Home in Milledgeville on Valentine's Day and served a delicious dessert consisting of ice cream and cake. Other groups were there serving up lunch along with goodie bags. Beth Colie prepared special lollipop gifts that our volunteers handed out to the Veterans. Thank you to all of those who volunteered in making this a special, sweet day for these Veterans! If you're interested in attending one of these events, please contact Jim Green or Mary Zachary for an upcoming schedule of events.



GA. WAR VETERAN'S HOME NEWS

On Friday, February 16th, Lodge member Scott Pitocchelli traveled to the Ga. War Veteran's Home to deliver a motorized wheelchair that was donated to our Lodge by Velinda Morton. He also delivered several boxes of movies for the Veterans to enjoy.



Pictured left are Lodge member Scott Pitocchelli and VA Donations representative Michelle Flood



HOOP SHOOT

The NE District Hoop Shoot took place on February 10th at the Peachtree Academy in Covington, Ga. Jermani Mincey, pictured below with Bob Colie, was the winner of the 12/13 year old girl category and is from Lake Oconee. She shot 19 out of 25 baskets and advanced to the State competition on February 17th.



Thank you to NE Director Bob Colie for jumping through all those “hoops” to make it possible to have this competition.



Volunteers and participants in the NE District Hoop Shoot. There were 2 place changes at the last minute along with time changes. There was also a group of kids practicing for a play while the shoot was going on so it made the need for concentration even more important!

STATE HOOP SHOOT

The State Hoop Shoot was held at Peachtree Academy in Covington, Ga. on Saturday, February 17th. Jermani Mincey, from Lake Oconee, advanced to this competition from the week before. She came in 2nd place at the State Hoop Shoot completing 17 out of 25 baskets. In order to advance to the next level of competition, one must place 1st at the State Hoop Shoot. Congratulations to Jermani for making it to the State competition!



Pictured left: Jermani Mincey waits her turn to shoot.

Pictured right: Mincey steps up to take her shot



State Hoop Shoot participants and volunteers.

Some of the winners of the State Finals pictured with from left to right: GEA President Junior Roberson, State HS Chair Vance Rhodes, Bob Reardon (South), Randy Keener (NW), Covington ER Bob Foxworth, and Bob Colie (NE). Thank you to all of their hard work and dedication to the Hoop Shoot Program.



GIRL SCOUTS AT THE LODGE

The Elks Lodge hosted Girl Scout Troop #60516 at our weekly trivia event on February 28th, where they sold an amazing 121 boxes of their famous Girl Scout cookies to a ravenous crowd of trivia players who were jonesing for sweets! It's that time of year again to grab yourself some of those delicious cookies and support the Girl Scouts.



Pictured above, back row-Exalted Ruler Mary Zachary, Tiffany Ogden (Troop leader), and Lake Oconee Elks Lodge Girl Scout Committee Chairperson, Marlene Soles. Front row-Raegan Ogden and Stormy Ken.

What's your favorite Girl Scout cookie?????

ANNUAL LODGE GOLF TOURNAMENT

On Sunday, March 24th, the Lake Oconee Elks Lodge will host our annual fundraising golf tournament on the beautiful greens at Harbor Club. There are still slots open for sponsors and there's a waiting list for teams. This is one of our biggest fund raisers for the Lodge so get in on the action. If you don't play golf or aren't able to play, consider being a sponsor! Contact Bobby Wright or Steve Petrie (their contact information can be located on the last page of the newsletter). Report to Harbor Club at 12:30 PM.

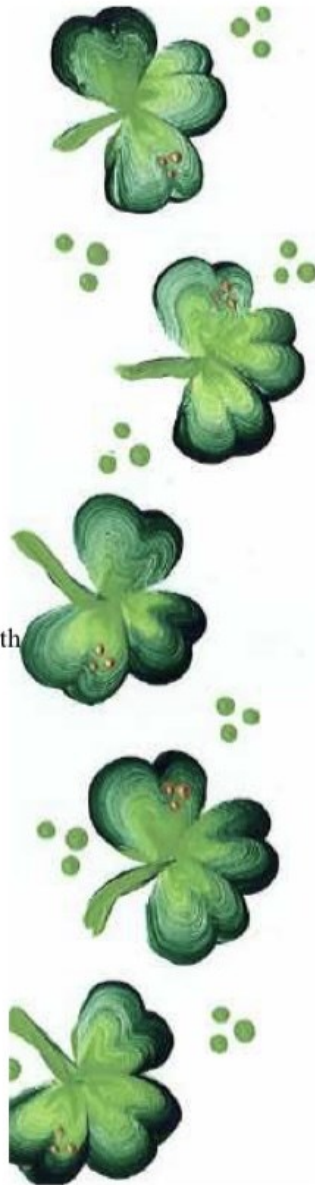


March Birthdays

Happy birthday to everyone celebrating a birthday in February! Come by and get your free drink anytime during the month!

Bruce Cooper March 1st
 William H. Cooper March 1st
 Donald D. Lowe March 2nd
 John White March 2nd
 Thomas V. Brown March 3rd
 Robert G. Fuller March 3rd
 James Killman March 3rd
 Scot Ward March 3rd
 Mark Lee Davis March 4th
 Jonathan Duvall March 4th
 Michael Soowal March 4th
 Donald T. Harvey March 5th
 William Kirwen March 5th
 James Lee Davis March 6th
 Richard Kemmerer March 6th
 Gerald C. Leach March 6th
 Larry Buchanan March 7th
 James B. Craig March 7th
 Homer James Harpole March 7th
 David Morgan March 7th
 Shannon Osborne March 7th
 Douglas Shupe March 7th
 Keith E. Martin March 8th
 Richard Singer March 8th
 Laura Kearney March 9th
 James K. Woodard March 9th
 Marion Freeman March 10th
 Dan Howington March 10th
 Steven Marcotte March 10th
 Howard Bergdoll March 11th
 Brian Fascella March 11th
 James Grill March 11th
 Roland Grosse March 11th
 Steve Daubenmier March 12th
 Danny L. Williams March 12th
 Gary Hall March 14th
 John L. Kaines March 16th
 Benjamin F. Logan March 16th
 Christopher J. Noble March 16th
 Stephen Baum March 17th
 Jim Ferris March 17th
 John E. Gerity March 17th
 Molly C. Livingston March 17th
 Randy N. Hamilton March 18th

Tracy Wayne Hannah March 18th
 Tony Keenan March 18th
 William J. Greenwald March 19th
 Jeffrey Watkins March 19th
 Robert Burns March 20th
 Virginia Whitcomb March 20th
 Christy Martin March 21st
 Denise Shirey March 22nd
 Gerald West March 22nd
 Howard A. Goldstein March 23rd
 Joyce Kender March 23rd
 Harry Russell March 23rd
 Walter P. Valters March 23rd
 John Beckley March 25th
 Matthew J. Dadosky March 25th
 Jeffrey G. Gregor March 25th
 Bobby Wright March 26th
 Douglas D. Berrong March 27th
 Neal Bush March 27th
 Terry L. Miller March 27th
 Georgina Canavan March 28th
 James L. Hughes March 28th
 Robert C. Dufour March 29th
 Carlyle Kaufman March 29th
 William Wright March 29th
 Kevin W. Baker March 30th
 Edward Klein Webb March 30th
 John Brian Odom March 31st
 Jerome J. Schonhoft March 31st
 JohnWallace March 31st



Headline

Sickness & Distress

If you know of someone that needs to be on the sickness & distress list please e-mail Tracey Pitocchelli by the 25th of each month to: houseofmanypaws7@yahoo.com

LODGE HOURS

Monday - Friday 3:00 to 9:00 or later

Saturday and Sunday 1:00 until.....

HAPPY HOUR EVERY DAY!

3:00 to 5:00 PM daily

\$1.00 off all drafts

\$1.00 off all Well drinks

KITCHEN HOURS

Monday - Friday 3:00 to 5:00 bar menu

5:00 to 9:00 full menu

Saturday and Sunday 1:00 to 6:00 bar menu

Editor's Remarks

Spring is springing and a lot of changes are headed our way! But as with typical Georgia weather, we might be prone to having another cold snap this month and we have two holidays! Volunteers and our Lodge handymen are steadily working hard to make our deadline of moving into the new building at the end of this month. As mentioned before, keep an eye out on your weekly e-mails for help that might be needed. This is a huge project!

The GEA Spring Elks Conference is being held this weekend (March 1st and 2nd) in Valdosta. Safe travels to all of those who are traveling South.

Happy St. Patty's Day and Happy Easter everyone!



Tracey Pitocchelli

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the USA has joined forces with **Donate Life America** to increase donations of organs, eyes and life-saving tissue. For more information on the importance of donation and how to become a registered donor in your state, go to the **Donate LifeSM web-site**, or log onto **www.donatelife.net**. This is a great way to show that **"Elks Give from the Heart."**



Julie
Bizzoso

Small to XL

All shirts are embroidered

T-Shirts 14.00

Polo Shirts 38.00

Dress Shirts 38.00

Sweatshirts 22.00

Hoodie Shirts 31.00

2.00 extra for each extra X

2X 2.00 3X 4.00 4X 6.00 5X 8.00

Orders for shirts will be sent in at the beginning of each month. 770-713-0536

The Big Red Box

There is a big red box in the stairwell. Now when you order an Elk shirt, it will be in the box. You will get a notice when it's there, so no need to check every day. Your shirt will be sealed in a plastic bag with your name on it.

The box also contains order forms. You can fill one out and put it, along with your payment, in an envelope and leave it in the box. Julie will check weekly and include your request with next month orders. Of course, you can also email Julie orders at:

biz-zosoj@gmail.com



Remember: Requests submitted by month end will be included in orders

UP COMING EVENTS

Trivia every Wednesday at 7:00 PM



Orientations Sessions Every 2nd and 4th Monday of Each Month



March 2nd

**Scott Deering and The Usual Suspects
will be playing at Oconee Brewing at
6:30 PM, proceeds to benefit the new
Lodge Building Fund**

March 16th

Second Harvest 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM

March 22nd

Calcutta on the back deck at 6 PM

March 17th

Happy St. Patrick's Day



March 24th

**Annual fundraising Lake Oconee Elks
Lodge golf tournament at Harbor
Club-if anyone would like to be a
sponsor or would like to volunteer to
help, contact Bobby Wright at 706-581
-7131 or bw.visionmkt@yahoo.com**



March 31st

Happy Easter

Weekly Food Specials and Bands

March 4th Fried Chicken

March 11th TBA

March 18th Smash burgers

**March 25th NONE-Lodge closed,
moving in progress**