



# Broad Ripple Lodge #643 Trestle Board

2012 Summer/Fall Edition

## 2012 Broad Ripple Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master  
Michael DeWitt, PM

Senior Warden  
Bro. Benjamin Fuhr

Junior Warden  
Bro. Jacob Mann

Treasurer  
WBro. Lee Hargitt, PM

Secretary  
WBro. Darren Klem, PM

Senior Deacon  
Bro. Matthew Griffen

Junior Deacon  
Bro. Matt Scherer

Senior Steward  
Bro. Doug Eckhart

Junior Steward  
Bro. Arlie Hartman

Chaplin  
Bro. Jerry Lande

Marshall  
Bro. Derek Osgood

Tyler  
WBro. Matthew Davis, PM

Assistant Secretary  
Bro. Rob Mountain

Broad Ripple Lodge #643 is located at 1716 Broad Ripple Ave in Indianapolis, IN. You may contact the Lodge by calling (317) 255-1664 or by e-mail at [brlodge@brlodge.org](mailto:brlodge@brlodge.org). Stated meetings are held the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. with dinner preceding.

## 2012 Fall Festival



Greetings Brethren,

Autumn is easily my favorite time of the year.

The days have cooled down, the leaves have turned, and the world is busy preparing herself for winter. There's something magical about the clear brisk days, the first smell of the woodstove or the fireplace, the first frost, the sounds of the Canadian geese overhead as they pass through on their way south, the canning of the late fruits and vegetables, the pumpkin and cider stands on the roadways.

As the night's grow longer with each passing day the brothers of Broad Ripple Lodge prepare themselves for our annual Fall Festival to commemorate this seasonal change. Like last year, we invite all friends and families out in their scariest Halloween costume they can conjure.

If you are bringing a friend interested to see what Broad Ripple Freemasonry is all about, remind them that humor is held as an excellent judge of character here, so buckle up those pirate boots, or put on that ghoulish mask and welcome them to join our fellowship. The most creative costume will win a sweet treat!

Entertainment provided for all ages including pumpkin bowling & carving, bone scavenger hunt, and ghoulish puzzles.

Seasonal side dishes and cider will be served by our craftsmen of the knife & fork but please feel free to bring a tasty dessert for all to share.

Where better to spend this October 27th than in the haunted halls this Masonic Lodge we call home?!

Fraternally,

Benjamin Fuhr  
Senior Warden



**Worshipful Master  
Michael DeWitt, PM**

**“There is no  
doubt in my  
mind that  
Masonry is the  
cornerstone of  
America.”  
Dave Thomas  
Founder of  
Wendy’s  
International**



## From the East—The Worshipful Master

My Brothers,

As we enter in to the final leg of our 2012 journey I wanted to take a moment to sit back to reflect on the year thus far. It feels like only yesterday the Officers were taking obligations and laying their designs. I am always amazed how fast time really does fly when you keep busy.

This year included a mix of philanthropic and social events, ten visitations, craft practices, education nights, degrees, two lodge trips, and a myriad of other activities.

Some of our completed events include a trip to Ronald McDonald’s House at Riley Hospital, raising our sleeves at the Blood Drive, Brother Lande’s pool party, paintball at Indy Acres, Comedy Night at Crackers Comedy Club, the July 4th picnic, and a team building trip to the DeMolay camp in Bloomington, Indiana.

This fall, again we plan to visit and assist Price Hall with their annual Thanksgiving Day food service and will be collecting toys to support Toy’s for Tot’s.

Also, we have the Fall Festival, Feast of Saint John, and several degrees still to come. Remember to check the calendar for upcoming events.

At Broad Ripple Lodge, you may often hear the phrase “This isn’t your grandfather’s lodge”.

The phrase is not meant that we see Masonry as only a

young man’s game, rather we find ourselves fortunate to have an active and progressive Officer line, whose average age is only about 35. We may be young, but we carry many old fashioned values.



WM DeWitt soaring through the air at the lodge retreat.

As you may know, Broad Ripple is not the only Lodge seeing an influx in younger members. However, many other lodges will meet only once a month and go dark in the summer. Broad Ripple meets every Thursday, rain or shine, and keeps its doors open in the summer.

Supporting and having a younger membership has its benefits and disadvantages all the same. These young Masons are busy starting the foundation of their lives and often have less time to volunteer than a member that may be retired. Nevertheless, they keep one of the most active Masonic calendars I know of and have events fit for every age.

Because of this the Officers and Brothers of Broad Ripple have always impressed me with their ability to balance their Masonic responsibilities with their necessary vocations. I have

truly never known a better group of men.

Every year the Brothers continue to raise the bar and improve this lodge for the future. I am confident that with this group of young men, the support and wisdom of our Past Masters, and Brotherly love that Broad Ripple Lodge will continue to flourish for the future of all ages.

At times this year we may have found ourselves against the ropes and even stumbled a time or too, but overall I am confident that the corner stone remains intact.

In all seriousness, I am very proud of my officer line and all my Brothers. I am truly humbled and honored to have had the privilege to preside this year.

I will always consider the Brothers of Broad Ripple as extended family and this Lodge as a home away from home.

Most Humbly and Fraternaly,

Michael DeWitt  
Worshipful Master



2012 Lodge Trip Bonfire

## Trustee Todd Ebbert, PM

It has always been of importance to the trustee's to have the outside of our building look as nice as it does inside.

The first impression many times of our fraternity is the appearance of the lodge hall from the outside. If you are considering joining the fraternity but continue to drive past a lodge building that is poorly maintained, you might have a second thought about joining.

Our neighbors may have a negative opinion of freemasons. In a community like that of Broad Ripple, it is very important to maintain our property so that we can have a good, positive relationship with our neighbors and community.

In 2010, the City of Indianapolis installed a new sidewalk in front of our building but in doing so created a drainage problem from overflow water from the roof gutters and parking lot. After we had a new drainage system installed, our front yard looked as if an army tank had driven through on a wet, muddy day.

After a year's worth of planning, budgeting and taking quotes from many nurseries, in 2011 our members came together for an entire weekend and transformed the front "eye sore" of a yard, into a pleasant looking landscaped property.

Tree's, flowering bushes, colorful perennials and decorative gravel for around the flag pole was all planted and laid out by your brothers. New grass seed was planted which greened up quickly that added the extra "wow" factor to our neighbors and members.

With all new plants, lots of water was needed daily to keep things alive and growing strong. We had the help of a good, fair price from Barthuly Irrigation of Zionsville, so we were able to install a low cost irrigation system to keep the newly planted plants alive for many years to come.

In just two years, the outside of our building has a new look from what it did in the past.

Today, a fresh, friendly and inviting looking building is the first impression that our neigh-

bors, guests and members see when they drive past or visit Broad Ripple Lodge.

In the coming year, we are hoping to have a new parking lot installed. With the increase of membership and visiting brethren, we need to make sure the parking lot is safe for both vehicle's and footed pedestrian traffic. Our current parking lot which we believe was built in the mid 1960's and a thin overlay in the early 1980's is in need of serious repair or replacement.

We plan on making a curb cut at the entrance to the front door for better wheel chair access and including handicap parking and a few other upgrades.

The trustee's ask that when you are mailing your yearly dues in that you consider an additional gift to our building fund to help offset costs needed to keep our building and property in good shape for many generations of Mason's to come.

Todd Ebbert, PM  
Trustee



***"We can only know the fullest joys of Masonry when we truly walk the paths of service and of hard work in the quarries."***

**George E. Burow**

## Mustard's Grave Visitation

Broad Ripple Lodge is very fortunate in both our brotherhood and our financial standing, largely in part to Brother Jacob S. Mustard's generous gift to the Lodge.

During the year 1903, Jacob S. Mustard, whose father had been made a Mason in 1839, desiring to follow in his father's footsteps, presented his petition to the Lodge, and, being elected to receive the degrees, was made a Master Mason in

Broad Ripple Lodge on April 11, 1903. He then desired the Lodge to possess a permanent home of its own, and, to that end, he presented the Lodge with a tract of twenty acres near what is now Illinois and 46th Streets. This was to be sold and the proceeds used to establish a building fund.

His wife Cassandra then prevailed upon him to add an additional ten acres to the original gift, making thirty acres in all,

and in 1904 the deed was officially recorded in the name of the Lodge.

So we don't forget Brother Mustard's generous gift, the brethren of Broad Ripple Lodge gather once a year at their headstone at the Union Chapel Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis to pay tribute.

Their picture hangs in the Broad Ripple Lodge room to this day.



**Brother Mustard and wife's headstone**



**Neil Armstrong  
Astronaut**

*“I think we're going to the moon because it's in the nature of the human being to face challenges. It's by the nature of his deep inner soul... we're required to do these things just as salmon swim upstream.”*  
**Neil Armstrong,  
Astronaut**

## Junior Steward Arlie Hartman

On August 25, 2012, America bid farewell to one of its true heroes. The exemplary life of service that Neil led should be an example for every mason. Although Neil was not a Freemason, his father was and I believe he instilled core values in his son.

Neil Armstrong discovered a love of flying with his father and earned his pilot certification before he could drive.

Armstrong was very involved in Boy Scouting and became an Eagle Scout.

He attended Purdue University on a scholarship that required three years of service in the Navy.

Second Lieutenant Armstrong flew 78 combat missions in Korea and received the Air Medal for 20 combat missions, a Gold Star for the next 20, the Korean Service Medal and Engagement Star.

After meeting his obligation Neil returned to Purdue and graduated with a B.S in aeronautical engineering.

After school Neil went to work for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics High-Speed Flight Station.

After proving his focus and determination as a test pilot, Armstrong transferred to astronaut status in 1962. He was assigned as command pilot for the Gemini 8 mission.

Gemini 8 was launched on March 16, 1966, and Armstrong performed the first successful docking of two vehicles in space.

As spacecraft commander for Apollo 11, the first manned lunar landing mission, Armstrong gained the distinction of being the first man to land a craft on the moon and first to step on its surface.

Armstrong subsequently held the position of Deputy Associate Administrator for Aeronautics. In this position, he was responsible for the coordination and management of overall NASA research and technology work related to aeronautics.

While 17 countries decorated

Armstrong and the US awarded receiving the highest non-combat medals, he was a deeply personal man who always felt he was a part of a larger team that made his walk on the Moon possible.

With government service behind him Armstrong went to teach the next generation of engineers at the University of Cincinnati.

Armstrong displayed humility and service to others above self.

As a private citizen he chose to return to his native Ohio as a professor than as board member to various businesses. Neil Armstrong led a life that Masons should use as a rule and guide.

Neil Armstrong passed away at the age of 82 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Fraternally,

Arlie Hartman  
Junior Steward

## Marshall Derek Osgood



On September 20th, some of the brethren of Broad Ripple Lodge and their families gathered at Cracker's Comedy Club in Broad Ripple to enjoy an evening of fun and laughter.

The comedian in attendance was Brad Williams. Williams has appeared regularly on the Carlos Mencia show, the Tonight Show with Jay Leno and Jimmy Kimmel Live!

Williams was born with achondroplasia, a type of dwarfism. His condition plays a large part in the bits in both his stand-up comedy and television roles.

While the show was of an adult theme, Williams quickly used his comedy to put the audience at ease with his condition.

It also served as an important

reminder to never judge a person from their external appearance.

This was a great opportunity for us to see how the pros do it and to remember an important lesson.

Fraternally,

Derek Osgood  
Marshall

## Senior Deacon Matthew Griffin

Rings, 2b1ask1 bumper stickers, lodge buildings, cornerstones and license plates.

All these signs and symbols out there and I'm amazed at how many people I've talked to that have no idea what Freemasons are or what we do.

After joining I couldn't believe how many Masonic buildings I drove by daily that I didn't even know existed.

When people find out that I belong to Broad Ripple Lodge a lot of people will tell me about how their father went to meetings every week, but they never really knew what he did. It always interests them to hear about a fraternity that their father or grandfather dedicated so much of their time to.

The misconceptions range from laborer's union to crazy cult.

While it's not our job to argue with the misinformed it is part of our Masonic duty to live our lives in a way that reflects well on the fraternity. Nothing is a better testimony to the people

interested in freemasonry than seeing the brotherhood, good works, and the zeal that its members have for the institution.

Although soliciting membership is frowned upon, I am of the opinion that there are a lot of people who would benefit greatly from the lessons I've learned since joining. I don't hesitate to invite people to come by the lodge to meet the brethren and enjoy good company.



Many people are surprised to learn they can join even though their father wasn't a Mason or that their religion prohibits joining.

Several more are even more surprised when they find out that it's not just a bunch of

people their grandfather's age, but people of all ages, races and creeds.

With the coming events this year and into the next I'd like to encourage everyone to invite a friend. Let them know we're not all plotting to take over the world and if they come out to get to know us they might even be interested in joining.

You'll be amazed how many people out there would like to join, but don't think they can.

Furthermore I believe the biggest selling point of our fraternity is diversity in its brothers and if we can get people to come to our events and see what we have to offer they'll want to be part of it.

So the next time we do something social, let a friend know he's welcome.

He may just fill out a petition!

Fraternally,

Matt Griffin  
Senior Deacon



***“Let us endeavor  
so to live that  
when we come  
to die even the  
undertaker will  
be sorry.”  
Brother Mark  
Twain***

## Point of Contention

Brethren,

November is rapidly approaching and along with it, the national election season.

This year's Presidential election is bound to be a source of debate in many work places, social gatherings and even homes.

A lot of us will more than likely have a conversation at some point with someone who does

not share our own political views.

Unfortunately, these discussions can get heated and people can get quite upset. We should remember that we are all too human, passionate creatures that have been known to let emotions get in the way of intelligent conversation.

As Freemasons, we agree not to discuss politics in open lodge. Thus we remove a point

of contention before it even arises and facilitate communication on a higher level.

I implore each of us to do our part within our lodge and keep the political debates in the town halls.

Fraternally,

J. Matt Scherer  
Junior Deacon





**WBro. Matthew Davis with his father, WBro. Dennis Davis**

*"When I am getting ready to reason with a man, I spend one-third of my time thinking about myself and what I am going to say and two-thirds about him and what he is going to say."  
Abraham Lincoln*

## From Father to Son, a Family Tradition

*"The word Lewis denotes strength, and is here depicted by certain pieces of metal dovetailed into a stone, which forms a cramp, and enables the operative Mason to raise great weights to certain heights with little encumbrance, and to fix them in their proper bases. Lewis, likewise denotes the son of a Mason; his duty is to bear the heat and burden of the day, from which his parents, by reason of their age, ought to be exempt; to help them in time of need, and thereby render the close of their days happy and comfortable; his privilege for so doing is to be made a Mason before any other person however dignified." - from the Junior Warden's Lecture used in the Grand Lodge of England dating from 1801.*

In operative masonry, a lewis is a device used to raise heavy blocks of stone during the construction of a building. It is believed that the term comes from the French word "levis" meaning to lift, hoist or raise.

Masonic historians believe it came into use in the 18th century.

A verse in "The Deputy Grand Master's Song", printed in the second edition of Anderson's Constitutions published in 1738, was written as a toast for a festive board:



*"Again let it pass to the ROYAL lov'd NAME,  
Whose glorious Admission has crown'd all our Fame:  
May a LEWIS be born, whom the World shall admire,  
Serene as his MOTHER, August as his SIRE."*

In speculative Masonry, we award a symbolic lewis jewel (called the Lewis Award) to those Freemasons whose fathers are also Freemasons at

the time they are "entered" onto our rolls.

Although the use of the Lewis Award is widespread across Masonry in Europe for many decades, it seems to be rarely practiced in the United States.

In Indiana, the Grand Chapter Of Royal Arch Masons of Indiana instituted the Lewis Jewel Program to help stimulate interest in Freemasonry and to make members of the Craft aware of Royal Arch Masonry in Indiana.

Last fall at Acme Lodge #83, which I am an honorary member, I was presented the Lewis Award by my father, Area 2 Representative PM Dennis Davis

In ancient times, a son could pay no greater honor to his father or his family by taking up the craft and the tools of his father's profession.

It is an honor and a privilege to carry on that tradition in my family which dates back several generations.

## A Little Lodge of Long Ago by Bro. Douglas Malloch



The Little Lodge of long ago-  
It wasn't very much for show;  
Men met above the village store,  
And cotton more than satin wore,  
And sometimes stumbled on a word,  
But no one cared, or no one heard.  
Then tin reflectors threw the light  
Of kerosene across the night  
And down the highway served to call  
The faithful to Masonic Hall.  
It wasn't very much, I know,  
The little lodge of long ago.

But, men who meet in finer halls,  
Forgive me if the mind recalls  
With love, not laughter, doors of  
pine,  
And smoky lamps that dimly shine,  
Regalia tarnished, garments frayed,  
Or cheaply bought or simply made,  
And floors uncarpeted, and men  
Whose grammar falters now and then  
For Craft or Creed, or God Himself,  
Is not a book upon a shelf:  
They have a splendor that will touch  
A Lodge that isn't very much.

It isn't very much- and yet  
And, if a handful or a host,  
This made it great: there Masons met  
-  
That always matters, matters most.  
The beauty of the meeting hour  
Is not a thing of robe or flow'r,  
However beautiful they seem:  
The greatest beauty is the gleam  
Of sympathy in honest eyes.  
A Lodge is not a thing of size,  
It is a thing of Brotherhood,  
And that alone can make it good.

## 2012 Broad Ripple Lodge Trip



Lodge Trip Attendees (left to right): WM Micheal DeWitt, Bro. Andrew Bush, SD Matthew Griffin, WBro. Micheal Walkup, Asst. Sec. Robert Mountain, JS Arlie Hartman, Bro. Neal Bennett, SW Ben Fuhr, FC Robert Meijer and JW Jacob Mann.



**Teamwork is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.  
- Anonymous**

For 2012, the officers were tasked with starting a new tradition at Broad Ripple Lodge - an annual lodge trip.

This trip would include an overnight stay away from Indianapolis, and be a great chance for brothers to bond on a relaxing weekend. The last weekend in September was our experiment, and the overall conclusion...

**WHEN ARE WE GOING AGAIN?!**

The brothers stayed two nights at the DeMolay camp on the north side of Bloomington. The DeMolay Chateau building was amazing and perfect for our needs.

With bunks to sleep up to 32 people, there was plenty of room for all of the brothers as well as room to grow.

The upstairs had some great seating areas, and a full kitchen - similar to what we have access to at our lodge back home, a front and back porch, large fields, covered full-court basketball, and a fire pit.

On Saturday the group headed to Brownstown, Indiana for a few hours of monkeying around in the trees on the high ropes course at Pyoca: Camp, Conference and Retreat Center.

Participants navigate obstacles 30 feet up in the air while developing team work skills, and conquering a fear most people have - extreme heights. Everyone who climbed up the 30' rope ladder had a blast! You can see the smiles on the videos we have posted on our Facebook page.

After high ropes, the Masons of Broad Ripple headed back to the DeMolay camp for dinner on the grill and the 1st annual MANLY GAMES - which included a few lawn games, knife & tomahawk throwing and a fire-starting competition.

SD Matt Griffin won the competition, followed by Robert Meijer, the only Fellow Craft on the trip, and WM DeWitt walked away in 3rd place.

The evening wrapped up with some members staying out at

the fire until the late, late hours of the night.

Worshipful Master Mike DeWitt cooked wonderful food all weekend.

Everyone enjoyed opportunities to relax, reflect, and rebuild friendships.

Thoughts and ideas for the 2013 trip are already being discussed. Goals for the next trip are increased attendance, more games for the competition, and possible inclusion of an improvement project to complete at the DeMolay building as part of our weekend "rent."

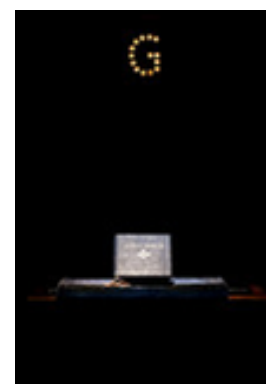
Thanks to everyone who helped make this event possible including; WM for all of your cooking, Rob Mountain for pointing us in the direction of DeMolay, and thanks to Doug Eckhart and Matt Griffin for help with planning and idea bouncing!

Fraternally,

Jacob Mann  
Junior Warden

**"A man only  
learns in two  
ways, one by  
reading, and the  
other by  
association with  
smarter people."**

**Will Rogers,  
American  
humorist and  
Freemason**





**BROAD RIPPLE  
LODGE #643**

1716 Broad Ripple Ave.  
Indianapolis, IN 46220-2338

Phone: 317-255-1664  
Web: <http://www.brldodge.org/>  
E-mail: [brldodge@brldodge.org](mailto:brldodge@brldodge.org)

**Be sure to join us on October 27th for our annual Fall Festival!**

**Activities will start at 5:30 p.m.**

**Entertainment provided for all ages including pumpkin bowling & carving, bone scavenger hunt, and ghoulish puzzles. Seasonal side dishes and cider will be served by our craftsmen of the knife & fork but please feel free to bring a tasty dessert for all to share. Where better to spend this October 27th than in the haunted halls of this Masonic Lodge we call home?!**



## Broad Ripple Lodge and the 21st Century

Did you know that Broad Ripple Lodge has an internet page...that's updated?

Did you know that Broad Ripple Lodge also has a Facebook page and a Twitter account?

Did you know that Broad Ripple Lodge also has an online event registration system that allows you to pay securely by credit card?

(gasp!)

If you didn't, then you might want to check out the links at the end of this article.

If you have already noticed, then direct your praise towards our very own Information Technology committee.

These hard working Brothers continue to bring Broad Ripple lodge into the future. Such improvements include: a



revamped web site and Facebook page, a new email system for up to date Lodge correspondence, a new online event registration system, online membership tracking

and web site analytics, online filing system and digitalization of Lodge documents, security cameras, and much, much more.

Please find us on the web to stay current and receive up to date information on all the many lodge events.

Website:  
<http://www.brldodge.org/>

E-Mail Sign-Up:  
<http://brldodge.org/wp/contact/email-signup/>

Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/brldodge643>

Twitter:  
<http://twitter.com/#!/brldodge>

RSS Feed:  
<http://brldodge.org/wp/category/featured/feed/>

