



Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve, Inc.

Dedicated to Service in Conservation

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To our members and friends:

January 2017

The End of An Era

With mixed feelings but genuine sadness we report the recent resignation of Pete Santeford who served as our caretaker at the cabin for the last 27 years. Pete spent his last night at the cabin on Dec 14th. He has moved permanently to Manor Care Health Services, 940 Maple Ave (room 213) Homewood IL 60430. Numerous health issues that have impacted Pete since early October ultimately caused him to decide that he was more comfortable and much better off moving into Manor Care. Pete has been warmly received at Manor Care, thanks in part to his positive attitude. We salute, honor, and thank Pete for his many years of service to The Preserve. He was always a friendly, helpful person to anyone who walked into the cabin with membership business, questions about The Preserve, or general concerns of any sort. Pete attended to his caretaker duties very well keeping the cabin, bathrooms, and picnic pavilions in tip top shape and informing Board members of issues concerning the Preserve that needed to be addressed. For Pete, at this stage in his life, he is in a much better place. He enjoys visitors---don't hesitate to visit ! Our heartfelt thanks to Board member Tony Talarico who has watched over Pete and guided him thoughtfully during this process. Many of the Board members and volunteers have been surprised by the constant level of concern voiced by many members over the past several months epitomized by the oft heard questions: "How's Pete or where's Pete ?" Now you know. When good weather returns, we expect Pete to be back at the cabin from time to time, brought over from Manor Care by his friends for day visits to enjoy the grounds, do some fishing and hang out with his friends.

Thursday January 26th 2017 7 p.m.

January General Meeting: "ALL ABOUT BEES"

Our veteran beekeeper, Mike Rusnak will present a program on beekeeping and bees. He will discuss the benefits of honey bees as pollinators, discuss the trials and tribulations of the recently established apiary on the Preserve near the Dedert property, and provide an overview of getting started in beekeeping. Mike plans on offering a 5-week course (one evening per week) on beekeeping at our cabin in late winter/ early spring for a modest fee so if you are interested in that course you do not want to miss this program

Thursday February 23rd 2017 6:00 PM
Annual Pot Luck Dinner and Folk Music

Come and enjoy our annual February event featuring good food and fellowship, with after dinner entertainment featuring Folksinger Mark Dvorak. Watch for further details and sign up forms in the February Newsletter.

BRIDGE HANDRAIL CONSTRUCTION

If you have been out on the trails near the new wetlands areas and the oak savannah/woodland, you have noticed the recent construction of handrails on one of the three foot bridges over the wetlands. You may ask why these handrails were constructed on this bridge at this time. As a project backed by the Village of Homewood, the new wetlands area was constructed with TIF funds available from the Prairie Lakes Business Park back in 2003. So the three bridges were constructed at that time without handrails though this issue was discussed by the Board at that time. As part of our lease agreement with the Village of Homewood, we are required to have a significant liability insurance policy for the Preserve. About every 10 years or so, we receive an audit from the insurance company that issues that liability policy. The audit consists of a walk through on our property and buildings to look for risk potential. This audit was conducted in 2015 and the risk of having these three bridges over 1 to 2 feet of water all year long was identified as something that needed a plan of risk mitigation. The Board agreed to construct handrails on these three bridges at the rate of one per year beginning in 2016 in order to maintain our liability insurance. So during some agreeable November weather, Greg Busler, Mark Leschuck, and John Brinkman spent 4 days constructing these handrails. The feedback from bikers, dog walkers and hikers who came by as we were constructing the handrails was very favorable. Look for handrails to be constructed on a second bridge in the Fall of this year.

What A Phone Call Can Bring

Noticing that our parking lot and driveway needed to be built up with additional stone, Board member Greg Busler made a friendly call to Hansen Material Service in Thornton to inquire about purchasing stone and aggregate material for the Preserve. Greg was referred to a related company, Shepley Motor Express. After explaining who we were, our mission and our limited budget, Greg received a call back within an hour with an offer from these companies to donate 200 tons of this material, a \$2,000 value. 80 tons have been delivered so far with the additional 120 tons expected in the Spring, some of which will be used for trail maintenance. Given our limited budget, such generosity is most helpful to us and consistent with our "all-volunteer" spirit. We extend a heartfelt "thank you" to these nearby companies, located in Thornton. Please consider them for any projects you might have or know of that require stone or aggregate material.

Thanks to Blueberry Hill and Care Cleaners:

In last month's newsletter, we thanked local merchants who donated gift certificates or merchandise for our November fund-raiser. We forgot to mention:

- Blueberry Hill Pancake House, 2155 183rd Street, Homewood
- Care Cleaners, 18215 Dixie Hwy, Homewood

Thanks to these local merchants for their generosity.

2017-18 Memberships Are Now Available

Membership cards for 2017-18 are now available. The new or renewed membership is valid from the date of purchase through March 2018. They can be bought by filling out the form below and mailing it to us at: Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve, 1100 Ridge Rd, Homewood, IL. 60430; we will then mail a membership card back to you. We will have our usual membership drive in February; at that time membership solicitations will be mailed out to those who have not yet renewed.

You'll see that dues for an adult membership are again \$25 as they have been since 1974. We've been able to keep our dues constant for this long period through (1) careful financial management, (2) successful November fundraisers (Turkey Raffle & Auction), and (3) voluntary contributions. The form below allows for an optional contribution. Please consider making one this year as our income and expenses are increasingly hard to balance. Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve is a 501(c)3 organization. Contributions to HIWP are tax exempt.

Thank you for your membership and generosity in supporting The Preserve.

DUES FOR YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 2017 Make checks payable to: Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve or HIWP E-mail address: _____ Phone No. _____	Regular Membership - \$25	\$ _____
	Junior Member (under 18) or Active Military - \$5	\$ _____
	_____ (Military Branch -- or -- Name & birth date of Junior)	
	Optional Contribution	\$ _____
	Total Enclosed	\$ _____

Please let us know your interests in Izaak Walton Preserve. Check the boxes that apply to you.

Activities:	Volunteer Opportunities -----
Fishing	Trail Maintenance
Dog Walking	Gardening
Hiking or Jogging	4 th of July Community Picnic
Biking:	Mail Preparation
Educational Programs	Invasive Plant Eradication (prairie burns)
Other	Prairie Restoration
	Special Skill (Please specify)

Your President,
John Brinkman

HOMEWOOD IZAAK WALTON PRESERVE PROGRAM

Thursday January 26st, 2017 7 p.m.

**Arthur Senior Hall
1100 Ridge Road, Homewood IL**

All About Bees

Veteran beekeeper, Mike Rusnak will present a program on beekeeping and discuss the trials and tribulations of our apiary that was established at the Preserve last year.