



Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve, Inc.

Dedicated to Service in Conservation

1100 Ridge Road
Homewood, Illinois 60430
708-798-1850

e-mail address: info@homewoodizaakwalton.com

Like us on Facebook

Tax exempt non-profit 501 c 3 Organization

To our members and friends:

February 2017

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

Over the past few years, Steve Wlodarski, Board member and our Controlled Burn Coordinator, has been visiting local groups of young people in order to inform them about the HIWP. Last Fall, he again visited several groups with his outreach presentation: the Environmental Vikings Club at HF High School, St Joseph's School's 6th, 7th and 8th grade classes, and Homewood Boy Scout Troop 364. Steve gives them a 10-minute discussion of the benefits of having a nature preserve in the area. He also explains the practice of conducting controlled burns at the Preserve in both Spring and Fall and why they enhance the development of native plant species. In order to make the presentation interactive, the young people are given a chance to wear and operate the backpack style fire extinguisher. This is a simple, safe device that utilizes only water with the operator providing water pressure via a hand-operated pump. Steve extolls the virtues of volunteerism, explaining to the young people how this educational and enjoyable experience benefits the Preserve and all of those who participate in the project. The controlled burns are conducted in a very safe manner resulting in an educational and fun adventure. All burns are conducted on Saturdays or Sundays and last 3-4 hours. Anyone who is at least 13 years years old is welcome to participate for whatever time they have available. (Parental permission required if under 16 years old) Some volunteers come out just once a year and some help with nearly every burn. So part of the reason Steve visits these youth groups is to also encourage them to contact him if they are interested in volunteering and becoming more involved with the Preserve. We will soon begin the Spring burn season in April so if anyone is interested please contact Steve directly at; Steve.Wlodarski@att.net He will answer any questions and provide any additional information that is desired.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

Membership renewal forms will be mailed out this month to all members who have not yet renewed their membership for the upcoming year, which ends March 31, 2018. Please return your forms promptly. We have not raised our dues since 1975 as dues from an increasing membership (now @ 1,300) has provided the growing revenue we need to

meet expenses. Thank you to our many members for your dues, your additional contributions, and your many hours of volunteer work. Please help us build on this momentum by asking neighbors and friends to become members of The Preserve.

OUR ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER AND FOLK MUSIC

For many years we have enjoyed our annual potluck dinner on the 4th Thursday of February. This family friendly event features home cooked side dishes brought by participants with meat obtained from a local food provider and wonderful musical entertainment. For over 20 years, Mark Dvorak has brought his exceptional music and song to this event as we have watched the development of his mastery of guitar, banjo, and voice earning him recognition as a keeper of traditional American folk music. Mark travels widely to conferences and performance venues but saves this date for us. He has researched the history of folk music and shares historical connections between this music and our country’s story. A long-standing member of the Old Town School of Folk Music staff, Mark is sought after for his playing, storytelling, and original compositions. All ages will enjoy his program, which will follow our potluck supper. The Potluck committee asks that you return your reservation form below or contact Betty Baker directly via email (bettytbaker@hotmail.com) by Monday Feb 20. Newcomers are especially welcome to enjoy this program that has been characterized by some as a “Norman Rockwell” event !

MARK DVORAK, Folksinger

Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017

Time: Supper at 6:30 P.M. – Entertainment at 7:30 P.M.

Place: Arthur Senior Hall, 1100 Ridge Road, Homewood

Cost: \$10.00 includes meat, beverage, and entertainment

Children age 12 and under - \$5.00

Please bring a dish to share: (vegetable, salad, or dessert to serve 4-6). Several meat dishes will be provided.

PLEASE return the RESERVATION FORM BY MONDAY, FEB. 20

RESERVATION FORM

Enclosed is a check payable to *Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve* for ___ adults and ___ children for the Potluck and Entertainment.

Send to: Betty Baker, Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve
1100 Ridge Road, Homewood, IL 60430

Amount of check _____ (\$10 per adult, \$5 per child 12 or under)

Name of member _____ I plan to bring a _____ for the potluck meal.

RECENT PRESENTATION: ALL ABOUT BEES

At our general meeting in January, beekeeper Mike Rusnak gave a very informative presentation about beekeeping as a hobby as well as an update on the 10 hives that were placed out on the prairie in June 2016 near the Dedert property. There is obviously a large interest in this topic as the presentation was very well attended with nearly 60 in attendance. Unfortunately, we will not be offering beekeeping lessons in our cabin this year since we did not have enough interested parties. However, Mike can be reached by email (MRusnakweb@gmail.com) if anyone desires to learn about upcoming beekeeping lessons that might be held elsewhere in the area. Mike has already offered to come back next year in January to present his program again and provide us with a further update on our 10 hives. Also we have sold about 75% of our honey stock to date so stop by the cabin to pick up an 8oz jar of local honey for only \$8 while supplies last !

RECENT UPGRADES IN THE OFFICE

We have recently done some interesting upgrades in the office. Just before winter we removed the old wood burning stove and replaced it with an electric heater with adjustable thermostat. There has been some understandable nostalgia for the old wood burner but it proved difficult to operate properly and we won't miss its soot and pollution. We asked for a volunteer last Fall to restore an old, beat-up, donated, sectioned bookcase and long time member John Cole responded. Our library is now housed in this bookcase against the south wall. We extend our many thanks to John for his excellent furniture restoration work! Lastly, our very dedicated volunteer electrician, John Sailor, will soon complete the installation of a ceiling fan which will help regulate the heat in winter and provide for movement of air on hot summer days. We thank John again for his continuing dedication to the Preserve.

Your President,

John Brinkman

HOMEWOOD IZAAK WALTON EVENT

POTLUCK DINNER AND FOLK MUSIC

Thursday February 23rd, 2017 6:30p

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

Featuring Folk Singer Mark Dvorak