



Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve, Inc.

Dedicated to Service in Conservation

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To our members and friends:

March/April 2017

General Meeting: April Program---Thursday April 27th, 2017

We are pleased to present a program “Pollinator Paradise: Native Plants in the Home Landscape” corresponding with our Spring planting season. Brittany Buckles, from the Naperville Park District, will discuss native plants that can be incorporated into backyard landscaping. Brittany has a Masters degree in entomology, has worked with the St Louis Zoo planting pollinator gardens in Kenya and has worked with the Field Museum to help conserve monarch butterfly habitat in Midwest cities. Her presentation will emphasize those native plants that provide habitat for the monarch butterfly as well as our local pollinators, mainly bees. This Spring, our garden committee consisting of Regina Zohfeld, Cate Roberts and Betty Baker (with input from Annie McLaughlin) has been actively planning our demonstration gardens: one by the new flagpole and a second in the old flagpole area. We will describe our plans for those gardens identifying the actual and planned plantings by species for those gardens at this meeting.

Membership Renewals

Membership renewals were mailed out in February and are being returned at a good pace. If you have not already done so please renew your annual membership soon. As you know we have not increased our basic \$25 dues in 30 years +. So far, many of this year’s renewals have added an additional contribution. In fact, once again, they are running ahead of last year’s pace! We are very thankful for those additional contributions. For those members who have not yet renewed, we ask that you too make an additional contribution along with your membership fee if you can. Thanks to our friends at Homewood Baseball for inviting us to their registration days. Welcome to any new members joining the Preserve at that event. Lastly, as part of the renewal process, we again encourage you to choose to receive this Newsletter via email instead of US mail due to the obvious cost savings. We are pleased to have over 1,300 members but we are still mailing out over 800 Newsletters.

Ground Rules Reminder

During our annual membership campaigns, we invite members to add comments to the membership renewal forms. Each year we get some comments addressing displeasure with some canine behavior, particularly lack of adherence to rule M-7 concerning dog waste. Accordingly, we'd like to highlight our ground rules concerning pets below:

- M) Bringing pets into the Preserve is a privilege reserved for members only.
- M-1) Pets or non-native animals other than dogs are not permitted anywhere within the Preserve and shall not be released nor introduced into the Preserve.
- M-2) Owners are fully responsible for damage or aggravation caused by their dogs.
- M-3) Anyone bringing a dog into the Preserve must have the dog under his/her control at all times.
- M-4) Dogs must be on a leash at all times within the following areas:
 - Parking lots and trail-heads within 100 yards of parking areas;
 - lawns and picnic areas;
 - the lakes, channels, and waterways east of Trailmarker 2.74 (refer to Preserve map)
 - near small children anywhere
- M-5) Dogs off leash must have been trained sufficiently to abide by the owner's command.
- M-6) Dogs off leash must be kept within 20 feet of the marked trails to avoid disturbing ground-nesting birds and other wildlife.
- M-7) Pet owners shall remove their pet's waste material from anywhere within 5 feet either side of the trail center-line.

Rule M-3 talks about dogs being under the owner's control at all times. It's appropriate to expand on the meaning of this rule and so, we comment as follows:

- If your dog approaches a stranger at a gallop, he's out of control and should be leashed.
- If your dog greets people by putting his paws on the person's legs, he's out of control and should be leashed.
- When dog meets dog, they might show their teeth and growl while sizing one another up. Many people find this threatening and so, such dogs should be leashed.
- If your dog won't stay close to you and come when called, he's out of control and should be leashed.

We welcome and value all of our members (human and canine alike) and ask that all members support the Preserve by following and enforcing Preserve ground rules.

Update on our Bee Hives/Honey

Mike Rusnak, our beekeeper, reports that only one hive out of the ten survived the winter. Normal attrition ranges from 30-60% so this is worse than normal. The irregular weather, unusual warmth in February followed by snow in March, is at least partly if not mostly to blame. Mike has had similar worse than normal hive survival rates this year at his other local hives in Crete and Lynwood. However, Mike and fellow beekeeper Tony Ferracane fully expect to get the ten hives back to a living state this spring. Thanks again to your consistent support: we sold out of our entire supply of honey in February. We expect to be restocked with honey from our hives again by early September.

Cabin Office Hours

Now that spring has finally arrived, we are establishing office hours for the cabin as follows: Mon-Fri 9-12, Tues and Thurs 3-5, and Sat 9-1. These are reliable office hours but we won't be perfect. Also you can now call the office phone (708/ 798-1850) and leave a message and we will try to get back to you within 24 hours.

Annual Financial Report

Treasurer Dave Smith has completed our annual report for our fiscal year that ended on August 31, 2016. Thanks to you, our loyal and generous members, and thanks to the entire Board, for its careful management of our revenue and expenses, our finances are in good order and our reserves are strong. In recent years, we have been replenishing reserves that were used for major infrastructure spending (cabin remodeling, new wetlands bridges, etc) that took place in the fiscal years ending '08-'12. Below is a summary of our major categories of revenue and expenses comparing this year to the last two years.

		'15--'16	'14--'15	'13--'14
Revenue:	Dues	50%	52%	47%
	Donations	18%	13%	15%
	Turkey Raffle	24%	24%	22%
	Events/Other	8%	11%	16%
Expense:	Revenue related	18%	18%	15%
	Non Discretionary	52%	46%	42%
	Purchases, Projects	32%	36%	43%
	Surplus as a % of Revenue:	15%	12%	18%

Thanks once again for your continuing financial support making these strong results possible.

Your president,
John Brinkman

HOMEWOOD IZAAK WALTON PRESERVE PROGRAM

Thursday April 27th, 2017 7 p.m.

Pollinator Paradise: Native Plants in the Home Landscape

Brittany Buckles, entomologist and pollinator plant expert will present an informative program on how to incorporate native plants that also serve as habitat for pollinators into your home landscape. You will also learn about the plans for our own demonstration gardens that we intend to plant this spring creating our own “pollinator paradise”

Place: Arthur Senior Hall 1100 Ridge Road Homewood, IL