



Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve, Inc.

Dedicated to Service in Conservation

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To our members and friends:

June 2017

Annual 4th of July Village Picnic: 11am-2pm

This annual event hosted by the Preserve together with our partners, the Village of Homewood and the H F Park District, is a favorite of many local residents. The event follows right after the Village's 4th of July parade which steps off at 10am. The Preserve provides the facilities and offers food and refreshments while the Park District provides the entertainment and activities for this family friendly event. Board member Mark Leschuck, who has done a splendid job the last two years, will again be managing the event this year. This event brings out our largest group of volunteers. We are fortunate to have a strong dedicated returning core of volunteers but we could always use more. Every year we encourage new volunteers to join the team. We need people to work on various jobs on 3 different days: July 2nd, 3rd and 4th. On the 4th itself, we need workers before, during and after the event. Please contact Mark at 630/619-9312 or mleschuck@comcast.net if you would like to join the dedicated team that volunteers for this event.

General Meeting Thursday June 15th

We normally do not have general meetings and programs during the summer months but this year will be an exception. On Thursday, June 15th at 7pm, member Jill Sharbono and her k9 partner, Okie Dokie, will present a program on search and rescue work that can be done by trained dogs. Come out and see actual search and rescue demonstrations performed by Okie Dokie. Learn how trained dogs can be helpful in the community. Weather permitting, the program will be held outside by the eastern picnic pavilion. If it rains, we will conduct the program inside Senior Hall. Pls do not bring your dogs to this meeting; other dogs would be very distracting to Okie Dokie. There is much to learn about the amazing capabilities of trained dogs !

More Progress at the Western Entrance.....

We continue to make progress clearing out invasive plant species near the western entrance. On Saturday, May 13th, a crew consisting of Steve Wlodarski, Craig Johnson, Mark Leschuck and Quinn Macloed piled up previously cut down buckthorn and other bushes just west of the trail where it meets the first curvy bridge, formed a burn pile and burned up the dead branches. This work has the effect of “opening up” the view of the prairie as you look to the northeast from the parking lot by the Ashland Ave (western) entrance. The “clearing” work in this area will resume and should be completed next spring.

.....and more Progress at the Oak Savannah/Woodland

Work continued (in between the many rainy periods) during the month of April and continuing into early May restoring the oak savannah/woodland. We have concentrated on the western edge of that area, intending for the restoration work to proceed from west to east. The work proceeds in the following order: remove invasive and unwanted trees, harvest firewood from the larger trunks, gather up the remaining smaller wood pieces and branches into large piles, brush cut the smaller saplings and bushes, and lastly burn the piles of wood and branches. This spring we will have completed this process on another 20% of the savannah/woodland area as we work west to east making the project @60% complete. Our thanks to volunteers Dan Galen, John Sandala, John Brinkman, Mark Leschuck and John and Jim Kochanny who performed the work this spring. We continue to expect the restoration/clearing work to be completed by spring of '18. At that time we intend to conduct a controlled burn in the entire savannah/woodland followed by selective seeding and planting of native/desirable plant species in the cleared area.

Carpenter Volunteer Request

The Board has approved the construction of two new benches in our trail system. We are looking for a volunteer skilled in carpentry to build these benches. We follow a design template provided by the Eagle Scout project for the two new benches built out in the oak savannah last year. Anyone interested in this project should please call John Brinkman at 708/ 638-9418.

Help the Monarch Butterflies !!!

Due to the enthusiastic response engendered by this item in our May newsletter, we were asked once again to provide information on growing milkweed plants for those amazing monarch Butterflies. Some additional information: these butterflies use the nectar from the flower of the milkweed plants as a source of food and use the leaves as the only place where they will lay their eggs. Monarchs seen in this area may be here for their summer residence or may be migrating back and forth between Mexico and Canada. If you plant seeds now, they will not flower until next season but the leaves will still be useful for their eggs. We encourage everyone to devote an area in their yard for milkweed plants.

Get samples of three kinds of milkweed seed, the only plant monarch butterflies lay eggs on, and lots of literature for \$2 cash and a stamped, self addressed Business sized envelope sent to: Garden Clubs of Illinois Monarch Chairman Kay MacNeil, 689 Golf Club Ln. Frankfort, IL 60423. Questions? Call Kay at 815-469-1294.

New Flagpole Demonstration Garden

Last year we built a demonstration garden in a large oval surrounding our new flagpole. We introduced some plants but the garden was far from complete. The Garden Committee consisting of Betty Baker, Cate Roberts, Regina Zohfeld, Carolyn Bury, Ingrid van Drongelen and Rae Ringhofer have been hard at work this spring getting this garden in shape. The Thorn Creek Audubon Society held its annual native plant sale at the Preserve on Saturday, May 20, from which we purchased many plants for our garden. Member Judy Johnson, who managed that plant sale, proceeded to donate additional plants for our garden. We call it a demonstration garden because we intend to clearly mark all plant species therein providing our members examples of native plants. Look for this garden to be completed by early June. By the way, milkweed, both planted last year and this year is included !

DNR Patrols

We have been informed by representatives of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources that they have been and will be doing more regular patrols at our lakes this year. They will be checking for current Illinois fishing licenses, trout stamps and even for our Izaak Walton membership cards. Tickets will be issued for those fishing without the license or stamp; citations for those without membership cards. Patrols have been as frequent as 2 or 3 times a week this year whereas in the past their frequency was more like once or twice a month. We have completed fish stocking this spring including trout, catfish, and bass. So enjoy fishing, with your proper credentials.

Your President, John Brinkman

HOMEWOOD IZAAK WALTON PRESERVE PROGRAM

Search and Rescue Dogs: A Demonstration

Member Jill Sharbono will bring her trained dog, Okie Dokie, out to demonstrate search and rescue capabilities. There is much to be learned about the amazing capabilities of trained dogs for our community ! Please do not bring your dog as that would be distracting to Okie Dokie.

Date: Thursday June 15th

Time 7:00 PM

Place: East Picnic Shelter 1100 Ridge Road Homewood, IL