



Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve, Inc.

Dedicated to Service in Conservation

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Tax exempt non-profit 501 c 3 Organization

To our members and friends:

July/August 2017

Our Largest Volunteer Effort: The July 4th Village Picnic

With Labor Day rapidly approaching, it may seem odd to be writing about the July 4th Village Picnic. We are all very proud of our 70 years + volunteer history, which began in earnest with the efforts of the World War II veterans. But in our Newsletter, we always provide the acknowledgement and recognition that volunteer efforts deserve. So, this year, better weather (than last year), well prepared and inviting grounds, strong attendance (also up @10% from last year) and a great crew of volunteers and partners made for a great time at the traditional July 4th Village Picnic. As the host for this long-standing Homewood celebration, we prepare and offer a variety of food and drink allowing participants the convenience of buying lunch at the event. Once again for the 3rd consecutive year the volunteer effort was managed by Mark Leschuck. Mark did a great job recruiting the volunteers, ordering food and supplies and assigning the various duties performed by the dedicated crew. We were also rewarded with a nice boost to our Preserve treasury. With over 40 volunteers, this event requires our largest cadre of volunteers working over a 3-day period; we are exceedingly thankful to all of them as well as our partners that made it a success once again.

Thanks to our partners and volunteers:

Walt's Food Centers Homewood Disposal

Cold Stone Creamery Twisted BBQ and Bakery

Paula Newton, Greg Busler, Fred Kolodziej, Sam Casella, Karen Smith, Aquila Wilks, Jim Wright, John Brinkman, Bob Enright, Steve and Betty Baker, Dave Smith, Olivia Miller, Marlene Miller, Jay and Amy Eagle, Ian Anderson, Isaac Shores, Zach Green, Mike Oskilanec, Terry Norris, Shawn Straney, Dirk French, Steve Wlodlarsky, Bob Lucas, Carol Lindstrom, Lars Ringhofer, Shawn Bader, John Brinkman, David Kennelly, Rose Oslar, June Fidanza, Earl Knies, John Sandala, Mike McDonnell, Chris and Ann

Cummings, Jerry Tienstra, Emily Rozacck, Sydney Carlson, and lastly to Lexi Van Voorhees, and apologies to anyone who we might have missed.

September Program: Storm Water Management in Homewood Thursday 9-28-17

We are pleased to have Village of Homewood officials John Schaefer, Director of Public Works, and Max Massi, Village Engineer, present a program on how Homewood manages storm water as well as information on sewage treatment in the village. The expansion of the Preserve in 2002 which included the prairie lakes was planned in part to accommodate storm water. You may remember that for many weeks this spring, large parts of our trails out by the prairie lakes were flooded and impassible. Why did this happen? But flooding in Homewood in general is much reduced from many years ago. Why is this the case? Make plans to attend this very informative program.

Demonstration Garden Now Complete

We are pleased to report that our demonstration garden surrounding the new flagpole is now complete! Mark Leschuck brought Larry Schaefer, a local native and prairie plant expert and conservationist, to visit the Preserve and contribute any ideas given his background. Several days later Larry brought a selection of native plants that he arranged to have donated to the Preserve including labels to be used to identify the plants. We thank Larry for his contribution. Mark Leschuck and John Brinkman completed mulching the garden in mid-July. You can now come out and view over 30 different species of native plants. Our thanks to all who have contributed to the building, stocking and maintenance of this demonstration garden especially the Garden Committee: Cate Roberts, Betty Baker, Regina Zohfeld, Carolyn Bury, Ingrid van Drongelen and Rae Ringhofer

The Art Show Returning Again in October

We are again sponsoring an art show on Saturday and Sunday, November 4th and 5th in the cabin. Michelle Kaysen, who did a great job last year bringing this event back after a two-year hiatus, is once again organizing the show and has already contacted local artists to participate. The cabin has proven to be a wonderful setting to display nature oriented original art and photographs which are for sale. Look for additional details in the next Newsletters.

Lost and Found---Office Hours Reminder

Several members and guests have turned in lost keys, FOBs and other items to the office dating back to last Fall. If you have lost or know someone who has lost an item like this recently at the Preserve, please stop by the office; we may have them. Also as a reminder

we staff office hours reliably as follows: Mon, Wed, Fri, and Sat, 9-noon, and Tues and Thurs 3-5p. And someone is often in the office at other times during the week.

Controlled Burns from Last Spring

Steve Wlodarski conducted our last controlled burns of the Spring on June 3rd and June 10th. Work was concentrated on burning brush piles out in the Oak Savannah as the restoration work out there continues. Our thanks to the volunteers for this work which included Mark Leschuck, John Kochanny, Jim Coco, Greg Busler, Henry Kreis, Liz Tavitas, John Brinkman, Zach Green and Josiah Brown.

Ever Heard of “The Square” ?

This small electronic device, shaped like a square as you might have figured, can be used to take payments from credit cards when plugged into a smart phone. Matt LaPlante, a member and close neighbor to the Preserve, contacted us in May and offered to help us acquire the capability to take dues and merchandise payments via debit and credit cards in the office. The capability became operational in late July after several Board members were trained on how to use the technology. The convenience to our members is most definitely worth the transaction cost which is only sixty-nine cents. Many, many thanks to Matt for bringing the Preserve up to date with today’s common methods of payment.

New Flagpole Now Illuminated

Many of our members have noticed that our new flagpole with the US flag and the Izaak Walton flag proudly flying is now illuminated at night. This brings us into conformance with federally recommended standards. You may also notice that the flags fly at half-mast from time to time. This happens at the direction of either the state of Illinois or US Government requests as a result of national tragedies or periods of mourning associated with the deaths of public servants performing their duties. Stu Regan, who owns a company named Stu’s Flags, provided the LED flag lights and also offers “flag service” to lower and then raise back up the flags according to these requests. Reflecting his patriotism, Stu performs this service for over 60 locations (including ours) for a very modest price. Our thanks to Stu for his patriotism and service.

John Brinkman President

HOMEWOOD IZAAK WALTON PRESERVE PROGRAM

Storm Water Management in Homewood Thursday September 28th

7 PM at the Cabin, 1100 Ridge Road, Homewood

John Schaefer, Director of Public works and Max Massi, Chief Engineer, both from the Village of Homewood will present a program on storm water management in Homewood

Be sure to attend this interesting and informative program.