



## **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](mailto:info@homewoodizaakwalton.com)

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To our members and friends:

October 2017

### **ANNUAL TURKEY RAFFLE, BAKE SALE, AND AUCTION PARTY**

By now, you have all received your ticket booklets in the mail for our Annual Turkey Raffle, Bake Sale, and Auction Party to be held Saturday November 11th, at 7:00P.M. Your response so far has been quite strong as every day we receive many of your contributions and turkey tickets in the mail. For those of you who have not yet had time to send in your raffle tickets, you still have plenty of time to get them in. This event consists of an auction, bake sale and prize drawings. We will offer 3 Grand prizes 1) a 55" LED 4k ULTRA HDTV, 2) a \$250 gift card from Best Buy, and 3) a \$100 gift card from Walt's as well as 30 turkey coupons from Walt's foods (value \$25.00). Individual raffle tickets cost \$5 and a booklet of 6 tickets cost \$25. This is our primary annual fund-raising event and it accounts for a substantial amount of annual Preserve revenue. Please consider purchasing or selling these tickets and return the ticket stubs and payment via mail or in person at Senior Hall (1100 Ridge Road). Tickets may be donated to the needy if you wish; simply note that when returning ticket stubs and payment. Any ticket drawn with this designation will result in the coupon being donated to organizations that serve those in need.

Additional ticket booklets are available at Senior Hall. Stop by or call to request additional booklets. (708-798-1850) Members will receive one complimentary turkey coupon (\$25 value) for selling each block of 6 or more ticket booklets.

You may also contribute to the success of this event by donating items for the auction and bake sale. Please bring auction items to Senior Hall prior to November 11th tagged with your name (if desired) and an estimated value (also optional); bake sale items can be delivered the afternoon of the event. We will post pics of the larger and potentially more valuable auction items on our web and Facebook pages prior to the event (but after Nov 1) as best we can. For many, many years the enthusiasm of our membership for this event has been gratifying and wonderful. Thanks to you all for your continuing support for this key fund-raising event.

### **ART SHOW NOVEMBER 4 and 5**

We are again excited to host the annual art show during the first weekend of November. The show is a great opportunity to come out to the preserve for a stroll along our 5 miles of prairie, lake, or woodland trails. Pop into Senior Cabin to check out the variety of artistic creations on display and for sale. A wide range of art to enjoy, we'll have paintings, photography, silk screens, and more to see. We're also very excited to present some of our local young talent. A group of 3rd grade artists from the Churchill School Visual Art Program in Homewood will be exhibiting their Painted Torn Paper Landscapes inspired by the National Park Service art collection as well as the Parks themselves. Live music will be provided by Homewood's very own Work In Progress on Saturday from 2pm - 4pm. Please join us on Saturday November 4th 10am - 4pm or Sunday November 5th 10am - 3pm.

### **MAJOR UPGRADE AT SAND PIT LAKES**

There has been a significant upgrade to the south shore of Lake Akela, just down the trail from the main picnic grounds. Most of the lake's shore had been protected by small trees & bushes on the east, and by a retaining wall on the west. In between was a 55-foot section, which eroded over the years and resulted in a depression. The lakefront path ran through this depression, which was slippery when wet and impassible when the lake waters were high in the spring.

The upgrade was managed by preserve member Ian Anderson. Ian is a junior at St. Laurence High School and a member of Boy Scout Troop 364 here in Homewood; he took on this project with an eye toward achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. The project involved the building of a retaining wall at water's edge, consisting of a gravel base with two layers of telephone poles on top. The pole is secured with 5/8" re-bar driven through the poles and into the ground. There are also 4"x6" x 8' boards secured to the poles, running perpendicular away from lake. Many tons of stone & cinder were placed on top of the 4"x6" boards; this filled in the depression and placed downward pressure on the boards (and indirectly on the poles) thus assuring that the wall will be secure for decades to come.

The telephone poles were approximately 12' long and 400 lbs. per pole. They had long been in inventory at the Preserve and were moved by Ian and his crew using a contraption made of 8" lawn & garden wheels placed under the pole's mid-point. Ropes were then tied to the front and back allowing a crew of 4 to roll the heavy logs down to the worksite. A skid steer loader (a Bobcat) was also a valuable tool. The Bobcat's bucket picked up limestone and cinder from the abandon railroad track some 50 yards south of the lake. An approximate 75 buckets (¼ cubic yard per bucket) were needed to fill in the depression behind the wall. The Bobcat was lent to us by John Gliottoni of Chicago Heights; it was operated by Mike McDonnell, a long-time preserve member and Scoutmaster of Troop 364.

Ian's work crew consisted of Beth Anderson, Cole Anderson, Stuart Anderson, Alex Bertucci, Bruce Bergren, Andrew Gaughan, Gabe Groves, Mike McDonnell, Jake Merrill, Keith Merrill, Shawn Straney, David Winicky, and Jim Winicky. The Preserve

sends out its' thanks to Ian and his crew for a job well done. We also wish him well as he pursues the rank of Eagle Scout.

### **VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR CONTROLLED BURNS**

Every year in early spring and late fall we conduct controlled burns in various parts of the Preserve to promote the growth of native plant species and to retard the growth of invasive species. Steve Wlodarski, our Controlled Burn Coordinator, will begin conducting these burns over the next month or so. Anyone who is interested in helping out should contact Steve directly by email at [steve.wlodarski@att.net](mailto:steve.wlodarski@att.net). Steve will then directly respond by email to those volunteers with dates and times of the planned burns as we progress through the season.

### **HONEY FOR SALE**

A reminder that, as reported in our last newsletter, our bee hives, managed by Mike Rusnak and Tony Ferracane, have been very successful this year. Honey production has been strong so our supply of honey will be much greater than last year; authentic HIWP honey is for sale at the cabin in 12 oz. jars for just \$8 each. So come on down to Senior Hall during our reliable office hours (Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9-noon and Tuesday and Thursday 3-5p) and pick up some local natural honey. We will also have honey for sale during the Art Show, at the Turkey Raffle and Auction and during all general meetings.

### **THANKSGIVING DAY POTLUCK AT THE PRESERVE**

Over the years there have been some informal get togethers among member families to celebrate Thanksgiving in Senior Hall. Turkey and beverages are provided, and each family or member brings a large dish to share. Vegetables, salads and desserts are needed to round out the meal. A nominal fee will cover the cost of the turkey and beverages. You are encouraged to bring your own plates and tableware if you wish. Space is limited, so if you are interested in attending, contact Betty Baker [bettytbaker@hotmail.com](mailto:bettytbaker@hotmail.com) (and don't forget the initial "t"). For planning purposes, Betty needs to hear from you by November 10.

Sincerely,  
Your President,

*John*

John Brinkman

## **TURKEY RAFFLE, BAKE SALE AND AUCTION**

**Our only annual fundraiser, please join us for an action-packed evening of raffle ticket and bake sale winners, auction items at bargain prices and community fun in the unique ambiance of our historical cabin!**

**Date: Saturday November 11th**  
**Time 7:00 PM**

Place: Arthur Senior Hall 1100 Ridge Road Homewood, IL  
Light refreshments will be served