



Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve, Inc.

Dedicated to Service in Conservation

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To our members and friends:

March 2018

General Meeting: April Program---Thursday April 26th, 2018 7pm

We are pleased to present a program “Southland Bicycle Trails” by Steve Buchtel previously Executive Director of Trails for Illinois and a member of the team at Goodspeed Cycles right here in Homewood. Steve has been involved in bicycle trail planning and advocacy for nearly 25 years including the Cal-Sag trail, the Thorn Creek trail and Homewood’s bicycle plan. Steve will describe the Chicago Southland trail connections, local trail amenities and how they contribute to our environmental sustainability, local economies and health and wellness---what Steve calls the “Triple Bottom Line.” Steve will also describe Goodspeed Cycle’s plan to encourage outside activity with an introduction to their plans to organize and sponsor overnight bike packing this year. This program promises to be very interesting and informative!

CHANGING OUR BYLAWS

As first reported in the February ’18 Newsletter, the Board has drafted changes to the bylaws and will now follow the process of changing the bylaws as dictated therein. That process begins with the first of two required readings of the changed bylaws at the beginning of the March General Meeting on Thursday March 22 at 7p. This reading will take 10-12 minutes at the beginning of that meeting, followed by the presentation of “Toxic Turf or Pollinator Paradise” by Dave Ward, Superintendent of the HF Park District’s Coyote Run Golf Course. (See the February ’18 Newsletter for more details) We are a registered 501 (c)3 not for profit organization governed by a constitution and bylaws. This provides our membership a chance to get acquainted with these documents.

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 +. With your renewal we encourage additional contributions and historically about 40% of our members make those additional contributions. So please consider an additional contribution if you are able, for which we are very thankful. 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 1,250 members but we are still mailing out over 800 Newsletters.

ARTHUR (POP) SENIOR'S DESK

The key person most responsible for the creation of our Preserve back in 1946 was Art Senior (1888-1995) which is why we call our cabin Senior Hall. Mr Senior, an influential civic leader, was instrumental in persuading the Illinois Central Railroad to donate the initial acreage to the Village of Homewood to be developed into a nature preserve. Art then proposed the formation of a chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America, an organization formed to promote conservation and recreation in natural outdoor surroundings. Volunteer work began immediately back in 1946, led by Art Senior and largely performed by WW II veterans who were unemployed at that time. We are intensely proud of our 70+ years of volunteerism which continues to the present that has made the Preserve what it has become.

So back in May of '17 we got a call from Deborah Garrity, granddaughter of Art Senior, inquiring if the Preserve wanted Art Senior's old desk that was in the basement of the home on Pine Street where he last lived, since Deborah and her family had sold the house and were about to move out. Mark Leschuck and John Brinkman quickly picked up the desk and brought it to Senior Hall. After some searching we found willing volunteers (Neil Neilson and his sons) to restore the desk which exhibited much wear and tear. Just a few weeks ago, we moved the nicely restored desk into the SE corner of the office. We are quite pleased to have this nice piece of furniture with this wonderful history of ownership in our office for our use. Our heartfelt thanks to Neil Neilson and his sons (Neilson Decorating) for their volunteered work to restore Art Senior's old desk.

GROUND RULES REMINDER REGARDING DOGS

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 and M-3, M-4 concerning dogs off leash. 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 BEE HIVES.... HONEY STILL AVAILABLE

Mike Rusnak, our beekeeper, reports this year that four out of the ten hives survived the winter. Normal attrition ranges from 30-60% so this is within the normal range. However, Mike and fellow beekeeper Tony Ferracane fully expect to get the ten hives back to a living state this spring. As previously reported, the bees were much more prolific with their honey production this year with an increase of jars for sale of over 250%. So, whereas last year we sold out of honey in February, this year there are still 30+ bottles or so available for sale in the office. 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: Tues and Thurs 10-12 and 3-5, Friday 3:30-5:30 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.

Your president, *John Brinkman*

**HOMEWOOD IZAAK WALTON PRESERVE
PROGRAM**

Thursday April 26th, 2018 7 p.m.

Southland Bicycle Trails

Steve Buchtel, previously Executive Director of Trails for Illinois and a member of the team at Goodspeed Cycles will present a program on Chicago Southland Trail connections and local trail amenities.

Place: Arthur Senior Hall 1100 Ridge Road Homewood, IL