



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 2018

September General Meeting—Welcoming The Homewood Science Center—Sept 20

We are pleased to present two key managers of the Homewood Science Center (HSC), Edie Dobrez, Executive Director, and Holly Kelsven, Marketing, Events and Fundraising Coordinator who will present a program in our historic cabin on Thursday, Sept 20 at 7:00pm. The HSC is a nonprofit organization that creates interactive opportunities to explore and connect with Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) through strong community partnerships. Begun in 2015 as a vision of the Village of Homewood, learn how this organization has grown and evolved to become a regional hub engaging students, families, educators and stakeholders throughout the south suburbs of Chicago. Learn about our developing partnership with HSC and the various ways we are working together. HSC is a most interesting and unique organization, so this is your chance to hear firsthand all about the HSC.

May Election Results- Officers and Directors effective Sept 1, 2018

At our annual meeting on May 24th, the following officers were elected for a one year term and directors for a three year term:

President	John Brinkman
Vice President	Bob Enright
Treasurer	Dave Smith
Secretary	Pam Enright
Membership Secretary	Shawn Straney
Director Environmental Concerns	Kevin Jennings

One year Directors: Marc Bilechen, Sam Casella, Jay Eagle, Jerry Tienstra

Two year Directors: Mark Leschuck, John Newgard, Tony Talarico, Jill Sharbono

Three year Directors: Greg Busler, John Sandala, Todd Wittenberg, Steve Wlodarski

We have been remiss in thanking departing Board members for their service. So reaching back a year ago, we thank Craig Johnson for his many years of service as our Director of Environmental Concerns. Departing during the year ending 8-30-18, we thank Betty Baker (previously Secretary), Fred Kolodziej, and Dan Galen for their service on the Board. We are pleased to report that all four of these ex Board members remain as active volunteers contributing to the success of the Preserve.

Native Prairie Plant Garden

We have been working on clearing out the old gnarly growth and preparing the soil around the old flagpole area for more than a year, in preparation for planting a native prairie plant garden. The preparatory work was done by Mark Leschuck, Bob Enright, Dan Galen, Bruce Boersma and John Brinkman on various days over the past year. Member and enthusiastic volunteer Judy Johnson was instrumental in obtaining a \$500 grant from the Thorn Creek chapter of the Audubon Society to help pay for the native plants. We consulted with Dave Ward, grounds manager at Coyote Run Golf Course, who was generous with his time and expertise contributing to the design of the garden and the selection of plants. With the grant funds, in combination with our own \$500 allocation from the Preserve, we placed our order with Possibility Place for over 150 native prairie plants in the late winter. The plants were picked up by Betty Baker and John Brinkman with their vehicles and on June 18, an enthusiastic group of volunteers including Betty Baker, Mark Leschuck, Judy Johnson, Regina Zohfeld, Dave Ward, Gina Banks, Joe, Lindsey and Royal Klauk, Carolyn Bury, Patty Messersmith, Dan Galen and Ingrid von Drongeln gathered at the site and planted the garden. Many of these volunteers remain active in continuing to manage the garden with periodic watering and weeding to insure its success.

Air Conditioning in the Office

Several years ago we had an old working air conditioner in the office which fell into disrepair so we have not had air conditioning for some time. But member and good friend of the Preserve, Dave Carpenter, recently donated an almost new air conditioner, so on those stifling hot and humid days we again are comfortable in the office. Many thanks to Dave Carpenter !

Our Largest Volunteer Effort: The July 4th Village Picnic

Continuing a tradition that began in 1975, we once again hosted the July 4th Village Picnic. This is our largest volunteer effort and in our Newsletter we always provide the acknowledgement and recognition that volunteer efforts deserve. Although the grounds were well prepared and inviting, an ill- timed 20 minute shower at precisely the wrong time (11:50a) caused a significant reduction in attendance (clearly less than 50% of what was expected). Nevertheless, those who attended enjoyed a great time at the event, thanks to our great crew of volunteers and partners. 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. We formed a committee (acknowledged in the June Newsletter) this year to plan the event, and share the responsibility of selecting, ordering and picking up the food items. The volunteer effort was again managed by Mark Leschuck who did a great job recruiting the volunteers and assigning the various duties performed by the dedicated crew. Despite the disappointing turnout, we still managed to eke out a small profit. 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 donors:

Walt's Food Centers	Homewood Disposal	Cold Stone Creamery
Costco	Twisted BBQ and Bakery	Jewel Food Stores

And thanks to our helpful volunteers:

Paula Newton, Fred Kolodziej, Sam Casella, Karen Smith, Aquila Wilks, Jim Wright, John Brinkman, Bob and Pam Enright, Steve and Betty Baker, Dave Smith, Olivia Miller, Jay and Amy Eagle, Isaac Shores, Shawn Straney, Steve Wlodarski, Lars Ringhofer, Shawn Bader, John Brinkman, Chuck and June Fidanza, Earl Knies, Chris Cummings, Emily Rozacck, Sydney Carlson, John Watkins, Patty Messersmith, Ron, Pamela and Ethan Tomek, Carolyn Bury, Craig Johnson, Thomas Stritar, Allan Lohn, Joan Brazzale, Nancy Walsh, Char Dyer, David Kennelly, Karen Smith, Adam and Lucas Kramer, Gabe Grover, Jay and Christopher O'Reilly, Mike McDonnell and lastly John Sandala. We apologize to anyone who we might have missed.

Teasel Eradication Brigades.....Some Success

On Saturday morning, June 23, a determined band of volunteers gathered at the cabin before striking out in 5 groups assigned to predetermined territories both within and just outside The Preserve to slay the notoriously invasive teasel. The attack involved cutting off their stalks before they had time to flower and spread seed. Participants included Judy Johnson, Patty Messersmith, Kevin, Lauren and Kate Jennings, Betty Baker, Jay and Amy Eagle, Mark Leschuck, Dan Galen, John Sandala, Steve Wlodarski and John Brinkman. We found more teasel than we anticipated, especially around the north and south racetrack ponds. On several days thereafter, some of these same volunteers went out again to cut down stalks that we did not have time to get to on that Saturday. What we learned, unfortunately, is that these determined plants can sometimes grow another stalk(s) even after the original stalk was cut. Our guesstimate is that 25-35% of them regrew their stalks. So we will call it a partial victory and are now well prepared to resume the attack next year as often as necessary to cut all of the stalks and prevent any further seeding.

John Brinkman President

HOMEWOOD IZAAK WALTON PRESERVE PROGRAM

Presenting the Homewood Science Center—Thursday Sept 20

7 PM at the Cabin, 1100 Ridge Road, Homewood

Edie Dobrez, Executive Director and Holly Kelsven, Marketing, Events and Fundraising Coordinator will present a program that will inform us all about this recently formed nonprofit organization supported by the Village of Homewood. The mission of HSC is to promote STEAM—science, technology, engineering, arts and math in Homewood and nearby communities through strong community partnerships. Be sure to attend this interesting and informative program.