



## **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 2018

### **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 10th, 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) \$500 cash 2) \$250 cash and 3) \$150 cash 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.

New this year we will have door prizes. Anyone in attendance that night who bought at least one booklet of raffle tickets is eligible for a door prize drawing. Door prizes will consist of a shirt, a hat, 2 bottles of honey and one grand door prize: a \$50 gift certificate from Walt's.

Also new this year we will be selling pizza from the Fifth Quarter after 6:00pm prior to the event for a modest cost. Light refreshments, coffee and water will be available for free.

You may also contribute to the success of this event by donating items for the auction and bake sale. Donated bake sale items are awarded via a separate raffle with those tickets sold during the event. 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.

**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, Tony Ferracane, and Bob and Pam Enright have been successful this year. Honey production has been strong so we have an ample supply of honey. Authentic HIWP honey is for sale at the cabin in 12 oz jars for just \$8 each. We have both light and dark honey which are produced at different times of the season. So come on down to Senior Hall during our reliable office hours (Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday 3-5p and Saturday 9-noon) and pick up some local natural honey. We will also have honey for sale at the Turkey Raffle and Auction and during all general meetings.

**THANKSGIVING DAY AT SENIOR HALL**

Once again this year we are sponsoring a Thanksgiving day dinner at Senior Hall from 12:30pm (dinner served at 1pm) until about 3pm. This event began years ago and continues to be an informal, friendly event generally limited to members and their families. There is a \$5 charge which covers meats and beverages. Each person (couple or family group) who attend please bring a dish to share (serve 8). Space is limited so to reserve your place at the table, cut out and fill in the form below and mail attn: Betty Baker, Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve, 1100 Ridge Road, Homewood Il 60430 on or before Thursday November 15<sup>th</sup>. If any questions you may also call Betty directly at 708/ 296-3351.

RESERVATIONS FOR THANKSGIVING DINNER - THURSDAY, NOV. 22 -12:30PM -DUE BY THURSDAY, NOV. 15

Name \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_ number attending \_\_\_\_\_

\$5 per person \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed. I will bring (check one) a vegetable \_\_\_ dessert \_\_\_ salad \_\_\_

I will help set up on Wed., Nov.21 at 10:am \_\_\_ / I will help with cleanup after the event on Thursday, Nov. 22\_\_\_\_\_

## **HOMEWOOD SCIENCE CENTER INTERNS**

This year, for the first time, the Homewood Science Center (HSC) offered an internship in conservation, ecology, and biodiversity to middle school students in the area. They asked to use the Preserve for these 2 hour sessions conducted on five Saturdays in August, September and October and we gladly complied. They were surprised at the level of interest as almost 50 students applied for the program which was offered to them free of charge. Originally intended for just 12 students, the program was expanded to 20 students. Patty Messersmith, Senior Educator at the Museum of Science and Industry as well as a Board member of the HSC and co-teacher Nicolle Fuller conducted all of the sessions with occasional help from outside speakers. Part of the program involved having the students learn about invasive plant species and actually work to remove invasive buckthorn using hand tools out by the west entrance off of Ashland Avenue on two of the Saturdays. We are pleased to host these young people interested in these nature subjects and giving them the opportunity to “learn by doing” out in the Preserve. The HSC is planning on offering the program again in the spring. So our thanks to the following interns for their efforts: Noah Norris, Julia Rose Keating, Aaron McIntyre, Evelyn Cunneen, Deana Harris, Brooklyn Inovskis, Evelyn Fisher, Chidera Ozoh, Jane Ermshler, Kevin McGregor, Isabella Egomwan, Madison Thirston, Nathan Greep, John Lampley, Josh Jury, Kristian Yarbrough, Destiny Ndubuisi-Obi and Jaccinta Ndubuisi-Obi.

## **FLOODED TRAILS**

Those members who frequently use our trails have noticed since spring that the trails have been flooded more often and for longer periods of time this year, given the amounts of rain we have had. The problem seems to have gotten worse since mid September. We have learned from officials at the Village of Homewood that there is very likely a blockage somewhere in the county drainage pipe out on 175<sup>th</sup> street that severely impedes the regular drainage of the prairie lakes. So in order to drain the prairie lakes, the Village is using a motorized sump pump to drain the water through another drainage exit. As of this writing (10/17/18) the pump is working and the trails should be clear again in less than a week, provided that we do not receive any large amounts of rain. Once the water level has receded, the Village will make best efforts to get the problem corrected before winter.

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, door prize winners, and auction items at bargain prices. Join our Izaak Walton community for a fun filled evening in the unique ambiance of our historical cabin. Pizza from Fifth Quarter will be available for sale prior to the event.**

**Date: Saturday November 10th**

**Time 7:00 PM**

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