



## **Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve, Inc.**

*Dedicated to Service in Conservation*

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To our members and friends:

January 2019

### **WINTER FUNDRAISER MUSIC CONCERT--THURSDAY FEB 21, 7:30PM\***

Something new ! The local band “Work in Progress” has agreed to perform a concert in Senior Hall on Thursday February 21 from 7:30p to about 9:30p. There is no charge for this event, but all attendees will have an opportunity to make a voluntary contribution to the Preserve. Also, attendees will be allowed to bring their own alcoholic drinks to enjoy during the concert. Water and pop will be available for sale and free snacks provided. This band has become well known locally having performed at numerous events including Homewood’s Art and Garden Fair, Trail Mix at the Preserve, Homewood’s Fall Festival, Grape and Grain, and One Trick Pony. Their music is best characterized as “Americana” which includes elements of bluegrass, newgrass, blues and rock and includes some original music. Instrumentation includes guitars, bass, banjo, mandolin, harmonica, and the cajon (a Peruvian percussion instrument). Musicians include Dirk French, Jeff Mahary, Steve and Steve Klein (father and son), Rob Mayes, and Tim Majkowski. Music will be performed without amplification due to the wonderful acoustics in the cabin. So come on out to the cabin to enjoy wonderful music in a unique venue and BYOB !

\*Traditional Pot Luck dinner with folk music is scheduled for March 7. Watch for details in the February newsletter

### **NATIVE PLANT SALE AT HWIP**

This year HIWP will co-sponsor a native plant sale with Thorn Creek Audubon Society (TCAS). This year, thirty-four different plants will be offered at the sale, including trees, shrubs, flowers, and ornamental grasses. Plants are chosen to represent different colors, textures, sun exposures and bloom times. All are native to this area of Illinois. Judy Johnson, a member of both organizations and plant sale organizer, stresses that native plants are beneficial to wildlife and the environment. Local wildlife, including pollinators, depend on native plants for food and shelter. Also, native plants thrive without pesticides or fertilizers and, once established, do not require watering. The very deep root systems also help prevent erosion and flooding. In order to better ensure that you obtain the plants you desire, **we strongly encourage pre-ordering** as the supply of plants not preordered will be limited. The order form can be accessed on our website;

just print it out and follow directions. Order forms are also available in the office which is staffed on Saturday mornings during the winter. **Deadline to pre-order is March 1. Plant delivery and open sale is Saturday, May 18 from 9-noon at HIWP.** All profits will be split between HIWP and TCAS. Questions/order form requests can be directed to Judy at: TCASPlants@gmail.com. Think Spring!

### **WINTER OFFICE HOURS**

Until spring, the office will be staffed on Saturdays only 9-12:30p for membership renewals as well as merchandise and honey sales.

### **MECHANICAL HELP NEEDED**

We are looking for a volunteer with mechanical expertise to help keep our larger pieces of equipment in usable condition. We have two Deere tractors, a third Deere 4100 tractor with a front loader, and an industrial Kubota tractor with a front loader and back hoe. The equipment is 20 years old+, needs repair from time to time and also regular maintenance. If you think you can help, please call John Brinkman at 708-638-9418.

### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

The 2018 membership year was very successful. Memberships reached 1,439; that's an increase of 197 or 16% over the prior year and represents a record high for the Preserve! Thank you very much for your strong support. Most probably you've heard before that The Preserve receives no tax dollars and that your membership dollars provide 50% of all revenues. This revenue is essential as we continue volunteer efforts including installation of handrails on bridges, eradication of invasive species, new gardens with indigenous perennials, hundreds of hours of trail maintenance, new trail markings, fish stocking & water quality monitoring, building & equipment maintenance, and the list goes on and on. Thank you very much for your support. We hope you'll renew for 2019 and we also ask that you spread the word that we always appreciate greater community support in the form of new memberships.

You might find it convenient to buy your 2019 membership on-line.

- Go to: [www.homewoodizaakwalton.com](http://www.homewoodizaakwalton.com)
- Click membership, then click on the following page per instructions and order your membership using a credit card.
- We will then mail a membership card to you.

Memberships are still just \$25 (or \$5 for youth and active military). This price has remained unchanged for decades. We of course appreciate donations, which can also be made through our on-line, membership service. The Preserve is a non-profit, 501-C3 organization and contributions are tax-exempt.

## **FLOODED TRAILS---ANOTHER UPDATE**

Unfortunately, the trails remain flooded at several locations around the prairie lakes. We have previously reported on this problem in our last two newsletters. The drainage pipe for the prairie lakes is blocked underground along the west side of Ashland Ave somewhere north of 175<sup>th</sup> St. The county opened up the pipe briefly in mid-December but it became clogged again. Sometime in January, the county has told the Village that they intend to locate the blockage with sonar equipment and then dig down and fix the clogged pipe. Hopefully they will be successful.

## **HIWP Educational Outreach Efforts for 2018**

Steve Wlodarski, our Controlled Burn Coordinator, has continued our educational outreach efforts during the Fall of 2018. He has given a presentation to each of the following groups: Boy Scout Troop 364, Homewood-Flossmoor High School (H-F H.S.) - Environmental Vikings Club and H-F H.S. Key Club. Steve's presentation consists of some brief commentary about HIWP in general. He then explains about our controlled burns; why we conduct them, when we conduct them and how they may volunteer to assist us. We also provide the young people with an opportunity to try on and operate our backpack style fire extinguishers, as part of the presentation. Not to worry, no fire involved in the presentation, however, the young people have a chance to see and operate the extinguisher. Our extinguishers use only water and are not under pressure, so they are safe and simple to operate. We continue to receive strong participation from Scout Troop 364 and we are now seeing some of th H-F H.S students turning out to assist us. This is the first year that Steve visited the Key Club and 3 students from the Key Club assisted us on our most recent fall burn that took place on Friday, Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Steve is appreciative to all of the young people who turn out to assist us, as well as, the Leaders of Troop 364 and the Faculty sponsors of the H-F H.S. clubs. Working together with our adult volunteers, we are able to accomplish sizeable areas for a controlled burn that is so important to the health of our prairie land areas. A healthy prairie provides the perfect habitat for bees, various butterflies and birds. It gives us the opportunity to have a more diversified natural environment, right in our own community.

## **OFFICER CHANGES**

We have had some mid-term changes. Bob and Pam Enright (previously VP and Secretary) resigned late in 2018. We thank them for their many years of service, hours and hours of volunteer work and the many advancements that they contributed to the Preserve. The Board has appointed Greg Busler as Secretary for the remainder of the term; the VP position will remain vacant until elections in the spring.

Your President,  
John Brinkman

## **HOMEWOOD IZAAK WALTON PRESERVE EVENT**

**Thursday February 21st, 2019 7:30 p.m.**

**Arthur Senior Hall  
1100 Ridge Road, Homewood IL**

### **WINTER FUNDRAISER MUSIC CONCERT**

Enjoy an evening of wonderful music performed by well-known local band “Work in Process” in the great acoustics of Senior Hall. Attendance is free but voluntary donations will be requested. BYOB but water and pop will be for sale. See article in this newsletter for more details. Music aficionados -- we offer you a unique musical event !