



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

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To our members and friends:

February 2019

OUR ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER AND FOLK MUSIC CONCERT

For many years we've enjoyed our annual potluck dinner on the 4th Thursday of February. This year due to scheduling conflicts this event will be held on Thursday March 7th in Arthur Senior Hall, our beautifully restored cabin. This family friendly event features home cooked side dishes brought by participants with meat options obtained from a local food provider and wonderful musical entertainment. Again, this year, we offer the option of just attending the concert only. This is Mark Dvorak's 32st year bringing his exceptional music and song to this event as we have watched the development of his mastery of guitar, banjo, and voice earning him recognition as a keeper of traditional American folk music. Mark travels widely to conferences and performance venues; he has researched the history of folk music and shares historical connections between this music and our country's story. A long-standing member of the Old Town School of Folk Music staff, Mark is sought after for his playing, storytelling, and original compositions. All ages will enjoy his program, which will follow our potluck supper. Newcomers are especially welcome to enjoy this program that has been characterized by some as a "Norman Rockwell" event! Please return your reservation form below by mail or just drop off at the cabin in the mailbox on the front door by Monday March 4. To attend the concert only, just pay a charge of \$5 at the door (but children under 18 are free). Concertgoers only, please arrive after 6:45p but before 7:00p—no reservations necessary.

MARK DVORAK, Folksinger

Date: Thursday, March 7, 2019

Time: Supper at 6:00 P.M. – Entertainment at 7:00 P.M.

Cost: \$10.00 includes meat dishes, beverage, and entertainment

Children age 12 and under - \$5.00

Please bring a dish to share: (vegetable, salad, or dessert to serve 4-6).

RESERVATION FORM----PLEASE SEND IN BY MONDAY MARCH 4

Enclosed is a check payable to *Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve* for ___ adults and ___ children for the Potluck dinner and Entertainment.

Send to: Betty Baker*, Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve
1100 Ridge Road, Homewood, IL 60430

*If you have questions, call Betty
at 708/ 296-3351

Amount of check _____ (\$10 per adult, \$5 per child 12 or under)

Name of member _____ I plan to bring a
_____ for the potluck meal.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Memberships for 2019 are available. You might find it convenient to buy your membership **on-line**.

- Go to: www.homewoodizaakwalton.com
- Click **membership**, then click on the following page per instructions and order you 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.

You can also renew by mail. Just give us the below detail and mail it to us at Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve, 1100 Ridge Road, Homewood, IL. 60430. Include your check or money order and we'll provide you a membership via return mail.

DUES FOR YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 2020 Make checks payable to: Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve or <u>HIWP</u> E-mail address: _____ Phone No. _____	Regular Membership - \$25	\$ _____
	Junior Member (under 18) or Active Military - \$5	\$ _____
	_____ (Military Branch -- or -- Name & birth date of Junior)	
	Optional Contribution	\$ _____
	Total Enclosed	\$ _____

Please let us know your interests in Izaak Walton Preserve. Check the boxes that apply to you.

		Volunteer Opportunities -----
		Trail Maintenance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fishing	Gardening
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dog Walking	4 th of July Community Picnic
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hiking or Jogging	Mail Preparation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Educational Programs	Invasive Plant Eradication (prairie burns)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	Special Skill (Please specify)

LAND SALE TO CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILROAD

Last summer, the Village of Homewood and our organization were asked to sell a small piece of Preserve land (2.6 acres) to CN due to their pressing need to expand their US headquarters. A Federal Government regulation called Positive Train Control has caused a need for CN to nearly double their staff, especially in their operations center, from which ALL of their trains in the US are directed. So they desired to construct a new larger building north of their present building to house the new expanded operations center. The three parties entered into good faith negotiations resulting in a sale that closed in January. As landowner, the Village agreed to sell the parcel for \$150,000 with HIWP agreeing to release our leasehold interests as well. (This transaction has been widely reported in the local media) The Village then vountarily turned over \$100,000 of those proceeds to us to use as we see fit for Preserve improvement. The Village will hold back the other \$50,000 to use for any necessary infrastructure expenses that may become necessary due to the CN

project. Any of those held back funds, not needed for infrastructure will be turned over to us at a later date.

So how do we feel about this ? The Board was very mindful of the undesirable loss of open space/wetland for a nature preserve but this parcel, just north of the CN headquarters and just east of our border fence along Ashland, just happens to be badly overtaken by the invasive phragmites and teasel plants. CN will be required to adhere to wetland replacement regulation and must provide full storm water retention for their expanded footprint. Important for us was our successfully negotiating for a minimum 30' buffer between the expanded CN property and the southeast edge of our trail as it turns northward into the oak savannah/ woodland. We were thankful to receive the monetary compensation which we viewed as quite fair. Accordingly the Board will form a Capital Improvements Committee to decide how to improve the Preserve with these funds. We will report on these capital projects as we complete them, which may take several years. We are confident that these improvements will more than offset the loss of 1.3% of our acreage.

FLOODED TRAILS UPDATE

We have been waiting two months for the county to come out, find the blockage along Ashland Ave, clear out the blockage, and then restore the proper normal drainage of the prairie lakes. But the County has been slow to act, and this led to an agreement between the county and the Village of Homewood, whereby the Village will take over the project and get it done quickly and correctly. Work will begin before the end of February. Our sincere thanks to John Schaeffer and the Public Works Department for their proactive strategy to alleviate this nagging problem!

FALL CONTROLLED BURN

Once again, rainy, wet weather along with the high water from the flooded prairie lakes limited our controlled burns to just one day last Fall on 11-23-18. Areas burned were along the western shore of the prairie lakes on both sides of the trail. We were especially pleased that our solicitation for volunteers brought out 3 new adult volunteers as well as members of Scout Troop 364, faculty sponsors of the HF high school Key Club and student members of that club. Our burn crew chief, Steve Wlodarski once again managed the effort and these enthusiastic volunteers: Noah and Stacy Norris, Sola Adeyiga, Kristin Moore, Omari Kramer, Andrew Gaughan, William Wooldridge, Jim McLaughlin, Kevin Jennings, Mark Leschuck, John Newgard and Joel Watts. Thanks to all !

SPRING CONTROLLED BURNS

Once again, anyone interested in volunteering for our Spring burns planned for March and April, please contact Steve Wlodarski via email: steve.wlodarski@att.net. These work efforts generally last only 2-3 hours and there are no requirements or expectations of how many burns in which you participate.

SNOW PLOWING

We thank Kevin Welch for recently plowing our driveway and parking lot with no charge. Many thanks, Kevin !

Your President,
John Brinkman

HOMEWOOD IZAAK WALTON PRESERVE PROGRAM

Thursday March 7th, 2019 6:00 p.m.

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

POTLUCK DINNER AND FOLK MUSIC CONCERT

Enjoy an evening at Senior Hall, sharing a potluck dinner with family, friends, and fellow members at 6pm followed by a 1st class folk music concert provided by Mark Dvorak from the Old Town School of Folk Music at 7pm. See reservation form and further details inside this newsletter.