



Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve, Inc.

Dedicated to Service in Conservation

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To our members and friends:

March 2019

GENERAL MEETING: March Program---Thursday March 28th, 2019 7pm

Bird watchers unite ! We're pleased to present a program "Birding in the 21st Century". During this presentation Bob Bryerton, an Interpretive Naturalist II from the Forest Preserve District of Will County, will present a program on bird watching, with introductions to applications available on line that greatly enhance the pleasure of this hobby. Bob will describe many local species with interesting aspects of these birds that few of us know anything about. The program will include discussion about the rarity of certain bird species as well as migratory patterns and how they've changed over the last 25 years. You'll also learn how to record your bird observations in the global data base which will also allow you to learn what other bird watchers are observing. Yes, this is 21st century bird watching ! So, come out and see the program and you will be amazed !

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Membership renewals were mailed out in February and are being returned at a good pace. If you haven't already done so please renew your annual membership soon. Remember, you can purchase your membership on line! Go to: www.homewoodizaakwalton.com , click membership, then follow the instructions.

We haven't 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, if you are able, please consider an additional contribution, 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 1,450 members but we are still mailing out over 800 Newsletters.

REFRIGERATOR NEEDED

A few years ago, we were fortunate to receive two donated double door refrigerators for our kitchen. One of them just went kaput. So, if anyone is

upgrading their refrigerator and would like to donate their old one, please consider the Preserve. Just leave a message on our answering machine (708-798-1850) and we'll get back to you in about 24 hours.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Dave Smith has completed our annual report for our fiscal year that ended on August 31, 2018. Thanks to you, our loyal and generous members, and thanks to the entire Board, for its careful fiscal management, our finances are in good order and our reserves are strong. In recent years, we've been replenishing reserves that were used for major infrastructure spending (cabin remodeling, new wetlands bridges, etc.) that took place in the fiscal years ending in August '09-'12. Thanks to your generous support, we can now report that those reserves are 120% replenished and have reached a record high amount. Notable, also is the steady significant voluntary contributions that we receive which have been very supportive over the past 4 years. Below is a summary of our major categories of revenue and expenses comparing this year to the last two years.

		'17-'18	'16-'17	'15-'16
Revenue	Dues	45%	43%	50%
	Donations	19%	20%	18%
	Turkey Raffle	28%	27%	24%
	Events / Other	8%	10%	8%
Expense	Revenue Related	19%	18%	18%
	Non-Discretionary	54%	61%	50%
	Purchases, Projects	27%	21%	32%
	Surplus as a % of Revenue:	27%	15%	15%

Thanks once again for your continuing financial support making these strong results possible.

GUIDED MIGRATORY BIRD WALKS

Thanks to our partnership this year with the Thorn Creek chapter of the Audubon Society, we can now offer guided bird walks ! Members of the Thorn Creek Audubon Society will lead small groups out into the Preserve in search of migratory birds. You are invited to join them and please bring binoculars. Don't have binoculars ? Come anyway as we will have extra binoculars for you to borrow. We have scheduled 2 walks at different times each on 3 different days spread out during the migratory season. This will allow for observing different species as they migrate north at different times during that day as well as different weeks during the spring. All are encouraged to attend including beginners, families and children; children must be

accompanied by an adult. Meet at Senior Hall at any (or all) of the following dates and times:

Sunday April 7:	8:00am	and	10:30am	Questions can be directed
Sunday April 28:	8:00am	and	10:00am	to Judy Johnson at
Sunday May 19:	8:00am	and	10:30am	TCSPlants@gmail.com

HF COMMUNITY CLEAN UP DAY

Once again this year we are participating in this community wide volunteer cleanup day on Saturday April 6th. The HF Park District acts as a clearing house and organizer for more than a dozen local community locations in need of spring cleanup. We participate and provide a garbage pickup project around the perimeter of the Preserve. You can sign up by going to our website and clicking on "Volunteer" after March 8th. Last year we had a group of 8 volunteers. The hardest part of picking up garbage is bending over so this year all volunteers will be provided with a hand-held trash picker. More details are provided on our web site. This is a great opportunity to combine exercise with community service !

THE BEES.....AND THE HONEY

Our beekeepers, Mike Rusnak and Tony Ferracane, report that so far all of the hives have survived winter but an unusual warm spell in March followed by a cold spell can be particularly challenging to them so challenges may loom for our little friends. But honey production was good again in 2018 and we still have plenty of jars of honey for sale in the cabin for just \$8 each. The cabin is staffed on Saturday mornings from 9 till noon and we plan on announcing additional open hours in the April newsletter.

FLOODING IN PRAIRIE LAKES

This is our 4th consecutive newsletter report on this nagging problem. The drainage from the Prairie Lakes remains clogged so the flooded condition continues. After considerable investigation, including maneuvers around buried utilities, the location of the blockage has been identified. Cook County originally committed to correct the blockage, but more recently agreed to let the Village of Homewood handle the situation. Our thanks goes out to Homewood's Public Works Department, who we know is working diligently to resolve the problem.

Your president, *John Brinkman*

**HOMEWOOD IZAAK WALTON PRESERVE
PROGRAM**

Thursday March 28th, 2019 7 p.m.

Birding in the 21st Century

Bob Bryerton, an Interpretive Naturalist from the Will County Forest Preserve will present a program on bird watching which will include useful internet tools designed to enhance this popular hobby. See article in this newsletter for additional details. You are sure to be amazed !

Place: Arthur Senior Hall 1100 Ridge Road Homewood, IL