



Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve, Inc.

Dedicated to Service in Conservation

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To our members and friends:

April 2019

General Meeting: April Program---Thursday April 25th, 7 P.M. 2019

We are very pleased to invite David Dolak from Columbia College to present a most interesting program titled:

“Geology as Destiny: Across the Chicago Portage, a Story of Glaciers, Voyageurs, and Carp!”

The location of Chicago as the major economic metropolis at the heart of North America is due to the propitious conditions of geology and geography. The retreat of the glaciers at the end of the Ice Age created a continental watershed divide that was exploited as a travel link between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River by first the Native Peoples and then the French Voyageurs across the Chicago Portage. Further development of this water link via the Illinois and Michigan, and later, the Sanitary and Ship Canals, led directly to the development of the Chicago metropolis and center of transportation across the United States. This multimedia presentation including an original song, will outline the natural and cultural history of the Portage.

David Dolak is an Environmental Scientist and Professor at Columbia College Chicago. He grew up in the Calumet Region and is an avid outdoorsman, musician, and builder of musical instruments.

This is an essential and familiar part of our history but we have great feedback from others who have seen it and reported how surprised they were at how much they learned. This a program that you would not want to miss !

Prairie Lakes Drainage Success !

We are very pleased to report the months long issue of blocked drainage from prairie lakes, which caused extensive flooding on our trails, has been resolved. A third party contractor, hired by the Village of Homewood, replaced the old corrugated pipe (which trapped debris in its ridges causing the blockage) with a smooth pvc pipe so the problem should not happen again. The County agreed to reimburse the village for this expense as the problem was the responsibility of the county. Our thanks to John Schaeffer (Director) and Patrick McAneny (Assistant Director) and all of the employees of the Public Works Department for their resolve and persistence to get this problem solved.

Office Hours..... and.....How is Pete Doing ?

The Board has established Office Hours for this season (until mid November) on Saturdays from 9am until noon and on Sundays from 11am until 1pm. We have posted a sign on the door of the cabin indicating these hours. You can also call the office phone 708/798-1850 and request an appointment at other times and we will try to oblige . And we have ample supplies of last year's honey so drop by and pick up a 12oz bottle for only \$8. One of the most frequent questions we get is about how Pete Stantefort, our retired caretaker is doing. He is doing well at his new home, Manor Care Rehab center, which is at 940 Maple Road in Homewood. Visitors are welcome.

Fish Stocking.....and.....DNR Patrols

Rainbow trout were stocked in the Sand Pit Lakes in late March. And a reminder (as most of you already know) that an Illinois Fishing License is required to fish in our lakes and additionally a Trout Stamp if fishing for trout. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has been and will continue to patrol our lakes several times weekly and will issue a ticket to anybody fishing without these documents.

Native Plant Sale on May 18th

A reminder that the native plant sale that we are co-sponsoring with the Thorn Creek Audubon Society (TCAS) is scheduled for Saturday May 18th from 9a until noon. 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. Their very deep root systems also help prevent erosion and flooding. The plant sale volume is expected to triple over last year due to our active participation. The deadline for pre ordering has passed but a supply of plants not preordered will be available though limited. Arrive early for best selection.

Milkweed Seeds Available.....Save the Monarch Butterflies !

Again this year we will have milkweed seed packets available in the cabin after April 10th **for no charge**. Kay MacNeil who leads the Garden Clubs of Illinois Milkweed for Monarchs Campaign distributes these packets in our area every Spring. Kay reports that The GARDEN CLUBS OF ILLINOIS is doing a yeoman's job in working to save the Monarch Butterfly. Key to their effort is the propagation of milkweed, as Monarchs lay their eggs exclusively on milkweed which, subsequently provide food for the caterpillars. Regretfully, many people including farmers and Highway Departments, consider the Milkweed to be useless and they therefore cut it down. Consequently milkweed populations have dropped and along with them, the Monarch Butterfly population. Aside from the Monarch's natural beauty, they are truly remarkable in that they (a) turn from caterpillars to butterflies right here in the Midwest, (b) migrate to Central Mexico for the winter, (c) and then return north to lay more eggs before they die. So spread the word and plant Milkweed seeds: you can also order your own seeds: just send Kay \$2 cash and a self addressed business size envelope The price simply covers cost; the GARDEN CLUB OF ILLINOIS is not working to make a profit. For additional information contact Kay MacNeil, Garden Clubs of Illinois, 689 Golf Club Ln., Frankfort, IL 60423. Phone: 815-469-1294. Email: kaymac60423@yahoo.com. Also check out this new website which is in development but improves every few days: MilkweedForMonarchs.info

Tinkergarten Classes

We learned of these classes led by member Beth Kosiba last year and they agreed to pay us a small fee for use of our grounds since they are charging a fee for these planned and organized classes. So this year we are becoming "partners" as we will now promote these classes to our membership which in keeping with our mission.

Tinkergarten is on a mission to elevate childhood by learning in the best classroom of all-- outdoors! Outdoor play-based learning is a proven way to give children the best foundation. Our classes and activities help kids ages 18 months—8 years develop core life skills while enjoying healthy, fun, and engaging experiences in our very own preserve. Each class becomes a tight-knit group of children and adults who learn together through expert-designed, outdoor play-based activities. We help kids develop a host of important capabilities, including empathy, collaboration, creativity, persistence, and problem-solving.

Spring and summer Tinkergarten seasons will be offered at HIWP on Monday mornings from 10 -11:15 am, led by HIWP member Beth Kosiba. Spring classes begin mid-April and run for 10 weeks through June. Summer classes begin July 1st and run for 6 weeks through August 5th. Keep an eye out for FREE trial classes in May and June. If you would like to participate or have any questions about Tinkergarten classes, reach out to Beth Kosiba at: bethann.kosiba@tinkergarten.com

Your President, John Brinkman

**HOMEWOOD IZAAK WALTON PRESERVE
PROGRAM**

Thursday April 25th, 2019 7 p.m.

**Geology as Destiny: Across the Chicago Portage, a Story of
Glaciers, Voyageurs, and Carp!"**

Dave Dolak from Columbia College will present a program on the fascinating geology of our area and how it influenced our history. There is much to learn here including a multimedia program that you would not want to miss. See newsletter article herein for more details. Coffee, soft drinks and refreshments will be available.

Place: Arthur Senior Hall 1100 Ridge Road Homewood, IL