



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

*Dedicated to Service in Conservation*

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To our members and friends:

June 2019

### **Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Village Picnic: 11am-2pm**

This annual event hosted by the Preserve together with our partners, the Village of Homewood and the H F Park District, is a favorite of many local residents. The event follows right after the Village's 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade which steps off at 10am. The Preserve provides the facilities and offers food and refreshments while the Park District provides the entertainment and activities for this family friendly event. This year the event will be managed by a Committee consisting of board members Steve Wlodarski, Jay Eagle, Sam Casella, Todd Wittenberg, Dirk French and John Brinkman. This event brings out our largest group of volunteers. We are fortunate to have a strong dedicated returning core of volunteers, but we could always use more. Every year we encourage new volunteers to join the team. We need people to work on various jobs on 3 different days: July 2nd, 3rd and 4th. On the 4<sup>th</sup> itself, we need workers before, during and after the event. Please contact John Brinkman at 708/ 638-9418 or via email at [jrbpanther@aol.com](mailto:jrbpanther@aol.com) if you would like to join the dedicated team that volunteers for this event.

### **Trail Mix Acoustic Music Fest July 20, 2019**

This year marks the fourth year that an outdoor music event called the Trail Mix Acoustic Music Fest will be conducted in the Preserve and the second year that the stage will be in front of the Black Bear Lodge, allowing music-fancying picnickers to enjoy acoustic music in this large area on the lawn among the shade providing trees. Scheduled this year on Saturday July 20th, between 1pm and 8:30 pm, this free, family-friendly event (which was run in years past by the Theatre & Arts Leadership Kouncil -TALK) is organized this year by a committee including TALK's Director, various community leaders and a Board member from Izaak Walton. We are pleased to announce that this year the Preserve will be the primary beneficiary for all fund raising and donations; already eight new memberships have been generated for the preserve.

Helping ensure that this year's event surpasses previous years on many levels, several area businesses and community leaders, including the Wexler Group, Be Well Studios, the Jay Heiferman Family, Melody Mart, and Good Speed Cycles have signed on as event sponsors. Their support will help match a grant received through TALK from the

Illinois Arts Council. Rabid Brewing, Mae's Barbeque and Tropical Snow will offer concessions and teen volunteers will be selling soda/water, and face-painting services. Additionally, a raffle for a Trek bicycle, a musical instrument, and a massage, plus a VIP section available for rent, will help draw additional donations on the day of the event. You can also secure an early chance to win a raffle item, plus get a cool Trail Mix tattoo (temporary), for a donation of \$10.00 or more. All donations can be made at:

<https://ca.gofundme.com/Trail-Mix-Acoustic-Music-Fest>

Enhancements this year will include upgrades to the stage, signage, and added arts features like a community mural, a group beading table, juggling, and a host of other surprises provided by the Imagine Nation Foundation. Musically, this year Trail Mix features a heightened commitment to professional and/or touring musicians. Joining teen musician Aileen Straley, will be Matt Jiles, Kirk Lindstrom, Butterfield Creek, Scott Niekelski of Go Time, Andrew Robert Palmer, Christal Luster, and area favorites, Work In Progress (WIP) and MG Bailey. If that weren't enough, 2019 attendees will witness renowned Chess Recording artist and world-touring blues guitarist, John Randolph with the Randolph Street Blues Band, and Kenya McQuire Johnson, a soulful R&B/jazz singer who has recently had a top 40 Billboard single with *Be Here* (#28 in Urban Adult Contemporary) and a #1 album, *My Own Skin*, for four weeks on the soul charts in the UK. She has recently returned from an extensive European tour.

Despite the amazing top-notch talent, Trail Mix remains committed to ensuring an acoustic music fest that is all about relaxing and chilling out amongst the peace and beauty of the Preserve. So bring the family, pack a lunch or dinner, purchase a concession or two and most importantly, sit back and enjoy July 20th for part of the day or kick back for its entirety. You'll be glad you did.

### **The Dreaded Wild Parsnip**

Jim Kvedaras, long time member and supporter of the Preserve and formerly with CN, brought to our attention in early June an outbreak of wild parsnip, a potentially harmful invasive plant, along the northern boundary of the Preserve. You can check it out on the Internet, but the danger occurs if you get its sap on your skin and if the sun shines on the sap, that can cause 2<sup>nd</sup> degree burns. So, if you see it and ignore it, there is no danger. Nevertheless, within 2 days we put together crews consisting of Greg Busler, Sam Casella, Dirk French and John Brinkman to remove approximately 95% of these invasive plants. A week later we removed the other 5%. Our thanks to Jim for informing us and to all the volunteers listed for their ability to quickly put in some volunteer time to remove them from the Preserve.

### **Spring Rains**

Everyone is well aware of our very wet spring. During one 9-day period in early May, we received 7" of rain. Total precipitation for April and May combined to set a record for this area. Consequently, we had portions of our trails in the prairie lakes area flooded

from early May until early June. The Village of Homewood helped alleviate the flooding by using two pumps to increase drainage. The continual wet conditions did not provide the dry conditions that we need to perform controlled burns, so none were conducted this spring. Also, these wet conditions did not allow us to continue our prairie restoration work cutting back the invasive gray dogwood and other woody undesirables in the Homewood Prairie. Let's hope for better weather next spring!

### **Summer Tinkergarten Classes**

We are in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of our partnership with Tinkergarten, a national organization that promotes childhood (18 months to 8 years) education in the great outdoors. Please see our April newsletter for more details. The summer schedule begins Monday July 1st and every Monday thereafter through August 5<sup>th</sup>. Class times are 10:00-11:15a and classes take place in the meadow near the old flagpole garden. A fee is charged with the proceeds shared with HIWP. Pls contact Beth Kosiba at [bethann.kosiba@tinkergarten.com](mailto:bethann.kosiba@tinkergarten.com) for more information.

### **Plant Sale Success!**

On May 18<sup>th</sup> we held a plant sale in conjunction with The Thorn Creek Audubon Society. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> year they have conducted this event but the 1<sup>st</sup> year we formally partnered with them. Results were impressive! Sales increased by 250% over last year and we received over \$1,000 in profit/contribution. A special thanks to organizer Judy Johnson and all of the volunteers that contributed their efforts: Greg Busler, Linda Hickey, Barbara Jerit, Glenn Johnson, Marlys Oosting, Bill Hickey, Diane Hicks, Brad Jerit, Penny Kniesler and Michelle O'Conner.

### **War on Canadian Teasel--Year 2.1**

Despite the persistent wet conditions this spring, we did have some dry days that allowed us to continue our efforts to eradicate this, the most dangerous invasive plant in the Preserve. This is our 2<sup>nd</sup> year of this effort so our strategy this year is to spot spray a roundup solution on the second year plants to kill them before they send up their stalks that produce their seeds. (These plants have a two year life cycle; after they seed in the second year, they die) We will call last year's efforts: War on Teasel 1.0 and this spring's efforts 2.1. Volunteers helping with this effort included John Sandala, Dan Galen, Shawn Straney, first time volunteer Jody Applegate, and John Brinkman. We will report on our year 2.2 efforts in the next newsletter.

Your President, *John Brinkman*

## **Annual 4th of July Village Picnic**

Our largest volunteer effort of the year and our largest event at the Preserve is our traditional 4th of July Village Picnic. The event starts at 11am and ends at 2pm but volunteers are also needed on July 2nd and 3rd as well. Find more details in this Newsletter for anyone wishing to volunteer to help with this effort

**Date: Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup> 2019, 11am - 2pm**

## **Trail Mix Acoustic Music Fest**

Come on out and enjoy an afternoon and evening of music and refreshments in our beautiful grounds and support the Preserve and TALK, a good cause. Find more details in this newsletter.

**Date: Saturday, July 20 2019, 1pm - 8:30 pm**