



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

*Dedicated to Service in Conservation*

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To our members and friends:

April 2020

### **THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

This pandemic has affected the Preserve like it has just about everything else. We were lucky to have hosted our two winter concerts on Feb 20 (Work in Process) and March 5 (Mark Dvorak) which were both very successful and better attended than last year. But our planned three general meetings with speakers in March, April and May had to be cancelled for obvious reasons. The disruption, concern and worry as well as the *stay at home* order resulting from the pandemic has affected all of us in many inconvenient and profound ways, but with a clear need for exercise. Not surprisingly, we've noticed increased usage at the Preserve: mostly small family groups out for a hike and bikers out for a ride. So get some exercise and come out and enjoy spring at the Preserve. When passing other people on the trails, please try to give them a wide berth. Please practice social distancing and keep all groups as small as possible. Stay safe and stay healthy.

### **OFFICE HOURS DUE TO PANDEMIC**

We have kept the office closed so far this spring due to the stay at home order. But we have decided to "open" again on Saturdays only, 9a until noon beginning May 2, if the temperature is above 55 and not raining. However all "transactions" will be conducted outside in front of the cabin with social distancing and using wipes and sanitary soap. You can also call the office phone 708/798-1850 and request an appointment at other times and we will try to oblige. Bathrooms remained closed; port o potty is available.

### **OFFICER AND BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS**

Our by laws require the naming of a nominating committee appointed by the Board at our April general meeting. In the absence of an April general meeting, the Board will appoint a nominating committee and publish its members on our website before the end of April. Our May newsletter will outline our election procedures in the absence of a May general meeting. Thanks for your patience.

## **EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT**

David Winicky is a senior at HF High School and a member of Boy Scout Troop 364 in Homewood. He recently completed an Eagle Scout Project, of real benefit to The Preserve. It had three objectives. The first involved 800 feet of fencing just north of the Canadian National Building on Ashland Ave. Last year this parcel was sold to CN who plans to build another campus building at that spot. Two years earlier, before the CN's plans took shape, 800 feet of boundary fence was built in this area. The value of the wood for that project was almost \$3,000. After the sale to CN, we determined the quality of that wood was good enough for the building of other fence sections, provided the fence was taken apart in the right way. Also, CN gave us the OK to take the wood and so The Preserve suggested that David take on this project, which he did enthusiastically. In the end, over 80% of the wood was salvaged and stacked in an orderly fashion for future use.

In addition to this effort, we identified a problem involving the desires of a few visitors to drive cars down the trail from the main parking lot in the direction of Black Bear Lodge. David resolved this problem by installing a post & sign, which says that vehicles are prohibited beyond that point. He placed the sign post such that it would be difficult to get a car around it. The sign post is made of two parts; one extends just above ground level and the other slides inside of it and extends 6 feet high. With the proper tools, the two parts can be separated thus allowing The Preserve to bring in large equipment if needed.

David took on one last task, which was the demolition of the outhouse behind Black Bear Lodge. This had not been used in decades and had fallen into disrepair. The building was torn down, the old wood was placed into a dumpsters, and later removed.

David and his volunteers put 116 manhours into the project. His volunteers included Brennan Eaheart, Kevin Berner, Michael Gaughan, Samuel Rauch, Jake Merrill, Mike McDonnell, Dave Rauch, Keith Merrill, and Jim Winicky. Thanks, and congratulations to David and his crew for a job well done. We hope you will soon join the ranks of those few Boy Scouts with the title of Eagle Scout. Also, good luck on your ventures after graduation from HF later this spring.

## **FISH STOCKING.....and.....DNR PATROLS**

Rainbow trout were stocked in the Sand Pit Lakes in late March and crappie were stocked in early April. Also a reminder (as most of you already know) that an Illinois Fishing License is required to fish in our lakes and a Trout Stamp as well 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---May 23th**

A reminder that the native plant sale that we are co-sponsoring with the Thorn Creek Audubon Society (TCAS) is scheduled for Saturday, May 23rd from 9am until noon. We are planning for a safe sale with curbside delivery and possible delivery to customers' homes for preorders in our area. Extra plants were ordered in anticipation of an open sale but given the social distancing recommendations, an open sale may not be possible. However, the extra plants may be purchased in advance, if available. Just contact Judy

Johnson (a board member of both sponsoring organizations) directly at: [TCASPlants@gmail.com](mailto:TCASPlants@gmail.com) or via text at 312/ 307-1808 to learn what is available and place an order. The complete list of plants can be accessed on our web site. Note: The Oak and Cypress trees are not available now (as no extras were ordered). Other plants not on the order form but which are available are May Apple and Sweet Joe Pye. Thirty-four different plants are offered, 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, the 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.

### **WILDLIFE IN DISTRESS**

At times, Preserve wildlife gets tangled up in fishing line or any number of other situations rendering it lame or distressed. What to do ?

Some may decide to leave it up to Mother Nature. Others may want to take action but not have the resources or ability to really help. Well, for those interested in trying to help, perhaps you'll remember the October 2017 Homewood Chronicle article, "Dianne Cobban: Wildlife's best friend", about longtime Homewood resident and licensed wildlife rehabilitator Dianne Cobban. The Preserve is so very pleased to say that Dianne has agreed to help assist distressed wildlife at the Preserve when necessary. Her cell number is 708 926 4203. Thank you Dianne.

### **MILKWEED SEEDS AVAILABLE.....SAVE MONARCH BUTTERFLIES !**

Again this year we will have milkweed seed (butterfly weed) packets available in the cabin after April 25<sup>th</sup> **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](mailto:kaymac60423@yahoo.com). Also check out their new website: [MilkweedForMonarchs.info](http://MilkweedForMonarchs.info)

Your President, John Brinkman

**HOMEWOOD IZAAK WALTON PRESERVE  
NATIVE PLANT SALE**

**Saturday May 23th, 2020 9am--noon**

We will conduct a safe plant sale with curbside pickup and social distancing.  
Find details in the article in this newsletter.

Place: Arthur Senior Hall 1100 Ridge Road Homewood, IL