



HOMEWOOD IZAAK WALTON PRESERVE

Dedicated to Service in Conservation

To our members and friends:

August 2021 Newsletter

WATER MAIN CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The final portion of the pipeline under the Ridge road viaduct, was completed in August. The pipeline was placed on an existing concrete floor at the base of the viaduct and then, a new concrete floor built on top of it which still leaves an 8' clearance for our eastern trail. With the 1-3/4 mile, Izaak Walton portion complete, the pipeline is now ready to be connected to a Chicago Heights waterline in Thornton. The connection will be made via a new pump station scheduled for installation this fall.

As for restoration of grasses, bushes, & trees, most of this work will begin in 2022 with one notable exception, that being the 800-foot prairie section running east from the Ashland Avenue entrance. Restoration of this prairie will begin this fall after the Army Corps of Engineers approves our recommended prairie seed mix. Aside from this prairie section, the balance of the pipeline runs under the old railroad bed. For this section, restoration work will begin next spring, but over the coming fall and winter, we'll work to eliminate some of the invasive species along both sides of the railroad bed. This will facilitate restoration with native plants.

This Village of Homewood waterline will assure a long-term source of Lake Michigan water to Homewood and surrounding communities. Please check the comprehensive articles in our May and June newsletters on our website for a more thorough on the pipeline.

AUTUMN GENERAL MEETINGS CANCELED

Prior to the emergence of the Delta variant of Covid the summer, we anticipated conducting general meetings in September and October. Unfortunately, like many other activities these days, public health concerns dictate that we again hold off on conducting any general meetings until conditions are much more favorable.

RECYCLING AT THE PRESERVE

Over the years, we've approached our work in the Preserve with the goal of reusing or recycling whenever we could. One trip through our garage would show you the various items saved over the years for potential reuse. Our recycling efforts have been sporadic, volunteer based with the collection work done by Steve and Betty Baker, longtime supporters and volunteers at the Preserve. We have been using regular garbage receptacles marked for recycling. We thank them for their efforts but it was time to do more. At the recommendation of our Secretary, Greg Busler, the Board approved upgrading our recycling efforts to use Homewood Disposal with better marked receptacles and an every-two-week pick up schedule. Three of those receptacles are now located next to our dumpsters in the grounds area. The challenge with recycling receptacles located in public places is that people will put garbage in them in addition to recycled items. So, we ask our members to please use them only for recyclable items; also, as appropriate please remind others about their proper use

HONEY AVAILABLE

We now have honey from this season in 12 oz "bears" for sale at the cabin for \$8 during office hours every Saturday from 9am until noon.

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PHOTO CONTEST FOR 2021-2022 “SEASONS” CALENDAR

Once again for the third year we are sponsoring a photo contest for our 2021-2022 Izaak Walton “Seasons” calendar. This effort has become increasingly popular: last year, more than 200 photos were entered into the competition for a spot on the calendar, “Seasons of Izaak Walton/2021,” showing the Preserve in different months of the year.

The new 12-month calendar will start with **Jan. 1, 2022.**

Entrants can submit a maximum of four entries each. It can be a photo of weather, landscape, birds, dogs, other animals, and unidentifiable people. All photographs must be shot within Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve.

You may now submit your high-resolution images via email, with your name, address, and phone number plus a title for the photo to: **hiwpcalendarcontest@gmail.com**

Entrants should include the month the photo was taken. All photos must be in landscape format (wide not tall), ideally, 8.5 x 11.

Visitors to the Homewood Izaak Walton Facebook page will be able to "Like" up to 12 photos to vote for their favorites. These votes will be used to break ties.

The contest will close at midnight September 13, 2021.

An independent panel of photographers will choose their favorites.

The Homewood Izaak Walton Photo Committee will use the public’s votes to break ties. All decisions are final.

DRAINAGE ISSUES FOR PRAIRIE LAKES

Earlier in the summer we received about 8” of rain over a 5-day period. This caused extensive flooding on portions of the trail around prairie lakes. We noticed that the flooding persisted for longer than normal. Working with the Public Works department, it was determined that there was a blockage in the drain pipe that drains those lakes at their NW corner. The reason for the blockage is debris, mostly from beaver activity, that collects at this outflow point. The Village used an auger with a long extension to unclog these blockages but this time it wouldn’t solve the problem. So, the Village brought in a special pump, which moved water into an alternate storm sewer thus bypassing the blockage. Later in the fall, the Village plans to unclog the drain line and install what will effectively be a “clean out” near our border with Homewood Disposal. This should provide a long term solution to accomplish more reliable drainage of the prairie lakes after heavy rains

TINKERGARTEN

As a reminder, we’ve been partnering with Tinkergarten for two years but like so many other activities, the pandemic had shut down their outdoor classes in the Preserve for small children (18 months to 8 years). But they will try again starting up on Monday Sept 27. Their classes are always on Monday at 9:30a for one hour in the grounds area just north of the cabin. This Fall session will last 9 weeks. This is an organized effort to get small children to play outside with purposeful structured activities. Free community classes will be held on Sept 6 and

Sept 13, same time - same place. These classes are led by member Beth Kosiba; Sign up or direct any questions to Beth via email: bethann.kosiba@tinkergarten.com

BOY SCOUT COURT OF HONOR

On August 8th, 2021, Boy Scout Troop 364 honored seven young men who earned Eagle Scout rank. The Court of Honor took place in a shaded area of our picnic grounds with about 60 in attendance. The ceremony was long delayed due to the pandemic and included 3 graduates of the HF Class of 2020 and 4 more from the Class of 2021. It was appropriate to have the event at Izaak Walton because over the years, all seven Eagles spent scores of volunteer hours at The Preserve working on projects such as prairie burns, 4th of July celebrations, and trail maintenance to name a few.

Boy Scouting emphasizes the development of skills, character, and leadership. It also encourages the scout to solve community problems. Toward that end, a key requirements for achieving Eagle rank calls on the scout to plan and lead others in a large service project for the benefit of a of a community organization such as a house of worship, school, or community group. Below you'll find the names of the new Eagles along with a description of their Eagle Service Project; you'll see that The Preserve was the beneficiary of several of these projects. We congratulate these new Eagles. We're sure all of the service project beneficiaries are thankful; Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve is surely thankful for the service hours extended by all of these Eagles.Shawn Straney, Membership Chair

Eagle Scout	Service Project Beneficiary	Project description
Zack Green	Salem Lutheran Church, Homewood	Painted 3,000 square feet of interior wall including a conference room and hall ways.
Jake Merrill	Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve	Built a stand-alone chimney, which is the preferred nesting and perching place for the bird known as the Chimney Swift, a voracious eater of mosquitos.
David Winicky	Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve	Dismantled 800 feet of boundary fence while salvaging the wood for further use by The Preserve.
Issac Shores	Irons Oaks Environmental Center, Olympia Fields	Transformed a 2,000 sq. foot water run-off area into a bioswale garden, capable of retaining great quantities of water after heavy rains.
Andrew Gaughan	Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve	Fortified an eroding, 60-foot section of lake shore with telephone pole material. Also build & installed 2 benches with back rests.
Arthur Heine	Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve	Dismantled 296 feet of old fence, which was in the way. Also removed 150 feet of dilapidated fence at the north entrance and rebuilt using new material.
Adam Kramer	Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve	Managed the removal of 18 tons of broken concrete from the floor of the old Senior Hall bathrooms. This was an essential 1 st step in the on-going project of building new bathrooms.

Your President, John Brinkman



**PHOTO CONTEST FOR 2022 IZAAK
WALTON CALENDAR**

Deadline for submission is September 13th at midnight. See further details in this newsletter

FALL TRAIL MIX CONCERT

Friday evening October 1st, 6p
Watch for details in our September newsletter or
look on line at <https://www.facebook.com/TrailMixMusicFest>

