



Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve, Inc.

Dedicated to Service in Conservation

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Homewood IL 60430
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To our members and friends:

February 2020

OUR ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER AND FOLK MUSIC CONCERT

For many years we've enjoyed our annual potluck dinner on the 4th Thursday of February. This year due to scheduling conflicts this event will be held on Thursday March 5th in Arthur Senior Hall, our beautifully restored cabin. This family friendly event features home cooked side dishes brought by participants with meat options obtained from a local food provider and wonderful musical entertainment. Again this year, we offer the option of just attending the concert only. This is Mark Dvorak's 33st year bringing his exceptional music and song to this event as we have watched the development of his mastery of guitar, banjo, and voice earning him recognition as a keeper of traditional American folk music. Mark travels widely to conferences and performance venues; he has researched the history of folk music and shares historical connections between this music and our country's story. A long-standing member of the Old Town School of Folk Music staff, Mark is sought after for his playing, storytelling, and original compositions. All ages will enjoy his program, which will follow our potluck supper. Newcomers are especially welcome to enjoy this program that has been characterized by some as a "Norman Rockwell" event! Please return your reservation form below by mail or just drop off at the cabin in the mailbox on the front door by Monday March 2nd. To attend the concert only, just pay a charge of \$5 at the door (but children under 18 are free). Concertgoers only, please arrive after 6:45p but before 7:00p—no reservations necessary.

MARK DVORAK, Folksinger

Date: Thursday, March 5, 2020

Time: Supper at 6:00 P.M. – Entertainment at 7:00 P.M.

Cost: \$10.00 includes meat dishes, beverage, and entertainment

Children age 12 and under - \$5.00

Please bring a dish to share: (vegetable, salad, or dessert to serve 4-6).

RESERVATION FORM----PLEASE SEND IN BY MONDAY MARCH 2

Enclosed is a check payable to *Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve* for ___ adults and ___ children for the Potluck dinner and Entertainment.

Send to: Betty Baker*, Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve
1100 Ridge Road, Homewood, IL 60430

*If you have questions, call Betty
at 708/ 296-3351

Amount of check _____ (\$10 per adult, \$5 per child 12 or under)

Name of member _____ I plan to bring a
_____ for the potluck meal.

GENERAL MEETING PROGRAM Thursday March 26th, 7:00pm

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT--MANAGING the FISHING LAKES of the FOREST PRESERVES of COOK COUNTY

Ok fishermen and fisherwomen, this one's for you ! We are pleased to invite James Phillips, Fisheries Biologist II at the Forest Preserve District of Cook County into our cabin who will present a program on fisheries management. Jim works in the Department of Resource Management's Fisheries Section which manages the Forest Preserves 40 plus fishing lakes throughout the year. Subjects that will be covered include population surveys, fish stocking programs, the Fisheries Section Walleye Propagation Program, the Busse Lake Musky Program and our ongoing work to control the spread of invasive species. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about lakes management and fishing prospects all over the greater Chicagoland area. Fishing is a core activity in our Preserve so attendees have a great opportunity to broaden their knowledge of this popular sport.

FALL CONTROLLED BURNS

Once again unfavorable weather and scheduling issues limited our controlled burns last Fall. But Steve Wlodarski, our controlled burn chief, was still able on three occasions, Nov 9 and 24 and Dec 7, to conduct successful controlled burns which were concentrated in the western shore areas of the prairie lakes.

We conduct these burns to keep the invasive plant species from taking over and crowding out the native prairie plants. The burning process also puts nutrients back into the soil, especially as we have rain and snow over the winter months. If we did not do these burns periodically, a thick mat of dead vegetation would accumulate preventing much needed precipitation and sunlight from reaching the new growth in the Spring. We typically conduct our Spring burns from early April through mid-May, before the vegetation begins growing again. The surviving native vegetation then fully benefits from the rain and sun of the Spring Season.

Many thanks to the many volunteers who helped with these controlled burns: John Newgard, Nick Cross, Tyler, Joshua, and Kameron Moore, Joel Watts, Philippe Jean Jacques, Kevin Jennings, Jay Eagle, Aaron Kaston, Noah Norris, Owen and Ron Tomek, Jim Helke, Will and Jeff Maharry, and Isaiah Moore

SPRING CONTROLLED BURNS

If you would like to assist with the Spring Season feel please send an e-mail to Steve.Wlodarski@att.net We will add you to our list of volunteers to contact in the Spring.. Our volunteers range in age from 12 to 70's. We generally keep the volunteer detail to a 2 - 3 hour effort. There are also no minimum or maximum amount of burns that you need to attend. We are appreciative of anyone who would like to help us out.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Our bylaws provide our Board with the ability to fill vacant positions on the Board at any time of the year irrespective of the timing of our annual elections. So last year at the October and November Board meetings, we elected Carolyn Bury and Judy Johnson to fill out the terms of vacated positions. We are very pleased to have their service and welcome them to our Board

NEW ROOF ON THE CABIN

Over the past year or so, you may have noticed some water damage in a few locations inside the cabin. The cause of this damage was the old and deteriorated roof shingles. So we engaged in a competitive bidding process with local roofing companies and the lowest cost bid was submitted by JE Roofing & Construction, a well known company in Homewood. Our mild winter allowed the work to be completed in January. The old shingles were removed and any deteriorated roof boards were replaced. We chose a brown color similar to the prior roof but with a bit more “character.” This large expenditure was funded by the proceeds from the sale of 2.6 acres to CN in late 2018 that the Village of Homewood turned over to us for just such needed infrastructure work. We would recommend JE Roofing and Construction to anyone needing roof work.

NATIVE PLANT SALE DEADLINE LOOMING

We announced the native annual plant sale in our January newsletter. We co-sponsor the sale along with the Thorn Creek Audubon Society. This is an excellent opportunity to order native plants for your garden this year. The deadline to order is fast approaching: March 1st. The order form and instructions can be found on our website

Your President,
John Brinkman

HOMEWOOD IZAAK WALTON PRESERVE PROGRAMS:

POTLUCK DINNER AND FOLK MUSIC CONCERT

**Thursday March 5th, 2020 6:00 p.m.
Arthur Senior Hall
1100 Ridge Road, Homewood IL**

Enjoy an evening at Senior Hall, sharing a potluck dinner with family, friends, and fellow members at 6pm followed by a 1st class folk music concert provided by Mark Dvorak from the Old Town School of Folk Music at 7pm. See reservation form and further details inside this newsletter.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

**Thursday March 26th, 2020 7:00 p.m.
Arthur Senior Hall
1100 Ridge Road, Homewood, IL**

James Phillips, a Fisheries Biologist II at the Department of Resource Management's Fisheries section at the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, will present a program that covers fish management issues and initiatives throughout the many lakes in the Forest Preserves. All fisherpersons should take note of this great opportunity to learn about the work in large fishery systems. See further details inside this newsletter.