



Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve, Inc.

Dedicated to Service in Conservation
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To our members and friends:

February 2023

WEXLER GROUP TRAIL MIX CONCERT SERIES

There has always been a strong connection between nature and music. Recall “The Four Seasons” by Antonio Vivaldi or “Moonlight Sonata” by Ludwig von Beethoven or “Out in the Country” by Three Dog Night. Trail Mix first brought music to the Preserve in 2016 as a once a year all day outdoor music fest. It then evolved into twice a year outdoor evening concerts which we were able to continue during the pandemic. Last summer we made a decision to offer 4 concerts a year (indoor or outdoor depending on the season). We offered our first Trail Mix **indoor** concert last Fall which featured Tommy Womack from Nashville. What is difficult to adequately communicate is how wonderful a space our historic cabin is for listening to live music. Perhaps it’s the elongated, rectangular shape of the room and/or the angled ceiling but it results in amazing listening room vibe similar to the famous Bluebird Café in Nashville with the audience rippling out in a concert-in-the-round type of setting. So we invite our members and friends to enjoy our historic cabin while also raising funds for the Preserve. We highly recommend you give yourself the opportunity to enjoy live music in our cabin ! **And with that we now offer.....**

TRAIL MIX WINTER CONCERT—Friday March 10th 7 PM

On Friday, March 10th, starting at 7pm (doors at 6:30) Trail Mix will dust off our old model, which means working with local artists who are largely donating their time and talent to help raise funds for Trail Mix and the Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve. The concert is free but donations are encouraged and accepted in an old-school bucket at the event or via an electronic site via the internet: <https://www.trailmixmusic.org/reservations-donations-merch>

The local and locally-grown talent for the March 10th show includes **Chris Castaneda, Butterfield Creek, Andrew Robert Palmer, and Falling Stars**. Also know that there’s nary a bad seat in the acoustically pleasing Senior Hall; you will walk away totally satisfied and pleased that you had an amazing night right here in the south suburbs. Music at 7pm, doors open at 6:30pm. The program will move along quickly ending about 9:45pm. Pizza, water and soft drinks will be on sale provided by IW volunteers. BYOB is encouraged !

We invite you to keep an eye on the Trail Mix website <https://www.trailmixmusic.org/> and/or our facebook event page for updates. <https://www.facebook.com/events/588649082695876>

For the most up-to-date information, join the Trail Mix email list.
<https://www.trailmixmusic.org/join>

SAVE THE DATE---SPRING TRAIL MIX CONCERT--FRIDAY MAY 12

Finally, be sure to save **May 12th** as there will be another amazing indoor concert featuring **Nora O’Conner** and **Casey Donough** of **The Flat Five**, a hugely talented and popular act that has played and recorded with the likes of Mavis Staples, The Decemberists, Neko Case, NRBQ and Andrew Bird, to name a few. Details in our April Newsletter.

WELL, WELL, WELL WORKING AGAIN !

We are pleased to report that Village of Homewood Well #13 is once again operating and pumping the freshest of water into our Sandpit Lakes. As many are aware, other than very little storm water runoff, water drawn from that well is the primary inflow source to our Sandpit Lakes. The pump had been out of commission since last June and we estimate the lake level has dropped by close to 3 feet. Meeting their end of our longstanding agreement with the Village, they once again lined up Layne Christiansen Company for the repair work which was completed end of January 2023. The original well was drilled in 1974 down to 481 feet through layers of sand, sand & gravel, blue clay, limestone, and shale. The installed pipe goes down over 100 feet and attached is a pump capable of pumping out around 125 gallons per minute under normal conditions. It will take several weeks, but around March 1 we’ll see the Sandpit Lakes back up to its usual level.

2022 EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS:

Three Boy Scout Eagle Projects were completed in late 2022 at The Preserve. Over the years the Preserve has greatly benefitted from these projects. The Eagle Candidates are Michael Gaughan, David Schismann, and Corey Oswalt-Armenteros. Michael & David are both juniors at HF High School and Life Scouts in Troop 364 chartered by St. Andrew Methodist Church. Corey is a Senior at HF and a Life Scout in Troop 342 chartered by St. Paul’s Community Church.

Michael Gaughan painted the inside of Senior Hall, with wall space of about 400 square feet. Painting is challenging for a teenager because of the spill factor; but Michael was prepared to clean up spills before the first can of paint was opened. He and his age peers painted 95% of the wall space, mostly with rollers. The remainder of the job was trimming and for this task he had several painting veterans on his crew. Special thanks goes to Mr. John Sandala who taped all of the trim lines and to Mr. Mike McDonnell who handled several square feet of plaster patching necessitated by a leaking roof from years back. Michael also removed the moose antlers and deer heads, which have decorated the walls for decades; they were remounted after painting. At our Turkey Raffle & Auction on 11/12/22, several members commented on how nice Senior Hall now looks with its’ new paint job. Thanks to Michael for a job well-done. Michael’s crew included Andrew Gaughan, Laura Gaughan, Mick Gaughan, Jackson Grage, Jacob Harris, Mike McDonnell, Emily Reichard, Ethan Reichard, Jessica Reichard, John Sandala, David Schlismann, and Shawn Straney

David Schlismann built & installed a bench at one of the highest points in The Preserve. It's located in the northern area of the Preserve near a man-made berm that separates The Preserve from the Accurate Dispersions Company, just east of the Hoffmann Way cul-du-sac. On the east end of this 8-foot tall berm, David added 32 feet of trail between an existing trail and the base of the berm. Then 43 feet were added up the side of the berm followed by another 50 feet to where the bench now sits. The slope up the berm isn't steep, but a handrail was installed to make the climb easier. Drilling post holes for the bench and handrail was especially challenging because the man-made berm is composed of rocky material below the 6-8 inch layer of top soil. David's crew consisted of Nathaniel Appelt, Greg Busler, Michael Gaughan, Mick Gaughan, Jackson Grage, Jacob Harris, Mike McDonnell, Scott Schlismann, and Shawn Straney. Special thanks goes to Mr. Mike McDonnell who assisted with bench design and power tools. Also, Mr. Greg Busler was especially helpful in moving several tons of gravel to the vicinity of the new trail using our powered equipment ; Greg's skills in handling the Preserve's Kubota and Pro-Gator were most welcome. Another shout-out goes to Mrs. Susan Kells who funded the building of this project in memory of her husband John who was a long-standing supporter of The Preserve. Thank you David for managing this project; we're sure many members will make the hike to the bench for decades to come. This is now a unique and beautiful place offering awesome overviews of the Prairie Lakes and surrounding prairie and forest especially right before sunset !

Corey Oswalt-Armenteros handled the demolition and removal of 400 feet of chain-link fence that once separated The Preserve from Washington Park Race Track. You might recall that the racetrack was destroyed by a fire in 1977 and that most of the land that it sat on, eventually became part of The Preserve. Since then, the fence has done little more than divide north from south within The Preserve. Demolition involved not only the cutting of steel fence posts, but also the cutting of small trees and vines, whose branches grew into and around the chain-link. Corey's crew included Sandra Armenteros, Dylan Barnas, Scott Barnas, Matt Crocker, Sam Crocker, Chris Grage, Jackson Grage, Eric Hannigan, Jacob Harris, Macey Krull, Josh Oswalt, Tom Rickhoff, Connie Solorio, Caleb Stamps, and David Wattson. Thank you Corey for a job well done. Having this fence down will make it easier for Preserve volunteers to keep invasive species in check and provide improved habitat access for animals.

REMINDER--2023 NATIVE PLANT SALE

Once again, as first reported in our January Newsletter, Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve (HIWP) and Thorn Creek Audubon Society (TCAS) are co-sponsoring a native plant sale. The sale date is May 20 but the **deadline to order** is March 1, fast approaching. Thirty-seven different plants will be 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 Illinois. See the article in our January Newsletter posted on our website for further information including details including an on-line ordering capability.

Your President,
John Brinkman

Native Plant Sale

Deadline to order is March 1—Think Spring !

**See the article in this newsletter and in our
January Newsletter for details**

TRAIL MIX WINTER CONCERT

Friday March 10, 7 PM, Senior Hall

**Featuring 4 local bands:
Chris Castaneda, Butterfield Creek,
Andrew Robert Palmer, Falling Stars**

**A free concert in our acoustically wonderful
historical cabin, see the article in this
newsletter for details**