



# HOMEWOOD IZAAK WALTON PRESERVE

Dedicated to Service in Conservation

To our members and friends:

January 2022 Newsletter

## **COVID 19 PANDEMIC VI**

Happy New Year ! We haven't written about the pandemic since last January when we anticipated progress due to vaccinations and reduced numbers of Covid 19 cases. Last June, cases were very low and for a short period of time we thought it might be over. Alas, we became familiar with the terms "Delta" and "Omicron" as the pandemic continues to affect our lives as 2022 begins. So we soldier on hoping that new Omicron cases will plummet as many predict and perhaps, just perhaps, we can return to something like "normalcy" soon. Consequently and regrettably we can't schedule our usual winter indoor concerts and nature themed programs until spring at the earliest. Our Preserve remains our sanctuary: a wonderful place to enjoy the four seasons of nature.

## **TREES PLANTED---AT LONG LAST !**

The Conservation Committee has been meeting regularly since Spring discussing and planning for many anticipated natural improvements at the Preserve. One of their members, Jim Helke, suggested native tree planting in the Preserve just east of the border with Homewood Public Works. So early in December, as weather permitted, a group of volunteers planted five jack pines and two American plums in that area which will grow to become a visual barrier in front of the public works yard. The small trees are protected by plastic fencing to keep the deer away. Our thanks to Dave Zaber, Kevin Jennings, Greg Busler, Yan Deng, Gordon Pearce, Mark Becker and Dan Galen for their planting efforts. It has been literally decades since we've planted new trees anywhere in the Preserve. Our efforts over the past many years have been focused on cutting down invasive tree species. You can expect numerous additional native tree planting projects recommended by the Conservation Committee this year starting in Spring !

## **CALENDARS, MERCHANDISE, HONEY AND OFFICE HOURS**

We still have 2022 photo calendars available for the now reduced price of \$10. You can order online or purchase at the cabin on Saturday mornings 10a - noon. We've sold over 175 of them, once again exceeding last year's sales. Looking ahead, the Calendar Committee is likely to expand the photo contest to create 2 different themes for the 2023 contest: the "macro" focusing on scenery, skies and beautiful views and a "micro" focusing on insects, wildlife and close up views of natural patterns in nature, This will double the number of winning photos so you photographers: get out there and start shooting !

We also have merchandise and honey for sale. The honey is courtesy of bees who live right here at The Preserve; the price is \$12 for a 12 oz. bottle. As for the merchandise, we have new, colorful hats, shirts, and sweatshirts available; all include The Preserve logo. Purchases can be made during winter Saturday hours of 10 AM to noon. We can also make other arrangements; please leave us a message at 708-798-1850.

1100 Ridge Road • Homewood, IL 60430



info@homewoodizaakwalton.com • tel:(708)-798-1850

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It's time to renew your membership in The Preserve for 2022. Be assured, we very much appreciate your support in our all-volunteer organization. The cost is still \$25 for adults and \$5 for active military and youth (under 18). However, **you can now join with your spouse or significant other for \$40**; that's a savings of \$10 and you will both receive membership cards.

You might find it convenient to buy your membership on-line. Here's how it's done:

- Go to: [www.homewoodizaakwalton.com](http://www.homewoodizaakwalton.com)
- Click Membership, then Join Online, then fill in contact information and credit card details.
- Please consider an optional contribution. We are a 501(c)3 organization and contributions are tax-deductible.
- We will then mail a membership card to you.

You can also fill out and mail us the traditional paper form, which is printed below. If joining as a "couple" please include both names. Please include your check or money order and we will provide you a membership card(s) via return mail.

PLEASE COMPLETE, DETACH, AND RETURN BY MARCH 31, 2022

TEAR HERE -----	TEAR HERE -----	TEAR HERE -----											
<p>DUES FOR YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 2023            Make checks payable to:            Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve or <u>HIWP</u></p> <p>Name(s): _____            Address: _____            City &amp; Zip _____</p> <p>E-mail: _____            Phone: _____</p>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Regular Membership - \$25</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Couples Membership - \$40</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Junior Member (under 18) or Active Military - \$5</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center; padding-top: 5px;">(Military Branch -- or -- Name &amp; birth date of Junior)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b><u>Optional Contribution</u></b></td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total Enclosed</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>\$ _____</b></td> </tr> </table>	Regular Membership - \$25	\$ _____	Couples Membership - \$40	\$ _____	Junior Member (under 18) or Active Military - \$5	\$ _____	(Military Branch -- or -- Name & birth date of Junior)		<b><u>Optional Contribution</u></b>	\$ _____	<b>Total Enclosed</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>
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If you are already a volunteer, this doesn't apply to you but if you're interested and we haven't yet connected about volunteering, please send us an email at [info@HomewoodIzaakWalton.com](mailto:info@HomewoodIzaakWalton.com) or leave us a voice mail at 708-798-1850. Let us know your interests and a rough idea of your availability. Volunteer opportunities include:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Invasive species control (begins in March when teasel starts to grow).</li> <li>➤ Prairie burns in the early spring and late fall.</li> <li>➤ Trade skills - Whatever they are, just let us know; over time we need them all.</li> <li>➤ Computer usage including data entry and the Salesforce tool, which manages membership and volunteers.</li> <li>➤ Fourth of July picnic volunteers</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Prairie restoration.</li> <li>➤ Gardening - native species.</li> <li>➤ Chain saw work</li> <li>➤ Mail preparations</li> <li>➤ Trail work</li> </ul> |
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## BLACK BEAR LODGE PROJECT

Black Bear Lodge was built by our original members in 1952, about 7 years after the end of World War II. It was built for use by youth groups and has served that purpose well; hardly a week goes by when it's not used for a meeting by one youth group or another. On the weekend of December 3, Boy Scouts from Troop 364 laid down a gravel trail from the lodge to the main trail about 125 feet to the west. This trail will be a real asset because the yard between the lodge and the parking lot is very low ground and puddles abound during much of the spring and after heavy rains. The new trail should keep feet and shoes high & dry between the lodge and the parking lot. Volunteers were Michael Gaughan, Lucas Kramer, David Watson, Jimmie Yast, Mick Gaughan, Jim Winicky, Shawn Straney, and Greg Busler. Thanks for a job well done.

## THINK SPRING: NATIVE PLANT SALE AT HIWP

This spring, HIWP will once again co-sponsor a native plant sale with Thorn Creek Audubon Society (TCAS). This year, thirty-five different plants will be offered at the sale, including trees, shrubs, flowers, and ornamental grasses. Plants are chosen to represent different colors, textures, sun exposures and bloom times. All plants offered are native to this area of Illinois. Judy Johnson, a board member of both organizations and plant sale organizer, stresses that native plants are beneficial to wildlife and the environment. If you'd like to see a greater variety of butterflies and birds in your yard, you should consider planting native species. 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. The very deep root systems also help prevent erosion and flooding. In order to better ensure that you obtain the plants you desire, **we strongly encourage pre-ordering** as the supply of plants not preordered will be limited. The order form can be accessed on our website; just print it out and follow directions. Order forms are also available in the office which is staffed on Saturday mornings 10-noon during the winter. **Deadline to pre-order is March 1.** As in the past few years, we will again be delivering many of the plant orders; this is scheduled for the afternoon of Friday, May 20. If plants are not delivered, **plant pick-up and open sale is Saturday, May 21 from 9-noon at HIWP.** All profits will be split between HIWP and TCAS. More information on native plants including links for specific plant descriptions and pictures can be found at:

[www.thorncreekaudubonsociety.org](http://www.thorncreekaudubonsociety.org). Questions/order form requests can be directed to Judy at: [TCASPlants@gmail.com](mailto:TCASPlants@gmail.com). Think Spring!

*Your President, John Brinkman*



**NATIVE PLANT SALE MAY 15 BUT  
PREORDERS DUE ON MARCH 1**

Details are in this newsletter

If you're getting the newsletter in the mail, but would prefer to get it by email, please send an email to us at [Info@HomewoodIzaakWalton.com](mailto:Info@HomewoodIzaakWalton.com). Just give us your name and say: "Newsletter by email please".

