



To our members and friends:

July 2021 Newsletter

WATER MAIN CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Not much progress to report since our last newsletter on the Village of Homewood waterline constructed through the Preserve, which will assure a long-term source of Lake Michigan water to Homewood and surrounding communities. Please check the comprehensive article in our last newsletter on our website for a thorough discussion of the progress and implications of the pipeline to date. As we write this newsletter, a solution has been agreed to for the only remaining part of the pipeline not yet complete which is under the Ridge road viaduct. The plan is for the pipeline to be placed on the present concrete floor of that viaduct with a new floor built on top of it which will still leave an 8' clearance for our eastern trail. This work should be completed in August. After this final section is completed, the pipeline will be connected to a Chicago Heights waterline in Thornton.

Restoration work on the disturbed areas of the prairie will begin soon once a final seed mix is determined. Our Conservation Committee is providing input on appropriate seed selection. Once that is completed, further grading will be done and previously removed topsoil will be returned as the top layer.

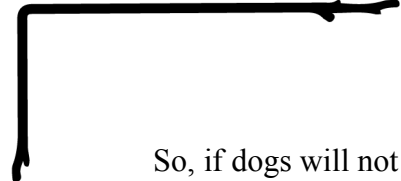
DOGS OFF LEASH WITHIN THE PRESERVE

Dog walking in The Preserve is a privilege for members only. For many years, many members have requested the ability to walk dogs off-leash in the Preserve. To accommodate those requests, our ground rules allow dogs to be off-leash in designated areas of the Preserve provided the dog is under the master's control at all times. Ground rules are mailed yearly to all members along with membership cards. Also, maps have long been available in a box just outside the front door of Senior Hall; the maps point out areas where dogs may be off-leash.

For those parts of The Preserve where dogs are allowed off-leash, the ground rules require the dog to stay near the master and to come quickly when called. If your dog is not trained to do this, then your dog should be on a leash at all times.

The Preserve has received complaints from both dog lovers and dog skeptics. Their complaints are reasonable and include the following:

- Dogs approach them at a gallop. **Comment:** A Dog Whisperer may be able to tell if the dog comes in peace, but most people can't. Therefore, such dogs are not under the master's control.
- Some dog owners have told dog skeptics that they don't have a leash with them. **Comment:** Dogs must always be on a leash in parking lots & at tail heads and so, a "no leash" comment suggests this rule was ignored.



So, if dogs will not stay close to their masters and come quickly when called, then those dogs are not under their master's control and so, should be leashed at all times. We request all of our dog loving members to please follow these rules.

NEW TRAIL MAP SIGN

Just north of the main parking lot, you'll see a new, color trail map of The Preserve. We've been working on the details of the map for over a year and we hope you'll find it helpful. Later this year we'll install smaller versions of this same map at the Ashland Avenue and Hoffman Way entrances. Map features include:

- Entrance, building, & picnic ground locations.
- Mileage details of the 3 color-coded trails along with lake names.
- Ground rules that apply to fishing and dog walking.
- QR codes allowing for downloading a map of The Preserve and all ground rules.
- Details as to where dogs are allowed off leash (see previous article).

Most importantly we want to recognize and thank long-time volunteer Marty Schrantz who built and stained the sign frames as well as Kate Purvis who created the design and patiently helped us with multiple iterations until we had it right.

CANNABIS IS PROHIBITED IN THE PRESERVE

Illinois has legalized recreational cannabis. However, that legislation gives individual property owners the right to ban it from their property. Ground rules at Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve prohibit the use of both alcohol and cannabis.

It's no secret that marijuana has a distinct and powerful odor. It's also no secret that marijuana quickly puts one into an altered state of mind. We've received a number of reports of the smell of marijuana within The Preserve. One member reported he was fishing with his son when a group of marijuana enthusiasts stopped nearby and lit up a joint. A large number of Izaak Walton members object to marijuana use within The Preserve. Everyone is asked to obey the ground rule prohibiting its' use.

HONEY AVAILABLE AGAIN

We have procured a limited supply of our honey in 12 oz "bears" for sale at the cabin for \$8 during office hours every Saturday from 9am until noon. This season's honey will be available around September 1.

TRAIL MIX SUMMER CONCERT

Summer brings us the 2nd of the Wexler Group's Trail Mix Acoustic Concert Series at the Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve. The concert is scheduled for **August 13th**, and will feature the following three acoustic acts.

Kelly Campos - powerful, soulful, acoustic

Work In Progress (WIP) - local favorites doing a fun mix of acoustic covers and originals





Nigel Mack - Acoustic blues guitar and harmonica

At the east pavilion, “Doors” will open at 6pm, and music will begin at 6:30. You can bring your own cooler/picnic basket, blanket and chairs, or we have tables and chairs available for use. Donations are accepted to offset expenses with tickets available on line for preferential seating at the picnic tables and chairs. So, for well under the price of a movie you can listen to top-notch live acoustic music in an amazing natural preserve setting. For more information and to see pics of past events, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/TrailMixMusicFest> and/or the Trail Mix Concert Series event page <https://fb.me/e/2FPC5t9vA>. There, you’ll find links to PayPal.


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Little More About Trail Mix

This event is supported by the Wexler Group, Melody Mart, & the Heiferman family along with the partnership of the Homewood Public Library & the Village of Homewood. It’s now in its’ 6th year at The Preserve and we’re pleased to see how Trail Mix has successfully transitioned into the current concert series format. No doubt the original all-day music fest was a blast, but early feedback and experience has caused us to favor the evening concert series. It allows for focusing more squarely on the music and the listening experience in our beautiful east meadow. Also, it makes for a more-nimble event in that in the event of rain, the show could go on under the pavilion or moved to inside cabin if necessary.

The Trail Mix planning committee is also thrilled that Trail Mix has become its own “brand” capable of attracting sponsors and high caliber artists, including nationally touring artists. Because of this and because of more relaxed COVID restrictions, we look forward to selling more tables/seats for the events and hopefully helping to increase membership at Izaak Walton. Due to COVID, Trail Mix put on only one concert in 2020. But this year, the August 13 event will be the second of a three-concert series. The first concert on June 18th, was a great success. That concert featured Andrew Robert Palmer, Barry Jean Fontenot from Barry and the Fountains, and Old Towne School of Folk Music Favs, The Teflons, whose old-timey string band harmonies finished out the evening just as the sun disappeared for the evening and people walked away into the darkness completely satisfied. Truly, it was such a beautiful site seeing such a healthy sized crowd sitting under the stars, tapping toes, singing along, and totally digging an amazing evening of live music. The Homewood Public Library, which has copies of most of this year’s artists in their rotation for loan, was present, as was Red Bird Cafe, who brought delicious drink and various tasty treats for sale.

Your President, John Brinkman





TRAIL MIX CONCERT

Friday, August 13 at the East Picnic Pavilion

Doors open at 6pm; Music begins at 6:30pm

Enjoy wonderful music as day turns to night !

**For further details please read the article contained in this
newsletter**

