



HOMEWOOD IZAACK WALTON PRESERVE

Dedicated to Service in Conservation

To our members and friends:

July 2022 Newsletter

TRAIL MIX CONCERT---FRIDAY, AUGUST 26--- SUNNY WAR !

Perhaps you missed the June 10th Trail Mix concert with Grammy winner, Dom Flemons. It was simply amazing! One could hear a pin drop amongst the large crowd of dropped jaws. Attendance at around 110 was the largest ever for the Trail Mix series. Now is your chance to make up for it.

On Friday August 26th Trail Mix is bringing Nashville-based Sunny War, who just finished a European Tour with George Benson, playing the likes of the Royal Albert Hall and the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. But you can see her right here at the Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve ! Sunny War is an accomplished Blues/Folk/Punk guitarist. Yes, The Wexler Group Trail Mix acoustic concert series is at it again, bringing highly accomplished, internationally known and touring musicians to that little clearing in the woods, close enough to catch breezes off the Izaak Walton lakes and well outside the hustle and bustle that is life in the 21st century.



The Trail Mix planning committee was introduced to Sunny War via a 2019 NPR Tiny Desk Concert Series appearance. Aside from touring the world, Sunny hovers around 100,000 monthly listeners on Spotify with songs that have been downloaded almost 3 million times. That's like triple Platinum. Sunny has four studio albums backed by a life of truly lived experience. Critics have compared her nimble hands to Robert Johnson's and Forbes says Sunny War "saves the world with her most recent album 'Simple Syrup.'" Forbes goes on to describe her as "a poet with a downcast gaze and virtuosic mastery of an instrument." Folk Radio in the UK, points out her lived life, having left home at 16, jumped trains, dealt with homelessness and busking to support herself on the streets in LA..."not shying away from difficult topics" in her music. "Her guitar playing is an integral part of her style, but it's what she plays, and what she says that makes her music so interesting."

Day-of lawn-tickets will be available, but it's highly recommended that you grab the perks of buying advance tickets. Perks include good seating (\$15) or spectacular VIP seating (\$25), as well as convenient parking in the Preserve's parking lot and a dry seat under the pavilion in the event of rain. There's a limited number of advanced tickets, and if our experience with Dom Flemons is any indication, these tickets WILL SELL OUT.

Use this link to purchase tickets via [Tix.com](https://www.trailmixmusic.org/reservations-donations-merch): <https://www.trailmixmusic.org/reservations-donations-merch>.

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You can also email trailmixmusicfest@gmail.com if you need to arrange cash payment. Advance ticket sections get you preferred general lawn seating. Flossmoor Station will be pouring craft brews and concessions will be available. You may also bring a cooler—BYOB.

Doors Open; 6 PM Music starts at 7 PM with local openers, The Uh Ohs, followed by our Headliner: Sunny War

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

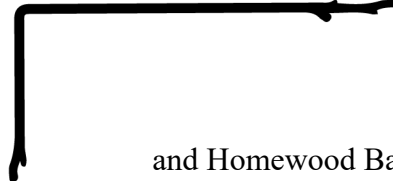


Back on November 23, 2019, our legendary president for 41 years Bob Ahlf died at the age of 77. On November 23, 2021, our longtime caretaker, Pete Stanteford, died at the age of 79. These two men contributed greatly to the success and longevity of the Preserve for a large portion of its 76-year history. We have written about both of them in prior newsletters. No wakes or funerals were held for either of them at the time of their deaths. Board member Tony Talarico suggested that we therefore hold a private memorial service in the Spring of this year for both of them that would be marked by

the planting of two river birch trees in front of the cabin. These trees replaced the non-native honeysuckle that had been there for decades. Board members Judy Johnson and Carolyn Bury then added the planting of native plants surrounding the trees for improved landscaping in the front of the cabin. A contribution from the estate of Pete Stanteford paid for the trees and the plantings. The private memorial service was held on Sunday May 22. Among the 30 or so invited guests, which included some of Pete's relatives from out of state, 8 guests were invited to speak publically. They were Bill Hill, Tony Talarico, Dave Smith, Gerry Tienstra, Fred Kolodziej, Eddie Betts, Greg Busler and John Brinkman. Ashes of both men were then placed in the ground by the trees. (No plaques bearing their names will be placed on the ground by the trees as the Preserve has had a long standing policy of not allowing such memorials.) Pizza and soft drinks were then served to all. The event was filmed. We thank all of the individuals, especially Tony Talarico, who made this an enjoyable and memorable event.

REPORT ON OUR JULY 4 EVENT

As described in detail in our two previous newsletters, we tried a new concept this year at our July 4 event, "Games for Everyone" to replace the Park District's "Family Fun Fest." We conducted old fashioned games for all ages: foot races for kids, sack races for kids and adults, balloon toss for kids and adults and a cornhole/bag toss tournament. Prizes (DQ gift certificates) were awarded to all winners and free t-shirts were given to all participants. Goodie bags were also given out to the younger kids. Activity stations featuring face painting, yoga, science games, and pitch speed measurement were provided by John Harrell State Farm (John Harrell and Savannah Reinhart), Serendipity Yoga (Liz Smith), Homewood Science Center (Amy Eagle),



and Homewood Baseball (Joe Oldaker and Kim Kapica). The concept of games, contests, and activity stations was well received with lots of enthusiastic participation in all games and activities.

Overall attendance at the event was up around 17% from 2019 when we last held this event. We served food or drinks to approximately 350 attendees, up from about 300 in 2019. We easily had 100+ participants in the games. We had our usual cadre of enthusiastic volunteers including Chris Cummins, Ann Jones, Doug and Eila Kolton, Barbara Jerit, Karen Smith, Rose Olsar, Betty Baker, Steve Baker, Paula Newton, Judy Johnson, John and Noralee Sandala, John and Trip Shonkwiler, Dave Smith, John Sailor, Cheryl Sullivan, Gail Straney, Angela Denk, Joe Eagle, Mike Sabia, Shawn Badar, Steve Ploum, Vicki Carter, and Carolyn Bury. Special thanks go to Board members Shawn Straney, Greg Busler, Sam Casella and Jay Eagle for their volunteer work including taking management responsibility for getting things to run smoothly.

However we have some things to improve on. We need to deliver food items quicker (the food lines were way too long) and we need to better organize the games and start them earlier. Look for us to conduct this event again next year with improvements expected.

ATTACK ON WILD PARSNIP


In late spring every year, we attack and remove invasive and dangerous wild parsnip in the Preserve. The outbreak has always been concentrated along the northern border of the Preserve. The plants are somewhat dangerous as you can get 2nd degree burns if the sap gets on your skin and the sun shines directly on the sap. (To date no volunteers have ever been burned.) Each plant must be physically dug up or pulled out of the ground to remove roots and all. This is necessary to prevent seeding for the next growing season. Fortunately, 95% of them come out of the ground easily with a pull from both gloved hands/arms. On June 4th our largest and best organized attack on the wild parsnip took place with 6 volunteers: David Shepard, Jim Helke, Greg Busler, John Sandala, Dan Galen and John Brinkman. Thereafter in June, as we found them scattered across the northern areas of the Preserve, we continued to remove them wherever we found them. We have been attacking them for 4-5 years now and their numbers are declining.

OFFICE HOURS---HONEY AVAILABLE

Earlier in July our honey supplies were restocked by Mike Rusnak, one of our two beekeepers. To obtain honey, visit our cabin office during regular hours on Saturdays 9-noon. Honey is \$8 for a 12 oz “bear”.

Your President, John Brinkman





TRAIL MIX CONCERT—FRIDAY AUGUST 26TH

**Come out and enjoy the music of Sunny War, a
Blues/Folk/Punk guitarist**

On the Preserve Grounds

Doors open at 6pm

Opening band the Uh Ohs play at 7pm

Sunny War will start around 8pm

Please refer to the article in this newsletter for details.

