



## **Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve, Inc.**

*Dedicated to Service in Conservation*

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To our members and friends:

May 2020

### **COVID-19 PANDEMIC II**

We soldier on dealing with the massive effects of the “Stay at Home” order from the governor though we appear poised to move into Phase 3 “Recovery” towards the end of this month which includes some loosening of restrictions. But we regrettably report that the Village has cancelled their 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade, so we also are cancelling our picnic and Family Activity Fest that we had planned for our beautiful grounds right after the parade. Fourth of July will be unusually quiet this year with just small groups gathering together to celebrate as best they can with no parades and no fireworks. However, we remain hopeful that both the reduced spread of this disease and expected medical advances will allow for further easing of restrictions. So, let’s look forward to July 4 of 2021 and imagine a boisterous parade and a wonderful turnout for the activities at the Preserve on a beautiful day with the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic well in our rear-view mirror !  
*And it will be the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Preserve !*

### **RECENT TRAIL WORK**

We’ve seen many citizens out on our trails hiking or biking alone or in small family groups getting some exercise and fresh air at our “green jewel” of Homewood. No doubt the increased usage is a direct result of the effects of the social restrictions in place due to the pandemic. Please practice good trail etiquette-passing others quickly and allowing a wide berth. We’ve also experienced an increase in membership this spring as many are discovering the beauty and amenities of the Preserve. New and repeat members have also offered many complements about the improved quality of the trails. Our annual work on the trails began late last fall, continued sporadically during the winter and increased again this spring. We order material (various sizes of crushed rock and screenings) from Hansen Material Service in Thornton who provides good pricing, prompt delivery and sometimes donated materials. The material is delivered through the access drive at the southern end of Presidents lane and piled up just north of the lift station south of the prairie lakes. This on-going project and work is spearheaded by our Secretary, Greg Busler, who has become adept at using our Kabota front loader to efficiently put the material down on the trails. In some areas we’re building up the trails in low spots to decrease flooded conditions; in other areas we’re just raising the middle of the trail to overcome “trenching” which allows rain water to collect in the middle of the trail. We call this latter work “dressing” the trails. Again, we receive comments about many things at The Preserve, but the quality of the trails is at the top of the list and for

this, we owe a BIG THANK YOU to Greg Busler for his many hours of tireless work performed over the months to provide us with the high quality of trails that we have at the Preserve. WELL DONE GREG !!! (By the way, Greg really enjoys doing this work and he sometimes gets help from other volunteers).

### **BOARD AND OFFICER ELECTIONS**

As stated in our April newsletter, the nominating committee for this year's elections was announced on our website in late July. Dirk French chaired that committee, joined by board members John Sailor, John Sandala, and non-board members Dan Galen, Mark Thompson, and Jeff Maharry. Our by-laws call for the annual election of all officers (who serve for a one-year term) and 4 general board members (who serve for 3-year terms) at our May general meeting. All officers and general board members whose terms were expiring have offered to serve again so they were therefore nominated by the committee. We are fortunate to have dedicated individuals willing to continue to serve our membership and promote the success of our Preserve. So the following candidates are up for election:

President	John Brinkman
Vice President	Gerry Tienstra
Treasurer	Dave Smith
Secretary	Greg Busler
Membership Secretary	Shawn Straney
Director Environmental Concerns	Kevin Jennings

General Directors: John Newgard, Tony Talerico, Carolyn Bury, Judy Johnson

But due to the pandemic, we are unable to hold a May general meeting. So, the board, at its May meeting, voted to endorse all candidates that were nominated and to announce their election in this newsletter. Any member who objects to any of the candidates is invited to record that objection by sending an email to [info@homewoodizaakwalton.com](mailto:info@homewoodizaakwalton.com). This is clearly an unusual method of holding our elections but these are unusual times.

### **INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES ERADICATION**

We recently learned of two invasive species in the Preserve of which we were previously unaware. Jeff Maharry brought to our attention an outbreak of lesser celandine in the Glenwood dunes area. This is a small plant with small yellow flowers in early spring which will take over an area if not controlled. So a crew consisting of Jeff Maharry, Greg Busler and John Brinkman went out in April and applied herbicide to these easy-to-identify plants. This work will need to be done every spring until they are eliminated. Also a reminder for all that when we use herbicide, we place signs indicating same in that area until the herbicide becomes inert (less than 24 hours from application).

The second invasive was a concentration of pear trees in the prairie lakes area just south of Maple Avenue which was brought to our attention by Brian Dora who works in Public Works for the Village of Homewood. We simply had not noticed and were not paying attention. So a crew consisting of Greg Busler and Dan Galen went out and cut down about 80 pear trees of various sizes and then applied herbicide to the stumps to prevent any re-sprouting.

### **OFFICE HOURS.....and..... MILKWEED SEEDS STILL AVAILABLE**

Just a reminder that we continue with office hours on Saturdays from 9-noon but with appropriate social distancing. And we still have plenty of milkweed seed (butterfly weed-cold treated) packets available in the cabin **for no charge**. We obtain these seed packets from Kay MacNeil who has supported efforts to save the Monarch butterflies for many years through the propagation of milkweed. Monarchs lay their eggs exclusively on milkweed which, subsequently provide food for the caterpillars. So, spread the word and plant Milkweed seeds: to get three kinds of milkweed seeds from Kay: send \$2 cash and a self-addressed business sized envelope to Kay MacNeil, 689 Golf Club Lane, Frankfort, IL 60423. Also, Kay leads an effort known as: Common Milkweed Seed Free For Big Acreage-Milkweed has free common milkweed seed for anyone with big acreage. (Cold treated.) Call her (815-469-1294) and describe your project and she will prepare a box with enough seed for your acreage and copies of her handouts. You can pick up your box at Kay's home in Frankfort or she would be glad to ship it to you if you pay for the postage. Learn more at [MilkweedForMonarchs.info](http://MilkweedForMonarchs.info) or email her at [kaymac6023@yahoo.com](mailto:kaymac6023@yahoo.com)

### **CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS**

We are an all-volunteer organization with a proud 74-year history. We get many calls and offers from members to help us with our work. To accommodate your requests, we have decided to form "Garbage Patrols" this year as we need volunteers to help pick up garbage around the perimeter of the Preserve. Each volunteer would be assigned a well demarcated section of our perimeter to pick up garbage from time to time. We would provide you with a "handy reacher" to use as you work on your section. You would manage your own schedule with a minimal time commitment. New volunteer Chad Kethcart has already signed up. Anyone interested should please call John Brinkman at 708/ 638-9418.

### **MEMBERSHIPS**

We appreciate our members for many reasons; one is financial as membership dues represent over half of our yearly income. So, if you haven't yet renewed for 2020, please do so by mailing your \$25 check to the office. We'll then mail a membership card to you. Also, you can buy your membership on-line as follows:

- Go to: [www.homewoodizaakwalton.com](http://www.homewoodizaakwalton.com)
- Click **membership**, then click on the following page per instructions and order you membership using a credit card. Memberships are still just \$25.00 (\$5.00 for youth and active military).
- Please consider an optional contribution. We are a 501(c)3 organization and contributions are tax-deductible. .

Your President,      John Brinkman

**DUE TO THE PANDEMIC, NO  
ACTIVITIES ARE PLANNED THROUGH THE  
END OF JULY---HAVE A NICE SUMMER  
STAY HEALTHY AND SAFE !**