



# HOMEWOOD IZAAK WALTON PRESERVE

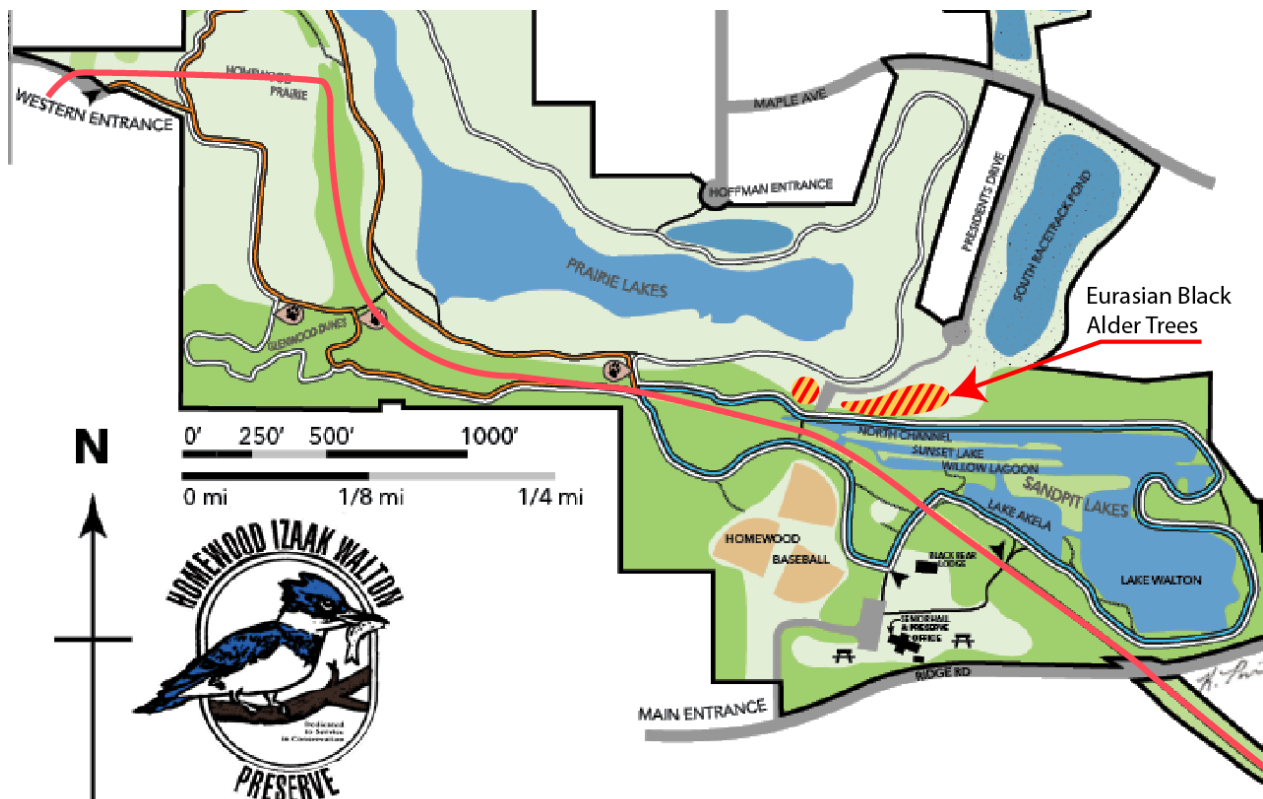
Dedicated to Service in Conservation

To our members and friends:

November/December 2020 Newsletter

## WATER MAIN CONSTRUCTION PROJECT-III

On Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, the Village of Homewood approved the contract with Burns and McDonnell Engineering to build the new water pipeline which will bring water to Homewood from the new source in Hammond Indiana. This is our third newsletter article about the project; please consult previous newsletters for details. The new water main will be located underground and come into Homewood via our eastern trail, which you may know as the old railroad right-of-way going to the Thornton Quarry. We have provided a map of the pipeline route (indicated red line) below this article. Preliminary construction work will begin in mid-November; extensive clearing of vegetation (about 50' wide) will begin in December along the railroad right-of-way part of the route. We have walked the route with officials from both the village and contractor and can report that 95%+ of the vegetation to be removed on the right of way is invasive or undesirable. We have established a good working relationship with these officials with informative and timely communication. A method of underground construction called “jackboring” will be used under the Homewood prairie. This will necessitate the digging of one large pit halfway across the prairie which may be dug over the winter. Any trail closures will be brief with closure signs on the trails. Going forward every newsletter will provide an update on the project and what to expect next.



## OUR TURKEY RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

As you probably know by now, we were unable to hold our usual Fall Auction and Raffle Party in early November due to Covid pandemic restrictions. So we conducted our only fundraiser of the year as a raffle only effort. Each member was mailed 2 raffle ticket booklets and asked to buy their raffle tickets and sell additional booklets if possible. Once again we were surprised and gratified with your response. As you can see from the results set out below, our membership bought a record number of raffle tickets creating record net revenue! We are so grateful for your strong support. We thank you so much for your continuing support of the Preserve

### **This year's results as compared to the prior 3 years:**

	2020	2019	2018	2017
Turkey Ticket Sales	\$19,646	\$15,595	\$16,584	\$17,575
Auction		\$1,239	\$1,612	\$1526
Bake Sale		\$279	\$173	\$200
Pizza/Pop Sales		\$186	\$145	
Expenses	(\$3,555)	(\$2,855)	(\$2,501)	(\$3,407)
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>\$16,091</b>	<b>\$14,444</b>	<b>\$16,013</b>	<b>\$15,895</b>
Member Participation Rate	24%	22%	23%	28%

Many thanks to the top sellers of our Turkey Raffle tickets who sold 5 or more books:

Juan Santana	11	Steve Anderson	6
Gerry Tienstra	10	Georgiana Dodd	6
John Sandala	8	Robert Galloy	6
Magda Hepokowski	8	Jeff Groen	6
Homewood Disposal	8	Matt Michalik	6

### Thank you to Walt's Foods:

Our \$25 gift cards that were also drawn in the raffle are printed and provided by Walt's Foods. Thanks to and Sherry Dunlap for her assistance. Walt's Foods supports the Preserve in many ways throughout the year which we greatly appreciate.

Also congrats to our Grand Prize winners: (1) Judy Welsh \$500, (2) Gary Schwarz \$400, (3) Christina Thomas \$300, (4) David Ferrari \$200, and (5) Juanita Williamson \$100.



## **COMPLETED EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT**

Arthur Heine is a member of The Preserve, a senior at Homewood Flossmoor High School, and an Eagle Candidate from Scout Troop 364 in Homewood. In order to advance from the rank of Life to the rank of Eagle, a scout must perform a substantial service project. Arthur's project was done for the benefit of The Preserve and was divided into two parts. The first part involved the building of 160 feet of wooden boundary fence at the Preserve entrance on Hoffman Way. Arthur's new fence replaces an old split-rail fence, which was in poor repair. The new fence adds a real improvement to our northern entrance. Wood for this fence was a repurposed product as it was once part of a large fence around Canadian National property which CN purchased from us 2 years ago. After the purchase, CN allowed The Preserve to disassemble the fence and keep the wood; that effort was part of a separate Eagle Scout project managed by David Winicky in 2019.

The second part of Arthur's project involved the demolition of an old, 300-foot boundary fence not far from the North Channel Lake (and east of the lift station). This fence was probably built to delineate an old boundary between The Preserve and Washington Park Raceway. A large grove of an invasive-species, the Eurasian Black Alder tree, had been recently identified on the south side of the fence. A decision was made to cut these trees down and so, removal of the fence became a priority in order to gain access to the trees. Arthur removed the fence expeditiously and this then led to removal of the invasive species. The story of this tree removal is detailed in the following article.

Arthur's crews included the following volunteers: Nathaniel Appelet, Alex Bertucci, Donovan Brennan, Henry Heine, Don Heine, Andrew Gaughan, Michael Gaughan, Mick Gaughan, Lucas Kramer, Chris Kush, Jay O'Reilly, Mike McDonnell, David Schlismann, Daniel Straney, Shawn Straney, Mark Thompson, Pete Thompson, Jim Winicky, and Jimmy Yast.

## **AN INVASIVE TREE SPECIES CONQUERED**

Back in June, Dave Zaber (member, volunteer and conservation consultant) brought to our attention an outbreak of invasive, non native Eurasian Black Alder trees out near the lift station (see map on page 1) Before then, we knew nothing about them. These trees take over an area, allowing no other vegetation to grow under their canopies. We estimate the outbreak at between 15-20 years old occupying an area of roughly 2/3rds of an acre. So volunteers Greg Busler, Dan Galen, Mark Becker, Dave Zaber and John Brinkman went to work and in 4 two hour sessions during the fall, cut them all down, applied herbicide on the stumps and began burning the cut branches and trunks. We expect the prairie to reclaim the territory. Thanks to all who helped make this a quick successful effort!

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

Our regular Saturday office hours 9-noon will conclude on December 19. Thereafter, we'll take a break for the holidays and winter, then resume on February 27 but with intermittent staffing during the break. But call our number (708/798-1850) anytime and leave a message and we can make arrangements to meet with you whenever convenient. The photo calendars were a great success with 180 sold so far (@130 sold last year) and 35 or so are still available for \$12 each. Lastly, plenty of honey from hives on The Preserve are available for sale: \$8 per 12 oz jar.



***HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL OF OUR MEMBERS***

***AND HERE'S HOPING WITH CONFIDENCE FOR A MUCH MORE NORMAL 2021!***