



**Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve, Inc.**

*Dedicated to Service in Conservation*  
 1100 Ridge Road  
 Homewood, Illinois 60430  
 708-798-1850

e-mail address: [info@homewoodizaakwalton.com](mailto:info@homewoodizaakwalton.com)

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To our members and friends:

November/December 2022

**TURKEY RAFFLE AND AUCTION RESULTS**

Finally, after a 2-year hiatus due to the pandemic, we held our Annual Fall raffle and auction in person in the newly painted cabin. Everyone enjoyed being back together again, and once again our fundraiser was a great success thanks to your enthusiastic participation through contest ticket sales & purchases, donated gift cards, generous bids for auction items and delicious donated baked goods. To the delight of all (or at least some) auctioneer Shawn Straney entertained the audience with the use of blarney, a skill learned from his Irish grandfather. This time he was joined at the podium by Mark Thompson, an equally entertaining auctioneer. Your enthusiastic support and attendance was gratifying; attendance at the event was good but make a note for next year, there was room for more. By the way, we auctioned fewer “garage sale” items and more gift cards & prime merchandise from local merchants. Our pre-event pizza and pop sales were again popular. Net revenue was up 11% over last year (and a new record high amount) due to proceeds received at the event. Membership participation rate remains amazingly consistent over the years-- something of which we can all be proud. Note that the financial results for the last four years are outlined below. This year’s winner of the raffle’s Grand Prize of \$500 cash was Mary Michalik from Homewood. Congratulations to Mary !

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

|                           | 2019            | 2020            | 2021            | 2022            |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Turkey Ticket Sales       | \$15,645        | \$19,595        | \$18,950        | \$18,164        |
| Auction                   | \$1,239         |                 |                 | \$2,249         |
| Bake Sale                 | \$279           |                 |                 | \$138           |
| Pizza/Pop Sales           | \$186           |                 |                 | \$242           |
| Total Receipts            | \$17,349        | \$19,595        | \$18,950        | \$20,943        |
| Expenses                  | (\$2,855)       | (\$3,555)       | (\$3,594)       | (\$3,506)       |
| <b>Net Revenue</b>        | <b>\$14,619</b> | <b>\$16,040</b> | <b>\$15,356</b> | <b>\$17,437</b> |
| Member Participation Rate | 22%             | 23%             | 24%             | 24%             |

Many thanks to the top sellers of our Turkey Raffle tickets who sold 6 or more books:

|                      |                        |                  |                    |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Susan Kells--20      | Gerry Tienstra--15     | Grover Burks--12 | John Sandala--12   |
| Chris Beele--8       | Dan Boss--8            | Dedert Corp—8    | Magda Hepokoski--8 |
| Homewood Disposal--8 | Jacqueline Napoleon--8 | Regina Zohfeld—8 |                    |

**Thanks to the volunteers supporting this year’s event:**

Tony, Maria, & Tony Jr Talerico--ordered, served and sold pizza and pop;  
Jay and Amy Eagle served snacks, water, and soft drinks  
Shawn Straney – hall setup; Auctioneer; solicited gift cards  
Mark Thompson--Auctioneer  
Dan Carey and Sam Casella—assisted auctioneers  
Dave Smith – all things “treasury”  
Joyce Semmler—recorded raffle ticket and Grand prize winners  
Dan Galen--hall set up  
John Sandala and Carolyn Bury—managed bake sale  
Greg Busler— sold /processed raffle tickets at the door -- set up event sign  
John Brinkman-- Solicited gift cards, hall set up  
Clayton Wassilak— Gopher at the event (go fer this! – go fer that!)  
Jerry Vankus---solicited gift cards

**Thank you to Walt’s Foods and our local merchants:**

Our \$25 gift cards and our \$50 grand door prize were printed and provided by Walt’s Foods with a generous discount. Thanks to Kathie Neumeyer and Sherry Dunlap for their assistance. Walt’s Foods supports the Preserve in many ways throughout the year and we are very appreciative.

The following 22 merchants made generous donations of gift certificates and/or merchandise in support of that event. We are gratified by their enthusiastic support and we thank them wholeheartedly for their generosity. **We urge all of our members to send business their way.**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 5th Quarter, 18105 Dixie Hwy, Homewood             | Lassen's Tap, 2131 W 183rd St, Homewood         |
| Art Corner, 18703 Dixie Hwy, Homewood              | Loulou Belle Boutique, 2049 Ridge Rd, Homewood  |
| Aurelio's Pizza, 18162 Harwood Ave, Homewood       | Redbird Café, 2057 Ridge Rd, Homewood           |
| Bistro on Sterling, 1040 Sterling Ave, Flossmoor   | Sterling Eye Care, 1030 Sterling Ave, Flossmoor |
| D&D Foods, 1023 Halsted St, Chicago Heights        | Thomas Photography, 18705 Dixie Hwy, Homewood   |
| Family Wine & Liquor, 18707 Dixie Hwy, Homewood    | Tin Ceiling Tavern, 2021 Ridge Rd, Homewood     |
| Flossmoor Station, 1035 Sterling Ave, Flossmoor    | Twisted Q BBQ, 2053 Ridge Rd, Homewood          |
| Gaia's Market & Refillery, 1948 Rdige Rd, Homewood | UpsaDaisy Boutique, 18100 Martin Ave, Homewood  |
| Goodspeed Cycles, 2125 183rd St, Homewood          | Vida Tacos, 18102 Martin Ave, Homewood          |
| Healthy Hounds, 2546 Central Dr, Flossmoor         | Walts Food Center, 2345 183rd St, Homewood      |
| La Voute Bistro, 2034 Ridge Rd, Homewood           | Xperts Shoe Repair, 1950 Ridge Rd, Homewood     |

**HOMEWOOD SCIENCE CENTER FALL INTERNSHIP**

Once again we were pleased to host the students from the Middle School Conservation Ecology Internship at the Preserve. The students came down to the Preserve on 6 successive Saturday mornings to learn about managing and preserving biodiversity and natural resources. The course is taught by volunteer teacher Nicole Fuller. It’s a great way to get kids out into their natural surroundings. The course includes hands on work removing invasive species. They demonstrated what they learned at the Walk Walton Science Center fundraising event on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The students involved were Anderson Pries, Torri Thomas, Jason Powell, Aiden Rodgers, Alyssa Latalladi, Elijah Hayes, Eleanor Dickover, Cardell Donald-White, Charles Mathis, Emilien Dhubert, Darby Van Vliet, Braylon Brewer, and William Wiggins.

## **VOLUNTEER EVENT ON OCTOBER 8TH**

We had an enthusiastic turnout in early October for an invasive species removal effort organized by Clayton Wassilak. The group worked on removing mostly buckthorn in the area just north and northeast of Blackbear Lodge. Volunteers included Cheryl Sullivan, Jim Helke, Warren Becker, Carolyn Bury, Greg Busler, Kevin Jennings, Marji O'Leary, Christine Phelps and a Homewood Science Center intern, William Wiggins and his brother John. Snacks and soft drinks were provided after the work. Our thanks to Clayton for the organizational work and for the collective efforts of the volunteers. We will have more of these volunteer opportunities in the future.

## **RUN FOREST RUN RACE RESULTS**

On a cloudy but unusually warm morning in early November, 31 runners participated in our 15th annual 4-mile Run Forest Run trail race. We keep this event simple: the fastest man and the fastest woman are the winners -- no age brackets, no corporate sponsors, no loud music or big banners to mar the beauty of our Preserve ! This year, the 3 fastest runners' times were just 10 seconds apart. Thanks again to race organizers Nick Quirke & John Brinkman for coordinating the event and making the 2022 Run Forest Run a great race and a resounding success.

Thanks to all volunteers as follows: for timing and race day set up: Brian, Emily and Penny Quirke; for course set up: Jay & Amy Eagle; for race marshals and water stand: Greg Busler, John Sandala, Jay & Amy Eagle, and Kevin Jennings. We look forward to hosting all of these runners again next year. For updates throughout the year, photos from race-day, group run schedules and chances to win entries into next year's race, like RUN FOREST RUN on FACEBOOK.

### **MALE WINNERS**

1: Chris Dudek 27:01  
2: Michael Baxa 27:05  
3: Jonathan Labock 27:11

### **FEMALE WINNERS**

1. Mimi Projovic 32:41  
2. Julia Maguire 33:17  
3. Ina Izenbart 33:34

Link to full results can be found at: <http://www.runtheforest.com/2019>

## **TROUT AND THE SAND PIT LAKES**

We stock rainbow trout in the sandpit lakes in late fall nearly every year. This year the trout were stocked in late October. Our thanks to the fish crew led by Lakes and Fish manager Tony Talarico, assisted by Fred Kolodziej, Dave Carpenter, Ed Betts and Greg Busler for their help this year. The low water level has been distressing to all. As a result of delays in obtaining chemicals, the long awaited well pump repair is now expected before year end. Hopefully we can then quickly restore the water level. So far, the fish are surviving with no observable fish kill.

## **2023 CALENDARS WINTER OFFICE HOURS**

For the winter months, we'll continue to staff the office on Saturdays from 9:00 AM until noon. Our beautiful 2023 photo calendars are available (\$15 each) as well as wildflower honey (\$8 for 12 oz jar). They both make good Christmas & Hanukkah gifts. Check our website ([www.homewoodizaakwalton.com](http://www.homewoodizaakwalton.com)) for more information about the photo calendar contest. If you would like to purchase these items at off-hours, please call at 708/ 798-1850 and leave a message.

Your President,  
*John Brinkman*

***HAPPY HOLIDAYS !***