



To our members and friends:

September 2022 Newsletter

**GENERAL MEETING—THURSDAY OCTOBER 20th 7 PM SENIOR HALL
BIG RUN WOLF RANCH**

We welcome back the wildlife experts at Big Run Wolf Ranch who last visited our cabin about 10 years ago. Big Run Wolf Ranch is a non profit, federally licensed educational facility which specializes in the education and conservation of North American wildlife. They will bring extensive knowledge about local wildlife and will bring several live animals with which we can get up close and personal. Unfortunately, they will not be bringing a wolf since of late their wolves have not travelled well. But we can expect a porcupine, a lynx, and several other species.

This is a wonderful opportunity to bring children into our cabin to enjoy real wildlife in a closer setting than a typical zoo; this is a family oriented program that everyone will find most informative and enjoyable.

BOARD AND OFFICER ELECTIONS

At its June 9th meeting, the full Board approved the officers and directors that were nominated by the Nominating Committee. This process was utilized in lieu of our normal election procedures which we could not employ since we were unable to hold General meetings in April and May due to the pandemic. Once again all current officers and those general directors with expiring terms volunteered to continue their service. The officers term of service is one year (Sept 1 to Aug 31; general directors' terms are for three years Sept '22 to August '25) The following candidates were elected:

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 Sailor, Mark Biolchin, Sam Casella and Jay Eagle

General Directors with continuing terms: Judy Johnson, Carolyn Bury, Steve Wlodarski, John Sandala, Todd Wittenburg, John Newgard, Tony Talarico, and Dirk French



ANNUAL TURKEY RAFFLE, BAKE SALE, AND AUCTION PARTY-NOV 12th, 7 PM

YES our annual fundraiser is back live and in person on the evening of November 12th after a two year hiatus due to the pandemic ! This is our primary annual fund-raising event and accounts for a substantial amount of annual Preserve revenue. The event consists of an auction, bake sale and prize drawings:

AUCTION: We will auction off items donated by members, typically household items, small tools, etc. as well as gift cards from local merchants. . Please bring auction items to Senior Hall prior to or in the morning of November 12th tagged with your name (if desired). This year we will make best efforts to upgrade the auction and refrain from auctioning off unwanted junk.

BAKE SALE: Please bring bake sale item to Senior Hall on the day of the event at any time after 9am. We then sell raffle tickets at the event for \$5 for a chance to win a bake sale item.

GRAND PRIZES: The three Grand prizes this year are in cash: \$500, \$250, and \$150. We will also raffle off 30 turkey coupons from Walt's foods (value \$25.00).

DOOR PRIZES: We are also planning to raffle off *Door Prizes* for those members who have bought at least one booklet of tickets and are in attendance that evening.

PIZZA: Early arrivers can purchase pizza and soft drinks for sale after 6:15p. Table snacks and water will be provided free of charge.

RAFFLE TICKET MAILING: You will soon receive in the mail (or already have) your ticket booklets for this event to be held Saturday November 12th, at 7:00 PM. Included with the ticket booklets is a letter describing this year's event. Individual raffle tickets will again cost \$5 and a booklet of 6 tickets will cost \$25. Please consider purchasing or selling these tickets and return the ticket stubs and payment via mail or in person at Senior Hall (1100 Ridge Road). Tickets may be donated to the needy if you wish; simply note that when returning ticket stubs and payment. Any ticket drawn with this designation will result in the coupon being donated to organizations that serve those in need.

Additional ticket booklets are available at Senior Hall. Stop by during office hours on Saturday mornings 9-noon or call to request additional booklets. (708-798-1850). Again, this year we are able to accept payment for raffle tickets via credit or debit card in person at Senior Hall. Members will receive one complimentary turkey coupon (\$25 value) for selling each block of 6 or more ticket booklets.

For many, many years the enthusiasm of our membership for this event has been gratifying and wonderful. Thanks to you all for your continuing support for this key fund-raising event.



LOW WATER LEVEL—SANDPIT LAKES

The water level in the sandpit lakes has been steadily dropping since early June due to generally dry conditions and our inability to add water to the lakes via the well pump which the Village maintains. That pump last worked effectively in early March of this year. Since then it's pumping capability has been reduced by about 85%. Since there is an insufficient amount of land/watershed around these lakes, most years we need to add well water to maintain sufficient water levels for the fish, especially during the winter freeze over. We are working with Village officials to ascertain the problem and hire a reputable company to come in and fix the mechanism. We fully expect to have the pump fixed and working well before the onset of winter.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY---INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL—OCT 8TH

As our older, veteran members well know, we have a strong and long standing culture of volunteerism. Our slogan is “Volunteers are us !” So the members of our Conservation Committee have planned an afternoon of volunteer work on Saturday October 8th starting at 1pm. The effort will be led by Clayton Wassilak, a member of the Conservation Committee. The plan is to work on the removal of invasive woody plants in the general vicinity of our cabin. No experience is necessary. After removing the invasive species, we will apply herbicide directly on the stumps. Later the cleared area will be planted with native seeds.

No experience is necessary .We ask that the volunteers wear long sleeve shirts, long pants and work shoes/boots that you are comfortable with getting dirty, as we will be off of the trail. Bring your own work gloves if possible.

If you have a chainsaw, brush cutter, pruning saw or loppers and are willing to bring them please do. Work gloves, hearing protection and safety glasses will be provided to those that need them.

After all the work is done we will have a bonfire where snacks and soft drinks will be provided by the Preserve.

You can sign up in advance on our website (which is most helpful to us) but please feel free to “walk on” the day of the event. This restoration event will be coordinated with ClayEarth LLC, Clayton's business, whose services will also be volunteered.

In the event of rain, make up day is on October 22nd at 1 pm

Your President, John Brinkman



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY SATURDAY OCT 8TH

Come out to the grounds area around the cabin to help us
remove invasive species.
See article in this newsletter for details

GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY OCTOBER 20TH

FEATURING BIG RUN WOLF RANCH

Come out to the cabin to enjoy North American wildlife
up close and personal. See article in this newsletter
for more details