



## Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve, Inc.

*Dedicated to Service in Conservation*  
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To our members and friends:

January 2023

### THINK SPRING---2023 NATIVE PLANT SALE

Co-sponsored by: **HOMEWOOD IZAAK WALTON PRESERVE**  
**THORN CREEK AUDUBON SOCIETY**

Again, Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve (HIWP) and Thorn Creek Audubon Society (TCAS) are co-sponsoring a native plant sale. Thirty-seven different plants will be offered, including trees, shrubs, flowers, and ornamental grasses. Plants are chosen to represent different colors, textures, sun exposures and bloom times. All are native to Illinois. Judy Johnson, a member of both organizations and plant sale organizer, stresses that native plants support the environment in several ways. Local wildlife, including pollinators, depend on native plants for food and shelter. Native plants thrive without pesticides or fertilizers and once established do not require watering. The very deep root systems help prevent erosion and flooding.

Some highlights of this year's sale are:

-Three Illinois endangered/threatened species are available: Small Yellow Wild Indigo (*Baptisia tinctoria*); Royal Catchfly (*Silene regia*); and Black Cohash (*Actaea aka Cimicifuga racemosa*).

-New to the sale this year, are the showy Michigan Lily (*Lilium michiganense*) and the ephemeral spring favorite Jack-in-the Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*).

-Two of the plants are milkweed varieties that support Monarch Butterflies: Rose Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) and the orange flowering Butterflyweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*).

-If you desire tough, low maintenance plants, we suggest Ohio Spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohioensis*) or Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*).

-Wild Hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*) is a flowering shrub that loves shady, moist areas-a plus because most shrubs do not like the shade.

-The Chinquapin Oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*) is especially suited to the urban environment. Oak trees support more wildlife than any other tree.

In order to better ensure you obtain the plants you desire, **we strongly encourage pre-ordering**. The order form can be accessed on the HIWP and TCAS websites (print out and follow directions.) Order forms are also available in the HIWP office that is staffed on Saturday mornings 9-noon. **Deadline to pre-order is March 1. Plant delivery and open sale is Saturday, May 20, 2023 from 9-noon at HIWP.** All profits will be split between HIWP and TCAS. Questions/order form requests can be directed to Judy Johnson [TCASPlants@gmail.com](mailto:TCASPlants@gmail.com) or text/call 312-307-1808. Think Spring!

## BETTY BAKER 1942--2022



We were saddened to learn of Betty’s passing on December 17, 2022 at the age of 80. Betty was an enthusiastic and dedicated supporter, volunteer, and sometime board member at the Preserve for decades, often including her entire family in these efforts. Betty will be remembered for many activities and contributions to the Preserve such as the Thanksgiving day dinners open to all members and the winter pot luck dinners/concerts featuring Mark Dvorak. Betty was the principle advocate for “recycling at the Preserve.” But her most significant contribution was her leadership role in marshalling a successful effort for the 1982-83 “Save-The--

Prairie” campaign. This successful campaign raised funds (\$200,000) to purchase a 4.2 acre parcel within the 15 acre Homewood Prairie to save them from development. Betty will be remembered for being determined, delightful, and dedicated. We will all miss her greatly.

## ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Dave Smith has completed the annual report for our fiscal year that ended on August 31, 2022. We report our operating income annually to give our members a sense of how we pay for the operating expenses of the Preserve. (see below) Member dues continues to fund about half of our regular expenses and the Turkey Raffle/Auction funds about a quarter of those expenses. The Preserve has always maintained strong reserve funds for special projects. So once again we thank you, our loyal and generous members, for your continuing support of the Preserve.

		'18-'19	'19-'20	'20-'21	'21-22
Revenue:	Dues	41%	49%	43%	48%
	Donations	26%	20%	24%	16%
	Turkey Raffle/Auction	26%	23%	22%	24%
	Events /Other	7%	9%	11%	12%
Expense:	Revenue related	13%	5%	6%	19%
	Non-discretionary	61%	49%	55%	87%
	Surplus as a % of Revenue	29%	9%	7%	(6%)

And then there’s another category of income, specifically the thousands of volunteer hours donated by many of our 1,700 members. The projects are too long to list in one paragraph but here are a few: Trail maintenance, equipment operation and repair, litter patrols, communicating with members via Facebook, newsletters, & General Meetings (we hope to add Instagram and /or Twitter), fighting aggressive invasive species, prairie burns, prairie restoration and gardening with emphasis on native species, maintaining and scheduling our picnic pavilions and adjoining areas, hosting a 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnic for the entire community, lake water monitoring & management including fish stocking, youth projects including high school groups, Homewood Science Center, and Boy Scout Eagle projects, yearly memberships solicitations including envelope stuffing and updating our computer data, and a Board of Directors, which is attentive to working within a budget. No one knows how many volunteer hours are donated, but clearly they are in the thousands and they are a tremendous asset to The Preserve. Thank you all.

### **Annual Membership Report**

Here's the wrap-up of membership in 2022. We ended up with 1,729 members, our second-best year ever. In 2022 we established a couples-price of \$40, or \$10 less than what couples paid in earlier years ( $\$25 \times 2 = \$50$ ). While the price per person went down, overall revenue from couples increased by over \$1,000 because over 150 members from 2021, added their spouse /partner to the membership rolls in 2022 resulting in an increase in revenue. We'll offer the same couples-pricing in 2023. We very much appreciate your memberships because dues are our single largest source of general revenue.

We've also seen an increased number of volunteers and volunteers are truly the engine that keeps The Preserve going. We note that in the recent November election, the citizens of Cook County voted to raise property taxes by 0.025% in order to support the Cook County Forest Preserves. We appreciate our county preserves but we're proud to say that Homewood Izaak Walton receives no tax dollars. Instead, our volunteer efforts keep operating expenses low. Also, we sense that our many volunteer efforts bring opportunities for new friendships and for civic pride and these bring benefits to the community as a whole. Again, thanks for the many memberships.

Memberships for 2023 (which begin April 1) are now on sale at Senior Hall during Saturday office hours (9am to noon Saturdays). You can also renew on line, Watch for a letter from us inviting you to renew for this year.

### **UPDATE ON THE BROKEN WELL PUMP FOR SAND PIT LAKES**

We have written frequently in past editions of this newsletter about the well pump (used to maintain adequate water levels in the fishing lakes) which has been broken since June. Fortunately, the fish have survived the low water all these months without any visible die off. The Village, which has responsibility for maintaining the pump, contracted with a pump repair company back in the Fall to get it fixed. The repair has been delayed due to chemical and then parts supply problems (what else is new !). But we are pleased to report that as you receive this newsletter, at long last the repairs should be well underway !

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

Our beautiful 2023 photo calendars are still available now costing only \$10 (\$2 reduction) and can still be ordered on our website. And we have an ample supply of wildflower honey for sale at \$8 for 12 oz bear. Office hours continue on Saturdays from 9:00 AM until noon.

Your President,  
*John Brinkman*

## **Native Plant Sale**

**Deadline to order is March 1—Think Spring !**

**See the article in this newsletter for details.**