



To our members and friends:

July 2023 Newsletter

TRAIL MIX CONCERT—SATURDAY AUGUST 12 7 PM, FEATURING PHOEBE HUNT





Our Trail Mix concert series continues with a summer offering featuring Phoebe Hunt, from Nashville. Rolling Stone Magazine describes our Trail Mix headliner, “the soulful songstress with a fiddle”, Phoebe Hunt, as “one of the top 10 New Country Artists you need to know”... that she “breathes new life into a genre that’s sometimes so respectful of the past, it fails to push toward the future,” and that she “puts a global spin on American folk music.” Similarly, National Public Radio, American Songwriter, the Austin Chronicle, and Americana UK, to name a few, heap tons of praise on Phoebe Hunt. Also, Ms. Hunt’s newest album, *Nothing Else Matters*, (on the *Thirty Tigers* label), will drop on July 28th, just prior to her concert in our special listening room in the woods – The Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve.

Yep, after selling out our last two indoor concerts, Phoebe Hunt will headline the first outdoor concert of the Trail Mix Acoustic Concert Series 2023 season, and we couldn’t be more excited. Please check out Ms. Hunt’s website, <https://phoebehuntmusic.com/>. You’ll come away a fan and more excited to know that tickets are now available for the August 12th concert. If you haven’t experienced music in The Preserve, know that you are in for a treat. There’s something to be said for sitting in nature, amongst trees whose leaves sway to the breezes as you listen to every beautiful lyric sung and note played.

Ms. Hunt will be supported by the husband & wife duo from Chicago, *Adjacent Cruise*, who will kick off the evening’s music at 7pm (doors open at 6:00pm). Pizza, gourmet wraps, water and soft drinks will be available and one of the event’s sponsors, Flossmoor Station, will be pouring craft beer. Also, feel free to bring your own cooler (BYOB) so that settling in with friends in your most comfy lawn chair and picnic blanket is complete and sets the stage for another amazing Trail Mix Event.

There are three tiers of tickets available (priced lower if bought in advance). Please visit <https://www.trailmixmusic.org/reservations-donations-merch> for more information which includes arrangements for inclement weather. Tickets will also be available at the door. To arrange alternative means of payment, please email Trailmixmusicfest@gmail.com.

1100 Ridge Road • Homewood, IL 60430

  info@homewoodizaakwalton.com • tel:(708)-798-1850

CALENDAR PHOTO CONTEST RETURNS: SEASONS OF IZAAK WALTON / 2024

Yes! we will soon launch our fifth annual calendar photo competition: "Seasons of Izaak Walton/2024". Beginning August 15, 2023, you're invited to submit your high-resolution images via email, with your name, address, and phone number plus a title for the photo

to: hiwpcalendarcontest@gmail.com

- Entrants can submit a maximum of five entries each. It can be a photo of weather, landscape, birds, dogs, other animals, and unidentifiable people.
- All photographs must be shot within Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve.
- Include the month the photo was taken.
- All photos must be in landscape format (wide not tall), ideally, 8.5 x 11 and watermark free.
- Visitors to the Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve Facebook page will be able to "Like" up to 12 photos to vote for their favorites. These votes will be used to break ties.
- The contest will close at midnight September 30, 2023.
- An independent panel of photographers will choose their favorites.
- The Homewood Izaak Walton Photo Committee will use the public's votes to break ties. All decisions are final.

If you have a question, contact the Homewood Izaak Walton Photo Committee at hiwpcalendarcontest@gmail.com.

REPORT ON OUR JULY 4 FAMILY PICNIC & GAMES

Feedback on this year's event has been **very positive!** People liked the food, the friendly atmosphere, and the "games for everyone". Unlike a year ago, the long lines for food pick-up were gone and the games started on-time. Please recall that last year was The Preserve's first picnic without the help of the Park District who opted for alternate July 4th observations. Last year was full of growing pains but we worked hard to make corrections and by golly, this year everyone had a good time. A schedule of games was posted, and the games started on-time. All games, including the very competitive balloon tosses & egg tosses, were completed by 1:20p. We had separate contests for kids & adults and we're very thankful to the kids for convincing the adults to participate in the contests. Other games for all ages included foot races for kids, sack races for kids & adults, a cornhole/bag toss tournament, plus the balloon & egg toss games mentioned earlier. There were DQ gift certificates awarded to the winners plus loads of other prizes.

We estimate that attendance was 250, which is about 100 fewer than last year. We can only speculate about as to why the numbers were down. Perhaps it was due to the heat, or more people out of town, or security concerns. Maybe it was because of shortcomings during last year's event; if that was the case, we can confidently assure you we learned from our mistakes and made big improvements this year. Please pass the word and consider this event for next year's Independence Day.

We have many volunteers to thank. They included: **Preparation of the grounds and set up:** Manager Sam Casella assisted by Chris Chojnowski, Greg Busler, Tony Talarico (the older) & Tony Talarico (the younger), John Sandala, and Jay Eagle. **Ticket sellers:** Karen Smith, Rose Olsar, Amy Eagle and Barbara Jerit. **Food preparation and delivery:** Managers Jay Eagle and Todd Wittenberg assisted by Carolyn Bury, Judy Johnson, John Sailor, Paula Newton, Yan Deng, Gordon Pearce, Kristi Yapp, Vicki Carter, Cindy Taylor, Ron Tomek, Bob Rapacki and Cheryl Sullivan. **Games:** Manager John Brinkman assisted by MC Shawn Straney, Gail Straney, Cindy Wittenberg, Joe Eagle and Kathy Seidel. **Tournament Manager:** Dan Galen.

We had **Activity Stations including:**

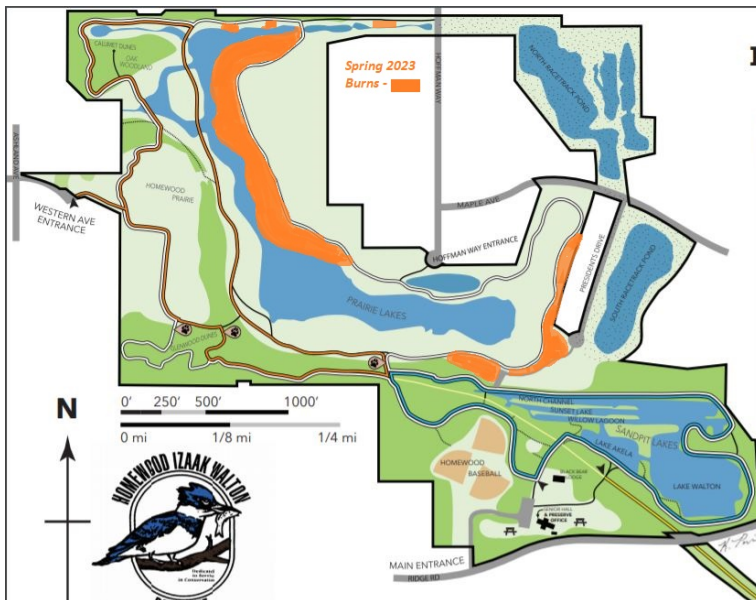
- John Harrell State Farm
- Face painting: Savannah Reinhart
- Homewood Science Center kids building toys and games Amanda, Jim and Milo Roy.
- Homewood Baseball pitch clock Kim Kapica
- Goodspeed Cycles slow cycle racing Steve Buchtel
- Fiddlesticks Forest kids play activities Gina and Justin Deangelo, Brianna Gomez-Bonner, Jennifer Bahar
- Union Street Gallery arts and crafts Kristi Yapp and Julian Graham.

SPRING CONTROLLED BURNS



Relatively dry weather this spring provided conditions for several successful controlled burns in March and early April. Our credentialed controlled burn coordinator, Dave Zaber, led these volunteer efforts joined on various days by Carolyn Bury, Sam Casella, John Sandala, Mark Becker, Shawn Straney, Greg Busler and Dan Galen.

We conduct burns in the fall and in the spring in order to keep invasive plant species from crowding out the native prairie plants. The burning process also puts nutrients back into the soil, especially during the winter rains and melting snow. Also, if we did not do these burns periodically, a thick mat of dead vegetation would accumulate preventing much needed precipitation and sunlight from reaching the new growth in the Spring. We typically conduct our Spring burns from early March through early April before the vegetation begins growing again. The surviving native vegetation then fully benefits from the rain and sun of the Spring Season. This past spring we were able to burn a large area that had not been burned for many years along a large part of the eastern shore of the Prairie Lakes that extend from north to south as depicted on the map below. Our thanks to Dave Zaber and the other controlled-burn volunteers.





**FOR MORE DETAILS SEE ARTICLE
IN THIS NEWSLETTER**