



Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve, Inc.

Dedicated to Service in Conservation
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Like us on Facebook

To our members and friends:

January 2024

THINK SPRING ! 2024 NATIVE PLANT SALE

Thorn Creek Audubon Society (TCAS) & Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve (HIWP) are again sponsoring a native plant sale. The organizations partner on this project to raise funds for educational projects and to increase native plantings in our area. Profits will be split between TCAS and HIWP.

- Plants have been chosen to thrive in this area and support pollinators/butterflies.
- All are native to Illinois. Plants that are “endangered/threatened” are indicated with asterisk*.
- They represent a variety of plant types, colors, textures, and bloom times.
- Descriptions of plants included in this year’s sale are on the attached order form page.
- Plant Sale and Pre-order Pick-up is scheduled for:

Saturday, May 18, 2024

9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

**HOMEWOOD IZAAK WALTON PRESERVE
1100 RIDGE ROAD, HOMEWOOD IL 60430**

To obtain the plants you want, we highly encourage pre-ordering. If you prefer, plants can be delivered by TCAS volunteers to Homewood/Flossmoor homes on Friday May 17.

Pre-orders due March 1, 2024 and there are 2 Ways to order:

<p>Mail your Order Form and Check Download and fill out order form. Mail to: TCAS/Judy Johnson 803 Argyle Avenue Flossmoor, IL 60422 <i>Make checks payable to: Thorn Creek Audubon</i></p>	<p>Order on-line www.ThornCreekAudubonSociety.org Scroll to: <i>Native Plant Sale</i> for Plant Descriptions and Directions for ordering</p>
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Judy Johnson, a Board member of both TCAS and HIWP is happy to answer questions regarding the plants or the sale. Judy can be reached by email at TCASPlants@gmail.com or by text at 312-307-1808. We have worked closely with **Possibility Place Nursery** to choose plants that can be reliably provided. However, even with careful planning, some plants do not propagate as expected and so are not available at the time of pick-up. Unavailable plants will be substituted with appropriate plants.

*Native plants are much more likely to thrive when placed where conditions support them: For example, do you love **red**? Both the Cardinal Flower and Royal Catchfly produce beautiful red flowers in sun to partial shade, but the Cardinal Flower likes **wet** conditions, whereas the Royal Catchfly likes **dry** conditions.*

INVASIVE SPECIES ERADICATION

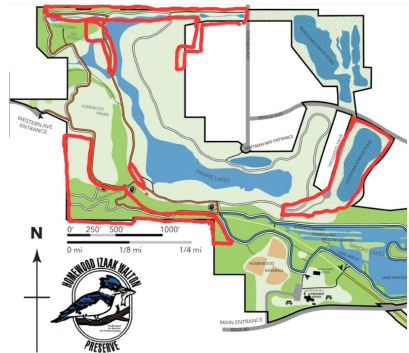
We have been working diligently over the past 6 years at eliminating undesirable and non-native flora from the Preserve and encouraging the growth of native and desirable flora. These efforts have mostly relied on volunteers with some assistance from Jesse at Express Green, our tree removal contractor. Back in late '23 we hired a local ecological contractor/technicians (Natural Resource Management Inc) to substantially increase these efforts.

With a crew of 5, NRM began their work in the sand hills area of the preserve by eradicating woody invasive plants. The purpose behind this action is to open up the forest canopy to allow more light to reach the forest floor to promote the growth of native ephemeral flowers as well as encourage oak tree regeneration.

To eradicate the invasive species, a herbicide called triclopyr 4 was applied to the bark of target shrubs and trees in an act called basal barking. The herbicide is applied to a wide band on the bark completely around the trunk. This will cause the trees and woody species to die by late spring. We can then differentiate them from the live trees and remove them as needed with chain saws. The licensed ecological restoration technicians from NRM also applied the herbicides.

After completing the sand hills, NRM expanded outwards from the target area to treat other areas of concern in the Preserve that were recommended by the Conservation Committee. (see map for treated areas marked in red)

The invasive species that were treated include the following: Common buckthorn, Glossy buckthorn, Eurasian black alder, Amur honeysuckle, Japanese honeysuckle, Japanese barberry, Multiflora rose, Euonymus sp., Autumn olive, Norway maple, Burning bush, Siberian elm, Black locust, Tree of heaven, White mulberry and Bradford pear (callery pear).



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP REPORT

For the year 2023 we ended up with 1,762 members. This was our second-best year ever, just 40 under the year 2020 when people were stuck in their houses because of Covid and anxious to find a near-by place to enjoy the outdoors. Thank you very much to all our members. Your annual dues provide a large percentage of our operating expenses. We'll solicit you by mail in February for 2024-2025 memberships. Remember that our membership year ends on March 31. Over the years we have experienced an annual attrition rate of @30% which results in a high turnover rate. Let's work to lower that number this renewal season. You can also buy a membership anytime on our website - www.HomewoodIzaakWalton.com. –or in person at the office on Saturdays between 9 AM & noon.

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 capital projects. So once again we thank you, our loyal and generous members, for your continuing support of the Preserve.

		'19-'20	'20-'21	'21-'22	'22-23
Revenue:	Dues	49%	43%	48%	46%
	Donations	20%	24%	16%	17%
	Turkey Raffle/Auction	23%	22%	24%	25%
	Events /Other	9%	11%	12%	12%
Expense:	Revenue related	5%	6%	19%	16%
	Non-discretionary	49%	55%	87%	79%
	Surplus as a % of Revenue	5%	7%	(6%)	5%

RECENT EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

In October of last year, Jacob Harris managed a project to coat our large fleet of picnic tables with a weatherproofing sealant. Over the years, Izaak Walton has purchased 57 high-quality picnic tables, which serve us very well. The frames are made of galvanized steel tubing, which is heavy yet easy to reposition as they can be moved like sleds. The seats and tabletops are made of treated lumber, which stand up against rain, snow, heat, & cold. However, time takes its' toll so, in-order-to extend the life of the boards, Jacob, a Life Scout from Boy Scout Troop 342 in Homewood volunteered to refinish and recoat the bench boards. This project became his Eagle Scout Service Project. His crew started by removing staples & tacks. Next the crew used brushes to remove moss & lichens. When necessary, sanders were used to smooth out divots. Finally, the tops and bottoms were coated with a mixture of linseed oil & mineral spirits; this coat will add to the weather resisting properties of our picnic tables. Jacob's crew included Michael Gaughan, Kim Harris, Nate Harris, Madilyn Harris, Jackson Grage, Greg Bussler, Shawn Straney, Tom Rickhoff, and Scott Barnas. Thank you Jacob for a job well-done!

CALENDARS, HONEY, IZAAK WALTON MERCHANDISE---WINTER OFFICE HOURS

Our beautiful 2024 photo calendars are still available now costing only \$10 (\$2 reduction) in person only) and can still be ordered on our website. We have just been resupplied with wildflower honey for sale at \$8 for a 12 oz bear. Colorful new merchandise items (hats, t-shirts, coffee mugs and sweatshirts) have also been resupplied. Office hours continue on Saturdays from 9:00 AM until noon. **Enjoy winter !**

TRAIL MIX CONCERT SERIES 2024 UPDATE

The Preserve continues to be “Home Base” for Trail Mix (TM) concerts but on Saturday February 10, a TM concert is planned at the Thornton Distillery. As the series grows in popularity and can attract more well-known musicians, they have a need for a larger indoor capacity venue. Thornton Distilling Co. with a seating capacity of 165 provides that larger space. That 7pm concert features the **Tray Wellington Band**, from North Carolina. This band specializes in amazing bluegrass musicianship mixed with hints of jazz and even hip-hop. Opening that night will also feature local fav and TM alum. **MG Bailey**, in this mixed-genre event. Tickets are at <https://www.tix.com/ticket-sales/trailmixmusicfest/6933> . Come early for some amazing food and beverages.

Looking ahead a TM concert is in planning stage at our cabin for late March or early April featuring local bands. Then, after the onslaught of the 13 and 17 year periodic cicadas has dissipated, we are also in early planning stages for a late summer outdoor concert. Watch future newsletters for more details !

Your President, *John Brinkman*

Native Plant Sale

Deadline to order is March 1—Think Spring !

See the article in this newsletter for details.