



Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve, Inc.

Dedicated to Service in Conservation

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Like us on Facebook

To our members and friends:

September 2021

ANNUAL TURKEY RAFFLE FUNDRAISER—DRAWING ON SUNDAY Nov 14th

Once again, we'll hold our annual **Turkey Raffle**, which includes prizes we're sure you'll like. Normally, the raffle goes hand-in-hand with an auction party, but for the second year in a row, this is a victim of the pandemic. However, hopes are high that one year from now, the situation will be improved and we'll be able to again plan on a fun-filled auction party.

The raffle drawing will take place on Sunday November 14th, when several Board members will gather in the cabin to draw the winning tickets. We'll again have 5 grand prizes, specifically \$500, \$400, \$300, \$200 and \$100. We'll also raffle off 30 turkey coupons (gift cards) from Walt's Foods (value \$25 each).

You'll soon receive in the mail (or already have) a letter with your raffle ticket booklets. You'll all get two booklets of 6-tickets. The cost per ticket is \$5; however, a booklet of 6 costs only \$25. Please consider purchasing a booklet of tickets and then ask family, friends, & acquaintances to support The Preserve with the purchase of additional raffle tickets. To encourage ticket sales, members who sell 6 booklets (\$150) will receive a complimentary Walt's \$25 gift card for each block of 6 booklets sold. Additional ticket booklets are available at Senior Hall during office hours (Saturdays 9-noon). Stop by or leave a voice message (708/ 798-1850) requesting additional booklets; we would then mail them to you promptly. We're able to accept payment for raffle tickets via credit or debit card in person at Senior Hall. Ticket stubs and payments can be returned to Senior Hall (1100 Ridge Road) via mail or during office hours on Saturdays from 9 AM until noon. For many, many years the enthusiasm of our membership for this fundraising effort has been gratifying and wonderful. We look forward to holding our normal auction, bake sale, and raffle party next year in 2022. Thanks to you, our members, for your continuing support for this, our only fund-raising event of the year; it accounts for about 25% of annual revenue.

FINAL TRAIL MIX CONCERT IN 2021...FRIDAY OCTOBER 1...6-9:30PM

Coming soon is the third concert in the Wexler Group's Trail Mix Acoustic Concert Series at the Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve. This is the third of three and it promises to be AMAZING.

The October 1st event will be the jazziest of the three concerts, featuring headliner **Kenya McGuire Johnson**, who has had multiple international tours and an album that sat at number 1 in the UK soul charts for four weeks, Kenya is a "richly inspired vocalist/songwriter whose jazz-kissed soul style is wooing admirers in the US and the UK."

With special guests:

Andy Pratt: Andy is a Chicago-based singer-songwriter & jazz artist who has toured the country and Canada in support of his albums "Horizon Disrupted" and "Further Disruption." Also, **JC Duo** – Hometown jazz favorites.

By all measures, the first two concert events in this series were a success, featuring acoustic pop, folk, Americana, old-timey and acoustic delta blues. We're confident you'll be thrilled to venture into the land of jazz & soul with this third in the series concert events.

On Friday, October 1st, the "Doors" of the East Pavilion will open at 6pm, and music will begin at 6:30. **The Redbird Cafe** will again be present and serving up delectables, but if you choose, you can bring your own cooler/picnic basket, blanket and chairs. We will also have tables and chairs available for use. Event partner, the **Homewood Public Library** will be on hand sharing all that is new at the library; you can be on the lookout at the library for recordings (vinyl and cds) by many of the artists featured on Trail Mix stages over the years, including the Trail Mix 2019 Pandemic Recordings.

Donations will be accepted to offset expenses. Preferential, up-front picnic table tickets and seats are available on line. Purchasing preferential tickets will also earn you a free digital download of the aforementioned 2019 Trail Mix Pandemic Recordings, featuring nine local artists recorded right under the East Pavilion in July 2019. Proceeds will help support the HIWP. Here's the link to obtain preferential tickets through Paypal, Credit Card or Venmo <https://sites.google.com/view/the-wexler-group-trail-mix/home>
Please email trailmixmusicfest@gmail.com with questions or to arrange payment by cash or check. Our Facebook event link is <https://fb.me/e/1KsXIVJJO>

A Little More About Trail Mix

This event, which is supported by **the Wexler Group** and is done in partnership with the **Homewood Public Library, the Village of Homewood** and sponsors, **Melody Mart** and **The Heiferman Family**, has grown from its first year, when it was organized by the teen organization, TALK. All of our events have been successful over the years, but now in our 6th year we are quite pleased with how Trail Mix has transitioned into the current multiple-date concert series format. We are also quite thrilled with our having attracted top-caliber touring and recording artists who match the chill and relaxed vibe of the Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve !

FINALLY.....BATHROOM RECONSTRUCTION IS UNDERWAY !

About 39 years ago, bathrooms were built on the north side of Senior Hall; they could be accessed from the inside or outside. We decided months ago to build completely new bathrooms on the footprint of the old ones and that these would be compliant with the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act). In the early months of the pandemic, the bathrooms were closed due to health concerns, then in February of this year they were completely gutted. Progress since then has been slow, but the Board of Directors approved a large expenditure for new facilities, volunteers Mike McDonnell and Adam Kramer worked to dismantle and remove the interior of the old facilities, and in July we contracted with Larson Construction (Greg Larson) to build the new rooms. We're looking forward to a completion date of November 1st. Visitors will readily see the progress being made.

OFFICE HOURS—HONEY IS BACK !

Just a reminder that our office hours are Saturday 9 AM to noon. Thanks to our dedicated bee keepers, Mike Rusnak and Tony Ferracane, we now have recently harvested honey from beehives in The Preserve. It's available for sale at the cabin at \$8 for a 12oz bottle. If you're unable to get to the cabin during our regular office hours, please call the office phone (708/ 798-1850), and leave a message; we'll then make arrangements for you to meet a volunteer to make your purchase.

WALK WALTON

The Homewood Science Center will be conducting their 5th annual Walk Walton event at the Preserve on Sunday Oct 24 from 9 am until noon. Walk Walton is presented by Homewood Science Center, in partnership with Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve and the Forest Preserves of Cook County. This year's fest will feature a nature scavenger hunt, explorer backpacks for kids, animals in fall, fantastic fall trees, a pumpkin patch, and donuts & hot drinks. Tickets are \$10 per adult and include free admission for up to three children 12 and under. Like so many other events, this activity has been reduced in scope in order to maintain personal safety as a result of the pandemic. We encourage you to participate. Registration is open; for more details and to register, please reserve your space today on the Homewood Science Center website at <https://www.homewoodsciencecenter.org/registration>.

The nature scavenger hunt will be designed and developed by middle schoolers in the science center's Conservation Ecology Internship, who will be learning about ecosystems in the Preserve and performing conservation work every Saturday for the six weeks leading up to Walk Walton. To learn more about the Conservation Ecology Internship see: <https://www.homewoodsciencecenter.org/internship>.

RUN FOREST RUN

For the 16th consecutive year, we will again be sponsoring our Fall Trail Race event on Saturday, November 6th at 9:30a. This 4-mile run through our well-maintained trail system has become a very popular event in our local running community. Anyone who has participated in the past has already been invited to participate via email registration. Due to COVID, some protocols may be necessary; those will be decided at race time but generally we will be asking participants to spread out. Runners will be strategically spread out to start the race. Anyone learning about this event for the first time and desiring to participate can sign up at www.RunTheForest.com.

Sincerely, Your President *John Brinkman*

HOMEWOOD IZAAK WALTON PRESERVE

FALL EVENTS

Walk Walton

Sunday October 24th from 9-noon

Run Forest Run Trail Race

Saturday November 6th at 9:30am

Place: The Grounds Area in the vicinity of Arthur Senior Hall 1100 Ridge Road Homewood, IL

Please see the articles about these events within this newsletter.