



Join Us At Our Upcoming Spring Events

HNPA has some great events planned for the spring. They are great for individuals, families and groups and are a great way to become familiar with the Preserve and what it has to offer. Two of our events also give participants a chance to play an active role in improving the Preserve and our natural environment. Join us!

HNPA Mission

Holliday Nature Preserve Association (HNPA) is a group of volunteers dedicated to the Wm. P. Holliday Forest & Wildlife Preserve in Westland, Livonia and Canton, Michigan.

The Preserve consists of 500-plus acres of forests and wetlands that runs along tributaries of the Rouge River.

The HNPA seeks to nurture a greater appreciation of this unique natural resource by hosting walks and conducting maintenance improvement projects in conjunction with Wayne County Parks.

The support of our members allows us to fund this newsletters, and to build public support and understanding of the importance of this Preserve within the Parks system.

Our activities are free and open to everyone.

Sat., April 22, 10 a.m. Earth Day in Foxlands (Foxlands is off Koppernick Road, between Hix and Haggerty.)

What was once a sod farm is now a young forest and we will work to re-establish the trail loops.

One of our volunteers will bring a brush-grubber to do the heavy work and several volunteers will have chain-saws to cut some of the large shrubs. What we need are some volunteers with loppers to cut the smaller stuff and volunteers willing to haul and stack the brush.

It won't be all work. Foxlands is a nice place to walk through and has a good assortment of songbirds. We will also provide cold drinks and donuts on what should be a good way to show support for Earth Day.

Sat., May 20, 10 a.m. Spring Wildflower Walk (Hix Park north of Warren Road)

We will walk from Hix Park



Volunteers during 2005 Rouge Rescue.

into the Koppernick section. This leisurely hour to 90-minute walk should provide a chance to see many spring wildflowers. No work this time, just a time to enjoy

the sights and sounds of the

woods and stream.

Sat., June 3, 8:30 a.m. Rouge Rescue/River Day (Cowan Section off Central City Parkway near Westland Mall. Please park in the former Service Merchandise parking lot across the street.)

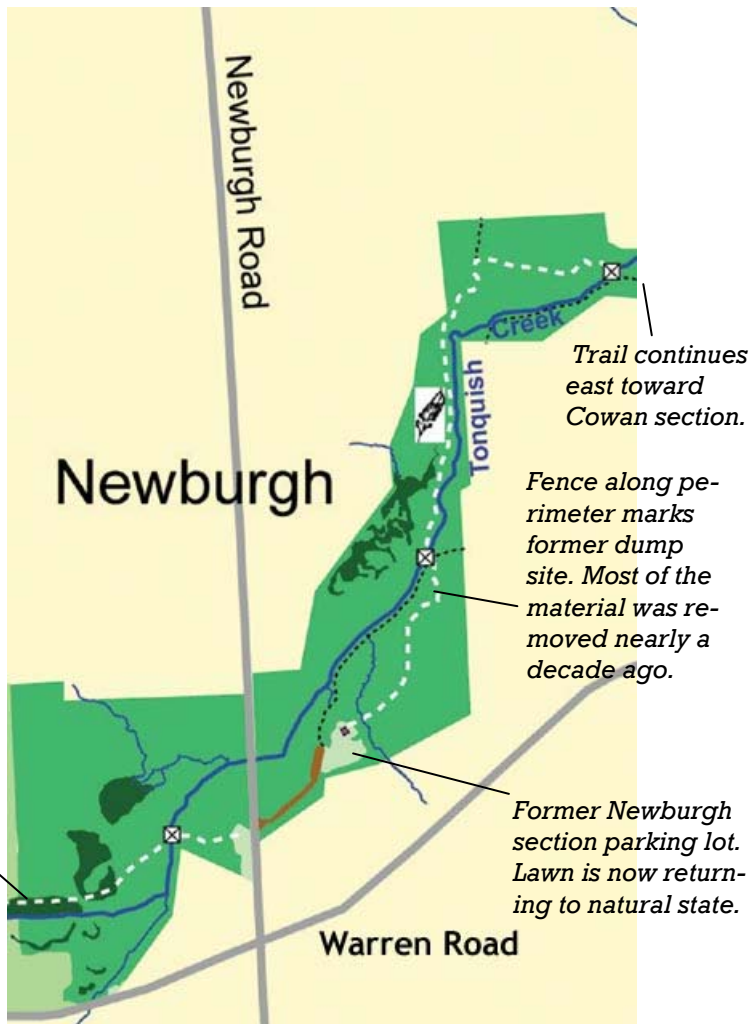
It has been 20 years since Friends of the Rouge (FOTR) started its Rouge Rescue event. This year, will be HNPA's 18th year working in the Holliday Preserve. As in the past, FOTR will provide free T-shirts, gloves and other supplies.

Our group will again partner with City of Westland to coordinate the event at the site.

Westland will provide support services and refreshments.

Mapping The Preserve

Newburgh Section



Trail continues on to Hix Park. This section can be very muddy and wet in the spring.

The entrance to the Newburgh section of the Preserve can be found on the east side of Newburgh Road just north of Warren Road and south of the wooden foot bridge. The section runs along both sides of Newburgh. (Be careful when crossing the street, since traffic can be heavy.)

Although the parking lot to the section is closed, visitors can park in the area near the gate and walk in.

Once at the site of the old parking lot, walk to the north-east end to pick up the trail.

The trail winds up and along Tonquish creek.

Because of the limited parking, visitors may encounter few other hikers. Additionally, because the lot is closed, it is recommended that visitors not walk the section alone.

For additional maps of the Preserve, go to www.Hnpa.org and click Preserve Maps. Another good source for maps is Google Maps (<http://maps.google.com/>.) One can view satellite images along with hybrid photos that combine satellite imagery with street names.

Winter 2005



The chainsaw crew; Phil Crookshank, Brandon Scott, an anonymous volunteer, Jack Smiley and Ruth Hart. Not shown: Bill Craig.

Most people would say we had a very strange Winter. We had little snow, many clear days and milder than normal temperatures. EXCEPT on the days of our walks! After a run of mid-30-degree days, the temperature dropped to 14 degrees with a nasty winchill. That day was the one Tiger Cubs Pack 852 of Livonia turned out for a visit to the Ellsworth section.

The boys (and adults) enjoyed searching for dens and nests, looking at raccoon and deer tracks, and hiking up and down the trails. It was a good day for boys with sticks to take to the woods. We could have had some great photos, but no one brought a camera; too darn cold.

Same cold and wind for our February walk. We did some work clearing the trails and the cutting helped warm us up a bit (see photo).

Even our "Last Day of Winter" walk was cold. The week before it was 65 but the day we chose was bone-chilling and our small group walked briskly the long loop in Koppernick section.

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Several of the shopping carts vandals have thrown in to the river that we hope to remove during Rouge Rescue.

Our PLAN is ambitious and we will need your help. Here's what we have planned:

- Two teams to help build foot bridges .Wayne County Parks has agreed to provide the lumber.)
- Three teams to help clear trails, remove invasive species.
- Volunteers to remove campfire debris and pick up trash
- Volunteers to clean up creek, including removing shopping carts.
- Volunteers to plant trees
- Help with watershed information booth and give tips on walking, talking and working in a nature preserve.

Many hands will ease work load. Children under 15 must be with adult. Dress in long sleeves and long pants, old shoes.

Questions? Contact us at [Holliday Association@HNPA.org](mailto:HollidayAssociation@HNPA.org).



One of the bridges we hope to replace during our 18th Rescue in the Preserve.

What's Happening in Holliday?

- ◆ We seem to have anywhere from 8 to 12 deer moving about the Preserve. Normally bucks shed their antlers in January. The mild winter delayed that shedding. Two bucks had their antlers into March.

- ◆ The mild spring meant that **chorus frogs** were heard March 12 and a **painted turtle** was seen on March 13 at Ellsworth



bridge. **Three herons** on nests March 21.

- ◆ Speaking of the Ellsworth bridge, it appears that bridge will not be rebuilt this year – AGAIN! (We did a whole article on bridges last year because we thought Wayne County Parks was finally going to move on the project after years of delays. We were wrong – AGAIN.)
- ◆ Trail bikes are being used in Cowan section. This type of activity is not good for trails and causes erosion.
- ◆ Someone is doing unauthorized trail work, probably those trail bike users.

Wayne County Parks has been informed of this damaging activity.

- ◆ Many of the dead oaks and ash trees are falling down and this is making the trail system in the Preserve difficult to navigate. Since the trails can't be used in spots, users go around the obstacles making new trails and causing more erosion. HNPA is trying to address this issue with Wayne County Parks and asking that regular trail maintenance be done.
- ◆ Don't be afraid to **add your voice and ask that the trails in Holliday be maintained**. After all, part of your parks millage money is supposed to be used to benefit the Preserve.
- ◆ Someone is mining the old abandoned landfill at old Joy bridge. Digging out the trash is undermining the trees and spreading glass bottles across the floodplain and into the Tonquish. This is a safety concern Wayne County Parks should address and HNPA will share some ideas with them on the issue.

Birds in Wayne County

The latest edition of The University of Michigan-Dearborn's Environmental Center newsletter has an article on bird species in Wayne County.

There are 134 species reported to be breeding in the county with 104 confirmed. The most common species

nesting, in order of the number of areas found are American Robin, European Starling, House Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Mourning Dove, Warbling Vireo, Red-winged Blackbird, Northern Cardinal, and Gray Catbird.

To read the complete report, go to <http://www.umd.umich.edu/eic/newsletter.pdf>.

Holliday Nature Preserve Assoc.
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Please send all address corrections to the above address or via our Web site at
www.hnpa.org

Thank You For Your Support

The following individuals recently joined or renewed their membership in HNPA.

Michael Best
Fred Brenner
Jeffrey Bryant
Harriet Campbell
Howard & Carol Behr
Nancy Butka
Robert Carleni
Arun Chaudhri
Betsy Conway
Phil Crookshank
John Covert
Ellie Cox
Bill Craig
Albert & Marie Dawe
Irene & Dona Deman
Robert & Elaine Ewald
Marie Feeley
James Flanigan
Albert & Sandra Guara

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Daniel & Rosemary Rieder
Jennifer & Ati Tislerics
George & Shirley Thompson
Kathy Treppa
John Wagatha
Keith Wallace
Jim & Pat White
Richard Zyczynski

We ask a \$5 per year minimum donation. Memberships run Jan. 1—Dec. 31. Any membership started after Sept. 1 runs through the following December. Additional donations are appreciated and will be used to benefit the Preserve. You may also earmark any additional monies you send to extend your membership.

Be Part of HNPA!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address 2: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____ + _____

\$ _____ **Enclosed**

If more than \$5, should additional funds be used as: () **Donation** () **Extend membership**
Please make check or money order payable to the *Holliday Nature Preserve Association* and mail to:
HNPA, P.O. Box 52104, Livonia, MI 48152