



# HOLLIDAY NATURE PRESERVE ASSOCIATION

Volume 18 Number 2

View our Web site at [www.hnpa.org](http://www.hnpa.org)

Spring 2007

## No Bikes Please



**B**ikes are not allowed on the Holliday Nature Preserve trails. The nature preserve is set aside for passive recreation and foot traffic only.

The reason is simple: Bikes cause erosion on the trails. The ruts they cause deepen during heavy rains as the soil is carried away. That is why so many parks prohibit them.

Yes, there are NO signs prohibiting bikes, but there will be. Wayne County Parks is working on new signs for the Preserve to clearly state what activities are allowed and which are prohibited.

## HNPA Mission

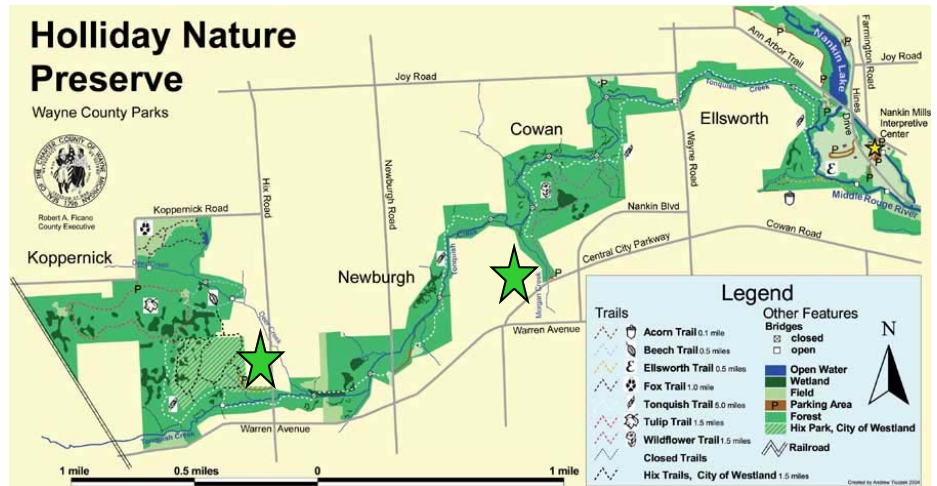
**H**olliday Nature Preserve Association (HNPA) is a group of volunteers dedicated to the Wm. P. Holliday Forest & Wildlife Preserve in Westland, Livonia and Canton, Michigan.

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.

Our activities are free and open to everyone. Find out more at [www.hnpa.org](http://www.hnpa.org).

# Make Spring A Holliday



*The Holliday Forest & Wildlife Preserve is the only nature preserve in all the Wayne County's park system. We invite you to discover all that Holliday has to offer, either on your own or during one of the Holliday Nature Preserve Association's organized activities listed below. Detailed maps can be found on our Web site at [www.hnpa.org](http://www.hnpa.org).*

**S**pring means increased opportunities to enjoy the Preserve and to improve it. Please join us on the following events. Questions? Contact us at [HollidayAssociation@HNPA.org](mailto:HollidayAssociation@HNPA.org).

★ **Late April Work & Walk**  
Sunday, April 29, 10:00 a.m.  
Cowan Section (Central City Parkway, west of Wayne Rd.)  
We'll begin with some trail maintenance and finish with a wildflower walk. Work includes removing some of the trees that are blocking the trails so helping hands and muscle will be much appreciated. We will then take a relaxing walk and enjoy the many spring wildflowers.

★ **Great Blue Herons and Wildflowers**  
Saturday, May 19, 10:00 a.m.  
Cowan Section (Central City Parkway, west of Wayne Rd.)  
We hope to not only see more wildflowers but also check for Great Blue Heron chicks, raccoons, and deer.

★ **Rouge Rescue/River Day**  
Saturday, June 2, 8:30 a.m.  
Hix Park (Hix Rd, north of Warren Rd.)  
Join with nearly 100 volunteers as we work to improve the flow of Tonquish Creek, remove invasive plants and improve the trails. See story on page 2 for more details.

# Get Ready For Annual Rouge Rescue/River Day on June 2

Rise early Saturday, June 2, to be part of Rouge Rescue, the Friends of the Rouge's watershed-wide effort to restore the Rouge



River. The event has been taking place for 21 years and HNPA has participated for nineteen of those. For nearly a dozen years, the City of Westland has cosponsored a site with HNPA and the partnership continues in 2007, as we gather in Hix Park.

There's plenty of work to do including:

- ◆ working on a log jam
- ◆ pulling evasive plants,

- ◆ installing boardwalks
- ◆ adding wood chips to the trail.

To be part of Rouge Rescue, join us at Hix Park at 8:30 a.m., the first Saturday in June, register and join a work team. Friends of the Rouge will provide free t-shirts to all vol-

unteers who register and Westland will provide cold drinks, tools, wood chips, staff support and haul away the trash. HNPA will provide the boardwalk lumber, and is also handling logistics. There will also be soap and mosquito repellent.

At the end, the Holliday Preserve, Hix Park and Tonquish Creek will be in the better for it—and so will you

knowing that you made a difference.

Please dress for the weather.

**Old work clothes are recommended, especially long pants and long sleeve shirts.**



Large groups wishing to volunteer are asked to contact the city of Westland at (734) 595 - 0288 ext. 223.

## Ellsworth Bridge Update

The Ellsworth bridge, located across from Nankin Mills, carries people across the Middle Rouge River into the Holliday Preserve. This is the only safe steel bridge in the entire 11-mile long Preserve. Wayne County Parks has an engineering consultant working on a restoration project for this bridge. This bridge is a priority since it is often used by the Park Naturalist and groups studying the Preserve.

To carry out the project, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) must approve the project. The permit application was submitted by Wayne County Parks and it provided an

opportunity for the public to provide comments. HNPA President Bill Craig did so. Bill's bottom line .. "proposed work may not be adequate to save bridge."

Bill's concerns were based on the fact that the river continues to undercut the concrete posts on which the steel beams set, and unless that aspect of the problem is addressed, problems will again develop. As a result of the letter, MDEQ made a site visit and may recommend changes to ensure long-term protection of Ellsworth bridge. As plans are reviewed, the bridge continues to be impacted by high-water flows.

## Holliday Fundraiser

evolve yoga studio & boutique at 7986 Lilly Road in Canton contacted us to say they were going to hold a fundraiser on April 22 in honor of Earth Day.

The e-mail we received from the studio owners simply said they chose Holliday because they regularly hike the trails "and feel it is a great benefit to us and to the Canton/Plymouth area."

This paper went to press too late to publicize the event and too early to know the results, but the Holliday Nature Preserve Association thanks evolve for its willingness to assist HNPA and the Preserve .

## Winter Walks Revisited

*Sure it's spring and the snow is long gone, but winter in the Preserve brings with it a different kind of beauty and freshness. Here's an opportunity to see what you missed—or we're part of!*



**O**ur first walk was in Ellsworth section. The cold did not stop a baker's dozen from enjoying the Preserve.

We crossed the Ellsworth bridge, and HNPA President Bill Craig gave brief explanation on the planned restoration project. He pointed out how high water levels has caused the north bank to erode undermining bridge foundation. During the walk, a few black (gray) squirrels and woodpeckers were spotted; otherwise, it was a quiet, cold walk. Yet no one complained. Everyone

seemed to enjoy being outdoors.

In February, a light snow fell during most of the walk. Because Morgan Creek was frozen, we were able to walk across it and into the work area of the Nankin Dumpsite cleanup. Most walkers did not know that several years ago the EPA removed toxic materials and piles of asbestos from an abandoned dumpsite and then capped it with a layer of clay. The south bank of the site was stabilized and covered to keep trash out of Tonquish creek. A fence--now mostly down--encircles the cleanup area.

As we walked on the frozen creek we spied a Great Blue Heron hunched down fishing near a small hole of open water. We were able to get surprisingly close to this large bird. It's rare to see these birds in Michigan in the winter. They generally migrate south in the fall so they have open streams in which to fish. Many cameras clicked as we walked by the bird.

The March walk took us into the Hix section. We started out with just four walkers and scoped out potential Rouge

Rescue worksites, then hiked into the Koppernick section where we met up with three other walkers.

Some of the group had not hiked the Deer Creek loop before so we all took that trail and walked bridges that had been built by Ford Motor Company volunteers.

As our walkers headed east, we had close encounter with seven white-tailed deer heading west. When we moved they stopped, and when we stopped they filed by. It was senseless taking photos, since they blend in so well. One of the great things



we found was not just the deer but water in vernal ponds. The forest is water-soaked. That is great for salamanders and frogs that may be singing by the time this newsletter comes out.

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## Don't Fertilize The Rouge River



Storm drains found in our streets and yards empty into our lakes and rivers, including the Rouge. So, when we fertilize, our lawn we can also end up fertilizing our lakes and rivers. While fertilizer is good

for lawns, it's bad for our waters. Please keep the following tips in mind this year:

- ◆ Sweep fertilizer and grass clippings back onto your lawn.
- ◆ Select a lawn service that uses organic fertilizers or offers a slow-release

nitrogen, low- or no-phosphorus option.

- ◆ Choose a fertilizer with low or no phosphorous.
- ◆ Keep fertilizer applications at least 20-feet away from the edge of lakes, streams or storm drains.

Find out more at  
[www.semco.org](http://www.semco.org).

# Thank You For Your Support

Since last newsletter, the following people have kindly renewed their memberships, made donations, or have become new members. Thank you all. HNPA appreciates your support.

*Don Boyd  
Virginia Braun  
Kathleen & Michael Best  
Roberta Campbell  
Tom & Madeline Carpenter  
Arun Chaudhri  
Allen & Nancy Chartier  
Phil Crookshank  
Margaret Converse  
Betsy Conway  
Jim & Elizabeth Cook  
Joe & Judith Derek  
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Brandon & Anna Scott  
Virginia Stanch  
David & Patricia Tavidian  
Kathy Treppa  
Charles & Catherine Walls  
Keith Wallace*



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