



HNPA's Mission

Holliday Nature Preserve Association (HNPA) is a group of volunteers dedicated to the William 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 hnpa.org or on Facebook!



This photo by Larry Snowden, taken this fall shows some of the wild turkeys that live in the Preserve. Photo was taken in Chubb cemetery on Warren and west of Hix Road.

It's a new year. Please remember to send in your annual donation. Details on page 4.



Four good reasons to walk the Holliday Nature Preserve in winter:

1) Fewer people; 2) Easier to see wildlife (like deer) and their tracks; 3) Close by and convenient 4) No bugs; 5) Especially peaceful and quiet after a snowfall

Why do you like to visit the Preserve this time of year?

Upcoming activities

Take a walk through the Preserve with HNPA volunteers. Learn about the Preserve and its inhabitants all while enjoying time with some like-minded people.

The pace is leisurely and the atmosphere informal.

Our walks last from an hour to 90 minutes and are held regardless of the weather, so please dress for conditions.

Questions? Contact us at HollidayAssociation@HNPA.org.

- **Sat., Jan. 29, Noon, Cowan Entrance**
(Central City Parkway, west of Wayne Road)
A winter walk along Morgan and Tonquish Creeks with some small hills and overlooks.
- **Sat., Feb. 26, Noon, Hix Park Entrance**
(Hix Road north of Warren Road)
An interesting walk offering a variety of trees and terrain.
- **Sat., March 26, Noon, Ellsworth Entrance**
(Off Hines Drive across from Nankin Mills)
Perhaps we'll spot some early signs of spring along the Tonquish Creek.

Westland Observer reports on Preserve Damage

The October 26, issue of the *Westland Observer* included an article by Leanne Rogers concerning the rogue mountain bike trails made in the Preserve this summer. The article, entitled “*County beefs up rules for nature preserve*,” began by stating

“Some people apparently are unclear on the concept of a nature preserve.

Wayne County Parks staff recently cut up three bridges, part of a 2,500-foot illegal mountain bike trail that had been built across the Holliday Nature

Preserve. Mountain bikes are prohibited from the 500-acre preserve of wetlands and forests due to the damage caused to the vegetation and habitats.”

The article included a quote from HNPA President Bill Craig thanking the Parks department for its quick response to the problem. He also mentioned that a “weak link” had been a lack of signage with rules that allowed bikers and others to claim ignorance.

The weakness has been remedied with the installation of signs at three popu-



HNPA member Phil Crookshank stands near one of the Wayne County Parks/HNPA signs recently installed. This one stands west of Newburgh Road. Phil helped attach the signs to the posts as well as install them.

lar entrances to the Preserve—Ellsworth, Cowan and Newburgh

To read the article, go to <http://tiny.cc/uottb>.

Eagle Scouts install boardwalks

Visitors to the Preserve will enjoy safer and dryer footing (and vegetation will be saved from being trampled underfoot) thanks to two additional Scout projects this past fall. The Scouts were Burke Culkeen of Troop 782 in Livonia and Brenden

Gundenburr from Canton.

The Scouts took responsibility for securing materials, equipment and fund raising to cover project expenses. These Scouts led their volunteer team members in the installation work.

All projects are reviewed and approved by Wayne

county Parks. HNPA works with Scouts to determine locations for boardwalks, and offers financial assistance.

HNPA appreciates their efforts. Other Scouts who would like to install boardwalks should send an email to Holliday@HNPA.org, asking for information



Burke Culkeen (with hammer at left) and his helpers stand on one of the boardwalks they built as part of his Eagle project. The sections of boardwalks at right were constructed and installed by Brenden Gundenburr. We were not able to secure a photo of he and his workers.



Photos from our fall walks



Our first fall walk (at left) made use of the Koppernick section. It was a beautiful day to wander and wander we did as our leader took a wrong turn and let the group off through what turned out to be a deer path that eventually disappeared. No one got lost. Additionally, the group was lucky enough to have along Chris Selden who lives on Koppernick Road and was one of the founding members of HNPA more than two decades ago. Chris told us interesting information about this section of the Preserve including the fact its home to many Great Horned Owls as well as a few coyotes..

What a difference a month makes. Now all the leaves were brown and on the ground. Our walkers tested one of the newest boardwalks, and made complimentary comments about it. Along the trail we took time to give a close look at the bark of tulip, hickory and sassafras trees.



We did have a goal for this walk: Find the Great Horned Owl nest and see if it has returned. After some searching, we found the old nest empty. But later we did see a Great Horned Owl fly away from us.

The photo shows Virginia (Ginny) pointing at a raccoon curled up in a hole high up in a tree.

After this walk, Bill and Scott stayed around and quickly spooked up a six point buck very close to the parking lot.





Thanks to our supporters

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

Cathy & Larry Bean

Kathy & Mike Best

Elizabeth Breneau

Phil Crookshank

Linda Etter

Marie Feeley

Gayle Larson

Denise & Robert Miooto

Mike & Misty Michell

Dorothy Mundle

Richard Nicholas

Dennis & Melisa O'Neil

Linda Poole

Irene & Mike Seguin

Ruth Simons

Larry & Christine Snowden

Ati & Jennifer Tislerics

Thomas VanCamp

Catherine & Charles Walls

Membership dues are due

Membership in the Holliday Nature Preserve Association runs Jan. 1—Dec. 31 and is only \$5 per year. Your support makes it possible for us to publish three newsletters a year, host

a web site and hold clean-up projects that help maintain the Preserve.

If you have not yet done so, please take a moment to support your HNPA by using the form below.

Any additional money we receive will be used to benefit the Preserve. You may also earmark any additional funds to extend your membership.

Be Part of HNPA!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address 2: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____ + _____

\$ _____ Enclosed

Annual dues are \$5 per household. Additional donations are appreciated. If you send more than \$5, please indicate how additional funds should be used:

() Donation () Extend membership

Please make check or money order payable to the *Holliday Nature Preserve Association* and mail to: **HNPA, P.O. BOX 532243 Livonia, MI 48153**