



Celebrating 35 Years

Dear Member:

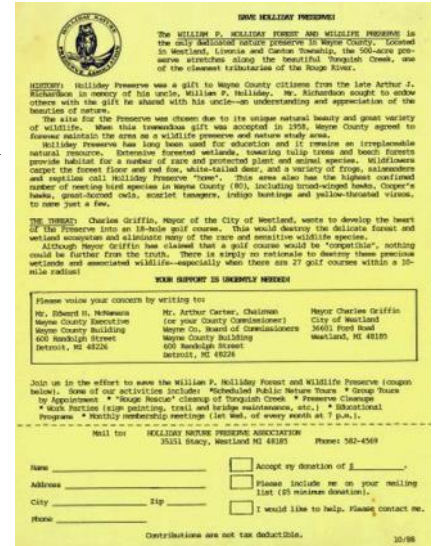
The Holliday Nature Preserve Association turns 35 this year. That makes us about half the age of the Holliday Nature Preserve that was dedicated in 1964 and turns 59. We were created when a threat to the Preserve (a proposal to turn part of it into a golf course) arose in 1988. Thanks to the people who formed or joined our then fledgling organization that threat was defeated. Afterwards, members decided that the Preserve needed an advocate, so we took on that role. It's one we continue to play today, although we've broadened our purpose throughout the decades to include education, walks, clean-ups and more.

We have survived because of our members—past and present. In fact, some of them present at the first meeting are still active today! We are grateful to them and to all of you who continue to support us with your time and donations, and who contact legislators, county officials and local leaders when we need you to do so.

My hope is that HNPA will be around at least 35 more years and will continue to be an important resource for the community, a partner with local government entities, but most importantly, a strong advocate for the Holliday Forest & Wildlife Preserve.

Happy Anniversary. And many thanks.

Bill Craig
HNPA President



Join In Our 35th Anniversary Picnic



Please join us on Sat., June 24, to celebrate 35 years of stewardship in the Holliday Preserve.

9 a.m.: Start the day with a walk in the Koppernick Section. Koppernick Road, west of Hix Road, south of Joy Road.

2 p.m.—dark: Enjoy a backyard picnic at the home of Bill Craig. Hot dogs and chips will be provided. Please bring your beverage and lawn chair(s). A side dish to share

would be welcome. There will also be outdoor games. Best of all there will be plenty of good fellowship!

Bill's Address: 20050 Milburn, Livonia (north of 7 Mile and East of Merriman).
Call 248-476-5127 for more information.

Membership Meeting

First, thanks to all who came to the Feb. 18 Membership meeting. We discussed the past, present and future of HNPA and Holliday Nature Preserve. We also accepted more nominations for Board positions and elected its members.

Thanks to generous members our treasury remains solid. We discussed the need to better define dues, donations and Life Membership practices. At present, we will keep dues at \$5! We also discussed the possibility of moving to a digital newsletter because of increased printing, mailing and postage costs, which cannot be covered by dues alone. We have a committee looking at ways to better communicate electronically with members who WANT that option. Examples would offering a digital newsletter option and creating an electronic newsletter for more frequent communications. Both are only ideas and we welcome your thoughts. (Note: there is a space for your email address on the application should you wish to provide one.)

We also found our Facebook page is well used and LIKED. In fact, it has nearly 900 followers!

Attendees were informed of Wayne County Parks' Five Year Master Plan (2023-27). (Plan link: <https://adobe.ly/3K36jPd>) We find much good in the plan and were happy to see that Holliday Nature Preserve is mentioned several times.

However, we have a major concern about a PLANNED \$5 million project that is based on new bridges and trails. While we support trails, it has long been HNPA's position that keeping the Preserve sectional in nature (as it currently exists), is a better option for the Preserve, users and for taxpayers. We hope to convince Parks to revise this project. Doing so would reduce the need for major bridge construction; substantially reduce construction costs and future maintenance costs. Building something is wonderful, but so is



Membership meeting attendees gather afterwards for a relaxed photo.

having the funds and personnel to maintain it, as anyone who sees the condition of Holliday's present bridges can attest.

We ask that you review the Plan and contact us should you have questions. If you agree with our position, please share your concern with your County Commissioner and Wayne County Parks. HNPA will also work on sharing our concerns with general public.

We closed the meeting with an old fashioned slide show of very old HNP slides. Part of this slide show covered the various bridges, pointing out which ones were essential and those not really needed.

Members left knowing actions were being taken to sustain HNPA into the future.

Upcoming Activities



Please join us! Walks last 90 minutes to two hours and work projects a tad longer.

However, stay as long as you can—and bring the kids! All events are family friendly.

Check our *Facebook* page for updates since events are subject to change. Sorry, no dogs allowed.

Questions? Contact us at HollidayAssociation@hnpa.org

or our *Facebook* page.

◆ Taxes ARE Over Walk

Saturday, April 15, 10 a.m. Newburgh entrance, east of Newburgh Road, just north of Warren Road. We'll visit a lesser-used area of Preserve. We may find wet trail in places as we search for wildflowers and critters, so dress accordingly.

◆ Earth Day Work Day

Saturday, April 22, 10 a.m.—2 p.m. Newburgh entrance, east of Newburgh Road, just north of Warren Road. Help cut invasive vines and shrubs. Loppers and gloves provided. Bring lunch, snacks and water for breaks.

◆ Tonquish Creek Rescue

Saturday, May 13, 9 a.m.—1 p.m. (8:30 a.m. registration) Hix Park entrance, west of Hix Road, just north of Warren Road. Some creek work and some land work. Wear old clothes, you may get dirty. Tasks include: Removing trash, moving wood, and cutting invasive plants. Tools and gloves provided. This event is in cooperation with Friends of the Rouge.

◆ “Early Bird” Bird Walk

SUNDAY, May 28, 8—10 a.m. Koppernick entrance, Koppernick Road, west of Hix Road, south of Joy Road. Joint HNPA/Detroit Audubon Society Walk. Join Jack Smiley and members of the Detroit Audubon Society on the Beech Trail, looking for small birds in a big forest.

◆ HNPA's 35th Anniversary Morning Walk & Afternoon Picnic

Saturday, June 24, 9 a.m. Koppernick entrance, Koppernick Road, west of Hix Road, south of Joy Road. Enjoy the birds, animals, plants and more. We'll talk about the history of the Preserve, the history of our group and even a little about Chief Tonquish (for whom Tonquish Creek is named and who is buried nearby) as we walk. Then at 2 p.m., everyone is invited to our 35th anniversary picnic. See invite and details on page 1.

Koppernick Winter Walk - Jan. 28

(Right) We had 20 hearty walkers trek slowly on Beech Trail. With calm winds and seasonable temps (25 degrees, it was a fun walk. Afterward, three attendees joined HNPA!



Cowan Winter Walk 2- Feb. 25

(Left) We lucked out again with pleasant conditions. While we had some icy slopes to address, no one slipped or fell on this walk. Everyone agreed it was good to get outdoors for some fresh air and socialization. Some winter forest bathing is good for your health.

Ellsworth Spring Walk- March 25

(Right) It rained on our first work project of the new year. However, several people braved the walk part.

Note: That very large, dead tree is about to topple on the new boardwalk. This will be no easy job for Wayne County Parks.



Board of Directors is Elected

Over the last 35 years, HNPA has kept a close eye on the Holliday Nature Preserve and on the donations you sent our way to ensure money was spent wisely and for the reasons you trusted us with it. However, we have a confession to make: We didn't keep a close eye on our bylaws, elections and Board of Directors.

Back in 2018 we started taking the first steps to correct this situation. We began to have regular membership meetings and began the practice of seeking new people to replace incumbents or fill vacancies. Generally, there were few takers and current officers were

simply re-elected. Same in 2019.

In 2020 we asked for people to be on Board. Nominations were taken, then COVID interrupted the process.

Last October we had our first face-to-face membership meeting in two years. Some people accepted nominations and were elected to Board. That was a major first step. This new Board's first focus was updating and revising the Bylaws, to reflect our current practices.

We started 2023 with a Board of Directors meeting on Feb. 4, which was quickly followed by a membership meeting

Feb. 18 (see article elsewhere in this issue). More nominations were made to fill vacancies on the evolving Board and more people were elected. The process seems somewhat unusual, but that is the reality as we get things in order for the future.

There was another Board meeting on March 11, where the fifth revision draft of the bylaws was debated. We're close to having them completed and voted on. Also, at that meeting, the important step of getting officers elected was accomplished. HNPA has a new Board of Directors—finally. Their names and roles appear below.

HNPA Board of Directors

President: **Bill Craig**

Vice-President: **Robert Duda**

Secretary: **Margaret Flowers**

Treasurer: **Kathy Treppa**

Newsletter/Web: **Marty Johnson**

Facebook Manager: **Pam Larson**

Members At-Large:

Larry Bernhardt

John Covert

Phil Crookshank

Dean Johnson

Lee Larson

Brandon Scott

Jack Smiley

What is the HNPA?

Holliday Nature Preserve Association is a group of volunteers dedicated to the 500-acre William P. Holliday Forest & Wildlife Preserve in Westland, Livonia and Canton.

HNPA seeks to nurture a greater appreciation of this unique resource by hosting walks, conducting improvement projects in conjunction with Wayne County Parks and promoting the importance of the Preserve to the quality of life of Western Wayne County communities. Our activities are free. Find out more at hnpa.org or on our *Facebook page*.

Thanks to our Supporters



The following people joined HNPA, renewed their memberships or made donations. We thank them (and you) and appreciate the continuing support.

Paola & Arthur Bardell
Jesse Bruce
Nancy & Paul Bailey
Mary Butka
Nancy Butka
Roberta Campbell
David Cartwright
Nancy & Allen Chartier
Shelly Clay
Marcia & John Covert
Judy & Joe Derek
Cheryl & Robert Duda
Margaret Flowers
Sarah & Bryan Garchar
Jim Godbout

Cheryl & Ron Graunstadt
Paul Gucwa
Ann & Tim Ivory
Maria Jadadics
Ann & Daniel Kalvelage
Jean Kearney
Lillian Korona
Kim Kovacs-Gucwa
Paul Kulling
Ken Lipan
Connie & Bob Livingston
Chester Marvin
Diana Mente
Patricia Mullett
Mary Murphy

Laurie & Darryl Newman
Mary Niemi
Susan & David Ostafinski
Suzanne Pudelek
Molly Feeley-Powers
Madalynn & David Rieksts
Maureen & Philip Santoro
Ruthann Schenkel
Pam & Dennis Scott
Carol Shea
Diane Sims
Peggy & Allen Van Kerckhove
Suzan & Gerald Waskelis
Erin & Scott Williams
Karen & Richard Zyczynski.

Become one of our Supporters

Membership in the Association is only \$5 per calendar year. Donations are used to

benefit the Preserve. Your support makes it possible to mail our newsletters, host a website, offer walks and purchase items for work

projects, educate the community and promote the Preserve. You may also earmark additional funds to extend your membership.

Name: _____

Address: _____ **Address 2:** _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____ + _____

Email Address if you wish to share it. (We won't) : _____

\$ _____ **Enclosed**

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