



The annual General Meeting almost went as many past meetings, almost. We had a Treasurer's report, which showed a nice balance in the checking and savings accounts.

This is a nice situation, since we have many supporters who contribute more than we can spend on improvements.

See Meeting on page 2

Upcoming (Tentative) Activities

Please join us! Our walks last 90 minutes or so. Our clean ups last as long as people want to work, but not longer than four hours. **Make sure you check our Facebook page for updates during these uncertain times, since everything is subject to change.**

All events are family friendly. Sorry, no dogs allowed. Questions? Contact us at HollidayAssociation@hnpa.org or via our Facebook page.

➤ 50th Anniversary Earth Day BUT NO ACTIVITY

Wed., April 22

Although this is the golden anniversary of Earth Day and we'd normally celebrate with a nature walk followed by a cleanup and improvement project, this year the Governor's order and common sense dictate that we don't. However, we invite you to get outside, pickup some trash, and perform some improvements around your home that will help the earth (like build a rain garden) .

➤ Wildflower Walk

Sat., May 9, 10 a.m., Koppernick Section

Parking along road near entrance, Koppernick Rd. is west of Hix Rd. and north of Joy Rd..

Flower list provided. Slow walk along the trail allowing us to enjoy native wildflowers and the many trees. Walk occurs rain or shine but also depends on state restrictions.

➤ Rouge Rescue 2020

Saturday, May 16, 8:30 a.m. registration. Hix Section.

Parking along entrance road, west side Hix Road, north of Warren Road.

HNPA coordinates on behalf of Friends of the Rouge. Lots of various tasks, including removing trash; moving floating wood; cutting/stacking invasive honeysuckle shrubs; or removing trash from floodplain. Dress to get dirty (long pants, long sleeved shirt). Gloves, tools, water, cleanup station, and first aid kit provided.

Meeting from page 1

A President’s report followed along with updates on our efforts, and those of Wayne County Parks, to improve the Preserve. It was reported that the Ellsworth boardwalk was not completed this year, which keeps that entrance to the Preserve closed.

We also showed photos of activities that took place during 2019. These included walks and many nature photos .

The most important part of the meeting was our future and what to do with our treasury.

I must say, this was the most important conversation we have had for some time. Topics included:

- ◇ Who will lead HNPA next when the current president and administration step down, which could happen in the next year or so? This includes what should happen to our equipment and treasury if no one does step up. (See “Open Letter” on page 4.)
- ◇ Is there any other equipment HNPA needs to purchase in order to better improve and maintain the Preserve? Currently, we have a chainsaw, loppers, and a winch. We can get trash bags, gloves, paint, hardware supplies. We can buy lumber to make repairs.
- ◇ How best to grow our organization. A proposal was passed to use some

of our funds to promote HNPA. We agreed to use some funds in our treasury to reach our neighbors along the Preserve boundary. Afterward, **Phil Crookshank** designed a postcard with help from **Pam Larson** and **Dean Johnson**. We will let you know the results in the next issue.

We also agreed to do an Earth Day 50th Anniversary event in the Preserve. It was planned for Sunday, April 26. Of course, all this happened before we went into seclusion and has since been cancelled.

All in all, it was a good meeting. Thanks for attending.

Bill Craig
HNPA President

Where Was This Photo Taken?



In the last issue we asked members where the photo at left was taken. Either no one knows or no one cares, so the \$10,000 prize goes unclaimed (just kidding about the prize). The photo (at left) is of the drainage into the Hix section, a bit west of Newburgh Road, on the north side of Tonquish Creek.

Thanks, Parks!



No matter how hard we try to keep the Preserve entrances inviting to individuals and families, there are always people who want to use them as dumpsites. We appreciate Wayne County Parks for adding these barriers at the Koppnick entrance.

In and Around Holliday

During our **Koppernick Winter Walk** in January, we enjoyed mild temperatures and a little drizzle. Our walk took us over Deer Creek bridge, which Phil Crookshank had repaired in the fall. We tested it by all jumping up and down. It held. We stayed dry. We pronounced it "safe."

We also noticed diggings as if someone had used a metal detector to find what they'd hope was hidden treasure.

Sadly, the individual had failed to fill-in his holes, or pick up bottle caps or other junk he had unearthed, all of which is illegal and also unfortunate.

The **Cowan Winter Walk** was much colder and quite a bit more slippery, with more people than the January walk. To add some variation in this walk, we went to the site of the removed Joy Road trail bridge. New walkers did not know there once was a bridge crossing there built back in the early 1960s. The walk also gave the opportunity

to talk about the

former "bottle" pit there, Western Wayne County Conservation Club property purchase, and the many on-going problems at this site.

Groups that gather here often leave a mess and somethings cause damage.

On the way out, we had a chance to see deer, something which always gets a positive reaction and adds a nice memory to the nature walk.

Our **March Walk**, the final one of the season, was cancelled due to Covid-19 concerns. While it is safe to

walk the Preserve alone, it's not a good idea as part of an organized group



An Open Letter About Our Future

Dear Members:

Thirty-two years ago, a crisis brought neighbors to a community meeting. That crisis was a plan to sell part of Holliday in order to develop a golf course. The resulting outcry and efforts of hundreds of people saved the Preserve. It also spawned the formation of the Holliday Nature Preserve Association (HNPA).

Two members of that original group, John Covert and Bill Craig, are still part of HNPA's leadership team. Both are quite a bit older and with less hair, but still passionate about the Preserve. In the past decades, a number of other committed members have joined us and remain valuable contributors: our treasurer Rose Treppa, Board Member and "Mr. Fix-It" Phil Crookshank, chain saw

operator Brandon Scott, and newsletter editor Marty Johnson. We've also had others like our Social Media Manager Pam Larson join us.

However, we don't know how many more years the first generation of volunteers has left. If this current health crisis has taught us anything, it's that tomorrow isn't promised to any of us, and as we get older, sometimes not even today.

However, Holliday needs to endure. To ensure that happens, we need people willing and able to step up and take over and make HNPA even stronger and more important than it is now.

One of our founders, Jack Smiley, also started the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy. He has since stepped back and the organization continues to prosper

and grow. That's what we want to see happen to HNPA starting now and especially in 2021 and beyond.

We need people to step up, not other people, we need you. We need you to become an officer, to lead hikes, to oversee our treasury and to handle our newsletter.

Without you, we'll need to figure out how to shut down our organization and where to send the money in our treasury and the equipment we own.

There are developers, Preserve neighbors and even government entities that would love to see us fold.

Working together, moving forward, let's not let that happen.

Bill Craig
HNPA President



An illegal campsite in the Preserve. Sites like this are reported to Wayne County Parks that oversees the Preserve, and relies on the public to be its eyes.



The site of 2020 Rouge Rescue, a project HNPA has been part of for more than 30 years in conjunction with Friends of the Rouge.

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. The Preserve consists of 500-plus acres of forests and wetlands that run along tributaries of the Rouge River. The 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 in improving the quality of life in Western Wayne County communities. Our activities are free. Find out more at hnpa.org or on our *Facebook page*.

The Preserve was created in 1964 thanks to Arthur J. Richardson who provided \$1.445 million (worth nearly \$13 million today) to create a new county park that would be named after William P. Holliday, his uncle and mentor.



Thanks to our Supporters

The following people joined HNPA, renewed their memberships or made donations. We thank them and appreciate the continuing support and the trust they put in us. We will use the funds for the benefit of the Preserve.

Nancy & Paul Bailey
Kathleen & Michael Best
Jesse Bruce
Nancy Butka
Madeline & Thomas Carpenter
Erin Cassaday
Nancy & Allen Chartier
Irene & Dona Deman
Sally & Mickey Green
Ruth Hart
Dorothy Hunsicker
Ann & Tim Ivory

Marty Johnson
Jean Kearney
Peggy & Alan Van Kerckhove
Arleen Latta
Gayle & John Mendler
Sabrina & Noah Mehalski
Susan & David Ostafinski
Jane Owens
Linda Poole
Paul Wheeler
Karen & Richard Zyczynski

Become Part of Holliday

Membership in the Holliday Nature Preserve Association is only **\$5 per year (Jan. 1—Dec. 31)**. Your support makes it

possible to distribute our newsletters, host a website, support Rouge Rescue, offer walks, educate the community and promote the Preserve.

Any additional funds over and above are used to benefit 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