



Summertime Happenings in Holliday



HNPA President Bill Craig points out an interesting aspect of the Preserve in the Koppernick section during the spring wildflower walk. See page 2.



Rouge Rescue was held June 6 in the Cowan section. It was a huge success thanks to our partners and more than 80 volunteers! See page 3.



Looking for birds during our Earth Day work in the Foxlands section. See page 4.



Vandals destroyed planking on the bridge leading to the Ellsworth section this spring. It's been repaired by Wayne County Parks. But a repaired bridge means other potential problems. See page 5.



Ford Motor Company employee volunteers again gave of their talents and built the Preserve a bridge. See page 4.

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 540-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 newsletter and build public support and understanding of the importance of this Preserve within the Parks system.

Our activities are free and open to everyone.

For more information, visit our Web site at www.hnpa.org.

Spectacular Wildflowers, Wonderful People

Thanks to Suzan Campbell HNPCA and the Preserve are richer. During our spring wildflower walk she helped walker identify plants in the Hix Park and Koppernick section and provided some great photos and inventory of plants. All can be found on our web site at www.hnpa.org.

On May 20, we had a nice crowd for our wildflower Walk. We took a long hike from Hix Park along the Tonquish floodplain, into the Koppernick section. We were treated to a good showing of wildflowers and ferns. We had some real students of plants; these folks knew the Latin names and pointed out many hidden flowers.

Suzan Campbell was one of them. We owe her a great deal of thanks for providing so much information and adding to our knowledge of the Preserve. Suzan took a large number of beautiful photos, which she then gave us.



She also provided us with an inventory of the flora for the Koppernick section of the Preserve offers. That inventory—a Floristic Quality Assessment (FQI)—is just a partial list, according to Suzan. She said that the site “has a FQI of over 35, either regionally significant, or significant on a statewide

basis,” adding that a four-season inventory would be even higher.

In a note to HNPCA President Bill Craig she wrote, “It’s a gorgeous property – I’m glad you all are working with it.”

Wonderful people like Suzan who are willing to share their knowledge are very much appreciated. The work she did helps quantify the importance of the Preserve. Please check our Web site for her photos and the FQI assessment. Then visit the Preserve and see it for yourself. We have several fall hikes into the area.

Why We Must Protect the Preserve

The Preserve is under pressure from threats natural and man-made and little acts can have big consequences on the look of the Preserve and on its inhabitants both plant and animal.

The Holliday Preserve, the 540-acre sanctuary of natural habitat, is surrounded by development. There are few undeveloped parcels connected to the Preserve, and Wayne County Parks has no interest in acquiring any of them. What we have is likely all we will ever have.

This makes it vitally important to make every effort to protect the Preserve from threats.

We have little control over natural or biological changes. Those have always

occurred and will continue.

Manmade activities are another matter. There are always those who would harm the Preserve, whether intentionally or unintentionally. The latter include those who toss their grass clippings into the Preserve or who cut away the undergrowth adjacent to their property so it looks nicer.

These are little acts, by themselves, don’t cause any major consequences, but because of the pressure the Preserve is under from all

sides, little acts multiplied can ruin the beauty of the Preserve and even impact it’s health.

Plus, the Preserve is public, not private, property. It belongs to all of us and that’s why we appreciate your support of our group and our activities. We also appreciate you keeping your eyes open. Anyone seeing illegal behavior should report it to Wayne County at (313) 261-1990. You can also contact us at holidayassociation@hnpa.org.

Down and Dirty & Having Fun at Rouge Rescue

HNPA and community volunteers pulled shopping carts out of the river, built bridges across streams, yanked invasive species and more as part of activities that took place at the 20th annual Rouge Rescue on June 6.



Rouge Rescue 2006 was the 20th anniversary for Friends of the Rouge (FOTR). HNPA has played an active role in Rouge Rescue since our founding 18 years ago. Aside from cleaning up the river and the Preserve, Rouge Rescue is an opportunity to stress the importance of Holliday Preserve.

Many HNPA members are members of Friends of the Rouge and the HNPA/FOTR partnership has proven to be a good one. But it's not the only partnership. HNPA also worked closely with the City of Westland, whose effort was again led by James Gilbert and Bob Patterson. The two have been our partners for more than 10 years.

Wayne County Parks was also a partner as Holliday is



part of Wayne County's park system. The Parks department provided the wood to make foot bridges and authorized our trail work.

Another key person was Raquel Childers, Assistant Manager of Woodcrest Apartment Homes. She gave us permission to use their property as a staging point. Without her permission, we would have had a big problem carrying out many of our projects.

Westland took care of most of the supplies, especially the use of trucks, police and fire services and being contact for FOTR. Westland Civitans helped with registration, a very necessary and important function.

Our site was a 1/2-square-mile area of the Preserve in the Cowan section. We had 83 registered volunteers that were formed into teams and directed where needed.

Two bridges were built and two benches were reinstalled. While that was being done, many other volunteers were cutting, pulling, hammering, bringing in supplies and hauling out trash, included shopping carts, two heavy

wet carpets, plastic bottles, and a long list of junk that had to be moved a long distance so it could be placed into trucks.

Special thanks go to Kathy Treppa and the scouts with Cub Scout Pack 852, Boy Scout Troop 1539 and Girl Scouts 7362 who got out many bags of garlic mustard; Marty Johnson and Jim Graham who built foot bridges with the help of



District Court employees and workers; Brandon Scott for leading the trail work team; John Covert and Pat Kobylarz for getting stuff out of the creek; and Phil Crookshank (and chainsaw) for helping everywhere.

We also thank members of St. Matthews Church, students from Churchill High School and all the people from Westland, Livonia and surrounding communities.

Thank you everyone for making the section of the Rouge River that runs through Holliday Preserve—better. See you in 2007.

Ford Volunteers Build Bridges in the Preserve

Trail users will cross Deer Creek in safety thanks to volunteers who took time to build a 36-foot bridge near the Koppernick section of the Preserve.



May 24, dawned bright and warm – a perfect day for the traditional “Ford Day” activities. This is the day that Ford workers are encouraged to take a day off and do some great ‘green’ projects in the surrounding communities. The Holliday Nature Preserve was the recipient of a great work force that came in to help build a new footbridge across a creek, and add an 8-foot extension to an existing bridge. The 17 folks from ‘Ford Volunteer

Corps’ lead by Joe Black and John Lee had approved the design, ordered all the materials, brought the generators and all tools necessary, and began the work.

They removed creek debris, excavated for foundations for a 12-foot bridge to access the nature trails, cut and assembled and secured a nice footbridge. Then the crew went into the woods and dug new footings for the existing bridge that crosses Deer Creek, added increasing its length to 36 feet! And added handrails for safety.

Generators and power tools had to be carried into the work site, as well as all the materials, so that a minimum of disturbance was

made to the Nature Preserve. This bridge work also addressed stabilizing the stream bank to slow the erosion taking place, and assure that the trail system could have continuity.

Poison ivy was successfully avoided, the wild geraniums in bloom were enjoyed by all and a great project with many benefits was completed.

Thanks to Ford Motor Co. for providing the materials and manpower, to Dan Ballnik (Ford) facilitator extraordinaire, the Church of Latter Day Saints on Hix Rd. for their support (and parking lot) and all the workers who definitely made a difference for the environment and for walkers can enjoy a nice loop trail in the Koppernick section.

(Submitted by Phil Crookshank.)

Earth Day in Foxlands

Annual HPNA activity re-establishes trails at site of former sod farm. Take advantage of them!

Brandon Scott drove in from Lansing joining volunteers on a sunny April Saturday to celebrate Earth Day. Workers cleared the trails in Foxlands area of the Holliday Preserve. This area was originally a sod farm, but it lost that look a long time ago and has reverted to nature. The growth meant cutting some trees and hack-

ing through thick shrubs in order to re-establish a series of loop trails and several short connecting trails. This is great bird habitat and we invite you to take a walk through that section.

Special thanks to Brandon for bringing in the heavy equipment. We also thank Tim Hiller for attacking the invasive autumn olive.



HNPA Meets With Parks Dept.

Topics included mountain bikers, horses, encroachment, the need for signage, the joint HNPA/Parks' Rouge Rescue partnership and more.

HNPA Board members

met with Wayne County Parks Director Beverly Watts and members of her staff on May 10, to discuss Holliday Preserve issues.

This very brief meeting only lightly touched on some HNPA concerns. We did get permission to conduct Rouge Rescue in Holliday and offered to use contributions provided by our members to purchase the wood needed to make some foot bridges.

We also brought up the issue of signage and the need for it in the Preserve to let users know what activities are and are not allowed. We were told that the Parks Department is currently revising Wayne County park rules and once they are adopted, new signage will be considered for the Preserve.

Other issues included a vagrant in the Preserve, encroachment by adjacent landowners (see photo below), incidents concerning mountain bikers in the Preserve and HORSES. Yes, horses. What the Preserve does not need is a multi-use trail to accommodate mountain bikers and horses. Why? Please consider that there is no defined, maintained trail system, nor any useable bridges for horses and mountain bikers to use.

That means horses and mountain bikes would share the already deteriorating trails with people out for an enjoyable and quiet walk.

Horses and mountain bikes tear up trails. That is why so many parks and recreation areas either outlaw them or restrict them to specific trails. In addition, horse dung covers trails and who wants to walk in that crap (pun intended). And because so much of the area is flood plain, that waste material enters the river and increases pollution levels.

It was a productive meeting and HNPA looks forward to our next meeting with Parks' personnel.

Please let us know what you think about these issues at holidayassociation@hnpa.org



While most adjacent homeowners are good neighbors, in rare instances some (like the one above) treat public Preserve property as if were their own, placing picnic tables, chairs and even trampolines in the Preserve. They also cut trees and remove the plants. Any encroachment is reported to Wayne County Parks, which has jurisdiction over the Preserve.

Taking Note...

- The Great Blue Heron rookery in the Cowan section continues to expand. There are now five nests and young were observed in each nest this year. It was only a couple of years ago the first nest was spotted...
- Wayne County Parks informed HNPA that the bid package to replace two bridges is finally out for bids. New bridges in 2007?...
- Someone removed bridge blanks from Ellsworth bridge. Parks made temporary repairs and a horse and rider made use of it depositing a big pile of horse dung on the bridge (and people wonder why HNPA is opposed to horses in the Preserve...).
- Many sightings of deer, hawks, raccoons, woodpeckers, butterflies and other forest creatures that now call the Preserve home and because there is a Preserve they DO have a home....





Upcoming Walks

● Early Fall Walk

Saturday, Sept. 30 at 10 a.m. -- Cowan Section

As we walk through this scenic section that runs along a tributary of the Rouge, we will check out the work our teams performed at Rouge Rescue

● Fall Color Blast 1

Saturday, Oct. 14 at 10 a.m. -- Hix Park

The trees in the Preserve should be putting on their coat of many colors.

● Fall Color Blast 2

Saturday, Oct. 28 at 10 a.m. -- Cowan Section

If Mother Nature is in an agreeable mood, we should see the Preserve in its fall glory.

● Late Fall Walk

Saturday, Nov. 11 at 10 a.m. -- Hix Park

It's a great time to be outdoors and see the Preserve before it begins its winter sleep in earnest.

● General Meeting/Slide Show

Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 7:30 p.m. -- Livonia Civic Center Library, Michigan Room

Join us for a short business meeting and then enjoy refreshments and a slide show.

● Pre-Holiday Reflection in Holliday

Saturday, Dec. 9 at Noon -- Cowan Section

Get away from the holiday shopping madness for some peace and quiet.

Walks are free and open to all and held regardless of weather. Walks generally last 60—90 minutes. Please dress accordingly and remember that trails can be wet and slippery. Groups are asked to contact HPNA in advance with number of participants.

Thank you

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

Elizabeth and Daniel Appleyard
Dan Boyd Lillian Dean
Elizabeth and Doug DiMeglio
Karen and David Howell
Maria Jagadics
Robert and Elizabeth Kosowski
James and Cynthia Krupinski
Jane Murphy
Scott O'Malley
Jerry and Vivian Nyland
Linda Okonowski
Zlata Rauker
Dan and Rose Rieder
Jessie-Mae Sanderson
Carol Sullivan

HNPA asks for a \$5 per year minimum donation. Memberships run Jan. 1—Dec. 31. Any membership started after Sept. 1 runs through the following December. Please use the form below.

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.

Thank you for your support.

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