



2006 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.

Please take a moment to support your HNPAA by using the **form on page 4**. Thanks.

HNPAA Mission

Holliday Nature Preserve Association (HNPAA) 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 HNPAA 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 newsletters, and to build public support and understanding of the importance of this Preserve within the Parks system.

Our activities are free and open to everyone.

A Dangerous Bridge Is GONE



Over the years, HNPAA has had many discussions with Wayne County Parks about the bridges in the Preserve. Parks has been dragging its feet to get two bridges repaired near the Ellsworth section (see Fall 2005 newsletter). All the while, the Joy bridge (south of Joy Road entrance) was slowly slipping into Tonquish Creek.

HNPAA always wanted this bridge removed. The concrete foundation was being undercut by water flow and could not be repaired.

On Sept. 21, Wayne County workers finally demolished the bridge and pavilion near the entrance.

Workers took a cutting torch unit down to the bridge, and cut the braces and bolts that held the steel arches in

place. The long arches were chained up to a tracked loader, which dragged them onto the floodplain. The bridge was cut into pieces. It and the pavilion scraps were then hauled away.

A great deal of heavy work was done on this hot day. Bill watched most of the work and took photos. (more can be seen on our Web site at www.hnpa.org.) The concrete

foundations remain. Now volunteers will have to haul out all those shopping carts and help restore the area.

HNPAA thanks those Wayne County workers that did the hard work and the de-

cision makers who finally removed this dangerous bridge. Good riddance!

Now if we could only get some other existing bridges repaired before THEY have to be demolished due to neglect...



Mapping The Preserve

Cowan Section



The Cowan section is one of the most popular sections of the Preserve, and for good reason. Much of the trail runs along ridges overlooking Morgan Creek. (One section to the east is some 30 feet above the creek.)

The Cowan section is home to wildlife including deer,

raccoons, owls and Great Blue Herons. The area also contains a small pond. Although Westland Shopping Mall is just across the street, the area is quiet and can easily give one the feeling of being up north.

Like most sections of the Preserve, The Cowan area is changing as ash trees die and

fall due to the emerald ash borer. Yet, fewer trees can mean more spring wildflowers and other sun-loving plants.

Take time to visit the Cowan section and other parts of the Preserve. Maps can be found on our Web site at www.hnpa.org.

Holliday Preserve Follow-Ups

Several people have contacted HNPC by using our Web site (www.hnpa.org). Every effort is made to respond to questions, concerns and complaints. Some people even tell about enjoyable walks and animals sighted.

One e-mail asked about the poor conditions near the Joy bridge area. The campfire debris, hacked trees and broken bottles do make area unsightly. Now that the bridge is gone, perhaps the damaging activities will decline.

Another e-mail asked about the illegal trail clearing near Gray and Ravine Streets. The area was checked out. Someone has hacked a trail and it appears someone is using a dirt bike. The damage was reported to Wayne County Parks. Hopefully this activity will stop but so far, damage is minimal. On the way back from checking on this report, Bill Craig came across two deer lying down in thick shrubs. They stayed still as Bill fumbled for a photo (below)



Look closely at center of photo

Long-time HNPC supporter and good friend, John Wagatha, had a very nice newspaper article written about his live Christmas tree

business, in the Observer on Sunday, Dec. 18 edition. John lives near the Preserve and it was good to see his smiling face in the paper.

Coyotes are making their presence known in this part of the state and HNPC is sometimes asked for its position on what should be done about these animals in the Preserve.

The bottom line is nothing should be done. The Preserve is their home. (After all, the Preserve's complete name is the William P. Holliday Forest & WILDLIFE Preserve.) If you have any questions about coyotes, please check out either The Humane Society information at www.hsus.org or www.wildneighbors.org Remember: It is illegal to hunt or trap any animals in the Preserve.

This year, is the 20th Anniversary of the Friends of the Rouge (FOTR). HNPC has conducted Rouge Rescue in the Preserve for 17 years and we will try to do something bigger and better to help ce-FOTR celebrate their 20th year. It's a great milestone and FOTR has played an important role in helping draw attention to the river and clean it up.

Here's one idea: An end-to-end trail clean-up, with some creek cleaning and small maintenance projects? (HNPC is trying to arrange for sunny skies and no mosquitoes.)

Please share your ideas at our Web site.

Looking Back at Fall



The September 25 Fall Walk had seven supporters who took a long, slow walk from Hix Park into the Preserve. The new bridge over Deer Creek was admired and appreciated.

Smiling faces on bridge belong to Fred, Margaret, Stashia, Joe, Vonie and Sever



The snow was fresh in early December as Phil Crookshank, Dean Johnson and his two daughters, Quintanya, 9 years old, and Charissa, 5 years, took part in a walk along a loop trail that took us from Hix Park through the Pine preserve in Koppnick section and back.



HNPC held its annual meeting in Nov. 16 to review the year's accomplishments (like these bridges built by Ford Motor Co. volunteers) and see slides of many of the Preserves' plants and Animals.

Holliday Nature Preserve Assoc.
P.O. Box 52104
Livonia, MI 48152

Please send all address corrections to the
above address or via our Web site at
www.hnpa.org

Upcoming Walks



**Sat., Jan. 14,
Noon
Mid-Winter
Walk**

*Ellsworth sec-
tion (across*

*from Nankin Mills in Hines
Park). Embrace and enjoy the
Preserve in Winter.*

**Sat., Feb. 18, Noon
President's Weekend Walk**
*Cowan/Central City section
(Central City Parkway, west of
Wayne Road).*

We might see some deer and
raccoons (or at least some
tracks) and maybe even an
owl or two.

**Sat., Mar. 18, 2006, Noon
Almost Spring Walk**
*Hix Park (North of Warren
Road)*

The Preserve begins to shake
off its winter coat and the first
signs of Spring appear. Join
us as we look for them.

Thank you

*The following individuals recently
joined or renewed their member-
ship in HNPA. We appreciate their
support.*

John & Carolyn Carr
Allan & Nancy Chartier
Thomas Clough
Pat & David Foster
Jim and Sandra Godbout
August and Adriana Kerber
Ronald Lieberman
William & Wilma Murphy
Jessie Mae Sanderson
Gayle & John Mendler
Noel Mullett
Paul Szokolay
David Tavidian
Charles & Catherine Walls
Richard Zyczynski

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