

HOLLIDAY NATURE PRESERVE ASSOCIATION



Volume 18 Number 1

Winter 2007

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 on page 4. Any additional money we receive will be used to improve the preserve, including bridges, maintenance, clean-ups) and to educate students and the public about the preserve's importance.

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 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 www.hnpa.org.

Enjoy The Preserve With HNPA



HNPA President Bill Craig has the attention of the Tiger Cub Scout Pack #1731 during a walk in the Holliday Preserve in December. Read about the event on page 2. Also, learn how your group can schedule a special hosted walk in the preserve.

Walk in the preserve by yourself and enjoy the solitude or come with us and enjoy an organized HNPA walk. The pace is leisurely, the atmosphere informal and the people are always interesting. Events are held regardless of the weather. Questions? Contact us at HollidayAssociation@HNPA.org.

Sat., Jan. 27, Noon "Mid-Winter Walk"

Ellsworth Section (across the street from Nankin Mill in Hines Park)

The entrance is just beyond the tennis courts. This trail will lead us along the Tonquish Creek.

Sat., Feb. 17, Noon

"Hope We Have Snow" Walk
Cowan Section (Central City Parkway, west of Wayne Road)
If it's sunny, we might find a raccoon, and there is always a chance we might see a deer or two. With all the leaves off the trees, wildlife is easier to spot.

Sat., Mar. 17, Noon "Almost Spring" Walk

Hix Park (Hix Road, north of Warren Road)

This walk will give you a chance to enjoy the outdoors without the bitter winter cold. There's a section of thick pines we will walk through. The green we see is a welcome change from the usual brown and bare trees we see during the winter.

Fall Nature Walks Report



Preserve visitors on HNPCA hike use one of the bridges improved by Ford Motor Company volunteers.

Fall (along with winter, spring and summer) is one of the best times to visit the Holliday Preserve. Unfortunately, cold or wet weather deterred walkers on a number of hikes this past season.

Just three walkers turned out for Oct. 14 fall color walk. The weather was nice for this walk and those who did walk enjoyed the changing leaves in Koppernick section. It was so nice, HNPCA President and guide Bill Craig walked the seldom-used section between Hix Road and Newburgh. Surprisingly where he met a few members also enjoying the fall weather.

Only Bill and Marty turned out the Oct. 28 walk with rain in the forecast and then three others the Nov. 11 walk in the rain.

The unseasonably warm weather brought out nine walkers on Dec 9. We took a long leisurely walk to get our maximum fill of sunshine. Some of those who turned out that day came as a result of a October *Detroit Free Press* article.

Fish and the HNPCA Meeting

HNPCA General Meeting, at the Livonia Civic Library, drew a crowd of five. Four regulars, Marty, Kathy, Brandon and Bill, gave Carlo a slide show and answered questions. Carlo gave us a report on fishing the Middle Rouge River below the dams.

According to Carlo, there are a large variety of fish in the Rouge and its tributaries and some of them are quite large. All one needs to take advantage of this catch-and-release recreational opportunity is a pole, bait and license. It's another fun way to enjoy the area in and around the preserve.

The Preserve In The Press

Joel Thurtell, newspaper journalist for *The Detroit Free Press* wrote a story about the Holliday Preserve that appeared in the Oct. 22 Livonia edition of the paper. The article talked about the importance of the preserve and the many large trees that can be found there. HNPCA President Bill Craig was quoted and appeared in several accompanying photos.

Our site also received many visits and questions because of that article and we had more walkers during our Dec. 9 hike as a result of the story. Our thanks to Joel for his nice reporting.

Joel as done many stories about the Rouge watershed. Not too long ago, he and a photographer, got a frog's

eye view of the Rouge, when they canoed the main branch of the river. Joel also gave a slide show about his trip. It was at that show that Bill and Joel met and the idea for the article was borne.

Tigers Invade Holliday



Fret not. These Tiger are Tiger Cub Scouts from Pack 1731, who convinced their parents to take them into the deep dark forest called Holliday Nature Preserve. Unfortunately, the warm spell ended just before our hike on Dec. 3. The drop from near 50 degrees down to near 30 degrees did not stop this hearty group of scouts.

We walked the Cowan section to see many sleeping raccoons, the Blue Heron nests, deer rubbings, hornet nests and the tall trees.

The parents tried to keep up with their Tiger Cubs, who were really excited with the adventure. The cold turned cheeks and noses red, so it was a real treat to get hot chocolate and cookies once back to the parking lot.

Children experiencing Nature instead of sitting home watching TV or playing video games: What a great idea.

Thanks Ken and Lesia McQuade for getting this group in Holliday.

Deer Sightings in Preserve



Whitetail deer are relatively common in the preserve. Recently, however, an e-mail and photo was sent to the HNPA Web site reported very light, almost albino, deer in Preserve. The deer appear to be European Fallow deer, which have light colors. (You might have seen these type of deer on Belle Isle.)

Where the deer are from, how they arrived in the preserve and where they are now isn't known, since no one has seen them since. If you spot any of these deer, please drop us an e-mail at www.hnpa.org and let us know where you saw them.

What's Happening in Holliday?

Along with all the wonderful things going on in Holliday Preserve, there are, unfortunately, some not-so-wonderful things to report.



- ◆ Someone stole the bronze plaque HNPA installed at the Cowan trailhead. As the photo at left shows, it was a large plaque and had been in place since 1963 commemorating the donation of the site.

- ◆ Someone destroyed the bench we reinstalled during Rouge Rescue.

- ◆ Someone keeps building big campfires near the old Joy Road bridge. There's even a barbecue grill out there!

- ◆ Someone was camping out in the Newburgh sections, and building up several piles of trash. All these incidents were reported to Wayne County Parks.

- ◆ On November 29, Wayne County Sheriffs rounded up the illegal campers and had them pick up their trash. Thanks Wayne County Parks and Wayne County Sheriffs.



Please report problems to Wayne County Parks at (734) 261-1990. You can also let HNPA know by contacting our Web site at Hollidayassociation@hnpa.org. Do NOT confront people you think are causing problems.

An Aerial View Of The Holliday Nature Preserve

It looks very small and fragile from the air. And it is. Holliday Nature and Wildlife Preserve is only a bit more than 540 acres and barely 100 yards or so wide in spots—barely more than the width of the feeder creek for the Rouge River that runs through it.

Everywhere you look the preserve is bounded by houses, apartments or industrial parks. That puts a lot of pressure on the preserve and on what lives there.

Yet, despite its narrow boundaries, the preserve is home to a wide variety of creatures large and small. The floodplain in the preserve also holds rain waters during heavy storms, so the water doesn't end up in basements.

Enjoy the preserve and join



with us to educate people on its importance and how to protect it while enjoying it.

Thank You For Your Support

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

Rosalie Albrecht
Jerry Arzooyan
Larry, Cathy & Jasper Bean
Nancy Butka
John & Carolyn Carr
Thomas Clough
Margaret Converse
John & Marcia Covert
Phil Crookshank
Margaret Flowers
Marie Feeley
Tom & Marilyn Gould
Phyllis Hammerberg
Ruth Hart
Ken & Joyce Holmes
Jordis Johnsen
Denise & Marty Johnson
Gary Kieltyka

Donald & Linda Kurth
Lew Layton
Lesia & Ken McQuade
Wayne McGarrah
Robert & Denise Miotto
Emily Nietering
Michigan Botanical Club SE Chapter
Ann Rothermel
Jim & Judith Rubasky
Julie Seiter
Scott Silvers
Larry Snowden
Ati Tislerics
Kathy Treppa
Thomas L. Van Camp
Westland Wetlands Conservancy Group
Scott Williams
Albert & Sandra (no last name given)

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