



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, Michigan.

The Preserve consists of 500-plus acres of forests and wetlands that runs along tributaries of the Rouge River.

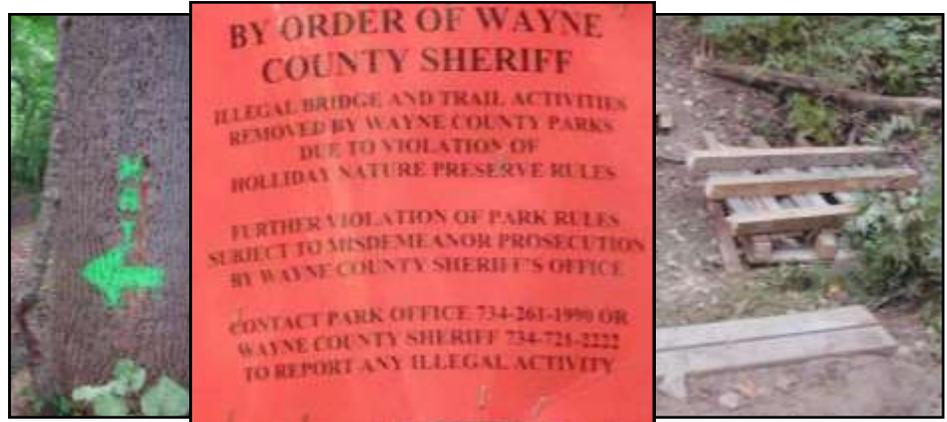
The HNPA seeks to nurture a greater appreciation of this unique natural resource by hosting walks and conducting maintenance improvement projects in conjunction with Wayne County Parks.

Our activities are free and open to everyone. Find out more at HNPA.org.



This spring, Robert Burr was excited to find a nesting Great Horned owl in the Cowan area. Robert and Bill Craig went back to check out nest for **chicks and found several. We'll** be visiting the site on a walk this fall. See page 4. (Photo by Robert Burr)

Wayne County Acts Quickly to Stop Vandalism in Preserve



HNPA reports illegal activities including bridges, an extensive and destructive trail system, and paint on trees and boardwalks

Sometime during the summer a rogue group of mountain bikers vandalized the Preserve by creating more than 2,500 feet of continuous bike trail where no trail existed and installed three bridges. The trail was between five and eight feet wide and the longest bridge measured 23 feet by four feet and was well-built using heavy lumber.

To either guide other bikers or to brand the trail, this group emblazoned the initials **"MBT" in green paint on trees** and boardwalks along the route.

Most of the habitat destroyed was in the Newburgh and Cowan sections of the Preserve.

HNPA reported this destruction to Wayne County Parks and asked for immediate action to stop this illegal activity. Parks personnel investigated and were very upset so much damage was done to the Preserve. Parks quickly cut up the three bridges.

Additionally, they asked the Wayne County Sheriff to step up patrols. Signs have been posted by Wayne County **Sheriff's mounted unit ordering** an end to the illegal activities. Preserve rules, which prohibit bikes, were also posted. HNPA volunteers removed or covered up the graffiti.

HNPA is very pleased with the response from Wayne County Parks and the Wayne



A portion of the illegal trail built along bank of Tonquish Creek. This trail was built on the clay cap of a EPA dump site. The cap is there to keep toxins from leaching into the nearby creek. Trails make the cap susceptible to erosion and is another reason trails are not allowed in this section of the Preserve.

County Sheriff's mounted patrol. We invite you to contact Wayne County Parks at (734) 261-1990 to thank them for taking action.

This incident was just the latest—and the most blatant—of trail-building activities done by individuals and small groups who willfully violate Wayne County Parks rules. Perhaps they feel no one cares about the Preserve and so they can do with it as they wish. Perhaps the lack of any real presence by the Parks department or the Sheriff in the Preserve has made them decide it belongs to MBT.

They are wrong.

While the Preserve doesn't receive much attention by Wayne County, it still has

people who care about it.

That is one reason your membership in HNP and your support are so important. Holliday is first and foremost a forest and wildlife preserve and we, members of the surrounding communities, are only guests while in it.

When Arthur Richardson gave Wayne County the funds to establish Holliday, it was with the express purpose that it be a place where people could enjoy nature as he did as a boy walking the forests of Southeast Michigan with his uncle, William P. Holliday.

So in order to enjoy the Holliday Preserve as Richardson intended, visitors must **tread lightly. After all, it's the** only real way to enjoy the natural beauty, smell the flowers and spot the animals living there. Bikes, paintball guns and even dogs have no place in the Preserve.

With their disregard for public property, the people behind MBT pushed Wayne County Parks too far. Perhaps greater care of Holliday by Parks will come about as a result.

It's also important to note that bridges in the Preserve can be a good thing but they must be authorized and must fit in with the purpose of this Preserve.

We can only hope this action by the Parks department helps decrease the amount of trail building in the Preserve. We also hope people enjoy the Holliday Forest and Nature Preserve and follow the rules governing its use.

Rogue Bikers and the MMBA

"I am unapologetic about riding my bike. I will ride it where I like to. I understand that I may be a minority in this, but if it is not directly endangering anybody. It's up to the police to enforce it. if its a big deal, they will."

A posting on a mountain bike forum regarding riding in the Holliday Nature Preserve

The term "rogue mountain biker" is used in the accompanying story to separate this group from the vast majority of mountain bikers who follow rules in Holliday (and other parks) and cooperate with property owners to promote the sport. Some of our members are avid bikers and enjoy riding—where it is legal.

The Michigan Mountain Bike Association (MMBA) made it clear in a letter to HNP it does not condone any of this type of activity. Dave Thompson on **MMBA's state board of directors** sent the group an email in which he wrote:

"First and foremost, I want to state clearly that this unauthorized activity was not carried out by the MMBA. As members of the mountain biking community, we pride ourselves in working with land managers and land owners to create safe and sustainable trails. MMBA does not condone this type of activity and is concerned for the reputation of mountain bikers as a whole that can suffer at the hands of a few who, through either ignorance or malice, fail to play by the rules."

For more information on MMBA, go to MMBA.org.

Rouge Rescue — June 5, 2010

(see story next page)



Photos by Rose Treppa and Marty Johnson

Rouge Rescue 2010: Hardworking Volunteers Clean Up Tonquish Creek and Holliday Preserve

The City of Westland, HNPA and Friends of the Rouge hosted another Rouge Rescue on Saturday, June 5.

Volunteers from the community built boardwalks, added wood chips to trails, planted trees, picked up trash and cleaned up Tonquish Creek, a tributary of the Rouge. The Newburgh section, just north of Warren was **this year's site.**

The weather was good and we had a lot of wonderful volunteers who worked hard—but also had fun.

Wayne County failed to mow the work area, so City of Westland did not hesitate to get that job done. Westland also provided ten yards of wood chips.

On June 5, Westland provided people, tools, supplies and support. We had a Police cadet for parking and an EMS officer to provide first aid that thankfully was

again not needed.

Laura Elder set up registration and took care of the paperwork, which is very important for grant support. Friends of the Rouge provided gloves, trash bags and other supplies.

HNPA provided a cooler of ice water, since we do not support bottled water.

Once signed in, volunteers chose the work they wanted to do from a list: remove trash from the creek, install boardwalk, haul wood chips to trees and trail, plant trees, haul trash to collection area. Soon people were working on everything.

After three hours everything was done. Bags of trash were collected; boardwalks were built and installed; two crabapple trees were planted and watered; and the wood chips distributed where needed.

As in fast-forward,

people washed up, drank cups of cold water and headed for home. Supplies and tools were collected, and the City of Westland and its trucks took away the pile of trash bags and junk volunteers had collected. The registration table was folded up and signs taken down. Soon only two HNPA members remained. One last look around. The gate was locked at 1:30 p.m.; it was time for a hot shower and a cold drink.

A special thanks to Kevin Buford, City of Westland, work team leaders, and the many hardworking volunteers who make our Rouge River watershed a better place to live.

A special thank you to supporters of HNPA, whose donations help provide the boardwalk timber, chain saw, trees and needed supplies for work in Holliday Preserve.

Scouting the Preserve



Michael Kaplan (in front) from Troop 270 in Livonia, received permission from Wayne County Parks to install boardwalks to meet his requirement to become an Eagle Scout.

Michael's team added several sections to an existing boardwalk in the Koppernick section. This boardwalk help walkers get safely through very wet areas and reduces damage to wetland vegetation. HNPA provides financial support to approved projects such as these.



Cubmaster Judy Coleman brought Cub Scouts from Pack 880 to explore the Cowan section of Holliday Preserve. Cubs, parents and siblings looked for deer.

Cub Scouts and other groups who wish to visit the Preserve are invited to attend any of our scheduled walks (see page 4). Group leaders who wish to arrange tours this winter should email holliday@hnpa.org after Nov. 1.

Earth Day: A Triple Success



(l-r) Parks Naturalist Carol Clements; Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano; Marty Johnson, HNPA; Westland Planning Director Bruce Thompson; Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt and Bill Craig, HNPA

Our Earth Day was a success – actually a triple success. We started the day with the installation of a new sign at the Ellsworth Trail entrance to the Holliday Pre-

serve. This sign displays a map of the trail system and the revised Preserve rules.

This was a very important event and HNPA was pleased to be joined by those pictured at left.

Then it was over to the Koppernick section for a wildflower walk. We enjoyed the early spring flowers along the Tulip Trail.

Following that easy walk we went to work along the same trail pulling

garlic mustard.

In two hours our small team pulled nearly 135 pounds of the noxious weed. Our effort was added to a regional program trying to keep this

invasive plant from displacing our native wildflowers.

Our Earth Day ended with a sense of accomplishment, dirty hands and smiles. Thanks to all who took part.



One person who couldn't make the sign ceremony was HNPA's Phil Crookshank, who was instrumental in creating it. Incorporating him into a photo was our way of making him feel he was part of the day's event. Thanks, Phil for your hard work.

Upcoming HPNA Activities



Saturday, Oct. 30 at noon: Fall Color/Halloween Eve walk
Koppernick section (Off Hix Road, north of Warren Road)

Saturday, Nov. 20 at noon: Tall trees walk
Hix Park (off Hix Road, north of Warren Road)

Saturday, Dec. 11 at noon: "Where did Great Horned owl nest?" walk

Cowan section (Central City Parkway and Westland Shopping Center)

Our nature walks are free and suitable for all ages. The walks are leisurely, informative and fun. But remember, trails are uneven and can be slippery and wet, so please wear appropriate footwear.

Thanks to our supporters

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

Diane Bancroft
Laurel & Jason Draper

Marie Feeley
James Flanigan

Joan Gebhardt
Randolph & Marian Gonsior

Daniel Gonsior
Patrick Gonsior

Virginia Kennedy

Paul Kulling

Ursula & Michael McGinnis

Nicole & Noel Mullett

Zlatko & Zlata Rauker

Cynthia & Michael Schafer

Carol Shea

Carol Sullivan

Deborah & John Tofil

Become Part of HNPA!

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

publish three newsletters, host a website and hold clean-up projects to enhance and promote the Preserve and the benefits it offers.

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: _____ + _____

\$_____ Enclosed

Annual dues are \$5 per household. Additional donations are appreciated. If you send more than \$5, please indicate how additional funds should be used:

() Donation () Extend membership

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