



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.



Has Castor Canadensis returned to the Preserve? Evidence suggests it has. See inside story.



An October walk in the Cowan section included the story about the death of Chief Tonquish that occurred in the area 190 years ago. Additional photos and information can be found at HNPA.org

Upcoming activities

Take a walk through the Preserve with HNPA volunteers. Learn about the Preserve and its inhabitants all while enjoying time with some like-minded people.

The pace is leisurely and the atmosphere informal.

Our walks last from an hour to 90 minutes and are held regardless of the weather, so please dress for conditions.

Questions? Contact us at HollidayAssociation@HNPA.org.

- **Sat., Jan. 30, Noon, Cowan Entrance**
(Central City Parkway, west of Wayne Road)
Enjoy a walk along Morgan Creek and Tonquish Creek
- **Sat., Feb. 27, Noon, Hix Park Entrance**
(Hix Road north of Warren Road)
A popular walk from Hix Park through the pine grove into the Koppernick section
- **Sat., March 20, Noon, Ellsworth Entrance**
(Off Hines Drive across from Nankin Mills)
Walk along Tonquish Creek and up and down a few hills

It's a new year. Please remember to renew your membership. See page 4.

A Little Holliday history

Did you know that Arthur Richardson, the man who made Holliday Nature Preserve possible, lived in New York all his adult life and might never have stepped foot in this area? So why then he provide the money that made this Preserve in Michigan possible?

The answer: Because Richardson had an uncle in this state who instilled in him a love of nature.

As a young boy growing up in Wyandotte, Michigan,

Richardson used to join his uncle—William P. Holliday—for long walks in the forests of southern Wayne County. The positive impact of his uncle and those walks must have stayed with Richardson all his life, for when Richardson died in 1938, he left a portion of his estate to Wayne County with the stipulation the county establish a park, named for his uncle, and preserve the land in its natural state so visitors would get a chance to

experience nature the way he did as a boy.

Wayne County accepted the money and spent \$1.2 million of the bequest purchasing land and an additional \$300,000 on bridges, trails and more.

Just as spending time with family enjoying nature made a lasting on Richardson, the experiences you share with your children in the Preserve might do the same.

And we think Arthur Richardson would like that.

Vandalism in the Preserve

Ever hear of the Broken Window Theory?

Social scientists observed that if a window in a building is broken and not repaired, more windows will be broken because the unrepaired window indicates no one cares about the building.

If visitors walking through Holliday see trash around illegal campfires, broken benches, and orange spray paint on trees and signs, they might get the impression no one cares? So would vandals.

Well, be assured HNPA members care.

One of our dedicated member volunteers his time to remove graffiti from signs and garish paint colors from trees. If a bench is destroyed other volunteers repair it. When someone leaves junk around an old campfire, other group members step up to clean up.

HNPA efforts send a signal that someone cares. These

actions not only discourages damage but improves the Preserve experience visitors and even helps protect home property values.

We hope the vandals will give up. Until then, HNPA won't.

Mountain bikers continue damaging Preserve

The Preserve is being damaged by men building mountain bike trails. They are cutting trees—sometimes live ones—and destroying ground cover by using mechanical devices including a special metal rake hauled by an ATV.

Bikes are prohibited in the Preserve and always have been. So is cutting live trees and damaging vegetation.

Last fall, responding to complaints from neighbors and Preserve walkers, HNPA found new trails that were made by cutting trees, includ-

ing live maples and hawthorns, and scraping away ground cover.

To discourage trail building, HPNA volunteers used the trees and vegetation to cover the trails. So far, it's been necessary to revisit the site three times to eliminate the rogue trails since the bikers continue to clear them. They are intent on continuing their vandalism. We will continue taking steps to mitigate it.



Live trees and other debris that was cut by mountain bikers to create rogue trails are laid back over those same trails to discourage their use.

Scouts tackle Eagle projects in Holliday



Robert Schramm, Boy Scout Troop 782-Livonia contacted HNPCA about performing an Eagle project in the Preserve. HNPCA proposed wetland boardwalks for safety and to protect wildflowers.

His proposed project was approved and after fund-

raising, materials purchase, pre-cutting and drilling, Robert's project team installed 40 feet of boardwalk on Sept 19.

Robert has since made Eagle; HNPCA congratulates him on his achievement and thanks him for some darn good boardwalks. (See photo at left).



Christopher Crile, Troop 1587-Canton also completed a project in the Preserve, this time redecking an existing bridge and adding a railing.

This project required approval form Wayne County Parks engineering staff beforehand, and Chris' detailed and thorough plan gained

that approval.

After fund raising, materials purchase and much pre-work off site, the work took place on Oct. 30.

HNPCA congratulates Chris on his achievement, and thanks him for a darn good bridge. (See above photos).

HNPCA would like to thank to Larry Snowden, Chris' grandfather, who provided guidance. Larry is also a long-time HNPCA member.

Castor Canadensis in Preserve

Yep, it appears the largest of all North American rodents is doing his thing along the banks of Tonquish Creek. HNPCA President Bill Craig who spotted the signs wonders if this beaver is the same one that was here in Spring of 2008.

The beaver is doing a good job of gnawing trees in the Newburgh area. Craig reports the evidence is fresh. It is tough to identify the tracks since the beaver's heavy tail drags behind and obscures them.

The creature has not been seen since they are primarily nocturnal and stay in dens during cold spells.



After watching a six-point buck, a HNPCA member noticed some people with paintball guns sneaking through the Preserve trees near him.

The HNPCA person approached and the discussion went something like this:

HNPCA member: "This is a nature preserve."

Paintballer: We are not hunting."

2nd Paintballer: "Paintballs are biodegradable."

HNPCA: "Eat one. This is a preserve, not a playground for war games."

The paintballers went to see their Army recruiter, and the HNPCA went back looking for the six-point.

Note: HNPCA suggests not confronting mountain bikers, paint-ballers or anyone violating Preserve rules.

Best response is to report vandalism to Wayne County Parks, in-person at the Parks

office, in Nankin Mill, bring documentation such as photos if at all possible.

A large number of complaints or a serious situation may get response from Wayne County Sheriff.



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.

Howard Behr
Elizabeth Breneau
Nancy Butka
Allen and Nancy Chartier
Marion Elton
June Glen
Maria Jagadics
Donald and Linda Kurth
John and Gayle Mendler
Robert and Denise Miotto
William and Misty Mitchell

Dennis Monthei
Mark and Rosemarie Rembisz
Irene Sequin
Johann and Neil Sheibley
Larry and Christine Snowden
Carol Sullivan
Catherine and Charles Walls
Thomas Vancamp
John and Marina Wagatha
Richard and Karen Zyczynski

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 below.

Any additional money we receive will be used to benefit the Preserve. You may also earmark any additional funds to extend your membership.

Be Part of HNPA!

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**