

Rouge Rescue 2011

HNPA, City of Westland and Friends of the Rouge again partner for June 4 event.

This year Holliday Nature Preserve Association will host its Rouge Rescue on Saturday, June 4, at the Cowan Entrance to the Preserve (north of Westland Mall).

We will cut and pull invasive honeysuckle; pick up trash in and around Morgan Creek, a tributary of the Rouge that runs through that section of the Preserve; collect a few wayward shopping carts; and manage a small log jam. We will again partner with the City of Westland and the Friends of the Rouge (FOTR). Registration begins at 8 a.m. and we will work until about noon. We may even finish early if we have enough participants. Please park across the street from the



Invasive honeysuckle at Cowan. Cutting and removing it will be a major focus of This year's Rouge Rescue.

entrance.

Friends of the Rouge, the area's premier river restoration organization, is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year (see accompanying article) and HNPA has worked with them for what will now be 23 years.

When FOTR first started organizing volunteers, HNPA included, the focus was on removing both jams and trash from the river and surrounding floodplain.

Some things have changed over the years and some things have not. FOTR partners like HNPA still collect trash; however we do not remove log jams. Instead we manage them following Woody Debris Management 101: Clean and Open. This procedure calls for cleaning out trash and then opening a channel through the jams. The channel allows for water flow while leaving the logs in place helps slow the flow and oxygenates the water.

FOTR also is placing a greater focus on removing invasive plants like honeysuckle, buckthorn and garlic mustard that crowd out native plants and wildflowers. So this is what HNPA and City of Westland volunteers will do this year.

We will have some gloves,



A shopping cart rests in Tonquish Creek. Its removal will be one of the activities tackled during Rouge Rescue.

plastic bags along with some hand tools and ropes. There will also be a wash-up station. We will have water in a Gatorade jug (HNPA does not support use of plastic water bottles). We will be removing plastic bottles from the creek. It may be warm, it may be muddy but there WILL BE mosquitoes, so PLEASE wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts. We will work-- sometimes hard--but many hands make light work and we will have fun while making a difference in the Preserve and the Rouge River Watershed.

It's going to be a great way to celebrate the Friends of the Rouge 25th Anniversary **(and HNPA's 23rd)**. Oh yes, we will have special T-shirts for you. Check therouge.org for more details. For updated information on HNPA, visit hnpa.org.

Earth Day Celebration (and a little work)

All the trail signs have been installed, so we will only do two projects for Earth Day 2011: First we will stop to smell the flowers—or take photos of same—as we take a wild-flower walk along the Tulip Trail. (By the way, the trail is named for the tree not the flower.) We will take it slow

and just enjoy the walk. The trail is usually muddy in April so remember to wear proper footwear.

Following our walk, for those able to stay and willing to work, we will pull garlic mustard, and invasive plant that crowds out native plants and wildflowers and is not a food source for area

wildlife. Last year, we pulled 13 bags, and that was with only six people. We should easily be able to double that amount if we have a few extra hands this year. Garlic mustard is very, very easy to pull. Gloves are suggested because although the plant **isn't toxic, it does makes** your hands smell like garlic.

Photos from our winter walks



Three of our walkers who came out on a nice snowy February to walk the Koppernick Section.



The snow was gone by March but the cold remained, yet walkers in the Ellsworth section enjoyed their time in the Preserve.

What is Friends of the Rouge?

Friends of the Rouge is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization begun in 1986 to raise awareness about the need to clean up the Rouge River in southeast Michigan. This marks their 25th anniversary. Mission Statement: To promote restoration and stewardship of the Rouge

River ecosystem through education, citizen involvement and other collaborative efforts, for the purpose of improving the quality of life for the people, plants, and animals of the watershed.

FOTR is overseen by a 15 member board of directors and has five full-time staff

and several seasonal part-time staff.

Programs offered include

- Rouge Rescue**
- Rouge Education Project**
- Benthic Macroinvertebrate Sampling**
- Rouge Frog and Toad Survey**
- River Restoration**



Thanks to our supporters

The following people have joined HNPA, renewed their memberships or made donations in the first quarter of 2011. Thank you. We appreciate your continuing support and will use the funds for the overall benefit of the Preserve.

Angela Black
Virginia Braun
Nancy Butka
Roberta Campbell
Thomas Carpenter
Louis Cyburt
Nancy & Allen Chartier
Irene Deman
Marion Elton
Joan & Fred Gebhardt
James Gilbert
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Lynda & Robert St. John
Cindy & Michael Schafer
Ruth Simons
Elaine Snipe
Christine & Larry Snowden
Janet Sowards
Catherine & Charles Walls

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 to distribute

our newsletters, host a website, support Rouge Rescue, offer walks, educate the community and promote the Preserve.

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