



Holliday Named as one of Best Hiking Places in SE Michigan

Metro Parent magazine, an online publication for area moms, recently named the Holliday Nature Preserve as one of the best places in Metro Detroit to take kids hiking. Fans of our Facebook page have already read the article.

Here's a bit of what they had to say: "Adventurous family?" Strap on your hiking boots to explore the unique nature along this rugged little trail network in a 500-plus acre preserve. Three areas are open, each with a couple-mile loops."

Go to our Facebook page to read the entire review.

Dues are Due

It's time to renew your \$5 HNPCA membership. All memberships run January to December and the monies we receive are used to print and send this newsletter, host our website (HNPA.org), sponsor events like Rouge Rescue and support local Scouts looking to carry out Eagle projects in the Preserve (see page 2 for more information on recent projects.) Thanks for your support.



These small frozen ponds will melt in Spring and become alive with frogs and other amphibians. The Preserve has many vernal ponds that are so very important for creatures large and small.

Upcoming activities

Take a walk through the Preserve with HNPCA 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 about an hour and are held regardless of the weather, so please dress for conditions.

Questions? Contact us at [Holliday Association@HNPA.org](mailto:HollidayAssociation@HNPA.org).



Sat., Jan. 21, Noon, Ellsworth Entrance
(Meet in Hines Drive parking lot for Nankin Mill)
Look for wildlife and enjoy beauty of Preserve



Sat., Feb. 25, Noon, Cowan Entrance
(Central City Parkway, west of Wayne Road)
Dress warm for a leisurely walk enjoying the winter landscape (we hope for a winter landscape anyway).



Sat., Mar. 24, Noon, Hix Park Entrance
(Hix Road, north of Warren Road)
MAYBE we'll see signs of SPRING!

Scout Boardwalks in the Preserve

Wetlands make for good habitat in Holliday, but they make for poor hiking. That's why HNPCA has been installing boardwalks for many years in areas of the Preserve prone to flooding.

Installing boardwalks not only makes walks more pleasant for visitors, but it also helps protect the surrounding plants and flowers that might otherwise be trampled by walkers looking to avoid the water and mud.

HNPCA now partners with local Scouts looking to complete

their Eagle service project. In these cases, HNPCA works with Wayne County Parks and the Scout to select an area in need of a boardwalk, then meets with the Scout and his parents or Scoutmaster in the Preserve and if, the Scout agrees to the proposed project, HNPCA provides him with a listing of items needed and donates funds on behalf of HNPCA members to help the Scout purchase supplies. (As part of the Eagle project, the Scouts must raise the funds themselves, purchase the items and then head up a

team to complete the project.)

An average of six 8-foot sections of boardwalk are completed during each project.

These three Scouts worked on recent boardwalk projects in the Preserve:

- Zach Auner, Livonia, Troop 889, Livonia; added to lower Deer Creek
- Jason Burcick, Livonia, Troop 900, added to upper Deer Creek
- Alec Zatrika, Livonia, Troop 782, who added to the Tulip Trail.



Zach Auner and his team relax after the boardwalk is completed.



Alec Zatrika works on the Tulip Trail boardwalk.



We have no photos of Jason Burcick and his crew at work on his project, although it's obvious from photos that he and they did work hard.

There and Gone



I did not take photos of the hikers on our fall nature walks. I thank Ruth for joining me on the first walk and Ruth and Scott for joining me the second time around. We saw deer both times. Photo 1 is of two deer wondering why noisy people were walking on their property. YES, the deer are very hard to see, but that is why they survive. Photo 2 the two dark brown spots are where other deer were lying down and I disturbed their nap. The spots were still warm—with vapor rising—when I took closer look. Bill Craig, HNPA President

Barking in Silence...



The Holliday Forest and Wildlife Preserve is filled with a variety of small habitats for a wide variety of wildlife. It is a fragile oasis surrounded by the urban habitat including buildings, and acres of mowed and paved surfaces.

Add to that surrounding area thousands of people, their pets and motor vehicles and you soon see how special our Preserve really is.

Our nature walks are an opportunity to see some Preserve wildlife: deer,

raccoons, herons, owls, squirrels, muskrat, colorful birds, snakes, frogs, maybe a beaver. Our walks also are an opportunity to see plants; wildflowers, ferns, mosses and lots of tall trees.

It is relatively easy to identify trees when they have leaves; but can you identify **them in winter? It's not nearly** as easy, when all one has is bark to go on. In addition the age of the trees adds to the challenge since bark changes as the tree gets older. Take a closer look and identify these

common trees. (Answers are on last page.)

Our nature walks are a time to take a closer look - to ask questions, to learn about plants and animals and to just take in the sights and enjoy (and without bugs.).

Summer or winter, the Preserve provides us with the opportunity to learn something new—or sometimes, not. Even if we can not identify the tree, plant or flower we can still enjoy its beauty, savor the silence and walk on.



With Many Thanks

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

Elizabeth Breneau
Marie Feeley
James Gilbert
Donald Kurth
Noah Mehalski

Russell Nye
Norman Tayla
Dan Reider family
Thomas Vancamp

Answers to page 3 trees: A - Red oak; B-Sassafras; C- Tulip

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.

HNPA seeks to nurture a greater appreciation of this unique natural resource by hosting walks, conducting maintenance improvement projects in conjunction with Wayne County Parks and promoting the importance of the Preserve in improving the quality of life in Western Wayne County communities.

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

Join Us - or Renew

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