



Holliday Sights



Why do we hold our walks and encourage people to visit the Preserve? For a lot of reasons but none as special as when we have moments like these. Here Stephanie Durant gently holds one of several garter snakes seen along trail during a walk held this spring.

Upcoming Activities

Take a walk through the Preserve with HNPA volunteers. Walks last an hour to 90 minutes and are held regardless of the weather. Children are welcome. Sorry, no dogs allowed.

Early Fall Color Walk

Saturday, Oct. 4, Noon, Cowan entrance.

(Central City Parkway, west of Wayne Road, north of Warren Road)

Later Fall Color Walk

Saturday, Nov. 8, Noon, Hix Park entrance.

(Hix Road north of Warren Road.)

Friends of the Rouge Walk

Saturday, Nov. 15, Noon, Hix Park entrance.

(Hix Road north of Warren Road.)

Note: This is a Friends of the Rouge event. Its members are free, non-members are \$5 but it's an opportunity to join our sister organization. Learn more at therouge.org.

Holiday Shopping Escape Walk in Holliday

Saturday, Dec. 6, Noon, Ellsworth section.

(Meet in Nankin Mill parking lot on Hines Drive, east of Ann Arbor Trail.)



This fawn was one of several spotted in August during a walk in the Koppernick section of the Preserve. It was one of eight deer seen that day. Although seeing eight deer is unusual, seeing at least one or two is not. Fall is a great time of year to see them since deer become more active in October and November. The secret? There is none, although walking quietly, enjoying the scenery and doing so without dogs (which are illegal in the Preserve anyway), helps.

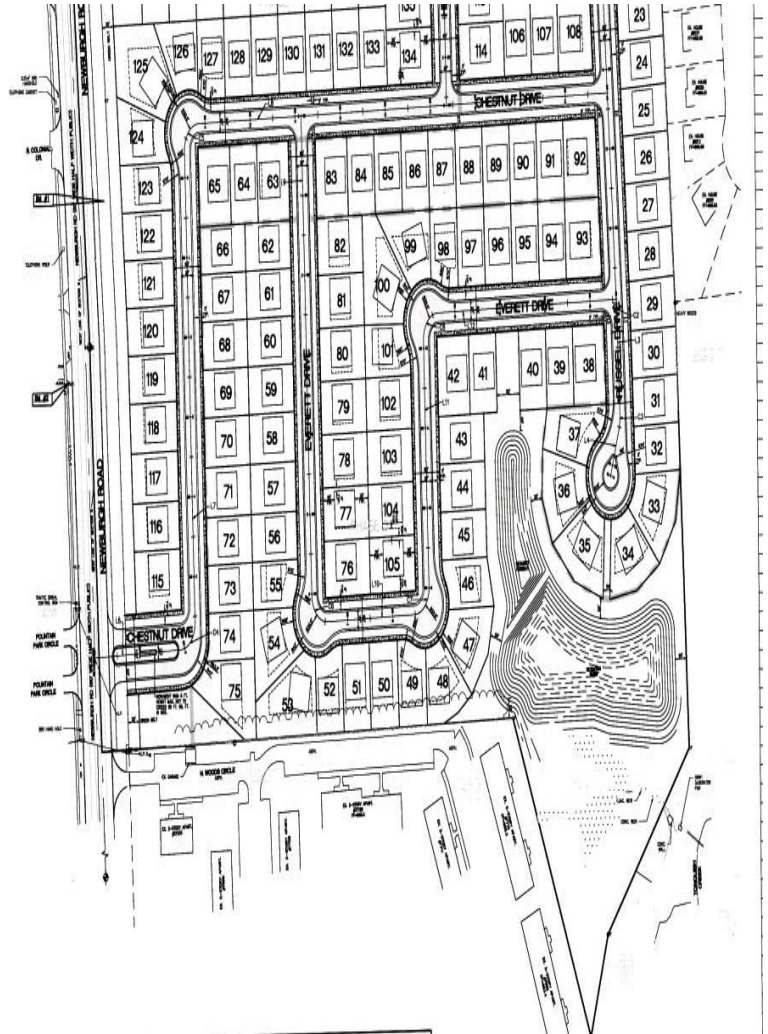
Preserve Will Get New Neighbors

Clyde Smith Farms is finally being developed. Anyone traveling on Newburgh between Joy and Warren can see the site being bulldozed and even a couple of houses are now being built. Top soil has been piled up for later reuse as pipes and other parts of the infrastructure are being installed. What was once a quiet nursery for trees, flowers and shrubs will soon be more lawn, pavement and 146 houses.

The Holliday Preserve borders this development on the west and south. The Preserve is now almost enclosed, making it even more important as a sanctuary for our urban wildlife. Not only is there a loss in open space and wildlife habitat, this development will add to the water quality problems and can negatively affect Tonquish Creek.

To help prevent stormwater runoff, a very large two-cell detention basin will be dug in the southeast corner of the property near the Preserve border. This detention basin is designed to hold sediment that is washed off lawns and streets—much of it containing contaminants—and rain and snow melt, then slowly release the water to the creek. A well maintained, partially naturalized basin could be good for the Preserve and the Tonquish Creek as it can be a home for various forms of wildlife.

A HNPA representative has already met with Wayne County Parks and City of Westland to express our keen interest in how this new development respects the Holliday Preserve.



HNPA's chainsaw and wheelbarrow were put to good use cutting through a huge tree that had fallen across the trail in the Cowan section. However, the cut section was too large for the HNPA volunteer that was doing the cutting to roll off the trail.

Luckily, along came a man walking up the trail from the south who gladly volunteered to help. Just then, another man came walking down the trail from the north. He also agreed to lend a hand. All three pushed and the cut section was quickly manhandled out of the trail. Afterward, introductions were made. The man from the south was named Bruce. As was the man from the North. And the man with the chainsaw and wheelbarrow? He was named Bill. Thanks to the three Bs: Bruce and Bruce and Bill.

Vandalism. Again.

Several angry Westland residents contacted HNPA's email address (holliday@hnpa.org), complaining about loud parties in the Preserve, going late into the night.

An old trail shelters appeared to be a regular meeting place for bonfires, alcohol and fireworks.

One neighbor called Westland Police, but was redirected to Wayne County Parks, since the Preserve is Wayne County property.

Unfortunately, Wayne County Parks is a daytime operation, so calls went unanswered until the next work day. That left a very frustrated neighbor to clean up the party mess.

HNPA met with Parks staff and they have created signs that have since been posted at the site. In addition, Parks has asked the sheriff's horse patrols to keep an eye on this site.

What is most disappointing about this party activity is

that the kids are cutting live trees

to feed the fire. In addition, they leave behind broken bottles, crushed cans, food wrappers, and destroyed chairs, all which must be cleaned up. On the plus side, HNPA did get \$10 from the deposit returns.



Linda and Stephanie Durant, Bob St. John, Ruth Simons and Larry Willis enjoy a beautiful early in the Newburgh section during our one spring walk.

Usually the only snakes you see are garter snakes, so it was very nice to see this hog-nose snake. This harmless snake will defend itself by loud hissing and rolling over to play dead.



Go Bug Hunting.

Friends of the Rouge needs volunteers to look for stoneflies, mayflies and other aquatic insects at the annual Fall Bug Hunt on Oct. 25. Interested volunteers must pre-register by Oct. 10. Children are welcome when accompanied by a participating adult.

The event begins at 9:00 am at Schoolcraft College in the VisTaTech Center. Volunteers are assigned to teams that travel to two sites where they look for living things in samples collected from the river under the direction of a trained Team Leader.

The Fall Bug Hunt is part of a long-term monitoring program to train local residents to collect information about the health of Rouge streams. It is coordinated by Friends of the Rouge and supported by the Alliance of Rouge Communities. For more in-

Note: Although not a not an official HNPA event, we often partner with Friends of the Rouge and the waters that flow through Holliday are sometimes included in these FOTR bug hunts.

Our Association'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, conducting 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.

Thanks to our Supporters



The following people joined HNPA, renewed their memberships or made donations this summer. We thank them and appreciate the continuing support they and our other members give along with the trust they put in us. We will use the funds for the overall benefit of the Preserve.

**Shirley Cebula
Lisa Denys
John Emmerd
Denise Paulauskas**

**Sever & Vonnie Pederson
Janet Sowards
Alan & Norma VanKerckhove
Richard, Karen, David Zyczynski**

Become Part of HNPA!

Membership in the Holliday Nature Preserve Association is only \$5 per year (Jan. 1—Dec. 31).

Join now and your membership dues will

cover you through 2015!

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**

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



Rouge Rescue: 2014

This year HNPA held its annual Rouge Rescue River Day event on May 5. We held it early this year because our site coordinator was going to be unavailable during the Friends of the Rouge event on May 17. Early did not pose a problem to the volunteers who came out that day to work at the Newburgh site just north of Warren; however the rain did.

It rained the days leading up to the event, which raised the river and shifted the log jams. It then rained the night before the event, which turned the dirt into mud. It even rained the morning of the event as Emily set up tables for registration and Phil set up a table of loppers, saws and ropes. Then the rain stopped and the sun came out and what at first appeared to be a wet miserable day turned out to be a very nice day.

And a productive one.

Despite the fact the rain kept the turnout

light, the 17 volunteers who came out to assist did a lot of work filling bags with trash, mostly from the logjams along with a tent, blankets, shopping carts, tires and a dish antenna.

The team assigned to cut invasive plants cut a big area of honeysuckle and buckthorn. Unfortunately, we could not chip those cuttings as the truck sent by the City of Westland got stuck in the mud and could not get to the work area. The cuttings were made into brush piles and all trash was moved to the gravel road for later pickup by Wayne County Parks. We were done by noon.

A big "thank you" to all those who braved the elements and cheer-



Rouge Rescue, May 3, 2014
Holliday Nature Preserve, Newburgh Entrance

fully participated in another Rouge Rescue in the Holliday Preserve.

Hope to see you next May.

Our RR Volunteers

Jody Bauman
Larry Bernhardt
Linda Bernhardt
John Covert
Bill Craig
Emily Craig
Phil Crookshank
Lisa Denys
Tom Griebe
Wayne McGarrah
Joe Peruski
Mike Rudell
Ann Sandomersri
Brandon Scott
Steve Weiss
Larry Willis
Carl M

HNPA Rouge Rescue Report

