



HNPA Hosts Meeting

What does the future hold for the association and who will step up and help out?

HNPA doesn't often host meetings. When we have in the past, we have had a small turnout. six to 10 people from among our nearly 200 members.

There are a few new faces each time but mostly the same familiar faces. At each meeting, it was hoped new people would step forward to take officer positions.

Thanks to our newsletter, website, and Facebook page, our message continued getting out and President Bill Craig worked with members to handle what few comments or complaints about the Preserve and its condition that were received.

Our relationship with Wayne County Parks and its directors over the years varied. Sadly, instead of working with us, they would often ignore us much as they seemed to ignore the Preserve, its trails and parking lots.

See *Meeting*, page 2



Read about Rouge Rescue and view photos of volunteers in action. See pages 3 & 4.

Upcoming Activities

Take a walk through the Preserve with HNPA volunteers. 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 (snowy and wet) and often uneven ground.

Walks are family friendly and kids are welcome Sorry, no dogs allowed. Questions? Contact us at Holliday Association@hnpa.org.

➤ 'Fall Color' Walk

Saturday, October 17, NOON, Cowan entrance (Central City Pkwy, west of Wayne, north of Warren)

➤ 'What Leaves are Left' Walk

Saturday, November 14, NOON, Hix Park Hix Road Entrance is north of Warren, south of Joy

➤ 'Holiday Shopping Escape' Walk

Saturday, December 5, NOON, Ellsworth section Park at Nankin Mill parking lot off Hines Drive, east of Ann Arbor Trail

Meeting, from page 1

On April 15, HNPA hosted its latest meeting. Among attendees were founders, Jack Smiley and John Covert; past and present editors Bob Duda and Marty Johnson; long-time Treasurer, Rose Treppa; and former Secretary, Joyce Holmes.

Brandon Scott drove in from Lansing. Brandon, was one of John Covert's high school biology students and continues to serve us with his skill and knowledge.

In the back row sat our hardest worker, Phil Crookshank, who has had his fingers in every HNPA project over the past 20 years. Joining him was Wayne McGarrah who faithfully attends our hikes, along with members Dean Johnson and Alan Van Kerckhove.

At the meeting we discussed a generous donation from the trust fund of Dorothy Mundle. She and her late husband Roland donated

funds to help us continue our mission. The question: What do we do with this money?

HNPA Membership has been \$5.00 since the group was founded, but most people donate more and so we have sufficient operating expenses so for now, the donated funds will be banked. (Should the opportunity arise to purchase Livonia Public School property on Hix Road to add the Holliday Preserve, this bequest may be helpful.)

A second important topic was then discussed: **What is the future of HNPA?** While the status quo is working, what happens if the current President moves on? Fact of the matter is that we know of no individuals who want to take on that role or any other HNPA leadership role. That's worrisome because should just one or two key leaders depart, HNPA would fold. (Our bylaws do include a dissolution clause that says after debts are paid,

remaining assets go to a 501©3 association with a purpose similar to ours.)

While we have supporters who provide us with funding, we need people to help with work projects, especially reducing invasive plants in the Preserve. Our present leadership team is getting a bit "long in the tooth" to keep doing these things.

Lastly, we strongly believe the Holliday Nature Preserve needs someone to speak for the plants and animals that call the Preserve home. If HNPA dissolves, that role will fall to Wayne County Parks, and to local developers and politicians who have never set foot within the Preserve's boundaries. We're not sure how you feel, but that does not strike present leadership as a good option.

What's your opinion and thoughts on our future? Please share your feelings and suggestions with us.

HNPA President Receives Award



Bill Craig is the 2015 Recipient of the Petoskey Prize for Environmental Leadership from the Michigan Environmental Council, a statewide organization of conservation groups.

Bill, who is HNPA President, was described

by MEC as a "tough-as-nails Navy veteran -- often seen chest-deep in the Rouge River, chain-sawing canoe routes through fallen timber" but also an effective educator about the habitat benefits of leaving most of that wood in the stream, a patient nature guide for local school kids, and an eloquent speaker when inspiring landowners and govt. officials to do what's right for waterways and wildlife.

The award included a check for \$5000 for Bill to donate to other environmental groups.

Rouge Rescue Report: 2015

May 9, dawned with clear skies and bright sunshine. A great start for Rouge Rescue at the Cowan entrance of the Preserve.

By 7:30 the registration table was set up, tool table loaded with loppers and saws, clean up station prepared, and the big task list/map greeted volunteers.

Rescuers signed in and got to cutting at the main targets— invasive plant species: honey-suckle, buckthorn, bit-tersweet, garlic mustard, and barberry. Some of the workers must have had Red Bull for breakfast because of the energy and enthusiasm with which they attacked the plants, cutting, hacking and then hauling them to the entrance and forming a huge pile that continued to grow all day.

Other volunteers worked the trail, pulling garlic mustard. Others targeted trash. Those who like to



work in the creek were disappointed, because the creek was CLEAN in our work area (though, Steve Weis did find and remove one shopping cart).

After three hours of hard work, the pile of cut invasives was seven-foot tall, nearly as wide and more than 20-yards long.

With most invasives cut and the time approaching noon, it was time to stop hacking and cutting and start collecting the saws, shovels, wheelbarrows and other tools being used.

Group pictures were taken and then it was time for the staging area take-down of tables,

signs and supplies with volunteers taking home a “Friends of the Rouge/Rouge Rescue” t-shirt.

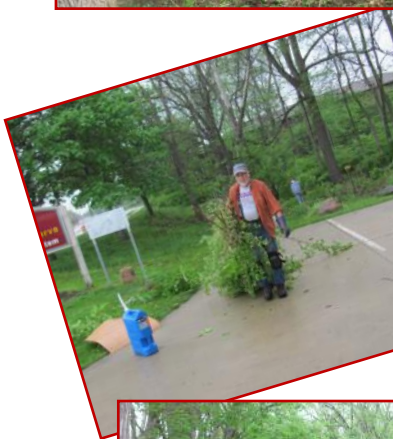
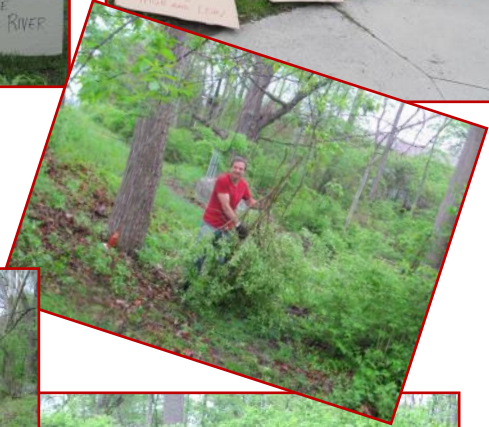
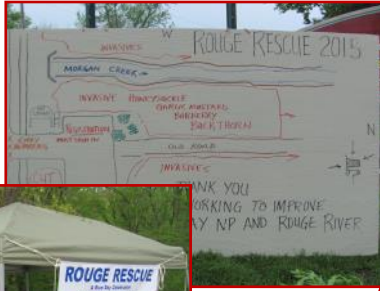
HNPA and Friends of the Rouge thank everyone who helped us with this Rouge Rescue in the Holliday Nature Preserve. Hope to see you next year. Maybe we’ll do some creek cleaning in 2016.

NOTE: After 20 years of partnership, City of Westland did not help with this Rouge Rescue.

NOTE: Wayne County Parks eventually chipped and shredded the wall of invasives.

We thank them for doing so.

Rouge Rescue Photos



Koppernick Entrance Gets Some Attention

The Koppernick entrance of the Preserve is west off Hix Road and south of Joy Road. The entrance offers access to a wonderful section of the Preserve with some of the largest trees and a wide assortment of wildflowers and—during the last few years—egret and blue heron nests.

BUT, over the years the entrance have been neglected by Wayne County Parks and became a dumping site for everything from broken concrete to landscaping refuse.

Many years ago, HNPA gave up cleaning the parking area, and requested that Parks restrict the entrance. When current Parks Director Lawrence Hemingway was appointed, HNPA sent him a letter listing some of the things that HNPA would like addressed. On that list was the Koppernick parking lot. Nothing was done and the Koppernick parking lot problem began to get worse, a lot worse as dumping accelerated.

In early August, a small barricade was built across the entrance to restrict dumping. Within a few days, dumpers had opened the barricade and dumped more debris. The barricade was rebuilt, even larger, but in August some got past the

barricade and set a pickup truck on fire. HNPA was notified by a neighbor. When HNPA President Bill Craig arrived the next day, the vehicle was gone, although melted plastic and broken glass remained. Bill rebuilt the barricade even larger this time and also thanked the Canton Fire Department for putting out the fire, (which was really in Westland). He then turned in a report to Parks to let them know of the incident.

On Sep. 1, Bill got a call from David Cartwright, Deputy Parks Director who said maintenance would check the site. This same day, a nearby neighbor also called Parks to report the vehicle fire and asked that they do something to restrict dumping and illegal activity.

It appears that call worked since the Parks director, his staff and maintenance workers all showed up at Koppernick the next day and got to work. Bill checked the site the next day and was pleasantly surprised that most of the debris had been hauled away, although the entrance was still NOT restricted and more dumping occurred that very night.

Parks was again

notified by the neighbor and this time when Parks came out to remove all debris, they also graded the lot and CHAINED the entrance shut.

Bill met with the Parks Director and staff on Sept. 22 and was shown two new signs that will be installed that prohibit dumping and list all Preserve Rules.

HNPA wants to thank Mr. Hemingway and Cartwright and Parks staff for taking action. We look forward to future improvements at this entrance that will remain closed temporarily, although it will be opened for nature hikes hosted by Wayne County Parks and held by Parks' Naturalist Carol Clements.

We also want to thank Koppernick neighbors for contacting us and contacting Wayne County Parks. Their involvement and success shows the power individuals have to get things done!



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

HNPA seeks to nurture a greater apprecia-

tion of this unique natural resource by hosting walks, conducting projects with Wayne County Parks and promoting the importance of the Preserve in improving the quality of life in Western Wayne County. Our activities are free and open to everyone. Learn more at hnpa.org or visit us on Facebook.



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.

Kathy & Mike Best
Denise Braun-Johnson
Andrew Carr
David Cartwright
Cheryl & Bob Duda
James Gilbert

Ann & Dan Kalvelage
Cheryl & Richard LeBlanc
Wayne McGarrah
Patricia Streeter
Karen & Richard Zyczynski

Partner with 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. New memberships are effective thru Dec. 2016.

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