



Editor's Note: Cub Scouts planting trees. The passing of Jack Smiley, a leader and strong supporter of HNPA. These are two very different stories about two different generations; yet as we put this newsletter together, there was something about the stories that led us to believe they both belonged on the front page. Because despite their obvious differences, there is something they have in common that binds them together, something that makes their stories quite

Cub Scouts Help Preserve

On Oct. 24, Cub Scout Pack 247 from Saint Mary's, on Michigan Ave. in Wayne, worked on a service project in the Holliday Preserve.

Webelos Den Leader Amy Farris, Kelly Holland, parents, sisters and brothers of those Cub Scouts all helped plant 12 white pines at the Cowan entrance. Although small now, those pines will eventually grow to be more than 60 feet tall and will be something the Scouts can someday proudly show their children and grandchildren.

But on this day, the focus wasn't on the future but on the enjoyment of getting hands dirty and gently planting the young pine saplings in the rich soil. The trees were planted at the correct height, roots covered, then watered. Thanks to their good work the entrance

Jack J. Smiley Helped Preserve

The HNPA family is mourning the loss of longtime member Jack J. Smiley (1928-2015). I say family because many of us have been together a long time and have grown close. We all share the sadness of the passing of our longtime friend.

Jack and his wife Dorothy gave Holliday Nature Preserve a lot more than their son Jack R. Smiley, HNPA founder and lifelong environmental activist. Jack and Dorothy were committed to Holliday Nature Preserve from DAY ONE, attending meetings when we fought a golf course proposal, picketing city hall, helping during work projects, joining hikes, and pitching horseshoes at HNPA picnics.

For those of you who did not know him, Mr. Smiley was a large affable man, who always had a kind word and a big smile. He was a

Smiley, from page 1

WWII veteran who worked at Ford Motor Co. before retiring after 32 years of service.

Jack and Dorothy shared a love of nature on their own little natural area in Westland where they instilled the values of nature on their son Jack.

Mr. Smiley will be missed and we offer our condolences to Dorothy and Jack. We know because of his efforts and love of the Preserve that he passed on to his HNPA family, Holliday will continue to be enjoyed by all who visit. And it's a love that continues to be passed along to new and younger generations.

The Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy, an organization dedicated to preserving lands in Southeast Michigan, made a contribution to HNPA in memory of Jack J. Smiley, father of Jack R. Smiley, his son, who founded both HNPA and SMLC.



Upcoming Walks

➤ **Tree (& Tree Bark) ID Walk**

Saturday, Jan. 23, NOON, Cowan entrance (Central City Pkwy, west of Wayne, north of Warren)

➤ **Enjoy the Snow Walk**

Saturday, Feb. 20, NOON, Ellsworth section (Park at Nankin Mill parking lot off Hines Drive, east of Ann Arbor Trail.)

➤ **Day before First Day of Spring Walk**

Saturday, March 19, NOON, Hix Park entrance (Hix Road north of Warren Road, south of Joy Road of Ann Arbor Trail.)

Scouts, from page 1

will be much more inviting to visitors, and become habitat for many creatures and be an inviting presence at the entrance to the Holliday Preserve.

Thanks Pack 247!

A Bit About our Walks

There is no charge, the pace is leisurely and informal and children are welcome. Walks last about an hour and are held regardless of the weather, so please dress for conditions and often uneven ground.

Fish in Tonquish Creek



Yes, there are fish in Tonquish Creek. Even though the creek

suffers from the effects of up-stream development, fertilizers, polluted storm water, sedimentation, a special fish survey team helping Friends of the Rouge

found 10 different species in a small section of the creek downstream of the Hix Road

bridge.

Fish included flathead minnows, common shiners, creek chubs, blacknose dace, bluegills, pumpkin-seeds, Johnny darters, a carp, central stoneroller and a Green sunfish (along with plastic bottles and a tire).

Fish surviving—and despite garbage—is good news.

Fall 2015 Hikes



Tonquish Creek Survey

Taking advantage of warm weather in December, Michigan Department of Environment came out to Holliday Preserve to survey the Tonquish Creek. They were collecting basic channel dimensions information as pre-data prior to future storm water management practices.

Later resurvey of same sites will help assess whether the creek is getting more stable. It was very interesting to watch them take cross section measurements and evaluate the physical conditions of the site. The Tonquish is not a high quality stream, due to urbaniza-

tion, yet we do have fish. (See article on page 2.)

But will fish continue to live and will what kind will they be? What will creek look like in 10 or 20 years, if we do not treat our land and waters better?



HOLLIDAY NATURE PRESERVE ASSOCIATION



Membership Application

Membership HNPA is only **\$5 per calendar 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 ask that any additional funds you send be used 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

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.

How You Can Help

- ◆ Join our walks. They are held Winter, Spring and Fall.
- ◆ Participate in Preserve projects such as clean ups, Rouge Rescue/River Day events, and bridge and trail maintenance projects.
- ◆ Contact Wayne County's Parks Dept. if you see something happening in the Preserve that is causing damage or that makes you feel uncomfortable. They can be reached at (734) 261-1850 during business hours.
- ◆ Volunteer. Become part of the HNPA board. We need fresh blood and fresh ideas. Without your help, HNPA will one day cease to exist. And perhaps in time, so might the Preserve as you know and enjoy it today.

Wayne County Parks cleanup - Thanks



The area next to where Wayne Road crosses over the Tonquish Creek, is a continuing problem and both Wayne County Parks and HNPA have tried to address it by conducting cleanups under the Wayne Road bridge. For example, during Rouge Rescue a few

years ago, HNPA volunteers painted over graffiti, picked up trash in and around the creek and cleared some of the invasive honeysuckle shrubs.

Over time the area has again been trashed and painted over with graffiti. The problem got much worse when someone set up a camp upstream of the bridge building campfires, cutting trees and discarding trash. Even worse is the public health issue of human feces. As a result, the Preserve suffers and people are afraid to enjoy these sections of the Preserve.

However, Wayne County

Parks did a major cleanup of the area on Dec. 18. The campsite was thoroughly cleaned up. The tarps, furniture, wet bedding, and large collection of trash were bagged and hauled away for disposal. The collection of clothing hanging from several trees was removed. This was hands-on labor, not done by equipment that would have damaged vegetation. We are certain neighbors appreciate the effort as will Preserve visitors. HNPA is pleased with the results and appreciate the nice job done by Wayne County Parks. Thank you.

Illegal Trapping in Holliday

While many were watching the Michigan vs Ohio football game, the HNPA president was walking the boundary of the Preserve and Royal Holiday mobile home park when a salt block in the Preserve caught his eye.

Closer inspection found a troubling example of encroachment; with lawn, a garden, and a very large brush pile, which hid a camo tent. The brush pile came from clearing a corridor, which had the salt block at its end. Certainly suspicious. Then a stick lean-to

was inspected. It was disturbing to find an opossum in a trap!

The injured opossum was released. It slowly ambled away. It's impossible to determine how long it was in there but it is possible to know what would have happened had the trapped creature not been found in time.

The lean-to was torn apart. A gust of wind carried the camo tent, chair and salt block into the backyard.



HNPA met with Wayne County Parks to discuss the many violations. The Wayne County Sheriff was notified. DNR will be notified. We'll see what happens

New & Renewing Members: Thanks!

The following people joined HNPA, renewed their memberships or made donations this fall. 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.

Thomas & Madeline Carpenter
Kevin & Suzanne Cassady
Marie Feeley
James Flanigan

Pamela & Lee Larson
Misty & Mike Mitchell
Noel & Nicole Mullett
Dennis & Pamela Scott
Joseph Suggs

Expiring Members: It's Time to Renew

Five bucks. That's what we ask each calendar year to support of our organization and its mission. Please check your expiration date found on your address label to see if your membership remains current.

In return, you receive three newsletters and help support Scout and trail maintenance projects, clean up projects, as well as fund our website at hnpa.org. Please use the form found inside this newsletter. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Saving A Hickory

In October, a massive long dead red oak, dead finally fell near the vernal pond in the Cowan section. Nothing unusual about that as trees fall all over in the preserve on a regular basis. However, this oak didn't make it all the way to the ground when it fell. Its massive upper limbs lodged, and inter-twined around a pignut hickory, a native tree, and one unusually tall and majestic.

As a result, the hickory was leaning dangerously and we had a decision to make: Let nature take its course or save this special

hickory.

Five HNPA volunteers—Phil, Bill, Tom, Wayne, and Diane met in early November specifically to remove a tree that had fallen across a bridge in that section but we decided to see if we could also save the hickory while we were there AND do it safely.

We cleared the bridge and dispersed the debris and then systematically took down the oak, relieving the pressure on the hickory.



Phil Crookshank, this article's author carts away the dead oak after it was cut. Well, that's his story anyway.

After four hours of tough work, we five relaxed, basking (sort of) having saved a mighty tree.