



Loss of a Great Lady



It is with sadness, we share

news of the passing of Dorothy Smiley, mother of HNPA founder Jack Smiley and wife of the late Jack Sr. Dorothy passed away Nov. 1, 2016, after a full life that ran 88 years.

I was fortunate to know Dorothy during her nearly three decades with HNPA. She was with us from the first, attending city council sessions, cleanups and most every nature walk.

Dorothy had the reputation of taking a trash bag along to pick up litter along our walks. Dorothy served HNPA as Secretary, handled registration at Rouge Rescues, planted trees, hauled heavy trash bags, and could push a wheelbarrow with the best of them and always did it all with a smile.

Dorothy was a wonderful wife and mother and was deeply involved with her church. She was also a teacher and mentor, volunteer and a strong environmental supporter.

Along the way we shared picnics, celebrated holidays and enjoyed campfires. I and others in HNPA will miss her and remember her fondly.

Bill Craig



Scouts and volunteers celebrate the completion of Phase 2 of the Ellsworth bridge project. (See article on page 2)

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 HollidayAssociation@hnpa.org.

➤ **'Snow Underfoot, Trees Overhead' Walk**
Saturday, January 28, noon, parking at Cowan entrance.
(Central City Parkway, west of Wayne Road.)

➤ **'Floodplain in Winter' Walk**
Saturday, February 18, noon, parking at Nankin Mill parking lot.
(Hines Drive, east of Ann Arbor Trail.)

➤ **'Celebrating Spring' Walk**
Saturday, March 25, noon, parking in Hix Park.
(Hix Road, north of Warren Road.)

Scouts Rebuild Bridge at Ellsworth

By Phil Crookshank



Eagle Scout candidate Drew Barlow with his dad and the plaque now on the bridge.

We had some great accomplishments in the Holliday Nature Preserve in 2016! Several improvements were made, primarily because many people made things happen. we can only accomplish things if others give of themselves to make things happen. Here's a prime example.

Scout Eagle Candidate Drew Barlow asked Wayne County Parks if there was a project for him to gain his Eagle Scout badge. Parks directed him to HNSA, and our suggestion was to rebuild a trail bridge that had been washed out by flooding. We met with Drew and his dad and talked about the project. As we did, I realized this project was WAY too big and complicated. But to my surprise, they thought it possible.

Seven scouts and four adults volunteered to prepare the site in September, including

stabilizing the river bank and creating a retaining wall (we featured the project in our Fall 2016 newsletter).

The actual bridge-building was done in October. Work began at 9 a.m. Drew bought all the 8-foot-long deck boards and pre-cut them to length to save time. Neighborhood residents Gary and Joyce Swain again allowed us to go through their property to the work site instead of having to carry everything over a half-mile from the public access. Drew had gotten 27 scouts, dads, and HNSA volunteers to help. It was an amazing flurry of activity, with many different parts of the projects going on at the same time.

Drew was required to supervise all work, assign tasks, and keep everyone safe. He managed to do all that while doing some of the building. We ran out of battery power after four hours with just a few special cuts on the deck to be made, we called it quits around 1 p.m. (A few days later I would go back to finish.)



We made a plaque, and embedded it in the bridge, honoring Drew and Scout Troop 1537 for this BIG accomplishment.



Afterward, HNSA President Bill Craig and I discussed the need to make Ellsworth a continuous trail again. That would be a challenge, since most of the acreage is floodplain and ponds, and during spring much of it is deep mud. However, Bill put on his trailblazer hat and mapped and blazed a path that will work (during most of the year anyway). He has also gone back several times to massacre the invasive honeysuckle so the path remains wide and clear enough so folks could find their way easily.

I have seen quite a few people using the bridge and following the new trail in the last months. And several have stopped to tell me how much they appreciate having the bridge and trail. So, cooperation from many people made 2016 a great year for the Preserve!

Reviewing November's General Meeting

I want to thank the members who attended our annual general meeting on Nov. 17.

It's always nice to see familiar faces and meet the members that generally don't attend our walks.

At the meeting, HNPCA President Bill Craig gave his State of the Preserve report, which covered vandalism, invasive plants, Rouge Rescue, nature walks, boundary developments. Despite the many issues, he reported that the Preserve remains

filled with large trees, beautiful wildflowers, and abundant wildlife, and people enjoying the trails.

Bill noted that the treasury is sound, thanks to HNPCA's many generous supporters. He made special mention of the passing of charter member Dorothy Smiley. (see page 4).

Phil Crookshank presented a quality program on the recent Eagle Scout bridge building project on Ellsworth Trail (see page 2).

Bill followed with a

program of photos taken in the Preserve during 2016 and read correspondence from members, then took questions from audience, including those about Phase I of the Ellsworth Trail project, Clyde Smith Farms and Foxlands.

Some questions were answered, but some require information from the new parks director. It was a quick two hours and we found ourselves rushing to collect our stuff, as the lights were being turned out and the building closed.

Meeting the New Parks Director

On Nov. 16, HNPCA President Bill Craig had the pleasure of meeting the new Wayne County Parks Director, Alicia Bradford.

This was just an introducto-

ry meeting and no business was discussed.

Bill provided her with HNPCA's priorities letter of Feb. 2013 and HNPCA's Feb. 2016 letter to County Executive Warren Evans.

Once the new director gets settled, HNPCA hopes to have a business meeting with her and her staff.

We welcome Director Bradford and wish her a productive and rewarding tenure.

Reviewing our Fall Hikes



The Oct. 1 walk in Koppernick section was just after some rains. We had a warm, sunny day to enjoy a good collection of colorful mushrooms



The Nov. 12 walk in Cowan was a joint HNPCA and Friends of the Rouge event. Again, we lucked out by a mild sunny day. This walk was part of the FOTR Explore the Rouge River Program (therouge.org).



It was very cold Dec. 10, and only three people walked over the Ellsworth bridge and across the recovered floodplain trail. Diane, a downriver resident, heard about this walk from Parks Department. She came a long way to explore a new place to enjoy nature.

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 runs along tributaries of the Rouge River.

The 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.

Memberships Due to Renew

Five bucks. That's all we ask each calendar year for your continuing support of our organization and its mission.

That donation gets you three newsletters and allows us to support Scout and trail maintenance projects, Preserve clean ups, as well as fund our website at hnpa.org. Please use the form below. Thanks!



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.

**Roberta Campbell
Andrew Carr
David Cartwright
James Flanigan
Sally & Mickey Green
James Gilbert**

**Jean Kearney
Noah & Sabrina Mehalski
Sever & Vera Pederson
Suzanne Pudelek
Michael Rudell
Dennis & Pamela Scott**

**Johann Sheibly
Thomas Vancamp
Erin & Scott Williams
Larry Willis**

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:** _____ + _____

Email Address (if you wish to share it. (We won't)): _____

\$ _____ **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