



## HNPA Hosts 35th Anniversary Celebration



**R**ain! And just before our early morning walk 35th Anniversary

Walk. Although, it wouldn't be the first time we had walked in the rain, this time we didn't. The rain stopped just as a nice group gathered at

Koppernick for a short history talk about more than three decades of stewardship, wonderful membership and continuing support for our mission—Preserve the Preserve. Then off we went into the damp forest for a noisy,

slow walk on Beech Trail. So nice to have several “very long-time” members in the mix.



In the afternoon, members gathered in Bill's big back yard, bringing tasty dishes to go along with hot dogs. It was a good time to just

sit around and talk, eat and enjoy cold drinks. Of course there was a big cake with “Happy 35th Anniversary HNPA.”

It was fitting to have Jack Smiley cut the cake, since he was the individual who got us going those many years ago. Two “old timers” (Bill Craig and Bob Duda)

wore their original yellow HNPA t-shirts.

Thank You to all HNPA members for 35 years of friendship and service!



## Rouge Rescue on the Tonquish



It

On Saturday, April 13 HNPA continued our "Rouge Rescue" tradition, this time on Tonquish Creek downstream of Hix. We enjoyed a very mild, sunny mosquito-free morning that was conducive to getting trash out of the creek and taking a heavy load of floating wood and debris out of a log jam.

Volunteers, all who have been part of this process in the past, work like a well-oiled machine. The wood is cut up and handed to a crew on land to pile on the floodplain. This work improves the flow, aerates the water for the fish and cuts down on flooding upstream.

We also had a crew cutting honeysuckle, buckthorn and

bittersweet vines that choke out native plants.

is amazing how much work gets done in four hours.



Sorry I did not get photos of everybody who helped.

Thanks, volunteers! BTW, there is another log jam downstream we've found that will need our attention next year!





## Upcoming Activities

Please join in! Our walks last 90 minutes or so. Activity lengths vary but stay as long as you can. Make sure you check our *Facebook* page for updates during these uncertain times, since events are subject to change.

All events are family friendly. Sorry, no dogs allowed at our activities. Questions? Contact us at *HolidayAssociation@hnpa.org* or via our *Facebook* page.



### ◆ Fall Color Walk and Work

*Saturday, Oct. 7, 10 a.m.—1 p.m.* Koppernick Section, Koppernick Road, south of Joy Road, west of Hix Road. Refreshing walk in tall trees, then some work in Swallow wort problem area. Gloves and loppers provided. Removing seed pods helps control spread. Come for the walk, the work, or both!

### ◆ Another Fall Color Walk and Work

*Saturday, Oct. 14, 10 a.m.—1 p.m.* Newburgh entrance, east of Newburgh Road, just north of Warren Road. Enjoy changing colors, then help with some work in field area. Gloves and loppers provided. Come for the walk, the work, or both!

### ◆ Yet Another Fall Color Walk and Work

*Saturday, Oct. 21 10 a.m.—1 p.m.* Cowan entrance, Central City Parkway, west of Wayne Road. North of Warren Road. Leaves falling, cooler temperatures for walk along Tonquish Creek, then some more honeysuckle cutting and piling at entrance. Gloves and loppers provided. Come for the walk, the work, or both!

### ◆ Late Fall Walk – BUT NO Work

*Saturday, Nov. 4, 10 -11:30 a.m.* Ellsworth entrance, parking at Nankin Mills, on Hines Drive, east of Ann Arbor Trail. Crunching leaves on this loop trail across the floodplain.

### ◆ HNPA Annual Membership Meeting

*Saturday, Nov. 18, 10 a.m.—noon.* Robert & Janet Bennett Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia. Opportunity to discuss issues concerning the Preserve; review proposed bylaws and start plans for 2024. Plenty of time to share comments, offer suggestions, and enjoy seeing friends off the trail.

### ◆ Early Winter Walk

*Saturday, Dec. 9, 10 a.m.—11:30 a.m.* Cowan entrance, Central City Parkway, west of Wayne Road, north of Warren Road. Some calming “forest bathing” before holiday shopping.

## Detroit Audubon Society Bird Walk

**O**n May 21, Jack Smiley, a past president of Detroit Audubon Society, led a rather long parade of 22 excited birders through the Koppernick section. It was difficult to get good photos, since birds were high in treetops or in shade. A few highlights were seen, including male and female Scarlet Tanagers, Wood Pewee catching insects and the loud drumming of a Pileated Woodpecker. It was a very successful walk.

## A Look Back at our Spring Events

**April 15** - A slow walk in the Newburgh section through field area, then on boardwalks through forest, going into open area of capped Nankin dumpsite.

We pointed out a number of Spring wildflowers and saw a garter snake recently out of hibernation, who stuck its tongue out to us, or perhaps for us.



**April 19** - Volunteers removed illegal camp debris from Newburgh floodplain. (See before and after photos.)



**April 22** - Volunteers came back to Newburgh section to continue cutting down invasive plants. We must cut vines before they overwhelm trees.

Three hours of hard work using loppers, hand pruners and saws cleared a wide area around several trees. Thank you, volunteers!





## Vernal Pool Patrol Program



On April 29, a team of instructors from Michigan Natural Features

Inventory held a field training session for the Vernal Pool Patrol program, in the Koppernick section. HNPA president Bill assisted and joined the program.

The Preserve certainly has vernal pools, but currently, they are only identified as

“potential” vernal pools. Our pools need to be properly surveyed to provide adequate data for proper verification.

The training went well. Bill came back later to start surveying pools.

To learn more about this program just put Vernal Pool Patrol in your computer SEARCH box.

## Parks Secures Grant for Preserve

For several years Wayne County Parks has been seeking grants to improve the park system, including Holliday Nature Preserve.

For even longer, HNPA has communicated our interest in helping to determine how best Holliday Preserve could be improved. To reinforce our interest, the HNPA Board agreed that President Bill Craig would be authorized to begin discussing issues with Wayne County Commissioners.

Bill had meeting with Commissioner Glenn Anderson on March 17, with a walk in the Cowan section on June 20.

The commissioner saw one of the unsafe bridges,

looked at Morgan Creek conditions and walked the old (1960s) roadbed.

That same day Bill got email from WCP Director Alicia Bradford that Parks received \$10 million from American Rescue Plan Act, for three projects, one being Holliday Preserve.

Bill already had a meeting with Commissioner Terry Marecki, on May 8, asking about a possible grant. With the grant already approved, Bill took Commissioner Marecki for a walk in the Cowan section to show her the very same things Commissioner Anderson saw.

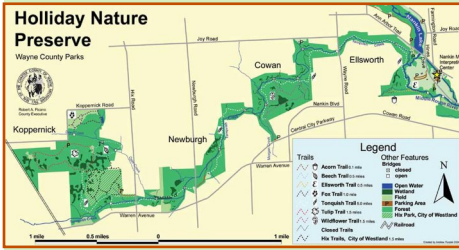
At a meeting on Aug. 7, a Canton resident near the Preserve asked Commis-



sioner Melissa Daub about plans for the Preserve. Commissioner Daub replied that nothing has been finalized and that plans will be shared once conceptual drafts are complete. She added that a meeting will be scheduled that will include Commissioners and Bill Craig of the HNPA.

We look forward to seeing a conceptual draft.

# Who We Are and What We Do



**H**olliday 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 appreciation of this unique resource by hosting walks, conducting improvement projects in conjunction with Wayne County Parks and promoting the importance of the Preserve to the quality of life of Western Wayne County communities. Our activities are free. Find out more at [hnpa.org](http://hnpa.org) or on our *Facebook* page.

## Thanks to our Supporters



**T**he following people joined HNPA, renewed their memberships or made donations. We thank them and appreciate the continuing support and the trust they (and you) put in us. We use the funds we receive for the benefit of the Preserve.

**Jim & Constance Andres**  
**Carol & Howard Behr**  
**Nancy & Paul Bailey**  
**David Cartwright**  
**Laurie Church**  
**Ann-Patrice & Dave Darling**

**Melanie Duda**  
**Molly Feely-Powers**  
**Margaret Flowers**  
**Sarah & Bryan Garchar**  
**James Gilbert**

**Diane Krause**  
**Wayne McGarrah**  
**Molly & Lew Newcomb**  
**Barbara Pearson**  
**Jennifer & Ati Tislerics**

## Become one of our Supporters

**M**embership in the Association is only \$5 per calendar year. Donations are used to

benefit the Preserve. Your support makes it possible to mail our newsletters, host a website, offer walks and purchase items for work

projects, educate the community and promote 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**