



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 everything is subject to change.**

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

COVID-19 Note:

While masks are not required on our walks, we do encourage them and try to employ social distancing (except for quick group photos). While we feel we are able to enjoy our walks and activities in the Preserve, we ask that you weigh your risk before participating. Please don't come out if you are at risk or pose a health threat to others. Thanks.



➤ “Winter Scenes and Work Review” Walk

Sat., Jan 23, 10 a.m. Koppernick Section. Koppernick Road, south of Joy Road, west off of Hix Road. We will walk across the recently renovated bridge over Deer Creek, then downstream to review the woody debris pulled out this fall, then finish by hiking the Beech and Tulip trails. Three easy miles and two hours. Phil leads this walk.

➤ “Cabin Fever Remedy” Walk

Sat., Jan. 30, noon. Koppernick Section. Koppernick Road, south of Joy Road, west off of Hix Road. We'll take the Tulip Trail loop, stopping to discuss two partnership projects we have with Wayne County Parks.

➤ “Winter Forest Bathing” Walk

Sat., Feb. 20, noon. Cowan Section. Parking at Cowan entrance, Central City Parkway, west of Wayne Road, north of Warren Road. Enjoy some quiet away from technology. Boots best for some of the slippery up and down sections.

➤ “Step into SPRING” Walk

Sat., Mar. 20, noon. Koppernick Section. Koppernick Road, south of Joy Road, west off of Hix Road. The scent of spring should be in the air as we look for early signs of a new season.

➤ **NOTE:** Our Annual Meeting will be scheduled for later in the year.

A Look Back at Our Fall Activities

Here's a look at our work projects and walks last fall. Sorry we didn't have room for more photos.

Oct. 10 Work Day



A baker's dozen volunteers came out to work at Koppernick and remove an assortment of invasive plants, including buckthorns, honeysuckle, Chinese bittersweet, and the recently discovered Black swallow-wort vine.

chain saw and hammer skills. Sue Smith focused on the swallow-wort, since it needed to be bagged for burning.

Boardwalk repairs were also done and done quickly, and soon everyone was cutting and pulling invasives. After three hours, we had several piles of cuttings and three leaf bags of vines.

Many thanks to our volunteers. We will have to return to keep swallow-wort in control.

woody debris collecting log jam upstream of Hix Road bridge. His team of 10 volunteers worked several hours removing floating wood. The big, heavy tree trunks were winched up and out onto an ever growing pile of wood, on the floodplain.

Oct. 24 Walk



Oct. 17 Work Day

Phil Crookshank led a work day focused on our

Our Fall Color walk had a bright sun to provide us with a great Fall color show of various reds,



Brandon Scott (above) came all the way from Lansing to provide his



See page 3

A Look Back at Our Fall Activities cont.

From Page 2

browns and yellows. The walk was guided to visit the invasive plant removal site, talk about black dog-strangling vines and test boardwalk and bridge repairs.

Oct. 31 Work Day

Phil led a second woody debris management work day at the same Tonquish Creek site since much work remained to be done.



Nine people helped out, and again our winch was put to good use. Upon completion, wood piles on both sides of the creek were much bigger. These piles serve as habitat and will decompose in time.

Nov. 3 Work Day

For a long time, there was a gathering place at



the old Joy Road bridge crossing into the Cowan section. Ever more materials were brought in to make benches and tables, and for fires. HNPA partnered with WC Parks to restore area. The pile in the photo above with the tires was only one of several.

Nov. 13 Walk

A surprisingly large group of 17 came for our "Crunching Leaves" walk. Several new people



turned out thanks to our Facebook page postings. (Thanks Pam). We took a nice slow walk, which allowed time to tell nature stories and identify the trees.

Dec. 12 Walk

We started our walk in



the rain. Even so, eight people in rain gear, ponchos, and umbrellas were anxious to just get OUT-DOORS!

Plus, this was first chance to see the new parking lot, side walk and boardwalk across from Nankin Mills. As we crossed the street to the Ellsworth entrance, the rain stopped. The group

See Page 4

A Look Back at Our Fall Activities cont.

From Page 3



was impressed by the quality of the boardwalk's construction. Unfortunately, a falling tree has already damaged it. We then

walked across floodplain to the new Ann Arbor Trail connector that takes walkers over the new bridge instead of walking along the road, which was very unsafe.

Once back at the Mill, the rain returned.

What is Black Swallow-Wort?

Black swallow-wort (aka black dog-strangling vine) is a perennial climbing vine with dark shiny leaves and purple flowers that grows rapidly and can cover other vegetation.

Seed pods are milkweed-like and carried on the wind or water.

According to Michigan State University, swallow-worts kill the larvae of monarch butterflies, are toxic to deer and livestock, and choke out more desirable plant species.

MSU estimates that up to 25% of monarch eggs may be laid on

swallow-wort in areas where the vines are abundant.



Hauling Logs and Building Bridges



This fall, our resident jack-of-all-trades, Phil Crookshank and his crew

of volunteers spent several weekends clearing a section of Deer Creek in the Koppnick Section and repairing a bridge that crosses it. That bridge work included adding two ramps.

Phil and the HNPA board thank all of you who support our organization



for making the repairs possible. We'll tour the site on our Jan. 23 walk.

Big Buck, Bustling Beavers



We may not have lions, tigers and bears, but sure do have deer, turkeys and, since 2019—beavers.



This buck was seen not far from where our Oct. 31 work project was taking place in the Koppernick Section. And the beavers, which are in the Cowan Section, well, as the photo shows they are still as busy as...beavers.

Handling Preserve Problems



Wayne County Parks personnel joined with HNPA at site of encroachment, where an adjacent landowner incorporated Preserve property into his landscaping

A serious encroachment along the Holiday Park mobile home development, in the Koppernick section,

was reported. HNPA investigated, took video, photos and measurements. WC Parks and HNPA made a visit to determine restoration ideas. The situation is being

reviewed by the County's Legal Depart. HNPA will install three boundary sign-

age.

An abandoned campsite in the Newburgh section with tents, chairs, tables and trash was reported to Wayne County Parks. Everything has been packed up for removal.



Illegal campground in the Preserve is readied for removal by Wayne County.

Who We Are and What We Do



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 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 or on our [Facebook page](#).

Thanks to our Supporters



The following people joined HNPA, renewed their memberships or made donations. We thank them and appreciate the continuing support and the trust they put in us. We use the funds for the benefit of the Preserve.

Nancy Bailey
 Carol & Howard Behr
 Shirley Cebula
 Theodore Coulter
 Jim Flanigan
 James Gilbert
 Sally & Mickey Green
 Donna & Thomas Hall

Peggy & Alan Van Kerckhove
 Susan Lanning
 Arleen Latta
 Dennis & Pamela McGarrah
 Misty & William Mitchell
 Dennis & Melissa O'Neil
 Karen & Thorne Perry
 Linda Poole

Suzanne Pudelek
 Rosemarie & Mark Rembisz
 Susan Smith
 Larry & Christine Snowden
 Suzan & Gerald Waskelis
 Scott Wayne
 Erin & Scott Williams
 Dan & Candy Yando

Become one of our Supporters

Membership in the Holliday Nature Preserve Association is only **\$5 per calendar year**. Your support makes it possible to

mail our newsletters, host a website, support Rouge Rescue, offer walks, educate the community and promote the Preserve.

Any additional funds are used to benefit the Preserve. You may 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