



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 since events are subject to change.

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

Photo at right shows one of the new Preserve signs.



◆ Snow Walk

SUNDAY, January 26, 10 a.m.-Noon. Cowan entrance, Central City Parkway, west of Wayne Road, north of Warren. Slippery ups and downs. Maybe see a bird?

◆ Forest Bathing Walk

Saturday, February 22, 10 a.m.-Noon. Koppernick entrance, Koppernick Road, south of Joy Road, west of Hix Road. Enjoy cold, fresh air, big trees and boots crunching. Maybe see a bird?

◆ Finally Getting Warmer Walk

Saturday, March 22, 10 a.m.-Noon. Ellsworth entrance, parking at Nankin Mills, on Hines Drive, east of Ann Arbor Trail. Trail is *usually wet and slippery.* Maybe see a bird?

Membership Renewal Time

HNPA memberships remain at \$5 per family per calendar year

With 2025 underway, this means we once again request your financial support. Please use the form on the back page of

this newsletter.

Remember that you do not need to renew if you joined in the fourth quarter of 2024, or have already sent in funds to extend your membership.

Thanks to the many

generous donations we've received over the years (above the \$5 we request) we've not had to ask for more funding despite rising costs for printing, postage and web hosting. Thanks!

Updates

Meeting with Parks Set for Jan 23

The Wayne County Parks (WCP) grant effort to improve Holliday is slowly moving along. While work was to have begun last year, it appears the project remains in the bidding and Parks has not decided on all the work it intends to do in the Preserve.

On Nov. 20, 2024, WCP submitted its Permit application to the state's Office of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) for permit approval. HNPA shared the permit application on our website and Facebook pages soon afterward.

HNPA has requested that EGLE hold a Public Hearing on WCP's plans due to the following:

- ◆ WCP wishes to relocate a stream in the Ellsworth section. However, we don't know how it will access the site and the impact on the Preserve.
- ◆ WCP wants to remove all log jams in Preserve creeks. However, we don't know how it will access the site and the impact on the Preserve.

- ◆ WCP wants to remove eight bridges. However, we don't know how it access the site and the impact on the Preserve.
- ◆ WCP has not shared any information about work not covered in its permit application.

In addition, WCP has not shared information about the Foxland parking area/restoration; ADA paths in Koppernick and Cowan; all the wooden bridges; how old bridges will be accessed and removed; how it will achieve a continuous trail once all the old bridges are removed; how the Nankin landfill cap will be protected; and more.

Because we and the public do not know enough about the project and its impact on the Preserve, President Bill Craig requested a meeting with WCP. They have agreed to meet with us and Friends of the Rouge on Jan 23. We will post updates on our Facebook page.

Membership Meeting

HNPA members gathered on Nov. 16.

Elections were held for Board of Director's members and the following



individuals were elected for the 2025-28 term:

- Bill Craig
- Bob Duda
- Margaret Flowers
- Kathy Treppa
- Marty Johnson
- Mike Parmelee (completing Phil Crookshank's term).

President Bill Craig commented that it was nice to see new signs at Preserve entrances.

There was also a tribute to friend Phil Crookshank, who passed in August. Phil worked hard to make the Preserve—and this world—a better place. He was also a good friend and will be sorely missed.

Founder Jack Smiley (above photo) discussed efforts to purchase property next to Preserve.

Meeting ended with photos of 2024 events.

A Tribute to our Friend Phil Crookshank

This past fall, we at HNPA lost a longtime friend and advocate for the environment and the Holliday Nature Preserve with the passing of Phil Crookshank. The following two pages attempt to pay tribute to a man whose enthusiasm, engineering skills and love of life—and of his friends—made this world a better place, and one that was a lot more fun.

Philip Crookshank passed away Aug. 23, 2024, at the age of 80 | following an illness. He was born 1944 in Grand Rapids and was the son of the late Charles and Joyce Crookshank. Phil is survived by a brother and was preceded in death by a sister and another brother. He is also survived by five nieces and a nephew.

For many years, Philip was a tool and die maker for Ford Motor Company, ending his career as a team leader often tasked with solving vexing technical problems. Phil had many remarkable skills and talents. He could build or fix almost anything, often inventing and improvising along the way.

He was a skilled photographer and videographer and entertained many with his amusingly-captioned creations. His striking wildflower photos demonstrated a keen and artistic eye. Environmental and charitable organizations benefited from his generous contributions of time, effort and money: Sierra Club, American Lung Association,



Ferris State University's Theta Alpha Sigma fraternity, Friends of Maybury State Park, Friends of the Rouge River, Greenmead Historical Park, Holliday Nature Preserve, and American Youth Hostels Midweek Meanders.

In his decades long career with the Southeast Michigan Group Sierra Club, Phil led over 250 outings in 1990 through 2023, and was the chair for most of that time, participating in the Executive Committee until shortly before his death. He was an avid nature and outdoors enthusiast, eager to share his knowledge and excitement with those who attended his excursions to 50 locations in three states

and Ontario. To create interest in the outdoors, nature and the outings program, his offerings included hiking, canoeing, camping, cross-country skiing and biking. Not content to just "lead hikes," Phil offered a varied array of adventures: nighttime hikes, picnics, campouts, and "nature studies" - often with his own inimitable twist. Every leaf, wildflower, bird, tree, rock, animal track and fungus was an opportunity for Phil to share his knowledge and transmit his love for nature and concern about the environment to others. There are myriad folks today in the Metro area who have benefited from this generous, kind and knowledgeable man's many and varied talents.

A memorial gathering was held Sept. 21 at Greenmead Historical Park, organized by Phil's brother. Per his wish, Phil's body was cremated and his ashes scattered.

Tribute by the Sierra Club.

If we are fortunate during our voyage through life we may get to know a few really inspiring individuals. For me, Phil Crookshank was one of those people. He surfaced early in the evolution of the Holliday Nature Preserve Association, a cheerful man with a great sense of humor, always eager to get things done,

and equally good at leading or following. He would often embark on his own if a bridge needed work or a fallen tree obstructed the trail. He shared his energy and creativity with several environmental organizations; somehow, in the midst of all his good works he found time for kayak trips and rock climbing, adventures that

often demanded all the fortitude an aging body could deliver. Several times I have conjured Phil when confronted with the physical consequences of aging. Phil made my life richer and he made the planet better. He will always be around.

*Tribute by John Covert,
HNPA Officer.*



Phil (far right) worked on 30+ Rouge Rescues in the Holliday Forest & Wildlife Preserve



Phil always did like a challenge!



Phil (far right) joined fellow HNPA members being recognized by Wayne County Commissioners for its 30 years of stewardship in the Holliday Nature Preserve.



Phil enjoyed working on trails, bridges and around Tonquish Creek.

From Ruin to Repair



In late August, a heavy rainstorm swept away half of the lower Deer Creek bridge. In the past, we relied on resident engineer and fixer, Phil Crookshank to make any needed repairs.

Sadly, Phil is gone. That meant we didn't have anyone to fix this bridge?

Bob Bush came to the rescue. He single-handedly recovered the section that floated downstream and started repairs. He was joined by Mike Parmelee and friends to complete the repairs. A much stronger bridge now serves Preserve walkers.

Many thanks to Bob and the

repair team. HNPA also thanks Katie Holmes, Department Supervisor PRO Desk, at Westland Lowe's, for donating more than half the cost of materials.



Fall Walks



Oct. 5



Nov. 2:



Oct. 19



Oct. 12:



Dec. 21

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.

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. 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 (and you) put in us. We use the funds we receive for the benefit of the Preserve.

Nancy & Paul Bailey
 Lonna & Alan Baum
 Denise Bills
 Mari & Bob Bush
 Tom & Madeline Carpenter
 Shirley Cebula
 Patricia Cole
 Bill Craig
 Margaret Flowers
 Bryan Garchar
 James Gilbert

Celeste & Fred Hoitash
 Ruth Jewitt
 Diane & Gerald Johnstone
 Rebekah Jones
 Pam & Lee Larson
 Connie & Bob Livingston
 Wayne McGarrah
 Gayle Mendler
 Misty & Mike Mitchell
 Patricia Mullett
 Mike Parmelee

Stasia & Joe Peruski
 Linda Poole
 Suzanne Pudelek
 Sue Smith
 Larry Willis

*Memorial Donations in honor
 of Phil Crookshank*
 Pam & Lee Larson
 Cactus Bill
 Friend Bill

Become one of our Supporters

Membership in the Holliday Nature Preserve Association is only \$5 per calendar year. **With the start of a new year, we again ask for your support.**

Your \$5 donation (or more) makes it possible to mail our newsletter; host a website; offer walks; purchase items for work projects; educate the community; and promote

the Preserve.

Donations 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