



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, Michigan.

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.

Get the Latest HNPA Updates

Black & white is boring. That's why we post a color version of this newsletter on our website (hnpa.org) soon after sending the print B&W version. Plus, you will find Preserve maps, checklists, and more.

We are also on Facebook where you will find news, recent photos and info on what is happening in Holliday. You can also post questions and comments.



Tonquish Creek flows peacefully through the Preserve. Very soon the land turns a lush green and frogs start singing. Spring a great time to visit Holliday. Take time to walk it, watch, and listen.

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 Holliday Association@hnpa.org.

➤ Spring Wildflowers Walk

Saturday, April 19, 10 a.m., Newburgh Entrance (East side of Newburgh Road & north of Warren Road)
This is a great opportunity to walk a section of the Preserve we don't often visit. You'll also learn what is planned at this year's Rouge Rescue.

➤ Rouge Rescue 2014

Saturday, May 3, 8:30 a.m. Newburgh Entrance (East side of Newburgh Road & north of Warren Road)
It's early this year and that will mean fewer (or maybe even NO) bugs! There will be plenty to do so mark your calendar for this annual fun and worthwhile event.

Rouge Rescue Comes Early

Mark May 3 on your Calendar—and Maybe Even Circle it in Red

Spring may be coming late this year, but Rouge Rescue is coming early. It's Saturday May 3. Yes, NEXT month.

You might remember we held an early Rouge Rescue last year at Wayne Road bridge. That seemed to work out very well. The weather was perfect for our activities: no mosquitoes and a pleasant 65 degrees. The way the cold weather is holding on this year, it may be a bit cooler.

The reason for the early date again this year is that Friends of the Rouge needs all Rouge Rescues completed by May 17, to meet the requirements for the last of their big grants. And early certainly works for us.

This year, we will work in the Newburgh section of the



Holliday Preserve—a place we haven't been to in a long while.

The entrance is on the east side of Newburgh Road, just north of Warren Road in Westland. Look for a banner and orange cones at driveway.

Registration opens at 8:30 a.m. Please eat a hearty breakfast, and wear old clothes, long pants and long sleeve shirts and shoes that can get wet and muddy. We will provide work gloves.

Please take some extra time to fill out the registration forms. Please print your name and write your signature clearly so they can be read. Please!

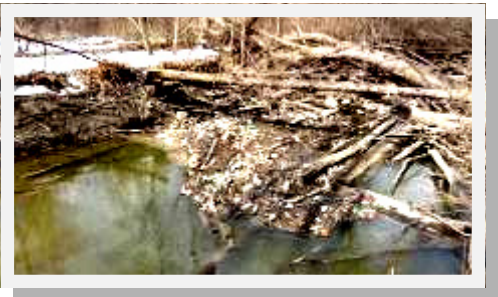
We will be doing our usual tasks: cutting down invasive plants, picking up trash on the land, picking out trash out of the Tonquish Creek, maybe do some opening of a log jam or two.

We will provide tools, plastic trash bags, soap and water for cleanup, a water

jug to quench thirst, and those FREE Friends of the Rouge T-shirts. The City of Westland will provide a chipper and dump truck; city employees will run the chipper. Any trash collected will be hauled to the Westland yard for proper disposal.

Please check the Friends of the Rouge website (therouge.org) and our HNPCA website (hnpc.org), and also our Facebook page for additional details.

Your hard work in the Holliday Preserve and Tonquish Creek is helping to restore the Rouge River. Please consider joining the Friends of the Rouge. They need members to keep Rouge Rescue an annual event. Thank you.



HNPA Supports Parks Grant Request

Wayne County Parks recently submitted a grant request to build a raised boardwalk in the Ellsworth section of the Holliday Nature Preserve across from Nankin Mills.

HNPA wrote a letter of support that accompanied the request, as we believe the boardwalk is a much needed feature that will improve the Preserve.

Here are a few reasons for behind our support.

First, much of the Ellsworth section lies in the floodplain, which means it can be inaccessible, especially in the spring or after a medium to heavy rain. This can prevent

school groups from learning firsthand about the importance of a floodplain and the role it plays (i.e., providing animal and plant habitat, flood prevention).

Second, the boardwalk will help protect the vegetation that now gets trampled as visitors try to avoid wet areas.

Third, a boardwalk will open one section of the Preserve to people who are now unable to visit because they must use walkers or are in wheelchairs.

Requesting the grant is just a first

step in a long process. The Parks Department won't even know if their grant application will be approved until late this year or early next.

We will keep you posted.



A preliminary draft of the boardwalk (shown in white) and other features that Wayne County Parks is contemplating.

Frigid Weather Does Not Deter Walkers



(Above) During our March walk, Milton, Wayne, Erin, Justin, Peggy, Allan and Bill searched high and low for those first signs of Spring in the Preserve. We finally found skunk cabbage poking through the snow. After the brutal winter we've had, we termed that find a huge success and declared that spring had—in fact—arrived. We also saw turkey vultures, Great Blue Heron, and lots of animal tracks.



(Above) Deb, Milton and Wayne at Dec. walk. (Lower left) Wayne points out section of Great Blue Heron nest that blew down.



(Upper left) Milton and Wayne during Feb. walk.



While we appreciate all walkers who turned out this winter, we give special kudos to Wayne who, like Bill Craig, showed up for them all.

Frogs and Toads



Seven frog and one toad species have been confirmed in the Rouge River watershed. They are:

- **Wood frog**
- **Western chorus frog**
- **Northern spring peeper**
- **American toad**
- **Northern leopard frog**
- **Gray tree frog**

- **Green frog**
- **Bullfrog**

This listing is the general sequence in which they appear during the year, although several species will often be heard at once.

Since it's easier to hear than to see them (spring peepers are less than one-inch long), Friends of

the Rouge has a download of frog and toad calls to make identification easier.

Go to therouge.org, click *Frog and Toad Survey* and then click *Frog and Toad Call Podcast*. You can even save it to a CD or as an audio file to take with you.



Thanks to our Supporters

The following people joined HNPCA, 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.

Prashant Andrade
Larry, Cathy & Jasper Bean
Nancy Butka
Roberta Campbell
Dina & Daniel Foster
Ron & Cheryl Graunstadt
Annette Haines
Maria Jagadics

Susan Lanning
Janet Machowicz
Wayne McGarrah
Gayle & John Mendler
Robert & Denise Miotto
Mary Murphy
Linda & Daniel Noble
Linda Poole

Zlatko Rauker
Dennis & Pamela Scott
Carol Sullivan
Van Wicklin Family
Patricia & Jim White
Larry Willis

Join or Renew With HNPCA!

Membership in the Holliday Nature Preserve Association is only **\$5 per year** (Jan. 1—Dec. 31). Your continued support makes it possible to distribute our newsletters, host

a website, support Rouge Rescue, offer walks, educate the community and promote the Preserve. Join us or renew your current membership.

Any additional funds over and

above the \$5 asked for are used to benefit the Preserve.

You may also ask that we apply any additional funds you send to extending 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:
HNPCA, P.O. BOX 532243 Livonia, MI 48153