

Fall 2019

Horizons

The Voice of Friends of Havenwoods

From the President

Upcoming events . . .

Milwaukee Public Museum & Kohl's on the Move!

We are thrilled to welcome this outreach program to Havenwoods for two separate events! On September 7 from 10 -11 am, you can learn about the residents of MPM's Butterfly Vivarium at the "Beautiful World of Butterflies" program. After the program, take an optional butterfly hike with a naturalist. The second event, "Get Wild in Wisconsin" will be held on February 1, 2020, 10 -11 am. It focuses on the rich variety of plants and animals that populate our state. Participants will be able to plant a wildflower to take home to their gardens. These programs were created to improve scientific and cultural literacy by bringing science programs into the community. They are family-friendly events so please come and enjoy!

Doors Open Milwaukee. Havenwoods and Hank Aaron State Trail are happy to be a part of this 2-day celebration of Milwaukee's art, architecture, culture, and history. There are 160+ sites to explore on September 28 & 29. Check out the website <www.historicmilwaukee.org> for further information on locations and times. Havenwoods needs a few volunteers to help host the event. Call 414-527-0232 if you are available.

Sojourner 5K Walk. Sojourner Peace House and Milwaukee Police Department District 4 will hold their 2nd Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Walk on October 12, starting at 9 am. Havenwoods will be the site for this year's walk on domestic violence in our community. Volunteers are needed to help with registration and setup. If you can help, plan to be at Havenwoods by 8:30 am.

Nature is a Gift, Use it Often
Judy Dollhausen (fohpresident@gmail.com)

Supporting the Forest

Endowment Fund: FOH has joined other state parks friends groups in establishing Wisconsin Conservation Endowment funds with the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin. To learn more about contributing a gift of cash and/or other assets, visit <www.wisconservation.org>

AmazonSmile: When ordering from Amazon, don't forget to use our FOH fundraising account, which enables us to receive a percentage of the purchase price. Access the account by logging into <smile.amazon.com/ch/39-1223748>

amazonsmile

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The annual friends meeting will be held on October 8 at 5:30 pm. All members are welcome to attend.

Continuous Transformation

by Dan Buckler, FOH Board member & WDNR Urban Forestry Specialist (this is an excerpt from an article originally published in Wisconsin DNR Forestry News)

On the north side of Milwaukee is a park with a name more evocative of a medieval forest than one of the most densely populated parts of modern Wisconsin. Yet its history is as rich, its canopy as green, and its deer as common as any royal hunting ground. Havenwoods State Forest is Wisconsin's only urban state forest and thus plays a critical role in connecting urban populations to nature.

On Arbor Day this past April, volunteers from Johnson Controls planted trees and shrubs across the property, ranging from small seedlings planted with a prayer (and tree tubes) to B&B trees making an immediate impact on the local landscape. The seedlings were provided by the state nursery in Boscobel, while larger container and B&B trees were purchased from Johnson's Nursery (no relation) in Menomonee Falls.

The volunteers were broken into groups sent to different parts of the property. A large contingent went to a park edge facing a residential neighborhood. This had been heavily impacted by utility work (don't worry – it was mostly buckthorn), and volunteers planted a number of species of flowering shrubs transitioning to taller trees away from the electric lines. Reforestation was the focus at most of the other sites on the property where past development and previous dominance by buckthorn created a relatively blank slate for replanting. Twenty species of trees and shrubs were planted that day.

Though the planting took place over only three hours, many years of work created the spaces where those trees and shrubs could eventually be located. As always, we must look to the past with an air of gratitude for all the work that was already done.

The area now occupied by Havenwoods State Forest was once the site of Milwaukee County's House of Corrections. In 1945, the property was seized by the U.S. military

to be used first as a disciplinary barracks, and then as a Nike Ajax missile base. Now, however, the forest serves a higher purpose - as a place of learning, respite, and peace for thousands of people a year. That is beating a sword into a ploughshare.



Arbor Day Update

by Melissa Cook, manager Hank Aaron State Trail

Havenwoods State Forest was the lucky recipient of a grant partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation and Johnson Controls. A large portion of the grant provided trees and shrubs for a major planting at the State Forest. On April 26th, staff and 46 volunteers from Johnson Controls worked to plant 187 trees and shrubs.

Many of the trees and shrubs were planted along Hopkins Street, an area that had been decimated by clearing for utility poles. In addition, we were able to plant trees around the property that will fill in areas that are being impacted by emerald ash borer. The Forest is an urban oasis for birds, wildlife, and our residential neighbors. We selected a diverse palette of species that will provide seasonal interest, tolerance to salt and climate changes, and wildlife support.

In addition to purchasing trees and shrubs, the funding helped us to purchase needed equipment and will assist in covering staffing for on-going maintenance until the trees are established.

A huge thank you to the Johnson Controls staff who worked incredibly hard to make environmental and aesthetic improvements on our land!!



Mystery Photos!

by Beth Mittermaier, Conservation Biologist

Mystery Photo #38 (the new mystery)

If you are one of those people who always finds time to stop and smell the flowers, you are probably a little down the day after the first freeze. If you haven't already done so, it might be time to start stopping to smell the seedheads! Prairies are full of wonderful smells most of the year. This fall, stop and smell some seeds. In the next issue, we'll take a closer look (sniff)!



Answer to Last Issue's Mystery

When I started working at Havenwoods (a long time ago), there were no ticks. The first one was recorded in the 1990s. Now it seems that each spring we have a few more. This year, we had more than ever. Heavy sigh.

I don't want to keep you awake at night, but there are 16 species of ticks in Wisconsin. Fortunately, only a few of those seek out and feed on humans.

Ticks are related to spiders, scorpions, and mites. Like their "cousins," they have 8 legs. Unlike spiders, ticks are parasites, feeding on the blood of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. This is where ticks' PR problems begin. It's hard to "like" a critter that seeks us out for our blood. And, because they must ingest a blood meal multiple times from multiple hosts in order to survive, they are the vectors for several infectious diseases. We *should* have a natural aversion to a critter that feeds on our blood and carries diseases!

But, as a naturalist, I'm strangely transfixed and amazed by their adaptations. Don't worry! I do not think twice about ending the life of every tick I see! And yet, I do have a bit of admiration for them. Consider some of these adaptations for their blood-sucking lifestyle:

- Suspended metabolism (or just sheer endurance) allows an adult tick to survive years(!) without food.



- Sensors on the first pair of legs detect temperature, carbon dioxide, odors, and sounds—helping a tick find areas with potential hosts.
- Questing (i.e., the tick climbs up on vegetation and extends its legs in wait) puts a tick in the perfect position to grab onto a passing host.
- Tiny claws and spiny hairs on the legs help the tick hold onto its host and climb to a suitable feeding spot.



- A flattened body allows the tick to "hug" close to its host, avoiding detection.
- Chelicerae (pincer-like claws) cut painlessly through the host's skin.
- A needlelike hypostome with "fishhook" barbs anchors the tick to the host while it sucks blood.
- Tick saliva with a cement-like substance helps hold the tick in place and an anti-coagulant keeps the host's blood from clotting.
- A tick's abdomen expands to twice its normal size, allowing ticks to ingest large amounts of blood.
- Ticks only need to eat three times during their lives: once to molt from larva to nymph; once from nymph to adult; and once as adults to lay eggs.

Remember to get out there and enjoy fall, but it is a good idea to never feed wild animals!

What is a reluctant host to do?

For me, the benefits of spending time in nature outweigh the risks. But that doesn't mean that I'm going out there to feed ticks! You can:

- Be informed - Stop by the nature center to pick up a copy of the Tick Safety Guide. It has pictures, recommendations, and websites for more information.
- Dress defensively - Tuck long pants into socks. Wear light-colored clothing so you can see ticks better.
- Use tick repellents - Choose one that is right for you.
- Check, check, and then check again - Look for ticks when leaving a natural area, check your clothes as you remove them, and feel for ticks in the shower.
- Remove ticks promptly following recommended practices. Save the tick. Watch for symptoms.



Friends of Havenwoods, Inc.
 6141 North Hopkins Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53209-3565

Nature Center Hours

Due to reductions in staffing and our need to stay within our budget, the nature center will be open 8:30 am – 4 pm on Mondays through Saturdays (closed Sundays). However, there may be times when we have to lock the building. If access to the nature center is important for your visit, we suggest that you call ahead. We will be checking voice (414-527-0232) and email (friendsofhavenwoods@gmail.com) daily. We are looking for volunteers to help staff the nature center. Think about if you might be interested in doing this for a morning or afternoon as needed.

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