

Fall 2017

# Horizons

## The Voice of Friends of Havenwoods

### From the President

**Buds 'n Sprouts 2017 summer garden program.** This summer, 53 children and 10 adults participated in the gardening program coordinated by Laura Spencer, who is in her fifth year in the garden. Thank you to the donors who contributed funds and materials: the students and staff at Milwaukee Job Corps Center who designed and made the cement benches, We Energies Foundation for a \$1,175 grant, George Washington



Thanks to Milwaukee Job Corps Center for these great cement benches!

Thank you to our major Kids' Garden sponsors:



### We Energies Foundation



1776 Masonic Lodge in Whitefish Bay for a \$1,000 donation, and many people and organizations who made smaller donations.

**FOH Annual Meeting.** Summer is coming to a close, schools are back in session, soon we'll start to see the fall colors. That's a reminder that the Friends' Annual Meeting is coming up on October 10 at 6:30 pm at Havenwoods. The Board currently consists of 8 members, and we welcome additional individuals to the Board. If you have skills in the areas of our committees—public relations and marketing, programs and projects, and development—please consider bringing your skills to the Board.

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

# From the Superintendent

by Judy Klippel

During the summer we were delighted to hear that Johnson Controls Foundation awarded a small grant to the Friends group. We had requested the funding so that we could provide nature programs for all the classes in two of the elementary schools within the Choice Neighborhood. The students don't have much access to nature, and their schools don't have the financial resources to bring all of the students here.



Over time, we will try to secure other funding to continue conducting programs for these and other schools in the Neighborhood. We want to build relationships with them and help the kids develop a familiarity with the Forest. Ultimately, we want to encourage the kids and their families to use the park recreationally on their own.

Preparing for this grant has dovetailed with our work to update our field trip programs to meet the changing needs of the schools and teachers who choose to come to Havenwoods. We are aligning our programs with the Next Generation Science Standards (<https://www.nextgenscience.org/>), which engage children in learning and practicing the methods of science while they learn science concepts. Beth is developing several new programs that use science process, and we are adapting our current programs.

## Fall Birding Hike

September 18, 9:00 – 10:30 am (Monday)

Birding is best in spring, but fall provides some great opportunities as well. Join DNR Wildlife Educator Dianne Robinson at Havenwoods to search for birds moving through the city and to enjoy the crisp fall weather. Please RSVP to Dianne at (262) 424-9827.



As the naturalists could tell you, in addition to the learning objectives for our programs, there is one overarching goal I want every program to accomplish: kids should leave here excited about nature and their experiences here. As city kids, this may be a new experience for them. We want it to be a happy one that stimulates their curiosity to find whole new worlds under their feet, in the ponds, and among the trees.

## Wanted: Teeny Beanies!

We need 5 sets of Teeny Beanies to use in a new field trip we are developing for kindergartners. It will focus on animals' survival needs and food chains. Look in your closet and watch for them at rummage sales.

They can easily be found 4 for a \$1. Tags are not needed, but clean and smoke-free are! Here is our wish list of herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores!



Quacks the duck  
Smoochy the frog  
Inch the worm  
Rocket the blue jay  
Nuts the squirrel  
Coral the fish  
Slither the snake

Lucky the ladybug  
Bumble the bee  
Spinner the spider  
Flitter the butterfly  
Springy the bunny  
Skunkers the skunk

# Mystery Photos!

by Beth Mittermaier, Conservation Biologist

## Mystery Photo #31 (the new mystery)

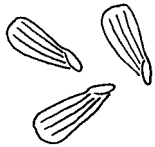
As the leaves fall off the trees, I enjoy seeing what has been happening up in the branches all summer. Nests of all kinds suddenly become visible, including huge



leafy nests. I imagine many of you know who made these nests. But, nature is always more complicated and wonderful than it first appears to be!

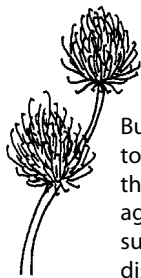
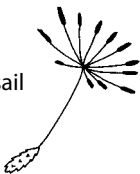
## Answer to Last Issue's Mystery

Seeds amaze me. At first glance, I see the stunning variety of sizes, colors, and shapes. A closer look reveals the ways that seeds have evolved to disperse away from the parent plants—that is when things get really amazing. Lacking feet, most seeds take advantage of wind, water, and animals to help them reach new locations. We don't have any great examples of water-dispersed seeds at Havenwoods, but here are a few ways our seeds get around:



On dry days, tiny spruce seeds twirl out of cones. They are equipped with "wings" like maple seeds.

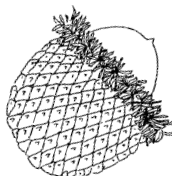
Dandelion and milkweed seeds sail on dry breezes.



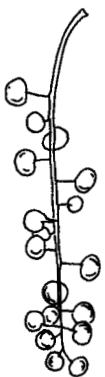
Burdock burs stick to most anything that brushes against them! Be sure to properly dispose of burs that you "pick up."



Tick trefoil seeds (or "stick-tights") grow in segmented pods that break off and stick to almost everything they touch.



Bur oak acorns are collected, moved, and buried by mammals. Remember this saying, "Forests are formed from forgetful squirrels."



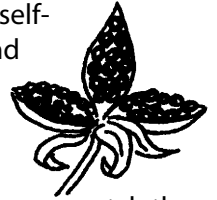
Many birds and mammals eat black cherries. The seeds pass through the digestive system and are deposited far from the parent plants. The hard seeds germinate better after being scratched in the animals' guts.

However, it is the plants with exploding seeds that really win the prize for going all out to disperse their seeds. We have several at Havenwoods. Here are my favorites!



## Wood Violets

have special flowers (cleistogamous) near the ground that never open. They self-pollinate and produce lots of seeds!

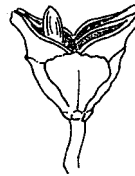


Pick a ripe seedpod and take it inside. You can watch the pod dry and split. As the sections continue to dry, the seeds are pinched and expelled.



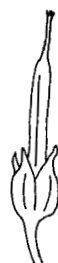
## Witch Hazel

is one of the strangest shrubs growing at Havenwoods. After blooming in November, it forms seedpods. As the seedpods slowly open, the sides of the pods press against the smooth seeds until they are expelled with a popping sound up to 30 feet from the shrub.



## Wild Geranium

(or cranesbill) packs its seeds into a pod that looks like a crane's bill. As the pod dries, it splits, curls, and catapults the seeds an average of 10 feet and a maximum of 30 feet away from the parent plant.



immature seedhead

exploded seedhead



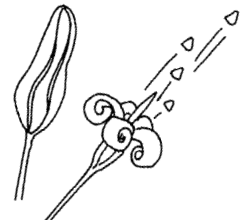
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## Touch-Me-Not

is (last, but not least) my absolute favorite exploding seedhead! I have spent many a summer day "helping" touch-me-not plants disperse their seeds! Touch-me-not, also known as jewelweed, stores mechanical

energy in the five outer valves of its seed pods. When the seedpods dry, the stored energy is transferred to the seeds, launching them forcibly from the plant.





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

## Stay Connected

Don't forget to let us know if you are moving. Call 527-0232 to update your address or phone number.

You can also "Like" us on Facebook at <[www.facebook.com/HavenwoodsStateForest](http://www.facebook.com/HavenwoodsStateForest)>.

611 people have "liked" the page and 1723 people have checked it out.



If you would like to know more about volunteer opportunities at Havenwoods, call 527-0232 and ask to receive the Volunteer Connection.

Remember, if you misplace your newsletter, you can find it online at <[www.friendsofhavenwoods.org/about.html](http://www.friendsofhavenwoods.org/about.html)>

## Corporate Supporters

Ashland Water Technologies  
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## Friends of Havenwoods Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Individual Memberships

\_\_\_ Single..... \$15

\_\_\_ Family ..... \$20

\_\_\_ Lifetime ..... \$400

### Corporate Supporters

\_\_\_ Annual..... \$100

Please send your membership check to:

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