

Fall 2018

Horizons

The Voice of Friends of Havenwoods

From the President

FOH Annual Meeting. The Friends annual meeting will be Tuesday, October 9, 6:00 pm at Havenwoods. Join us for refreshments and a report on activities of the group. Your input is always welcome. The regular October board meeting will begin right after the annual meeting at approximately 6:45 pm.

October festival. We're excited that once again a festival will take place at Havenwoods. October 6 from 10 am to 4 pm is the date and the festival will be all about turtles and snakes. Mark your calendar for this family-friendly nature event and contact Judy Klippel on how you can help with activities, crafts, food sales, set-up, or clean-up.

2018 Potawatomi Heart of Canal Street Charity. Once again, Friends applied for and is in the running to become a beneficiary in the 25th annual Heart of Canal Street campaign. In 2016 Friends was one of 31 charities that shared winnings of over \$1 million. On November 13, twenty charities will be randomly selected to share in this year's bingo game winnings, with the fund-raising total to be announced on December 17. Check out these social media platforms for more information on how to participate: www.facebook.com/paysbig or www.twitter.com/paysbig

Property Enhancement Projects. The Wisconsin State Park System is collaborating with partners across the state, including Friends groups, to enhance park amenities. Six enhancements to properties were offered and Friends, in consultation with Judy Klippel, selected a property orientation sign. The sign will display a map and pictures, trip tips about the property, rules for using the property, information about the property, and emergency information. This will replace the old "Rules" sign on the kiosk at the entrance to the trails. Installation is scheduled for summer of 2019.

Welcome to new members. New members to FOH this past year includes a new corporate member, Jason R. Smith, Certified Financial Planner, and a new lifetime member, Joe Rodriguez. Other new members are Carol Holley and the Gilgannon family.

Friends
of Wisconsin State Parks



Advocacy for State Parks. In the spring 2017 newsletter, I noted that State Parks took a big hit in the 2015-16 state budget when general purpose revenue (GPR) support for State Parks operations was cut. That raised the ire of park and trails supporters who rallied to work towards a more sustainable funding model. Friends of Wisconsin State Parks (FWSP) Board members, as well as some Friends group leaders, were very busy during and after the budget session. Over 80 legislators were contacted on park funding issues, driving home the importance of affordable state lands recreation. The Friends of Wisconsin State Parks (FWSP) recently announced that \$2M was restored from the Parks Segregated Fund. An additional \$2.2M will go towards needed parks infrastructure, electricity for campsites, bathroom facilities, signage upgrades, fire rings and other projects. Another victory is the passage of The Parks Revitalization Act, which will utilize Knowles-Nelson Stewardship monies to fund water infrastructure projects at specific parks. More information can be found at www.fwsp.org. Ask your legislator to support these and other FWSP initiatives.

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

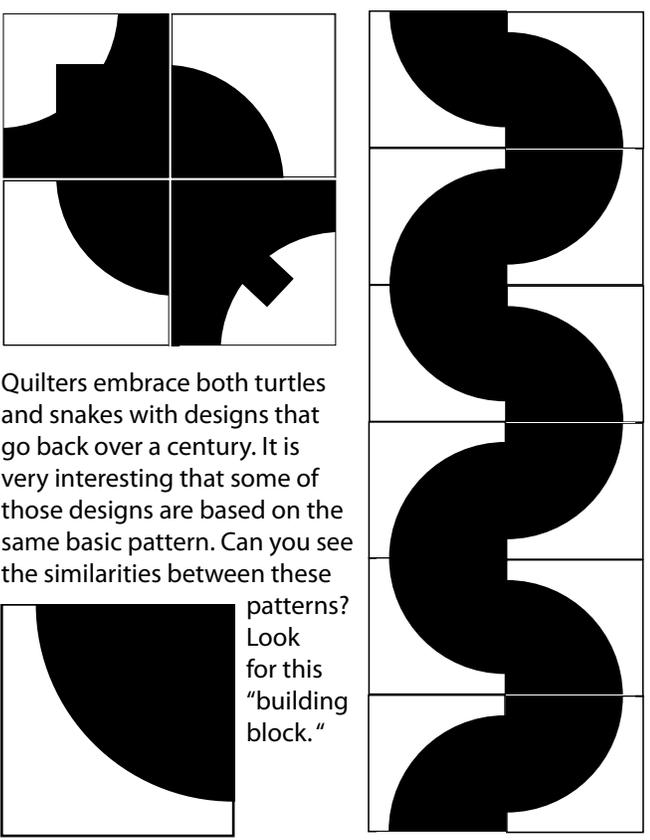
From the Superintendent

by Judy Klippel

Snakes and turtles are ancient creatures, with turtles first appearing in fossil records over 200 million years ago and snakes over 150 million years ago. Throughout most of human history, people lived right alongside them and knew them well. You can find evidence of these close connections in the art, creation stories, folklore, symbolism, and menus of many cultures all over the planet.

Today, most of us who live in cities and suburbs don't have the daily connections with nature that would put us in contact with snakes and turtles very often or cause us to value them as much as our ancestors did. Distance from them fosters misinformation and even fear. Despite years of scientific research to understand their biology, ecological niches, and the struggles they face in our modern world, it's still easy to consciously or subconsciously hold on to some stereotypes about these animals: Snakes are slimy. Snakes are sneaky. All snakes are vicious killers. Turtles are patient and wise. Turtles bring good luck.

I know that the thought of a "snake and turtle festival" turns some people off. Others might think that turtles are cute, but would avoid snakes at all costs. And, of course, there are folks who love these animals and love learning about them.



Quilters embrace both turtles and snakes with designs that go back over a century. It is very interesting that some of those designs are based on the same basic pattern. Can you see the similarities between these patterns? Look for this "building block."

We want to bring together snake lovers and "fearers" and turtle fans and foes at our festival on October 6, to brush off those stereotypes and find out how they really live and how we can help with their survival. I hope you consider coming, too. Bring someone who is afraid of snakes or who remembers having a turtle as a child. Bring your neighbor or your grandchildren.

Or, if you like, volunteer for the festival. It takes about 50 staff and volunteers to facilitate these events. This will be a fast-moving and energizing day. Here are the ways you can help:

Before the festival, you can:

- Help set up tables and chairs
- Bake snake or turtle cookies for Friends to sell
- Help distribute publicity
- Send the publicity to someone you know who would like to come
- Donate an item for Friends' silent auction (e.g., baked goods, handcrafted items, gift certificates, nature observation supplies, kids' books, etc. No second-hand items, please.)

During the festival, you can:

- Be a host (greet and hand out programs)
- Lead snake and turtle crafts
- Help Friends sell food
- Take photographs of activities
- Hand out passport stickers to kids after activities
- Join the clean-up crew during and after the festival

If you would like to volunteer, call 414-527-0232 or email judy.klippel@wi.gov.

Supporting the Forest

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

AmazonSmile fundraiser. 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

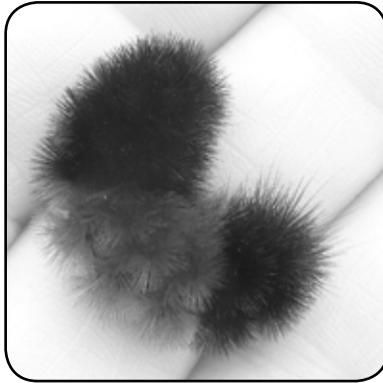
amazonsmile

Mystery Photos!

by Beth Mittermaier, Conservation Biologist

Mystery Photo #35 (the new mystery)

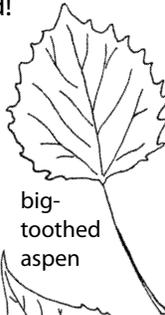
Each fall, I look forward to counting woolly bears, dodging them with my bicycle, finding their hiding places, and, of course, checking out the width of their brown and black bands. Do you put any faith in their weather-forecasting abilities? What other weather signs do you watch for during fall to predict the severity of winter? Tune in next issue for more information.



Answer to Last Issue's Mystery

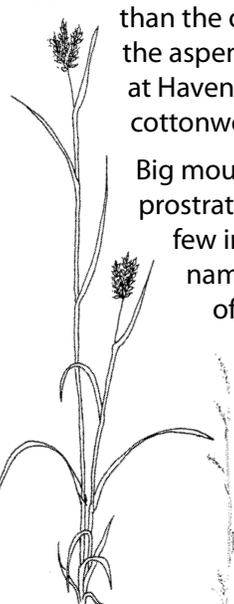
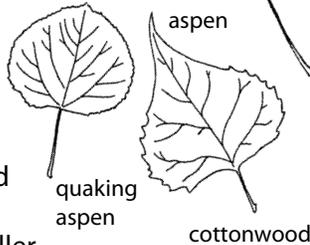
During summer, I invited you to look for plants at Havenwoods that have big, tall, giant, great, or large in their names. Since I had a head start by already having a list of about 37 plants, I decided I should find the biggest big plant and the smallest plant with big in its name. That is when things immediately got complicated!

The tallest big plant was obviously a tree, big-toothed aspen. But it wasn't labeled big because of its overall size; it was big because of the teeth on its leaves. You may be asking, "Is there a small-tooth aspen?" There is not. This "big" stuff is all relative!



Big-toothed aspen does have bigger teeth on its leaves

than the other trees in the aspen family found at Havenwoods, but cottonwoods grow taller.



Big mouse-eared chickweed usually grows prostrate, struggling to rise more than a few inches tall. Again, the "big" in that name must be relative to either the size of a mouse's ear or the size of other chickweed leaves.

I decided to look for plants that were REALLY big!

Measuring eight-feet tall, I think big bluestem qualifies as big—at least for a grass. To solidify its claim to bigness, there is a little bluestem that matures at about three feet in height.

big bluestem little bluestem

Unfortunately, I found giant ragweed that is at least three times taller than regular ragweed. That probably means it produces three times the pollen that causes so many people grief during allergy season.



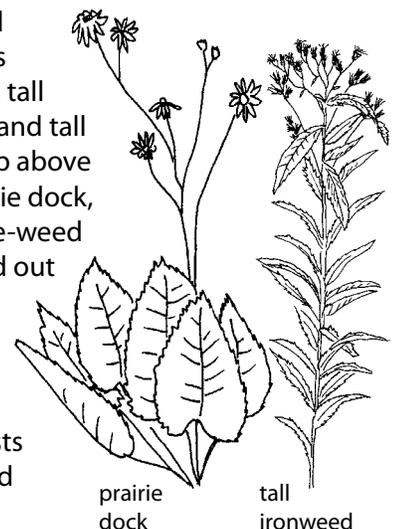
Great angelica was blooming over near the railroad tracks. At 6- to 8-feet tall with leaves that are nearly two feet across and huge flowerheads, it seemed to have earned its name. However, growing nearby was one of its cousins, cow parsnip. It can reach up to 10 feet tall with equally big leaves, but it was named common cow parsnip. This whole naming thing suddenly seemed a little subjective.

I can certainly understand the evolutionary pressures which would result in plants growing bigger than their neighbors. If a plant can grow tall enough, it can absorb more sun and, therefore, make more food. If a plant can grow tall enough, it can protect its leaves from large herbivores. Plus, if you depend on wind for pollination, there is a lot more wind up above the fray. Of course, there are costs, too. It takes a lot of water, energy, and nutrients to keep a tall plant healthy and growing.

And, I guess I can understand the motivation for botanists who discover new plants to want to include superlatives in their names. The scientific names behind the common names usually include Latin words like, grandis, magnum, longus, altum, and gigantum. I can tell you that if I ever discovered a new species, I would want to give it an exceptional name!

But, back to the task at hand! I went down to the pond and found some great bulrush, which can reach up to nine feet, and giant bur-reed, capable of reaching six feet. Ours were not really living up to expectations, hiding among the common cattails. The tall devil's beggar-ticks were not substantially taller than regular old common beggar-ticks.

By far, the best place to find tall plants at Havenwoods is in the prairie. Tall ironweed, tall coreopsis, giant sunflower, and tall boneset stick their heads up above most other plants. But prairie dock, compass plant, and Joe-pye-weed are just as tall! Alas, I started out looking for gigantic plants only to find that the things that might have been oversized were the egos or imaginations of the botanists and plant-lovers that named them.



prairie dock tall ironweed



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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>.



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>

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