

Spring 2019

Horizons

The Voice of Friends of Havenwoods

From the President

FOH News: I'd like to welcome new additions to the Friends board of directors: Dale Yerkes, Stephanie Harling, and Dan Buckler. Dale is a long-time Havenwoods neighbor and has worked with the North Country Trail Association so he is familiar with promoting and conserving our natural environment. He has agreed to fill the treasurer position. Stephanie is the executive director of Havenwoods Economic Development Corporation and brings a unique perspective on our surrounding neighborhoods and businesses. Dan is the Outings chair for the Great Waters Group of the Sierra Club and has a passion for Havenwoods. (Join Dan and other Friends members on the third Saturday morning of each month to care for the land!) We are glad they have agreed to become part of Friends, and we look forward to the knowledge and skills they bring to our board.

New Interim Staff: Until the property manager position is filled, we are fortunate to have staff from the other two State Park properties in Milwaukee filling in on a limited basis. Melissa Cook is at Havenwoods on Tuesdays in addition to her position as Trail Coordinator of Hank Aaron State Trail. Angela Vickio is at Havenwoods on Fridays in addition to her position as Naturalist Guide/Park & Rec Specialist at Lakeshore State Park. More about their duties on page 2! We are fortunate that Melissa and Angela are able to add these temporary duties to their other positions. Welcome them to Havenwoods the next time you stop in.

In Memorial: We are sad to report the passing of Friends' member Patricia Restivo this past November. The Restivos have been members for over 20 years. In the past few years, she enjoyed bringing her grandson to the Forest. She volunteered in the summer kids' garden program, and her husband, Richard, built picnic benches for the

property. Patricia requested that memorials be made to Havenwoods' Nature Time for Preschoolers & Junior Rangers programs. Many donations were received in her memory, and we thank all who remembered Patricia with a gift to the Forest.

Endowment Donors: I would also like to acknowledge those members who renewed their membership and included an additional amount for the Havenwoods Endowment. Thanks to Chris Burch, Bridget Ciurlik, Melissa Cook, Jim & Judy Dollhausen, Jim Goetz, Lee & Leslie Hanrihar, John Heywood, Dennis Kaehny, Steve & Linda Mary Kupcho, Leslie & Roxann Lucas, Horace Palmer, Annie Salmona, Gaylord Yost, and Diane Warner.

Is it time for Friends of Havenwoods to go electronic? Currently, you can access the Friends web page at <www.friendsofhavenwoods.org> and our Facebook page at <www.facebook.com/HavenwoodsStateForest>. Occasionally, we would also like to communicate with you by email. If you share your email with us, we promise to use it sparingly for announcements, opportunities, and alerts that we think will be meaningful to you. We will not share it with anyone else! To share your email for this purpose, contact me at <fohpresident@gmail.com>



Think about if you would be eager/willing to receive an electronic newsletter instead of a paper newsletter? Some people find it convenient to access information whenever and wherever they wish. And, sending newsletters electronically saves organizations paper and postage. Think about this! And feel free to contact me at the email below to share your thoughts!

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

From the Staff

by Melissa Cook, Hank Aaron State Trail Manager

As manager of the Hank Aaron State Trail for 20 years, I had the pleasure of knowing Havenwoods Superintendent Judy Klippel for many years. We shared stories of the challenges of park properties in urban areas, and we jointly reaffirmed our strong commitment to bring urban youth into nature. But I could never have imagined the enormity of managing this property. It has many challenges and a building from the mid-80s containing what was innovative for that time, and is . . . well . . . interesting, to say the least.

As Judy Dollhausen indicated, I am usually at Havenwoods on Tuesdays and Angela on Fridays. Angela is taking on responsibility for keeping bills paid and other finance-related issues. My strength is in partnership development, so I'm working with the Friends Group and working to create new partnerships within the community. Our team leader is Rob Wessberg, Superintendent at Pike Lake Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest. He is focusing much attention on repairs to the building and grounds. We are lucky to have our educators, Kali and Andy, juggling their schedules to make sure the building stays open and our critters fed. Jesse and Sarah help when they can spare time from other obligations. And I truly do not know what we would do without Beth. She has been a guiding force here at the Forest for 35 years.

Another thing I had not anticipated was the tremendous amount of help that is provided by volunteers and Friends. Whether it is newsletter folding, shoveling the walks, vacuuming, wrangling buckthorn, or raising funds, your help is so appreciated! We thank you all so much for what you have done in the past and now that we need you more than ever. You are working by our side as the great partners you have always been.

Friends of Havenwoods

Board of Directors

President: Judy Dollhausen

Vice President: Diane Warner

Secretary: Rachel Jones

Treasurer: Dale Yerkes

Board Members: Dan Buckler, Jim Goetz, Stephanie Harling, Cathy Harrison, Dennis Kaehny, Sheryl Meyer, George Morrison, Gaylord Yost

The next board meeting will be held on April 9 at 5:30 pm. All members are invited to attend Board meetings.

So, we've all taken on just a bit more work to make sure that this beautiful property stays open and relevant to our broader community. No one has to remind us why we do this. We know in our hearts and minds that Havenwoods is a very special place. Thank you for the important roles that you play and thank you in advance for continuing your support!

Visit Melissa on the Trail!

The other eight days of the week during the warm seasons, you can find Melissa in a meeting, or behind a desk, or on the phone. But the best place to find her is on the Hank Aaron State Trail!



The Hank Aaron State Trail is a 14-mile paved continuous east-to-west connection from the shores of Lake Michigan to the Milwaukee/Waukesha county line. Along the way, you can find some of Milwaukee's top destinations as well as a variety of environments ranging from urban, to river views, to prairies and wooded surroundings.

So, grab a bicycle, pair of rollerblades, your best jogging shoes, or just your favorite sneakers and head over for some fresh air and exercise. Don't be surprised if you run in to other familiar faces from Havenwoods on the trail this summer—we will probably be sharing staff! Next time, we'll visit Angela's park, Lakeshore State Park.

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 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 #36 (the new mystery)

To continue this search for holes and the animals that make them, I found this photo from last spring. It's a small hole in the ground—less than 1/4" in diameter.

There is another clue to its maker in the top right corner of the photo. Check out little holes in the ground this spring and see if you can figure out who and why!



Answer to Last Issue's Mystery

I suggested that you look for woodpecker holes this past winter. I foolishly thought that woodpeckers make holes in trees for only three reasons. Once again, I have discovered that nature is much more complex than it first appears!

Feeding Holes

The most recognizable feeding holes are the rows of small holes left by yellow-bellied sapsuckers in living trees. Sap collects in these small holes, and the sapsucker returns later to, well, suck the sap! They also feast on any insects that have come to feed on the sap. And, if the weather is warm and the sap becomes a little fermented, a sapsucker can become a little tipsy. I've only witnessed this one time. I can only hope the little bird was able to find a safe place to hide while regaining its composure and flying ability!



Downy and hairy woodpeckers can hear insects moving under the bark. They chip off small sections of bark and drill down. Like me, you may be wondering how they manage to extract small insects from inside the tree. Nature has this covered with incredibly long tongues equipped with barbed tips. And, in case you are wondering where they store this long tongue when they are not feeding, the answer is equally amazing—it is curled around the back of the head between the skull and the skin!

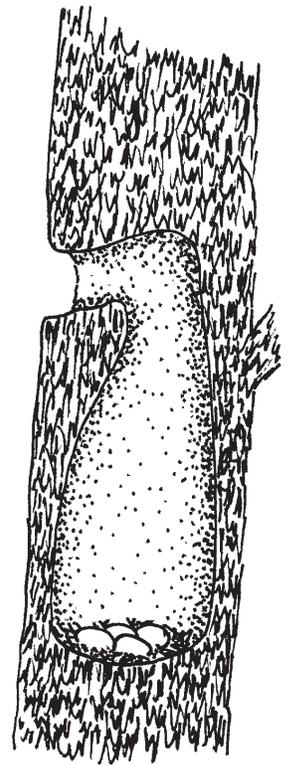


Drumming Holes

Woodpeckers also leave behind small, shallow holes that appear to have served the bird no purpose and often drive homeowners crazy. These holes are caused by drumming. Woodpeckers are less vocal than most birds, but they more than make up for this with their drumming on any resonating surface. The *tap-tap-tap* of drumming attracts mates, defends territories, serves as a predator alarm, and helps with general communication.

Nesting Holes

Our resident woodpeckers (yellow-bellied sapsuckers, hairy woodpeckers, downy woodpeckers, flickers, and red-bellied woodpeckers) all excavate cavities in dead or live trees. In an attempt to keep out predators, the openings are just large enough for the parents to enter. Inside the tree, the nests are shaped like gourds. Some excavate a new cavity every year; some are happy to reuse and/or renovate existing cavities. If you do some research, you can learn how to identify which woodpecker made a hole based on the type of tree, the tree's state of decay, the height of hole above the ground, and the size and shape of the opening. Of course, if you have a lawn chair and some time on your hands, you could also just watch! It can take a week or two to excavate a nesting cavity!



Roosting Holes

And now for the one that I simply didn't know about OR expect! Most birds only build nests for raising their young. However, in fall, woodpeckers search for and/or construct roosting cavities. These cavities are smaller than nesting cavities—usually just large enough to fit the builder. They protect the woodpecker from wind, rain, snow, and predators during the winter.

Both nesting and roosting holes are later used by secondary cavity nesters who cannot excavate wood (e.g., screech owls, wrens, bluebirds, and flying squirrels). This means that standing dead trees (snags) AND woodpeckers are vital to the survival of many forest critters. While the construction of winter roosting cavities was a surprise to me, the realization that forest animals are intricately connected to each other comes as no surprise at all!



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 continue its reduced hours until mid-April. We will be open 9 am – 3 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday (closed Sunday and Wednesday). 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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