

Spring 2015

Horizons

The Voice of Friends of Havenwoods

From the President

We can't do this alone! Those words say a lot about where we are at Havenwoods. Over the years Havenwoods has had a lot of support from the community – our members, our volunteers, our corporate sponsors. Even with this support, we find ourselves looking to others in the community to join us in taking a fresh look at the importance of Havenwoods and the value it provides to our schools, businesses, organizations, families and neighbors. The need to do more with less has prompted us to look at how Havenwoods can continue to provide meaningful outdoor experiences and nature-related activities to the public.

We will be sponsoring two sessions to allow community input and visioning on Tuesday, March 10, from 8:30-10:30 am (with continental breakfast available at 8:15 am) and Wednesday, March 11, from 5:15-7:15 pm (with light supper served at 5:00 pm). If you are available to join us for one of these sessions, please RSVP to Judy Klippel by Friday, March 6. If you can't make either session, email me with your input and vision for Havenwoods.

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

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Good Time to Bird!

Early spring is a great time to start birdwatching. Become familiar with our yearround residents now. Then you can learn the spring migrants as they arrive. Ask for a bird checklist in the nature center. Havenwoods has bird books and binoculars that you can borrow for use at Havenwoods. If you want company, join the Noel J. Cutright Bird Club at Riveredge. They meet on the first Tuesday of the month from 7-9 pm.

Audio Archives

In the spirit of the national StoryCorps project, we are starting to document Friends' and visitors' personal recollections and stories about the place we call Havenwoods.

This movement acknowledges that personal oral histories give context and meaning to a place. Participants' voices are recorded as they are interviewed by one of Havenwoods' staff. These interviews will become an "audio archive", which we plan to make available to future historians of Havenwoods.

Do you have any stories or memories of Havenwoods as it has changed over the years? Have you ever lived in the neighborhood, or felt a special attachment to this place? Do you remember the Nike missile base that was here in the 1950s, or what the land looked like when it officially became a state forest in 1980? Have you found a connection to nature in the city at Havenwoods?

If you can answer "yes" to any of these questions, we want to talk with you! Contact Judy Klippel at (414) 527-0232 to set up an appointment to have your voice recorded.

Superintendent's Report

by Judy Klippel

Just two miles straight west of Havenwoods lies the heart of another Havenwoods. You wouldn't know by driving past it. What you see at 6161 N. 64th Street is the sprawling lawn and sign for Amcor, a multinational packaging company. You have to go inside their building to find the other Havenwoods.

This is the home of Havenwoods Economic Development Corporation (HEDC), whose boundaries are much bigger than ours: 43rd Street to 76th Street, and Silver Spring Drive to Good Hope Road. That puts "our" Havenwoods in the southeast quadrant of the Havenwoods Community.

HEDC's three employees work tirelessly at their mission: "to revitalize Havenwoods as a vibrant mixed-use urban community," by promoting the neighborhood economy, upholding the quality of life, and advocating and creating solutions for business and community issues. (www.havenwoods.org)

Our daily activities are different from those of HEDC, but there definitely is overlap in our missions. We, too, work to provide a safe and enjoyable place in the community and experiences that enhance the quality of life for our neighbors.

The two Havenwoods have come together in that shared part of our missions. We have hosted some of their events for residents in our auditorium, which has afforded us opportunities to meet some of our neighbors who haven't been here before.

Last fall, HEDC conducted its first fall festival, which included a 5K run/walk that started at this Havenwoods. About 50 people clad in golden tee shirts labeled



HAVENWOODS started their early morning adventure just outside our nature center. They ran or walked a mile through the forest, then set off to go west on Mill Road, and ended up at a community park on 60th Street and Green Tree Road.

This coming September 26, we will be conducting concurrent festivals at the two parks. There will be different activities at each site, and a shuttle bus will take folks between the two. Passports to activities at each site and prizes will help entice visitors to attend both festivals. The run/walk will again connect us to each other.

By working together with shared visions for the community, we can all look forward to good things happening.

Runners, walkers, joggers, and strollers take to the trail in last fall's HEDC Run/Walk through Havenwoods and the neighborhood.



Mystery Photos!

by Beth Mittermaier,
Conservation Biologist

Mystery Photo #22 (the new mystery)

Do you recognize this tiny flower? You will have to visit the south woods or the railroad tracks in early spring to see it. If you go too early or too late, you will see nothing. Happy hunting!



Answer to Last Issue's Mystery

You might remember that I had to apologize for the lack of a photo showing a feather in the snow for last season's mystery "photo." It turns out that feathers in the snow are rare. This is good, because feathers in the snow are not good news for birds. If you find a feather in winter, there is probably a story behind it. Pick that feather up and look closely. Use a magnifying lens if you have one, and you can figure out some of the story.

If you find a single feather in the snow, it probably means that a bird had a close call with a predator or crashed into something. The kind of feather it is will help you tell the story.



Down feathers are soft and fluffy. Birds have hundreds of down feathers.



Wing feathers are long, strong, and stiff. They are lop-sided with one side bigger than the other. From the curve and shape, you can figure out if the feather came from the right or left side of the bird.

Tail feathers might be equal or lop-sided. They are less curved than wing feathers. Look closely at the tip of the quill. If there is a slight bend, it is probably a tail feather.



Contour feathers hug the body and give it shape. The smooth tips provide protection from wind and rain. The fluff next to the body provides added warmth.

Losing a down or contour feather or two is probably not life-threatening. Birds have hundreds of overlapping feathers to keep them warm and dry. Losing a whole area of these feathers during a cold snap is a different story! On the other hand, each tail and main wing feather plays a vital role in flight.

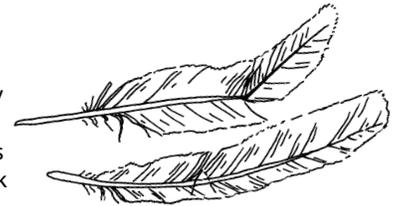
Since birds can't 'heal' feathers damaged by flight, crashes, chemicals, or encounters with predators, the feathers must be replaced. Birds automatically replace all their feathers at least once each year through a process called molting (which we will get to in a bit). However, tail and wing feathers are so important that they are replaced when damaged. The new feather pushes the old feather out similar to the way an adult tooth pushes out a baby tooth.

If you find a pile of feathers in the snow, you know that the story did not end well for the bird. Use your detective skills and look at the whole scene left behind. Tracks and scat can provide some clues, but spend most of your time looking at the feathers.



If the quills have been chewed off, the bird was probably eaten by a mammal. Carnivores use their side teeth to remove the feathers before eating.

If the quills are bent, the bird was probably eaten by a large bird. A hawk or owl uses its beak and feet to pluck out feathers.



If there is skin on the end of the quill, the feather was pulled out after the bird had been dead for awhile. Maybe the bird died of starvation or cold and was eaten by a scavenger.

If you find a feather in late summer, it is most likely a feather that fell out by design instead of by accident. Birds need a complete set of intact, strong feathers to fly and stay warm. Growing a new set of feathers takes a lot of energy, so birds change their coats in late summer—after the demands of the breeding season are over. Some species of birds also grow a complete or partial set of feathers in spring just before the breeding season begins. This is the molt that gives males their bright plumage.

Because I tend to think like a scientist, I couldn't stop myself from taking a few minutes to research human molting. Anyone who has ever cleaned house knows that people molt. We shed 50 to 100 hairs each day. And, since skin cells only live about 35 days, we lose and grow the equivalent of 10 "skins" each year. However, our changes in plumage color are personal choices—not evolutionary ones!

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Havenwoods State Forest

Endowment Fund

FOH has joined other state parks friends groups in establishing endowment funds with the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin. To learn more about the Wisconsin Conservation Endowment, visit <www.wisconservation.org>.

Please consider a contribution with a gift of cash and/or other assets. Send your contribution to:

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

Friends of Havenwoods

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