

Spring 2017

Horizons

The Voice of Friends of Havenwoods

From the Superintendent

by Judy Klippel

Our neighborhood is in an exciting time of transformation and promise. At first it may not seem that Havenwoods has any connection to the changes, but stay with me on this for a few minutes.

The first signs came in 2012 with the Housing Authority's revitalization of the east half of Westlawn public housing development, which is between 60th and 68th streets and between Silver Spring and Custer. The new apartments and homes defy the traditional image of public housing with their varying designs, external features, sizes, and colors.

Now called Westlawn Gardens, the campus has won awards for its use of green technology, which includes, in part, a geothermal heat exchange system, rain gardens, and bioswales.

Redevelopment of the west half of the old Westlawn will take place over the next several years. When completed, Westlawn Gardens will have around a thousand housing units.

In 2015, the City and the Housing Authority were awarded a \$30 million Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant to "... transform Westlawn and the surrounding neighborhood into an inclusive community of opportunity with quality housing, schools, businesses, services, and amenities where people want to live, learn, work, shop, and play," as stated on the Housing Authority's website. Milwaukee was one of only five such grant recipients in the country. The "Choice Neighborhood" is three square miles in area: it is

bounded by Sherman Boulevard and 76th Street and by Villard Avenue and Mill Road. That puts Havenwoods in the northeast quadrant.

The Housing Authority has been meeting with residents and stakeholders to understand the residents' needs and interests and to take suggestions for how to improve quality of life in the Neighborhood. We were invited to participate. Judy Dollhausen and I have been to several meetings. It has been exciting to meet participants, hear about plans, consider the possibilities, and think about how Havenwoods fits into the mix.

Havenwoods is recognized as an asset in the Neighborhood. Throughout our history here, we have conducted field trips for its schools and Silver Spring Neighborhood Center and have provided programs and festivals that draw in our neighbors. But we would like to see many more neighbors visit the Forest than do now.

Thousands of residents now live or will be living within two miles of the Forest, where they can find miles of trails, the quiet and beauty of nature, and programs to enjoy. How can we more effectively publicize Forest opportunities to Westlawn Gardens and the whole Neighborhood? How can we best serve their needs and interests? What partners might be able to help us connect people with their local state forest? Do you have ideas to share? Contact Judy Dollhausen or me and we will be happy to listen and consider them.

For more information about the Choice Neighborhood, check out these websites:

- www.hacm.org/about-us/initiatives/milwaukee-s-choice-neighborhood
- www.usgbc.org/articles/green-neighborhoods-all-milwaukee%E2%80%99s-westlawn-gardens

Milwaukee's
Choice
Neighborhood
Creating a Community of Choice

From the President

AmazonSmile. A new opportunity for revenue for Friends is now available through AmazonSmile. Amazon, one of the largest online retailers, will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to charitable organizations. When you sign up for AmazonSmile, you will be asked to select one of over a million charities. Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. Please consider using AmazonSmile when making purchases with this online retailer for the benefit of Friends of Havenwoods. Included with this newsletter is a flyer with details about the program, including how to select "Friends of Havenwoods, Inc." as the charity for your purchases.

Potawatomi Heart of Canal Street winnings.

You've probably heard that Friends was one of 30 nonprofit organizations that received \$35,800 in the random drawing by the Potawatomi Hotel and Casino "Heart of Canal Street" charity. An additional amount was won by Debbie Rasoli and Betty Volbrecht who volunteered to be our "official charity players", winning \$3,000 playing bingo on the evening of the announcement. Our thanks to Debbie and Betty for being there to represent Friends.

Changes in the news. There have been many changes implemented and more are proposed for the Dept. of Natural Resources and the Bureau of Parks and Recreation Management. In 2015, the Legislature removed the State

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.



Cathy Harrison, along with Rachel Jones and Judy Dollhausen, attended the announcement of the grand total of winnings of \$1.17 million.

Park System from general purpose funding and increased park entrance and camping fees. The 2017-19 proposed state budget includes another increase in fees for some parks. Other proposals include changing environmental regulations, eliminating the Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine, changing fee structures to boost revenue, reassigning staff, and allowing the purchase of park stickers when registering vehicles.

Amidst these changes and proposals, many have indicated their show of support and concern. Ben Bergey, director of the Parks bureau, acknowledged the impact of the 80+ Friends groups in discussing the DNR alignment initiatives rolled out last November. Bill Zager, president of Friends of Wisconsin State Parks (FWSP), indicated in a December letter to Friends groups that FWSP representatives met with state DNR leaders to show support for the alignment and "...to work alongside Wisconsin parks to create the best possible park system now and in the future." FWSP has embarked on a major public fundraising and engagement effort in order to preserve, promote, protect, and enhance Wisconsin's beautiful state parks, forests, trails, and recreation areas. See their website, www.fwsp.org, for details on this effort and other initiatives and concerns regarding what's ahead for Wisconsin's state parks.

Now that the proposed State Budget is before the legislature, please take some time to keep abreast of these proposals and let your legislators know about your ideas and concerns, to keep our state parks, forests, trails, and other natural areas the jewels that they are for our state.

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

Friends of Havenwoods

Board of Directors

President: Judy Dollhausen
Vice President: Diane Warner
Secretary: Rachel Jones
Treasurer: Ron Hayes
Board Members: Cathy Harrison, Dennis Kaehny, George Morrison, Gaylord Yost

The next board meeting will be held on April 11 at 6:30 pm. All members are invited to attend Board meetings.

Mystery Photos!

by Beth Mittermaier, Conservation Biologist

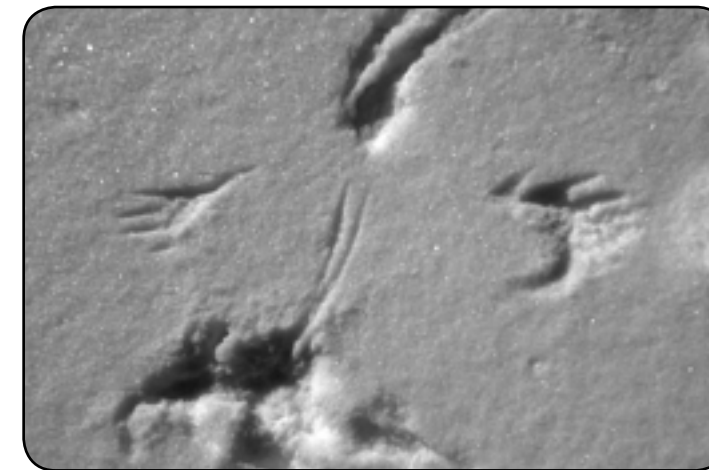
Mystery Photo #29 (the new mystery)

Take a hike through the cattails and willows around the pond south of the nature center, and you will likely find a few oddly-shaped piles of mud with small holes in the centers. Drop a small pebble in one hole and listen carefully. Did you hear anything? Stay tuned for the rest of the story!



Answer to Last Issue's Mystery

I admit it; I love to find wingprints in the snow. Sometimes they are just exquisite! After the artist in me wonders at the detail and symmetry, the scientist takes over and tries to figure out who left the prints and what was happening.

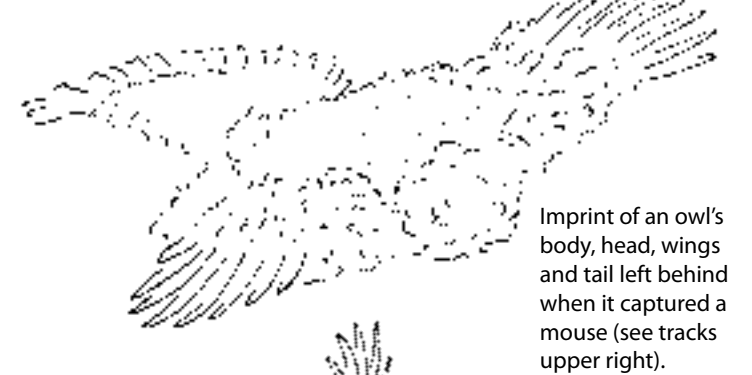


However, I've decided that wingprints alone can rarely identify the bird that made them. Think of all the variables—How big is the bird? How far are the wings

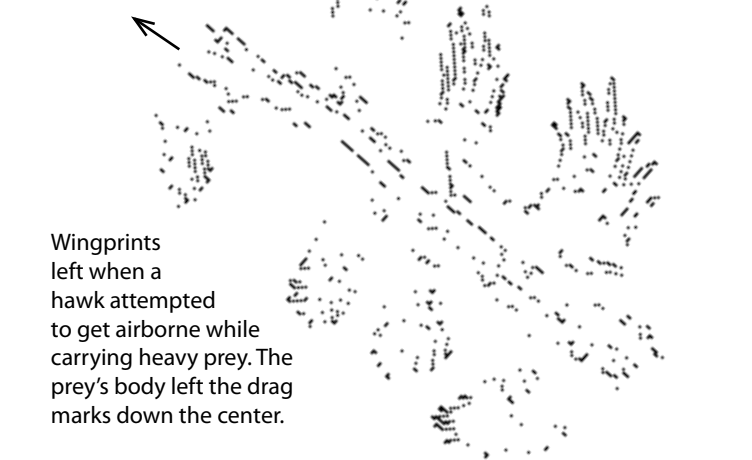
extended? What is the angle of the bird's flight path? Is it taking off or landing? Is it carrying prey?

There are only two ways to try to identify the bird. One is to look around for other clues, for example, bird tracks, tracks of other animals, scat (droppings), feathers or fur, and the surrounding habitat. The other way is to watch the bird make the prints!

Even if you don't know exactly which bird left the prints, you can still try to figure out what happened. Here are a couple of wingprint mysteries with possible solutions.

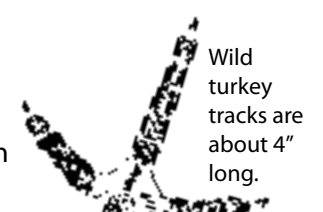


Imprint of an owl's body, head, wings and tail left behind when it captured a mouse (see tracks upper right).

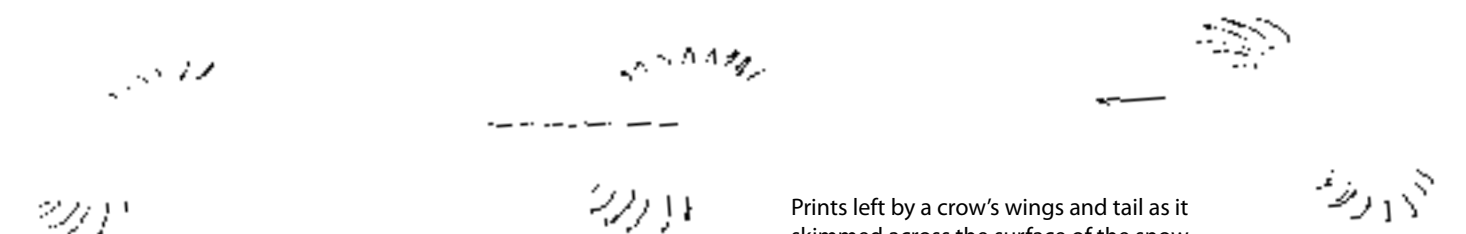


Wingprints left when a hawk attempted to get airborne while carrying heavy prey. The prey's body left the drag marks down the center.

Whether you track the birds at your bird feeder or follow wild turkeys through the woods, watch for wingprints, tracks, and other signs they leave behind. I always take a camera and a notebook when out for a hike. In the warmth of my home, I use Mark Elbroch's **Bird Tracks & Signs** to help solve the mysteries that I find.



Wild turkey tracks are about 4" long.



Prints left by a crow's wings and tail as it skimmed across the surface of the snow.



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>.

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>

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