

Spring 2018

# Horizons

## The Voice of Friends of Havenwoods

### From the President

**Wisconsin State Park System Updates.** Several new efforts are being launched to enhance the operations and aesthetics at state park system properties and expand recreation expertise and service opportunities to all DNR properties. You can join other Friends members for a conference call on March 15 from 1 - 3 pm to learn more about the changes and opportunities that come with the 2017-2019 state budget, alignment initiatives, and other park program updates. If you would like to participate, contact the nature center (414-527-0232) by March 10, and we will make arrangements to be part of this discussion.

**2018 Buds 'n Sprouts Kids' Garden.** The gardening season will be coming up before we know it. Plans are in progress to recruit a garden coordinator for this summer's program as Laura Spencer left to take a full-time position. We wish her the best in her new position. Again, we need your donations to support the garden program for inner city children to learn all about gardens. Checks can be made to FOH and sent to Havenwoods with "Buds 'n Sprouts" in the memo line.

**Do you knit?** Thanks to Bernie Pilak (Barbara's mom), our sales counter has offered hand-knitted slippers for sale. Bernie has been knitting these beautiful and colorful items for many years, and she is ready to retire! If you are a knitter and would be willing to donate the yarn and

your time, we have the patterns so you can knit away. Send me an email (jadollh@gmail.com) or call me (414-357-6731), and I'll get you a pattern, or you can use one of your favorites.

**Havenwoods State Forest Endowment.** Our Endowment fund with the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin has grown over the past six years. The Fund was created in 2012 with an initial amount of \$10,000, and, with the donations received, it is \$12,991 as of December 31, 2017. Thanks to all donors for helping to create this legacy for Havenwoods.

**Nature is a Gift, Use it Often**

Judy Dollhausen (jadollh@gmail.com)

### FOH Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be held on April 10 at 6 pm. All members are invited to attend Board meetings.

### 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](http://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](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-1223748)>

**amazon**smile

# From the Superintendent

by Judy Klippel

As you may know, last spring John McGivern and his production crew visited us. They came to do some videotaping for the Havenwoods community episode of *Around the Corner with John McGivern*. It was great fun having them here. John was as funny and warm and engaging in person as he is on TV and on stage.

The finished episode aired on public television on February 1.

The program opens with McGivern and John Gurda meeting on a Havenwoods trail. Gurda tells the story of how this state forest came to be created in the city. Later in the program, McGivern meets with Beth Mittermaier to learn how people use the Forest, and we see Master Gardeners, Buds 'n Sprouts kids, a school group, and adult hikers engaged in activities. Beth concludes by saying one of our goals is to help everyone

“connect with nature right where you are”, a wonderful summary of why Havenwoods is here.

During the episode McGivern visits 16 community locations (43rd Street to 76th Street and Silver Spring to Good Hope). I found out about places I didn't know about and got a closer look at others I see every day. Did you know that *Dang! That's Good* soda is made in our neighborhood? that Walthers model trains are made and sold here? or that Job Corps provides a residential training program for young people in six trades? It's a fascinating neighborhood.

We were so pleased to tell people about the state forest through the program. You can watch the Havenwoods episode or any episode of the show anytime online. Just Google “Around the Corner with John McGivern/Watch episodes”.



At the show preview, Master Gardeners get a photo op with John McGivern and his cardboard cutout brother, Mike.

## We're Rooting for You, Laura

It is tough to say good-bye to departing staff. Laura Spencer, a naturalist here for five years, left at the end of February. She has taken a full time job at Land Works as a client service representative, in which she will use her landscape design knowledge and skills.

Laura was a full time landscape designer when she decided to come here in 2013. She felt a draw towards outdoor education that couldn't be fulfilled in her landscaping work. We gave her plenty of opportunities to satisfy that need here!

Laura taught in our school and family programs, and she developed and conducted adult programs. Her wild edibles programs have been especially popular. She also has been very involved in training new naturalists each year. Most of our volunteers and Friends members think of Laura in her role as the coordinator and naturalist for Buds 'n Sprouts, our kids gardening program. She has been a perfect fit for that program and has helped hundreds of city kids learn to get excited about growing their food.

Fortunately, Laura's new job is keeping her in Milwaukee, and we will still see her occasionally.



# Mystery Photos!

by Beth Mittermaier, Conservation Biologist

## Mystery Photo #33 (the new mystery)

The snow will be melting soon. And, as it melts, it will reveal several months worth of hidden activity.



Jim Barton, 2010 / CC BY-SA 2.0

Take a hike at Havenwoods as it is melting, and you will find an abundance of scat (animal droppings) and mazes of tiny tunnels through the grass. Who left those little runways?

## Answer to Last Issue's Mystery

The mystery tree is a hawthorne—a lovely tree all year long that shows off when snow is caught on its abundant horizontal branches. Snow really helps highlight the different ways that trees grow—from cone-shaped spruce

trees to egg-shaped maples to weeping willows. A trained eye can often identify a tree just by the overall shape and pattern of the branches.



It's interesting to compare the growth of trees to the growth of animals. For example, think about gray squirrels. Sometimes you see a black (melanistic) or white (albino) gray squirrel, but usually you have no trouble identifying a gray squirrel by size, color, and shape. Trees are very different. Trees have indeterminate growth. That means that trees grow continually from the tips of every branch and root **and** between the bark and the wood. As a result, tree shapes can be impacted by external influences throughout their lives, resulting in strange trees and wonderful mysteries.

I probably shouldn't be allowed to drive a car. It's not because I'm always on my cellphone or eating. It's because I'm always gaping, scanning for hawks, identifying roadside invasives, and trying to figure out why a tree grew a certain way.

I love those big oaks that grow all by themselves in a field. With no competition from other trees for sunlight, they spread out extravagantly. That same oak tree would have grown up tall and slender in a woods.



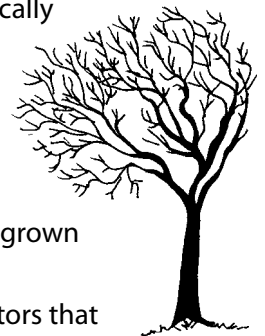
Next time you are at Havenwoods, take a hike down to the woods in the southeast corner. At some point (probably the early 1950s), the woods in this area was thinned and made into a picnic spot. The trees growing here at that time grew out, reaching for the sun. It wasn't until early in the 1970s that the area was allowed to go wild again. When you study this woods today, you notice three things. One, there are scattered large, old trees



whose lower branches spread out rather than up. Two, there are no medium-sized trees. Three, the young trees don't have lower branches; they are growing up, reaching for the sun. While you are there, look along the edges of the woods. Can you see how

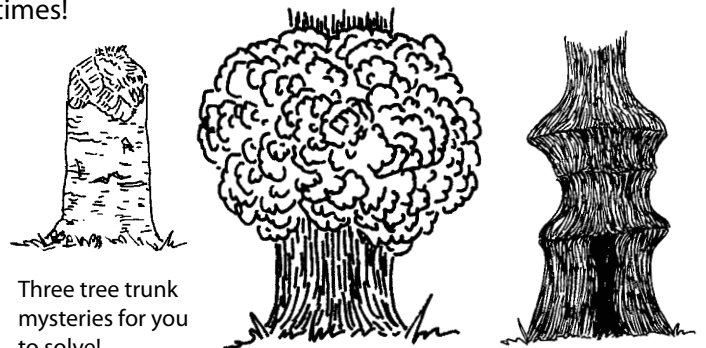
the trees completely change their growth patterns? The sides of the trees facing the sun are full of branches while the sides facing the woods are practically bare.

In addition to the sun changing the way a tree can grow, you also need to think about wind. Look at trees in the open. Notice how the side protected from prevailing winds has grown fuller over the years?



Of course, there are a lot of other factors that can come into play here. Rainfall, soil nutrients, and topography influence tree growth. And, damage to the tree caused by herbivores, insects, diseases, storms, people, and fire can change the way a tree grows, especially if those things happen early in the tree's life.

So . . . get out there and enjoy trees in all seasons, but, if you are driving, try to keep one eye on the road at all times!



Three tree trunk mysteries for you to solve!

## 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)>.



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

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## Friends of Havenwoods Membership

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### Individual Memberships

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

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Please send your membership check to:

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