

Summer 2016

Horizons

The Voice of Friends of Havenwoods

From the President

It's been a long wait for spring and warm weather even though this past winter was not as cold or snowy as we've had in recent times. On April 30, I joined others for a walk through the Forest with Laura, one of the naturalists, to see some spring ephemeral plants (I learned that new word "ephemeral," meaning one marked by short life cycles) that are coming up in the forest. I would have walked by many of these plants thinking they were weeds, e.g., garlic mustard, if Laura had not pointed them out.

Friends of Wisconsin State Parks (FWSP). 2016 is the 20th year for FWSP serving as the umbrella organization of 81 local Friends chapters working in the state parks, forests, trails, and recreation areas. FWSP is headed by a board of directors with nine Board members and an outreach coordinator. Further information on this organization and their activities can be found at www.fwsp.org. The website has information about the Gold

Seal winning properties to help you plan trips to see the highlights of these special parks, trails, and recreation areas. As budget constraints are hitting the state park properties, they need our support more than ever. Our parks are an important part of Wisconsin's natural heritage. Public visitation of these parks helps make a huge financial impact on our state's economy.

Buds 'n Sprouts Garden. Laura Spencer will be coordinating the kids' garden program again this summer. She will be opening the garden on June 3 and 4, so if you have an hour or so to turn a few shovels of dirt and pull some weeds, please come anytime between 10 am and 3 pm. This summer Havenwoods is partnering with the Brown Deer Elementary School, so Laura will be working as a paraprofessional employee during their summer school, splitting the day in the morning at BD Elementary's garden and at Havenwoods garden in the afternoon.

Demonstration Gardens. Our thanks to the UW-Extension Master Gardeners for maintaining the Heritage Gardens and Naturalist's Backyard. If you get a chance, please thank them for their support for many, many years. They have been a valuable resource to Havenwoods.

FOH Bylaws and Member Brochure. The bylaws have been amended with the new member fees and the revised committee structure. Also the FOH brochure has been revised. Our thanks to Direct Supply, 6767 N. Industrial Road, Milwaukee, for printing the brochure. Copies of both items are available at the FOH sales counter.

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, Lorraine Schlut, Gaylord Yost

The next board meeting will be held on July 12 at 6:30 pm. All members are invited to attend Board meetings.

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

Wildlife specialists, park staff, and volunteers from the Southeast Region and Lapham Peak burned about 20 acres of prairie on top of the landfill.



From the Superintendent

by Judy Klippel

For at least the past decade, we've seen explosive growth of invasive plants in the Forest. Staff and volunteers have worked hard to get ahead of the spread of these plants in order to protect the native species. Every year we get help from the community in this work. This spring, students from UWM, Carmen Middle School, and Hope Christian High School are helping to remove teasel and garlic mustard along with our staff and FOH members. We will continue to accept help with invasives throughout the growing season. If you and your family or group are interested in helping remove invasives, call me at the center and we will set up a date!

Controlled burns are a great tool in helping to control invasive plants. Early in May, we were fortunate to have a burn on about 20 acres of prairie west of Lincoln Creek.

Havenwoods State Forest

Endowment Fund

Thank you to recent donors: Sue Blaustein, Melissa Cook, Cheri Briscoe, John Heywood, Horace Palmer, Trudy Symonik, Al & Betty Siemsen, Rozanne Screven, Mary Terranova & Bruce Bartelt, Dennis Kaehny, Rachel Jones, Judy Dollhausen, Annie Salmona, Leslie & Roxann Lucas, Bridget Ciurlik, Gaylord Yost, Lee & Leslie Hanrihar.

Please consider a contribution with a gift of cash and/or other assets. Contact Judy Dollhausen at jadollh@gmail.com for more information.

Weather conditions and availability of the burn crew are always deciding factors for conducting a burn, so it had been six years since our last one. Last month, everything fell into place. A crew of nine experienced staff burned the site in about 90 minutes. A lot of invasives and dead plant material went up in flames! As summer moves in, come on over and enjoy the benefits of the burn with us as we watch the prairie grasses and flowers grow.

We've been joined by three new staff for the upcoming months. Jamie and Calvin are our new wildlife technicians, and they are leading up our invasives control work. Calvin will also maintain trails, benches, and picnic tables and will be our eyes on the property for any other needs that develop. Nichole is our new visitor services associate. She is working in the office with

me. Nichole is answering phones, making sales, and helping with mailings. When you see Jamie, Calvin, and Nichole, please introduce yourself and let them know how much we all appreciate them being here to help keep Havenwoods growing.

Help Grow Tomatoes & Kids!

It's going to take \$6650 to run the Buds 'n Sprouts summer kids' garden program this year. We already have \$3430. Can you help us raise the remaining \$3220?

Make your check out to FOH and send it to Havenwoods. Put "Buds 'n Sprouts" on the memo line. You can also stop by to contribute by credit card, check, or cash.



New Members

Welcome to the following new members: Melissa Cook, Sue Blaustein, Calvin Gander, Barb & Ken Wardins, and Joseph Devereaux (a new lifetime member).

Mystery Photos!

by Beth Mittermaier, Conservation Biologist

Mystery Photo #27 (the new mystery)

This is one of those times when a photo cannot tell the whole story! This nest woven in, around, and of cattails was amazing. Who made it? How long did it take? Check the next Horizons for more information.



Answer to Last Issue's Mystery

In the last issue, I shared that I had seen butterflies flying at Havenwoods every month of the year except December. I can still remember the first time that I saw a butterfly soaring over the snow. I was a kid in southern Ohio. It was a warm February day. A few weeks earlier, a nasty ice storm had knocked down tree branches and power lines. I was helping my dad fix fences along the part of our land that bordered a woods. We were pulling branches off the electric fence that was supposed to keep the cows in the pasture and restringing the patched barbed wire onto metal posts.



The butterfly was hanging above me from the tip of a broken twig. I remember thinking how impossible it seemed that a dead butterfly could still be in such good shape after a long winter and terrible storm. And then . . . the butterfly fluttered away!

This was, of course, before the Internet. It took me several years of library visits and exploration before I identified the butterfly (a mourning cloak) and unraveled the mysteries of a butterfly that could fly in winter.

If you imagine that all butterflies sip sweet nectar from flowers and die with the first frost, think again. Mourning cloaks, along with other similar butterflies, are equipped with some unusual adaptations.

First, let's consider the sweet nectar. Most butterflies drink nectar from flowers through their straw-like tongues. However, a butterfly cannot rely on flower nectar if it is going to survive a long winter. Mourning cloaks are among the butterflies that use their tongues to suck up tree sap, rotting flesh, poop, sweat, mud, blood, and urine.

Then, there is the problem of the cold. In order to survive the winter, Wisconsin's butterflies must migrate or shelter in place. If they stay, at least one stage of their life cycle must be freeze resistant. Most butterflies survive the winter as caterpillars or pupae. A few overwinter as eggs. Mourning cloaks and related species spend the winter as adults. They shelter in rock crevices or under tree bark, relying on "antifreeze" in their blood to keep them from freezing to death.

Most butterflies have a relatively short life as adults. The exceptions are monarchs (which migrate) and mourning cloaks and relatives (which overwinter). These butterflies can look pretty raggedy after 9 or 10 months! As you hike this summer, watch for the worn-out butterflies from last year and the freshly-emerged butterflies from this spring.



Other butterflies that overwinter as adults at Havenwoods include Question Mark (pictured here), Eastern Comma, and Gray Comma.



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>.



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>

Corporate Supporters

American Tree Experts, Inc.
Ashland Water Technologies
Stano Landscaping
Wm. K. Walthers, Inc., Model Railroad Equipment
Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee

Friends of Havenwoods

Membership

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Amount \$ _____

Individual Memberships

___ Single..... \$15

___ Family \$20

___ Lifetime \$400

Corporate Supporters

___ Annual..... \$100

Please send your membership check to:

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