

Summer 2017

Horizons

The Voice of Friends of Havenwoods

From the President

Around the Corner comes to Havenwoods! Are you familiar with the Milwaukee PBS TV show, *Around the Corner with John McGivern*? The show will be focusing on the Havenwoods Community in one of the episodes next season.

Havenwoods State Forest will be highlighted, and the production crew will be at the Forest on May 30 from 12:45 to 1:45 pm to shoot video. If you can join us on

May 30, call Judy Klippel at 414-527-0232 for further details.



MILWAUKEE
PBS

Spring and Summer Plantings. Lots of plantings will be going on at Havenwoods soon. Two projects will need volunteers: 1) planting flowers at the butterfly garden, the trailhead, and the "Welcome" sign, and 2) getting the Buds 'n Sprouts kids' garden ready. Laura Spencer, the kids' garden coordinator, will be working in the garden on Saturday, May 27, 10 am to 2 pm. If you can come out to help with the garden or plant flowers, please call the Center and let us know when you can be here.

Notes from the FOH Board meeting. At the October meeting, the board made the decision to hold the January meetings on the second Saturday of the month from 9:00 to 10:30 am. The meetings in April, July and October will continue to be held on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. The board also agreed to purchase ID vests for volunteers to wear while working out on the property. Stop in to borrow a vest before you head outside to work.

Are you a golf enthusiast? For the first time ever, the US Open Golf Tournament is coming to Wisconsin's Erin Hills Golf Course in Erin, Wisconsin. The Friends of Wisconsin State Parks (FWSP) is looking for volunteers to work 7-hour shifts at the event under the direction of one of the food vendors. Each volunteer will receive a free pass for the day to see the tournament and a free meal from Ruth's Chris Steak House. FWSP will receive \$7/ volunteer hour. If someone signs up but doesn't show up, FWSP loses the \$7/ hour and the volunteers who do show up will be saddled with the added workload. This a chance of a lifetime and FWSP will get exposure to many potential donors! For further details and to sign up to be a volunteer, go to the FWSP website, www.fwsp.org, and click on the 2017 US Open logo.

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

Friends of Havenwoods

Board Meeting

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

From the Superintendent

by Judy Klippel

We are beginning a new partnership this spring. Havenwoods and six other local nature centers are cooperating with the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) in a pilot education program. MMSD wants to increase the amount of programming available to schools to help kids learn about water resources and water quality. MMSD is facilitating those experiences by reimbursing the nature centers for their teaching costs and the schools for their bus fees. This is an exciting opportunity for more city school kids to experience nature and learn how they can become caretakers of it.

Our staff was asked to provide a program on watersheds. That isn't necessarily an easy concept to understand, and I'm guessing most people don't spend much time thinking about it. But it is critical to understanding the connection between pollutants on the land and the quality of our water. Prime example: Havenwoods is in the Lincoln Creek watershed. Most of the land here drains water into the creek. From there it flows into the Milwaukee River and ultimately into Lake Michigan. And that's where we get our drinking water. Our task is to help fourth and fifth graders to understand and care about that and to think twice about their role in keeping water clean.

During the field trip at Havenwoods, the kids build a model watershed by putting buckets and containers of different sizes on the ground and covering them with a tarp. From their bird's-eye view of the tarp, the kids can see where buckets become hills, depressions become lakes, and creases become rivers. Different colors of Kool-Aid powder sprinkled here and there represent fertilizers, pesticides, oil, and other pollutants. And then the rain comes. First it's just a sprinkle, as kids squirt water with spray bottles. Then they pour rain through milk jugs, and all the water and Kool-Aid rush over land and



When kids dip in the pond and find a variety of aquatic creatures from water snipe fly larva to dragonfly larva to isopods, they discover that diversity equals higher water quality.

through rivers to the lakes. It's quite an image! It's also quite a simplification. But it is a starting place for kids to learn about how water flows across the land and what happens to pollutants.

The kids also scoop with nets in one of the ponds in search of aquatic insects and other invertebrates. They discover that the diversity of species that they find is an indicator of the water quality of the pond. They also look at historical maps of Havenwoods and trace the different uses of the land and water resources here over time. And, finally, they sketch pictures of what they think Havenwoods will look like in the future.

The kids will be part of that future community who will influence the quality of the water that flows into Lake Michigan, which they will drink and bathe in and play in. Like all of our programs, this one is intended to help kids care about nature so they will grow up to take care of it. This reminds me of one of my favorite quotes:

"In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught."

—Baba Dioum, Senegalese forestry engineer, 1968

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.

Mystery Photos!

by Beth Mittermaier, Conservation Biologist

Mystery Photo #30 (the new mystery)

Seeds disperse in several ways. You have probably been the 'victim' of a seed that moves to a new place by sticking to your clothing. And you've probably blown on dandelion puffs and watched maple seeds twirl to the ground. But have you ever seen a seedpod explode? Search for some this summer. I can think of three exploding seeds at Havenwoods, and I will be looking for more. How many can you find? There is a hint in this photo.



Answer to Last Issue's Mystery

Dropping small mud balls in crayfish chimneys was one of my favorite pastimes as a kid. I knew that crayfishes lived in tunnels beneath those odd "chimneys" of mud, but I didn't know that the crayfishes living there were completely different from the crayfishes that I found in the nearby creek.

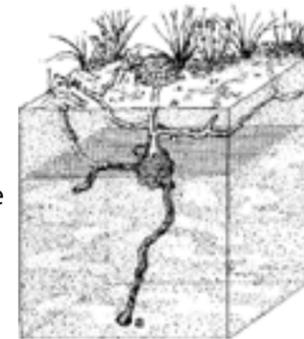


USFWS - CC BY 2.0

All crayfishes have gills and need to live in aquatic habitats. They can leave water and absorb oxygen directly from the air if their gills are moist and the air is humid.

When I dropped those mud balls down chimneys, I always had my ear to the ground, listening for the "plop" when the mud ball hit the water down below. Those chimneys—found in farm fields, meadows, and woods—were the homes of **burrowing crayfishes**.

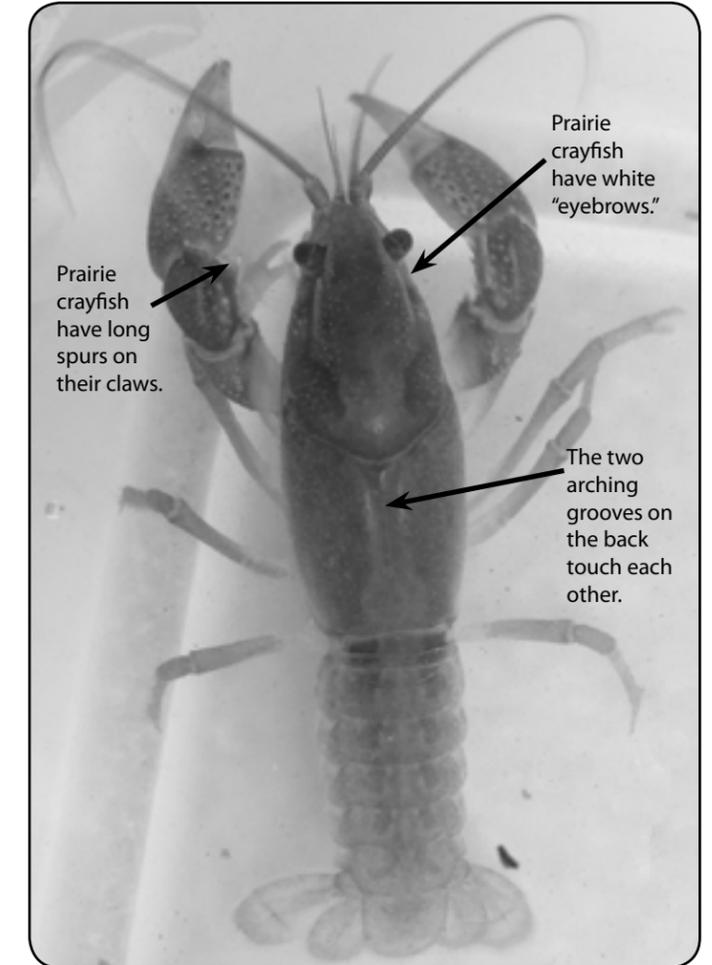
Burrowing crayfishes can live far from permanent water because they create elaborate burrows that can reach almost ten feet underground. These burrowing crayfishes spend almost their entire lives underground, emerging on humid nights to forage for food and in spring and/or fall to mate.



Burrowing crayfishes create elaborate underground tunnels and openings that extend below the water table.

The crayfishes that I searched for in summer in the streams and creeks were **non-burrowing crayfishes**. They can dig burrows, too, but they only do so during times of low water, drought, and cold temperatures.

So far, we have found only one species of crayfish at Havenwoods. It is a burrowing crayfish—the prairie crayfish. You can find their chimneys in the grasslands surrounding the pond to the south of the building.



Prairie crayfish have long spurs on their claws.
Prairie crayfish have white "eyebrows."
The two arching grooves on the back touch each other.

In general, crayfishes are in trouble. They face loss of habitat and the introduction of non-native species (e.g., rusty crayfish). The prairie crayfish is a Special Concern species in Wisconsin. It is found only in southeastern Wisconsin and is one of the rarest crayfish in the state.



Female crayfish carry first the eggs and then the juvenile crayfishes under their tails. This mother crayfish was found on the trail near the pond during a light rain. The mother has curled her tail around the young to protect them.



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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