

Summer 2018

Horizons

The Voice of Friends of Havenwoods

From the President

New Board Members. We welcome two members to the Board, one new, Sheryl Meyer, and one returning, Jim Goetz. Sheryl currently works as a Coordinator in the Volunteer Ombudsman Program of the Wisconsin Board of Aging and Long Term Care. She became aware of Havenwoods when she attended a meeting here and was inspired to join the Board after Judy Klippel spoke at the meeting on the need for new Board members.

"My name is Sheryl Meyer, and I bring with me a deep sense of respect for and love of nature and animals instilled in me at a young age from my parents. I hope to offer the FOH 12 years of practical experience in volunteer engagement, recognition and fundraising. I look forward to meeting and working with all of you soon!"

Jim returns to the Board after previously serving for many years. You can usually find him on Saturdays out on the property. Welcome Jim & Sheryl to the FOH Board.

Focus on Friends. New family members, Michelle & Stuart Gilgannon and their two children, joined the Friends after coming to Havenwoods for the past two years. I recently asked Michelle a few questions:

How did you come to know about the Forest and how long ago did you start to come here? *"My husband came upon information about Havenwoods online while looking for weekend activities and some place to walk with our 2 children. Our first visit was on a Sunday just to walk around the trails. We have been coming to Havenwoods for approximately two years both for informal hikes and more formal activities."*

What do you like to do at the Forest? *"We like to take walks, look for animals outside, and visit the animals inside the building. We have enjoyed a number of guided hikes with the naturalists and done some of the other kids'*

programs as well. This past fall we got to see a large buck and his doe during rut. They were very close to us, and it was a very impressive scene to watch them bound through the dried grass. It was great to witness that right in the middle of the city."

Have you participated in any of the educational programs? *"Yes, we have primarily participated in the family hikes, but would like to do an adult hike sometime in the future. We have come during all four seasons to see how the forest changes throughout the year."*

Tell me a little about your family. *"We have two children, Fia and Derek (10 and 6, respectively). Stuart is an immigration attorney, and I am a professor at Cardinal Stritch University. We really enjoy nature hikes and outdoor activities. Both kids like to learn about animals and we think that having lots of green space, parks and forests in urban areas is very important."*

OutWiGo. Are you a hiker or do you walk your dog at Havenwoods? OutWiGo (pronounced Out-We-Go) is a DNR Parks' statewide initiative encouraging everyone to improve their overall health and wellness by getting out and active in the outdoors. Record your outdoor activity at Havenwoods, or any of the other parks, forests or trails. Visit the DNR website (dnr.wi.gov) and type "OutWiGo" in the Search box to sign the OutWiGo pledge. The goal is for 20,019 participants by 2019. Search and tag photos with #OutWiGo to join others on their journey to a healthier 2018. Once you've taken the pledge, email me at fohpresident@gmail.com, and we'll add you to the list of Havenwoods participants that will be displayed at the FOH counter.

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

From the Superintendent

by Judy Klippel

The nature center is noisy again as school classes are in and out during their field trips. The land has finally greened up, and I occasionally hear the mower humming. Master Gardeners have mulched their plots and are just waiting for a dry sunny day to start planting. On our busiest days, there are nine of us staff members here to carry on with the tasks of providing a safe, enjoyable, and educational place for people to visit. It's good to be back in the routine of the busy seasons.

Three new naturalists have joined us. Welcome to Kali Hoefert, Haley Marzolf, and Liz Van Duyn. Kali also works at Hawthorn Glen Outdoor Education Center, and Haley recently returned from 18 months in the Peace Corps in Paraguay. They are conducting field trips for school and youth groups. Liz comes to us with a strong background in organic gardening, and she is the new coordinator of the Buds and Sprouts program. All three bring with them energy and enthusiasm for teaching kids.



Green Heron © Basar (CC BY-SA 3.0)

Birds & More!

This is a great time of year to get outside and watch birds, dragonflies, butterflies, turtles, and everything! Depending on the weather, every day is different. Last week birders found two green herons sitting in trees, herp watchers found red-bellied snakes, and butterfly watchers keep waiting for the first Monarch. What have you seen in the Forest?

Four local kids' groups are scheduled for the Buds 'n Sprouts program this year. We would love to get some help with weeding and watering when the kids aren't here. We also need someone to prepare the snacks for each group (mostly chopping and slicing). Please call the center if you are interested.

Jesse and Sarah are back from last year, and I am so happy to have them here, caring for the land, maintaining trails, planting tree seedlings, and hunting down invasives. They are always ready to work with volunteers. If you want to help them with seedlings or invasives, call the center. We have been fortunate this spring to have help from the following so far: Friends board members, Sierra Club members, students from Carmen High School, and park users.

Whether to walk or to volunteer, come visit Havenwoods soon, and enjoy all the freshness and promise that spring has brought to the Forest.

Friends of Havenwoods

Board of Directors

President: Judy Dollhausen

Vice President: Diane Warner

Secretary: Rachel Jones

Treasurer: Ron Hayes

Board Members: Jim Goetz, Cathy Harrison, Dennis Kaehny, Sheryl Meyer, George Morrison, Gaylord Yost

The next board meeting will be held on July 10 at 6:00 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>

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>

amazonsmile

Mystery Photos!

by Beth Mittermaier, Conservation Biologist

Mystery Photo #34 (the new mystery)

While I was waiting for spring to arrive, I was remembering all the beautiful green plants that would soon be growing all over Havenwoods. For some reason, I began to focus on the plants with "big," "large," "tall," and "giant" in their names. I counted 37 at Havenwoods! How many can you come up with? Which is the biggest? How big could "big mouse-eared chickweed" really be? Tune in next season!



One of our BIG grasses will bloom in August.

Answer to Last Issue's Mystery

Last season, I challenged you to figure out who was making all those little runways and tunnels in the grass. I ventured out on an icy day in late February to photograph the maze in my own backyard.

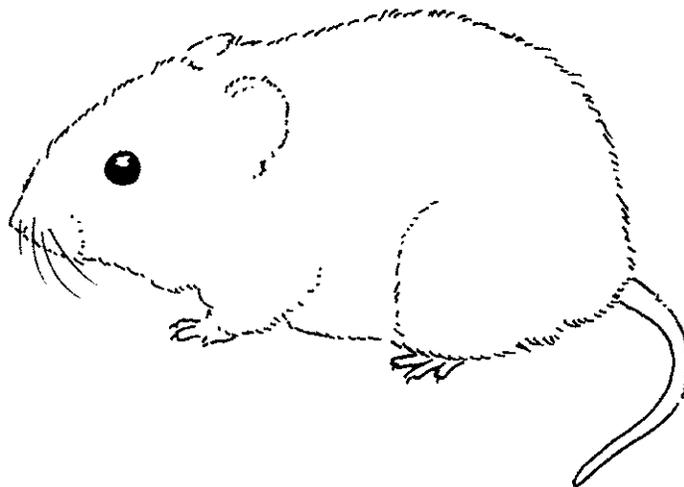


I didn't see the mastermind behind the intricate pathways on that day, but I've seen little meadow voles on other days. They pop up out of the snow next to the bird feeder. And, occasionally, they sun themselves on the rock wall.

If you find an opening in the grass that is no bigger than 1½" in diameter, pull the grasses away and follow the tunnel you have exposed. You will learn a lot about the critter that made it. The first thing you will notice is that maintaining a network of tunnels is a homeowner's nightmare. During the growing season, voles must

constantly nip off the plants along the bottom and sides of their tunnels in order to keep the paths open! Of course, they eat plants . . . so maybe it isn't so bad after all.

Along the runways, you will find scattered droppings. And, at intersections, you might find piles of droppings. If you are brave and flexible enough to bend down and smell the runway, you might pick up the scent of urine. Both the urine and scat are targeted communications, telling other voles volumes of information (e.g., territory boundaries, sex of the owner, and readiness to mate).



If you are intrigued enough to look closely at the individual scats (droppings), you might notice two different kinds of droppings. One is soft and lighter in color. The other is darker and quite dense. Voles (along with rabbits) are coprophagous. Basically, this means that they eat their own scat! Plants are tough to break down and digest. By eating their own droppings, they run the plant materials through their digestive system twice in order to extract all the nutrients and vitamins.

If you are lucky, you will find a nest as you follow a runway. Sometimes nests are right under the ground, but often you will find them under a rock or log or inside a large tuft of grass. There are two kinds of nests. Smaller nests are made by solitary voles. But if you find a nest made of fine grass that is a 6" to 8" sphere, it is probably the nest of a mother vole.

Female voles can become pregnant when they are only 3 weeks old. They live 2 to 3 months, and they have 2 to 3 litters during that time. Females are rarely alone!



Newborn voles are hairless, blind, and deaf. They are weaned at about 2½ weeks and are on their own at 3 weeks.



Friends of Havenwoods, Inc.
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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>

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