

Winter 2016-17

Horizons

The Voice of Friends of Havenwoods

From the President

The leaves have fallen, the squirrels have buried their winter food supply, the ducks have left town for warmer climates, winter will be upon us soon. I know it's coming....snow, winds, and all that goes with a Wisconsin winter. Speaking of snow, if you know how to use a snowblower or a less-mechanical device "shovel", the center can use your help to clean sidewalks when the snows do come. Also when you're at the Forest spending time outside on a Saturday, stop in at the center on "hot chocolate Saturdays" for a cuppa hot chocolate or hot tea compliments of Friends during January and February.

Potawatomi "Heart of Canal Street" Random Drawing.

The second time around turned out to be a charm for us. Rachel Jones and I attended the drawing at Potawatomi on November 29. When the second organization picked was announced as "Friends of Havenwoods", needless to say we were elated as only 20 of the 150 qualifying organizations are chosen in the random drawing. We will not know how much we will receive until December 16 at the Heart of Canal Street Finale Dinner when an announcement will be made of the grand total. At this time, we can win additional monies during the Finale Bingo Session by having two official charity players play bingo. Two of the Finale Bingo Session games will award \$3,000 to a HOCS charity for a total of \$6,000 that night. If you've been to Potawatomi to play bingo or play at other locations, or know someone who does, you can help us that evening by being our "official charity players". Official players must check in between 5:00 and 5:30 pm in order to be allowed to play. Call me (414-357-6731) or email me (jadollh@gmail.com) by December 8 if you would like to be our official charity players. We will get you additional information on these two games.

Buds 'n Sprouts Garden Closeout. Over the summer, 52 children and 8 adults participated in the garden program. FOH received \$3,420 and Havenwoods State Forest received \$1380 in donations to cover the expenses for materials and the naturalist's salary for another year of the garden. Over 480 pounds of fresh produce from the garden was donated to Agape Community Center food pantry. To quote one of the chaperones in the program:

... The 8 members couldn't be more excited every week when it was time to go to "gardening club." They would check in all morning asking if it was time yet. . . Some had to adjust to being in a garden with bugs and critters, as they never had been. They learned about new plants they had never learned of before and the techniques needed to grow plants successfully. The most rewarding part was being able to enjoy a fresh treat from the garden or fresh vegetables provided by Havenwoods . . .

From one of the young participants:

Thanks for (all) you done for us, keeping us healthy with good food . . . It's hard to pull (weeds) when it's hot outside.

In Memorium. Stano Landscaping has been a long-time corporate supporter of Friends. It is with sadness that we note that Matt Stano, president of Stano Landscaping, passed away on October 8. Our sympathies to his family and employees on their loss.

Membership Reminder. There are a number of members who have not renewed. If you are one of these, a reminder will be on the front of your newsletter. We really need all of you, so we look forward to hearing from you.

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

From the Superintendent

by Judy Klippel

Visitor services is an enjoyable and rewarding part of our jobs at the Forest. Our visitors come from across the street, across the city, and even across the state. And they come for a variety of reasons. Here's a sampling.

Many of our long-term visitors are committed nature watchers who are in search of birds, butterflies, mammals, native plants, and more. It's exciting to hear about their findings. Their information is so important to helping us keep our species records up to date.

Some of our first-time visitors aren't used to parks that aren't mowed and don't have paved trails. They may ask us what kinds of wildlife live here and whether they need to be concerned about any animals attacking them. We're glad to share information that can help them enjoy their experience.

Occasionally young adults come into the center and tell us they first visited Havenwoods as school kids on field trips 20 or 25 years ago. Some ask if we can tell them where they can find the trees they planted. That's kind of challenging to answer.

Former employees stop in and share their stories of how their lives have changed since they worked here – marriage and families, careers in or out of natural resources, and new homes far away. This always sets me to thinking how the years have flown since we worked with them.

Veterans who visit usually know some of the property's history. I am always eager to provide impromptu slideshows about Havenwoods' military history for them, and they share their fascinating stories of their time in service to our country.

Families drop in to find out what there is to do, to borrow nets and magnifiers, and sometimes to take Smokey Bear along on their hikes. Little kids quickly figure out how this huge building can magnify their little voices. Once we tell families about the gigantic building blocks available to kids in the mezzanine, we start to see them again and again.

An increasing number of visitors are here for meetings or events that aren't directly connected to a nature experience. Usually they express surprise at finding a state forest in the city. Or they comment on what a peaceful place it was for their meetings and breaks. We hope that inspires them to come back sometime.

Of course there are lots of other visitors too, from local workers on their breaks, to joggers, and to those whose opening line is "I always wondered what this place was." Well, please let us tell you about it...

What's your story? What can you share about your experiences here, your memories of the land, of your ideas for its future? Next time you visit, stop at the counter to visit.

Park Stickers

Annual stickers are valid from the date of purchase through December 31, 2017. "One Hour" and "Daily" passes are available at most properties.



Wisconsin License Plates	\$28
Additional Vehicle(s) to same household.....	\$15.50
Wisconsin Senior (65+).....	\$13
Out-of-State License Plates.....	\$38
Additional Vehicle(s) to same household.....	\$20.50
Trail Pass.....	\$25

Friends of Havenwoods

Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be held on January 10 at 6:30 pm. All members are invited to attend Board meetings.

Thank you

We would like to acknowledge donors to Friends of Havenwoods for various projects at Havenwoods State Forest. Donations as of October 2016.

Cheri Brisco	Leslie & Roxann Lucas
Judy Dollhausen	George Morrison
Elmbrook Garden Club	Horace Palmer
Don Fellin	Lorraine Schlut
Jim Goetz	Betty & Al Siemsen
Cathy Harrison	Carolyn Stuessy
Dominic Lancour	Janice Watkins
Memorial Fund	Kathleen Zeiger

HSF Endowment donations as of Fall 2016

Bruce Bartelt	Dennis Kaehny
Christine Buch	Leslie & Roxann Lucas
Bridget Cirulik	Annie Salmona
Jim & Judy Dollhausen	Betty & Al Siemsen
Lee & Leslie Hanrihar	Trudy Symonik
John Heywood	Mary Terranova

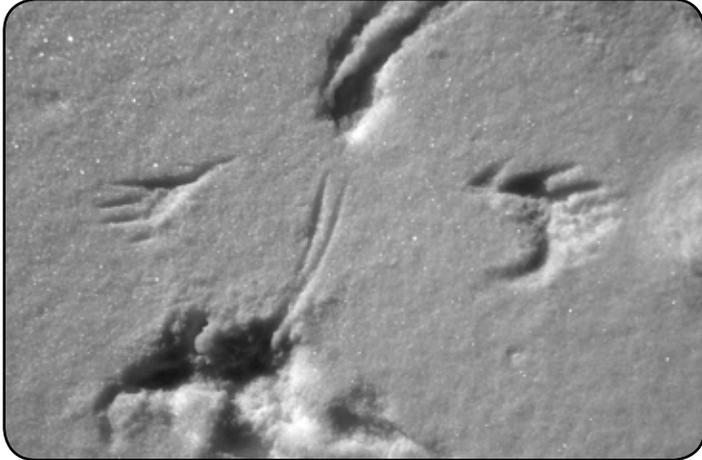
Please let us know if we missed anyone so we can acknowledge all donations. Thank you.

Mystery Photos!

by Beth Mittermaier, Conservation Biologist

Mystery Photo #29 (the new mystery)

Snow cover brings new mysteries! One of the things that I really like about snow is that it can tell us which animals were active while we were sleeping. It can also capture and preserve a record of what animals do when people aren't around. This winter look for wingprints in the snow. How much can you learn about the birds that left them?



Answer to Last Issue's Mystery

The Fall *Horizons* featured a photo of a young tree with shredded bark. Did you recognize this wildlife sign as a buck rub?

To fully understand what happened here, we first need to understand social media. For people, social media is the use of websites and applications that enable users to create and share information or to participate in social networking (e.g., Facebook and Twitter).

Social media is nothing new for whitetail deer! They have been sharing information and networking for centuries. Instead of smart phones, they use trees, soil, and twigs. Instead of tweets and posts, they use saliva, urine, and complicated scents. One could argue that the information deer share is much more important than most of the information shared by people!

Our story starts anew each spring when the hours of daylight begin to increase. The lengthening days trigger the hormones responsible for antler development. Antlers are incredible, growing by as much as 1/2" in one day! All spring and summer, fuzzy skin (velvet) covers the growing antlers. The velvet supplies blood, containing oxygen and nutrients, to the growing antlers. By early fall, the antlers are fully grown. In mid-September, the velvety skin is no longer needed. It dries up and begins to fall off.

The fastest way for bucks to remove the dried velvet is to rub their antlers on trees. Bucks prefer trees that are about 1" to 3" in diameter with smooth bark. You can find

these 'rubs' in mid-September. If you look closely, you might find pieces of dried velvet or blood stains.

However, removing the velvet doesn't take very long, and it doesn't explain the extensive and repeated damage to trees during the breeding season. This is where whitetail social media and networking come into play.

Most rubs are made by the dominant male in the area. As it rubs the tree, the buck exposes the lighter-colored inner bark, making the rub very visible to us and to other deer. As it thrashes about, the buck is also sending auditory messages to other deer. However, we can't see or hear the **real** message because our noses just don't work that well.

As the buck rubs, it deposits scent from its forehead glands on the shredded bark. These scents have double meanings. To younger bucks, the scents say, "This is my territory. The does are my does. Back off." The chemicals in the scent actually suppress the sex drives of younger males. To does, the scent says, "Get ready, honey," because the chemicals also help to synchronize the breeding readiness of does.

Rubs aren't the only places that deer communicate these social messages. Bucks also make scrapes by pawing the ground and creating spots of bare soil. Then the bucks urinate on the scrapes. They stand so that their urine flows over glands on their hind legs, leaving more scent and more information.

Does also use social media. They communicate their readiness to breed by frequent urination. Their urine is filled with messages for bucks. There are some theories that these messages cause the bucks to produce even more testosterone.

When the excitement has faded, the bucks' testosterone levels fade, too. As a result, the cells at the base of the antlers change, and the antlers fall off. The resulting scars take a few weeks to heal, and then the process of antler growth starts over. Another year . . . another chance for deer to network.





Friends of Havenwoods, Inc.
6141 North Hopkins Street
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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>

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

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Amount \$ _____

Individual Memberships

___ Single..... \$15

___ Family \$20

___ Lifetime \$400

Corporate Supporters

___ Annual..... \$100

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