

Winter 2017-18

Horizons

The Voice of Friends of Havenwoods

From the President

Friends of Wisconsin State Parks (FWSP). I was able to attend the FWSP 2017 Annual Awards Banquet held in Green Bay on November 4. Friends groups were invited to attend and provide displays of their work at their State Parks facilities. It was encouraging to see that other Friends' groups around the state are working to provide resources, similar to what FOH does, to support these special places around our state.

Friends
of Wisconsin State Parks



Award winners in 16 categories, were announced at the banquet, including:

- Best State Park for star gazing—Newport
- Best State Park family beach area—Whitefish Dunes
- Outstanding Friends group—Yellowstone Lake

The Photography Contest winners were announced for photos that are in the 2018 calendar published by FWSP. Calendars will be included in the Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine in December. If you have a special photograph that was taken at Havenwoods, consider submitting it for the 2019 calendar. Contact me for details.

Grant Opportunities. There are many opportunities for grants for nonprofit organizations, such as FOH, to provide funds for maintenance of trails, work on state properties, connect students and teachers with outdoor learning experiences, etc. Some of these are funded by DNR, the Natural Resources Foundation (holder of our Havenwoods Endowment Fund), and other agencies,

both governmental and private. FOH has been successful in obtaining grants as a way to supplement our funds to expand opportunities at Havenwoods. If you have experience in applying for grants or know someone who does, please let me know so we can take advantage of this for furthering our mission and goals.

Hot Chocolate Saturdays. Again in January and February 2018, if you're at Havenwoods for an activity or a hike on a Saturday, stop in the nature center for some hot chocolate or hot tea to warm you up.

FOH Board meeting. Please note that the January Board meetings are now scheduled on the second Saturday at 9 am. Meetings in April, July and October will continue on the second Tuesday and begin at 6 pm. Members are invited to attend all meetings.

AmazonSmile fundraiser. When ordering your holiday presents online, 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

Pick up an AmazonSmile flyer at the FOH counter for more details. Thank you for thinking of Friends when making your purchases this holiday season.

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

From the Superintendent

by Judy Klippel

If you are a user of state-managed parks, forests, and other recreation areas, you probably have your favorite ones and preferred outdoor activities to do at those places. If that sounds like you, the DNR wants to hear from you. What additional outdoor recreation opportunities do you want these special places to offer for you, your children, and grandchildren to enjoy?

The Department has been engaging in a study this year called the Recreation Opportunities Analysis (ROA). Through surveying its recreation users throughout the state, the DNR is documenting what people like to and what they want to see happening in the future.



This information will be a tool to help the DNR with long term planning for the properties it manages. As property master plans come up for review and possible amendment, the planners will consider the recommendations in the ROA. Other factors that will help determine the feasibility of use changes are statutory restrictions and requirements, funding, existing uses, physical and social attributes of the proposed activities, landscape context, and social needs and requests. Final approval for changes to property plans comes from the Natural Resources Board.

There are two ways you can become involved.

You can attend an open house meeting to express your opinion and ask questions. The Milwaukee session will be held Tuesday, December 12, 4 – 7 pm at the Urban Ecology Center (Menomonee Valley branch), 3700 W. Pierce Street, Milwaukee. DNR representatives will be there to listen and record your comments about the Lower Lake Michigan Coastal properties.

The other way to participate is to take the online survey on DNR's website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/RecAnalysis/>. It asks you to check off which properties in southeastern Wisconsin you visit, what activities you engage in, and why you like them. You'll be able to indicate which additional opportunities you think are needed. The survey is available through January 2. Let your voice be heard!

Park Stickers

Annual stickers are valid from the date of purchase through December 31, 2018. "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

Around the Corner!

We've been waiting for this! *Around the Corner with John McGivern*, featuring the Havenwoods community, will air at 7:00 pm on February 1, 2018, on local TV channel 10. In all his episodes, McGivern visits with people in places where they work, live, and play, to give viewers a picture of the spirit of the community. The Havenwoods community ranges from 43rd Street to 76th Street and from Silver Spring Drive to Good Hope Road. McGivern's crew was here in May to tape activities in the Forest.

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.

We are happy to acknowledge the following friends for their contributions to the Endowment Fund.

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|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Christine Buch | Steve & Linda Mary |
| Bridget & Joseph Ciurlik | Kupcho |
| Melissa Cook | Leslie & Roxann Lucas |
| Don Fellin | Annie Salmona |
| Jim Goetz | Trudy Symonik |
| Lee & Leslie Hanrihar | Mary Terranova & Bruce |
| John Heywood | Bartelt |
| Dennis Kaehny | Gaylord & Marlene Yost |

Mystery Photos!

by Beth Mittermaier, Conservation Biologist

Mystery Photo #32 (the new mystery)



I do enjoy winter! Actually, I enjoy seasons . . . spring wildflowers, summer dragonflies, fall colors, and fresh snowfalls. One thing that I look forward to on winter walks is looking at the way snow falls on bare trees and highlights their growth patterns and branch structures. With practice, you can tell a lot about a tree just by observing its winter silhouette. Can you ID this tree?

Answer to Last Issue's Mystery

Now that the leaves have fallen, it is a good time to look for nests. If you find a large, leafy nest at Havenwoods, it probably belongs to a gray squirrel. Large nests made of twigs could be the nests of crows, hawks, or owls, but leafy nests are made by squirrels.

There are four kinds of tree squirrels

in Milwaukee: eastern gray squirrels, fox squirrels, red squirrels, and southern flying squirrels. The only one found regularly at Havenwoods is the gray squirrel.

Most of the year, gray squirrels live alone. The exceptions are mating season, birthing season, and cold snaps. Since they are mostly loners, squirrels build their nests by themselves.



It takes a squirrel about one day to make a nest (or drey). The squirrel begins by nipping small twigs from nearby trees and weaving them to create a circular platform. It continues to add smaller twigs and leaves until it has a solid base. Next, the squirrel uses leafy twigs to create a spherical framework around the base. Finally, it lines the nest with the inner bark from trees, moss, pine needles, and, sometimes, pieces of trash found in the neighborhood.

Next time you spot a squirrel nest, admire it. Nests are not randomly placed in trees. Squirrels usually place them on strong limbs, next to the trunk, or in the crotch of several branches. Living grape vines are sometimes incorporated into the design to increase strength. While squirrel nests may appear haphazard, remember that they can survive wind, rain, and blizzard.

Gray squirrels often have several leafy nests in their small territories. Sometimes they maintain multiple nests in the same tree. I learned one reason for having multiple nests during an internship at a wildlife rehabilitation



Tomfriedel / CC BY 3.0

center. A tree had fallen in a storm, taking with it a squirrel nest. One baby squirrel survived the storm, and it became my job to feed the squirrel every couple of hours, day and night. On a Sunday morning, I dressed for church, fed the baby, caught my ride, and arrived in time. As I sat in the pew, I began to itch. I glanced down and saw small black dots jumping up and down on my wool sweater. I spent the rest of the service trying to discreetly smash fleas! Yes, an infestation of fleas would definitely encourage me to move to a different house!

Of course, fleas and other parasites are not the only reason for building multiple nests. Mother squirrels prepare extra nests so they can move their young if predators threaten or weather changes. Backup nests are sometimes more loosely constructed, allowing better air flow during hot spells.

When winter comes, gray squirrels move into a tree hollow if one is available. If tree dens are not available, they build tighter nests closer to the tree trunk or add extra layers to their leafy dreys. When temperatures really plummet, they share quarters and snuggle up with other squirrels to keep warm.



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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