

Winter 2018-19

Horizons

The Voice of Friends of Havenwoods

From the President

October Snake & Turtle Fest. Many thanks to all who made the Snake and Turtle Fest a great success. Whether you assisted with crafts, worked with food sales, donated to the silent auction, or purchased items—you helped to make it a meaningful event for all who attended.



Retirement of Judy Klippel. After 33 years at Havenwoods that began in 1985, Judy is taking on a new role, that of “retiree.” She has initiated, supported, and witnessed much progress at this urban forest. Judy has worked with over 175 staff and countless volunteers over the years, sharing her passion for environmental education and her knowledge about nature. It would be impossible to add up all the children and adults she has touched. Judy has conducted environmental education classes for teachers, collaborated with community partners, and encouraged the Friends to take an active role in supporting the programs and activities as well as

maintaining the property. We wish her all the best as she takes time to pursue her own interests and spend more time with family.

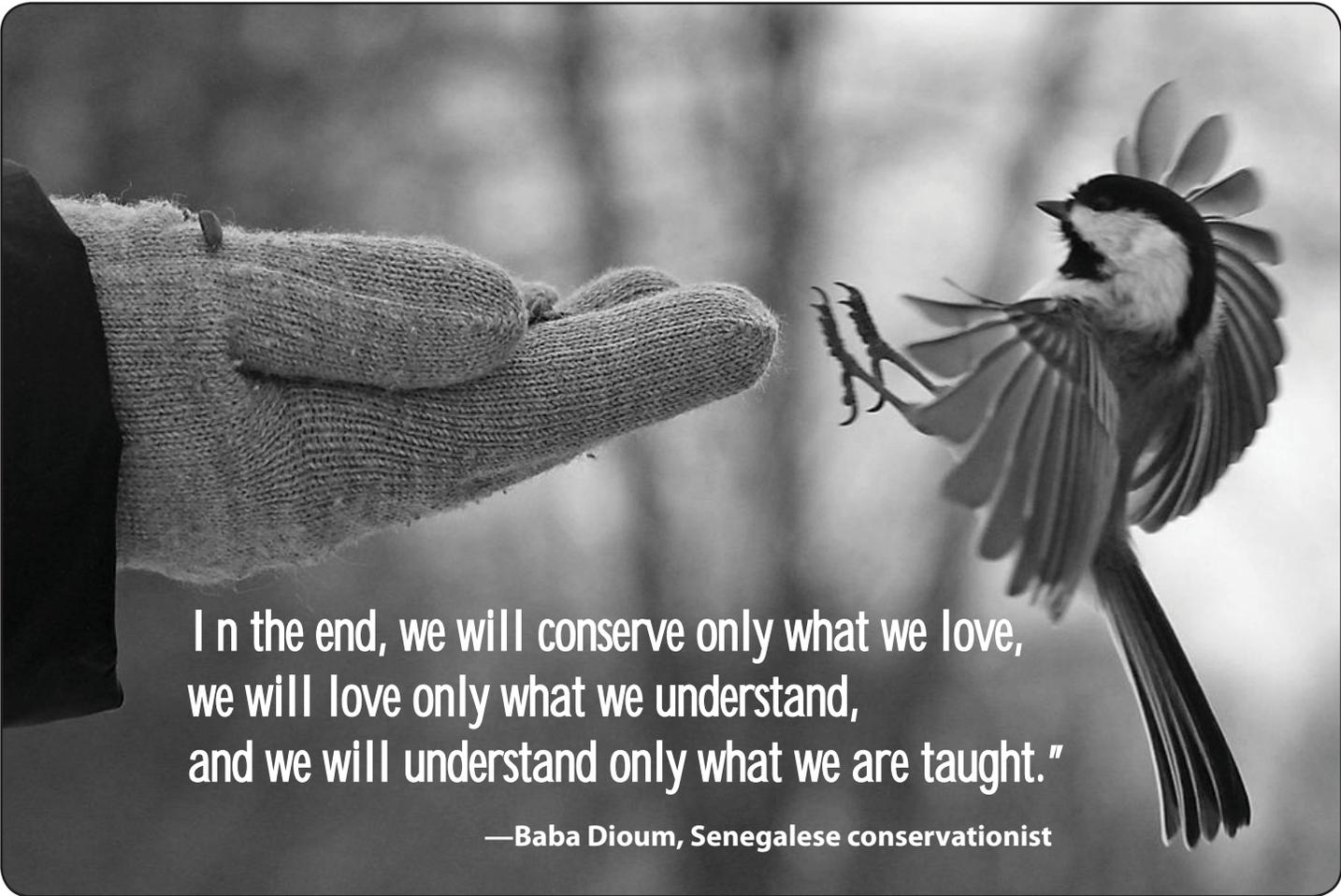
FOH Treasurer. Many thanks to Ron Hayes who has been treasurer for a number of years. He needs to step down due to other business commitments; so the Board is looking for a new treasurer. Members of the Board serve three-year terms and attend quarterly board meetings. The treasurer handles funds and provides financial statements. Having knowledge of a nonprofit organization is helpful but not required. If you or someone you know has a background in the field of accounting or business, please contact me.

Nature is a Gift, Use it Often

Judy Dollhausen (jadollh@gmail.com)



In Memorial. It is with sadness that we report the passing of a long-time member and past president, Glenn Weiermann. Glenn was instrumental in the early years of the Friends organization and served as president for many years. He was an amazing supporter of Havenwoods, recycling, reusing, and scrounging! We will miss his friendly greetings, birthday cards, and outgoing smile. Our sympathies to his wife, Joan, and his family.



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 conservationist

From the Superintendent

by Judy Klippel

We have such an amazing opportunity at Havenwoods to share nature with so many people in the city who have a richness of different backgrounds and experiences. Many of them have not had the opportunities we have had of finding joy in nature. Your role here may be preparing publicity, tending gardens, cutting down invasives, mowing grass, cleaning floors, helping at festivals, or providing programs. All of these little things that each

of us do work in harmony to provide enjoyable and memorable experiences for visitors—who will, we hope, come to understand and love nature as we do. Our visitors are part of the future who we all need to help take care of this wonderful planet.

Thank you for doing your part for Havenwoods and for conservation. It has been an honor and a joy to work with you here.

Park Stickers

Annual stickers go on sale Dec 1 and are valid from the date of purchase through Dec 31, 2019. They make great gifts for family members and friends.

- 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

Supporting the Forest

Endowment Fund. FOH has joined other state parks friends groups in establishing Wisconsin Conservation Endowment funds with the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin. To learn more about contributing a gift of cash and/or other assets, 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>



Mystery Photos!

by Beth Mittermaier, Conservation Biologist

Mystery Photo #35 (the new mystery)

When out walking in the woods or down tree-lined streets, do you ever notice the woodpecker holes in trees? Different sizes and types of holes are made by different sizes and types of woodpeckers as they search for lunch or create their next nesting places. Do you know who made these holes and why? Look for them this winter, and we'll poke into them next spring.



Answer to Last Issue's Mystery

It was a good fall for amateur winter weather forecasters. I was as busy as a squirrel gathering nuts! After noting the widths of the brown bands on woolly bear caterpillars, I checked the thickness of the skin on the local apple crop, noted the bushiness of my neighborhood squirrels' tails, and measured the sizes of spider webs. It is always great to connect to what is happening in nature, but the only prediction that I can reliably make is this—winter is coming!

While the caterpillars couldn't decide, the long-range forecasters (e.g., Farmers' Almanac and NOAA) are predicting temperatures above normal and more rain than average for the coming winter. They base some of this prediction on the expectation that it will be a mild El Niño winter.

Our ancestors didn't know about El Niño and La Niña winters. They knew about clouds and crops and things they could directly observe. Without radars or satellites, they were experts at predicting the local weather over

the coming days. And, while they *wanted* to know what kind of winter to expect and prepare for, their attempts at long-range forecasting were, well, just that—attempts.

The nature clues that are a part of long-range forecasts are really more about the weather that has already occurred than the weather that is to come. Take woolly bears as an example. First, let me share a little of their natural history. These caterpillars hatch out in summer and eat their way through fall. When temperatures drop, they search for spots to spend the winter. Their bodies contain a special kind of bio-antifreeze that protects their vital organs while the rest of their bodies freeze solid! In spring, they wake up, eat a little more, spin their cocoons using their own woolly coat, and emerge as fairly ordinary Isabella tiger moths.

They probably became such famous forecasters because they are so active in fall and because their coloration is so variable. However, their colors are based not on the future, but on the past. Caterpillars shed their skins about six times before they are full size. Each time they shed, they become a little more brown and a little less black. So a caterpillar with a broad, brown band is really just an older, well-fed caterpillar—not a meteorologist!

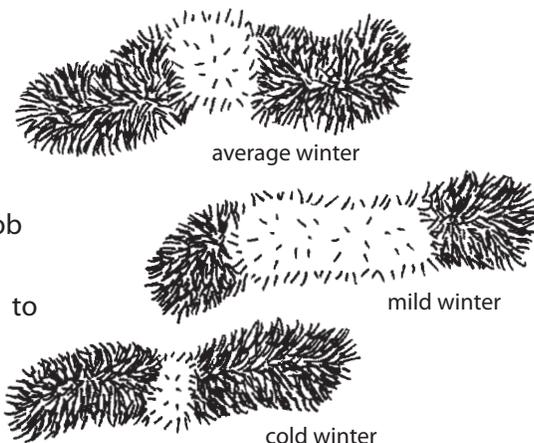
Does this mean you should ignore signs and signals from nature? Absolutely not! That halo around the moon is a pretty accurate predictor of a winter storm in the next couple of days. Those birds flying low are sensing a drop in air pressure. And, my least-favorite-winter-weather warning is that wind from the south that is surely going to bring chilly rain instead of beautiful snow. Enjoy the coming winter and remember:

*Whether the weather be fine
Or whether the weather be not,
Whether the weather be cold
Or whether the weather be hot,
We'll weather the weather
Whatever the weather,
Whether we like it or not.*

Weatherlore vs. folklore

Weatherlore is based on generations of observations. People use weatherlore to predict the weather for today or tomorrow, and it is usually accurate. For example, the saying "Red sky at night, hikers delight. Red sky in morning, hikers take warning" does a fairly good job of predicting the weather for the next 24 hours.

Folklore is based on superstitions and fears. Since people use folklore to predict the weather over a long period, it isn't very reliable. It might be fun to find a woolly bear caterpillar and look at the width of the brown band, but caterpillars can't predict the weather!





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

Winter Hours

From December 1 to February 28, the nature center will be open from 9 am – 3 pm Monday to Saturday (closed Sunday and Wednesday) due to reductions in staff and budget. If access to the nature center or staff is important for your visit, we suggest that you call ahead. We will be checking voice (414-527-0232) and email (friendsofhavenwoods@gmail.com) daily. We are looking for volunteers to help staff the building so that our staff is not working alone over the winter. Think about whether this is something you might be interested in doing for a morning or afternoon each week.

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Friends of Wisconsin State Parks
Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin

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___ Family \$20

___ Lifetime \$400

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