

Spring 2018

March–April–May

Nature Center

Monday – Friday
7:45 am – 4:30 pm

Saturdays
9 am – 2 pm

Closed Sundays

Hiking Trails

6 am – 8 pm daily

Phone

414.527.0232

Address

6141 N. Hopkins Street
Milwaukee, WI 53209
1 block west of
Sherman Blvd.

Websites

[dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/
name/havenwoods/](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/havenwoods/)
www.friendsofhavenwoods.org

Friends of Havenwoods

Become a member!



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This publication is available in alternative format (large print, Braille, audiotape, etc.) upon request. Please call 414.527.0232 for more information.



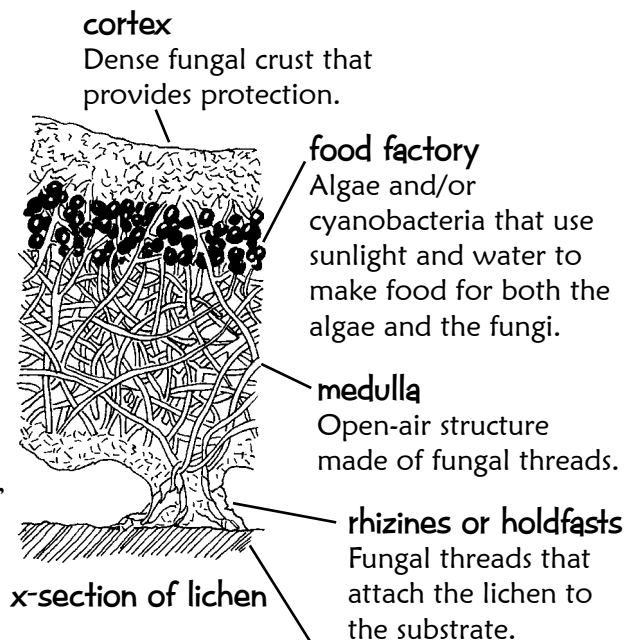
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Havenwoods State Forest

Casual hikers will notice trees, wildflowers, and grasses at Havenwoods. More observant hikers might see arrowhead at the pond and conifers scattered around the land. But it takes determination to notice lichens. Check out this information then head over to the forest to see what you can find.

weird sandwiches

In biology class, many students hear the story of Freddy Fungi and Alice Algae. Freddy was a great builder, and Alice was a marvelous cook. They met and took a “lichen” to each other. While it is a silly story, it is true that fungi and algae come together in symbiotic relationships, benefiting both the algae and fungi. Together, they can live in places that would be too hot, cold, or dry for them to live alone.



slow-growing, long-living, sun-loving pioneers

Because lichens depend on rainwater for both water and nutrients, they can grow in soilless locations. Acids excreted by lichens can break down the substrate. The lichens accumulate debris as they grow. When they die, they help to create soil that allows other organisms to survive.

substrate

Tree, rock, or soil that the lichen is growing on.

tiny hide-a-ways

Lichens are home for tiny animals like tardigrades (water bears), nematodes, and rotifers.



Air Pollution Indicators

While lichens are tough, most are also sensitive to pollutants in the air. In the most polluted areas, you will probably not find any lichens. The kinds of lichens you find (and don't find) tell you something about the environmental health of the place where you are.

Crustose lichens are not very sensitive to air pollution.



These thin, crusty lichens stay flat against the substrate.

Foliose lichens are somewhat sensitive to air pollution.



The leaf-like parts of foliose lichens curl up around the edges.

Fruticose lichens are most sensitive to air pollution.



These 3-D lichens look like trees, hair, or tiny little cups.

Take Care of Planet Earth

Spring brings new life, Earth Day celebrations, and opportunities for you to get some exercise and help take care of the planet!



Milwaukee Riverkeeper

April 21, 9 am – noon (Saturday)

Each year Milwaukee Riverkeeper mobilizes thousands of volunteers who work to remove several tons of trash from rivers in the Milwaukee River Basin. Sign up to be a part of the 23rd annual spring event and clean up Lincoln Creek at Havenwoods. Visit milwaukeeriverkeeper.org

Great American Cleanup

April 21, 9 am – noon (Saturday)

Make your part of the earth a little cleaner this spring by picking up litter on streets, in parks, and along waterways. Join us to clean up Havenwoods! We'll provide garbage bags and work gloves. Litter picker-uppers will receive gift certificates from local sponsors! Registration is requested for groups.



Work Play Earth Day

May 5, 9 am – 2 pm (Saturday)

Looking for a way to celebrate Earth Day and give back to your favorite Wisconsin state park property? Join Friends of Havenwoods, staff, and other volunteers to plant trees, repair trails, and pull invasives. After work, stick around for a guided nature hike. Call 414.527.0232 to join us and reserve your appreciation gift.



Adult Hikes & Workshops

Adults and youth over 12 are invited to join a naturalist on these spring walks!

Wildflower Walk & Garlic Mustard Patrol

April 28, 10 – 11:30 am (Saturday)

We will patrol some of the best spots at Havenwoods in search of early spring wildflowers. While we will spend most of the time enjoying the flowers, we will carry garbage bags to remove garlic mustard threatening their livelihoods.

Spring Migrant Bird Walk

May 11, 8:30 – 11:30 am (Friday)

We'll hike through the fields, forests, and wetlands in search of the spring migratory birds. No experience is necessary. We have binoculars and field guides you can borrow for the hike.

Family Nature Hikes

Spend time with a naturalist on a family-friendly hike. We'll use magnifiers, binoculars, super-duper outdoor lookers, or other exploring tools to discover what's happening in nature.

Searching for Water Bears

March 3, 10:30 – 11:30 am (Saturday)

Lichens and mosses capture and hold nutrients and water, making them the perfect place for a water bear to call home. We'll search for these tiny "bears" outside and attempt to view them under magnification.



Snipe Hunt!

April 7, 6:30 – 7:30 pm (Saturday evening)

We'll head out in search of oddly-shaped birds that dance and peent and sound like whirligigs in the sky. If we don't find any woodcocks, we'll just enjoy the early spring evening! If weather is questionable, call before coming.



Spring Bird Hike

May 5, 8 - 9 am (Saturday)

Warblers, kingbirds, herons, and woodcocks are returning to Havenwoods. We'll head out with binoculars and welcome them back. Wear boots or shoes that can get wet or muddy.

GO! Discover

On the second and third Saturdays of each month, you and your family, friends, or youth group will find special activities set up in the building. Drop in any time between 9 am and 2 pm to discover something new about nature.

All Things Wet & Squishy

March 10 & 17, 9 am – 2 pm
(Saturdays)

Does painting with mud, creating art by hammering leaves, or digging for worms appeal to you? If so, drop by the nature center to enjoy the wetness and squishiness of spring, then head outside to discover spring on your own.

Animal Camouflage

April 14 & 21, 9:00 – 2:00
(Saturdays)

Colors, shapes, stripes, spots, and behaviors can conceal or reveal. Investigate camouflage indoors before going outdoors on a self-guided *Hidden Animals Scavenger Hunt*.

Tiny Vampires

May 12 & 19, 9:00 – 2:00
(Saturdays)

Hematophagous (blood-sucking) animals want to suck your blood! Find out about the 55 kinds of mosquitoes in Wisconsin, learn to identify ticks, and practice avoidance tactics.

Nature Time for Preschoolers

We'll use stories, crafts, and activities to explore a different topic each session. These programs are for preschoolers, ages 3-5, and their parents, grandparents, or other adult. These programs are not for day care centers or organizations.

Who's Awake at Night?

March 13, 9:30 – 10:30 am
(Tuesday)

Many animals wake up when you are going to bed. Come discover how they survive in the dark.

Boom! Bang! Thunder!

April 10, 9:30 – 10:30 am (Tuesday)

Do you like storms? Listen to the raindrops fall and the wind blow. Come to Havenwoods to create a thunderstorm and discover the magic.

Opossums

May 8, 9:30 – 10:30 am (Tuesday)

What do you keep in your pockets? We'll discover a pink-toed mammal with a very strange pocket.

Spring to Life

March 27, 9:30 – 10:30 am
(Tuesday)

Here comes spring! The browns of winter are turning green, yellow, pink, and white. Join us as we celebrate the colors, smells, and sounds of spring.

Planet Earth

April 24, 9:30 – 10:30 am (Tuesday)

Earth is our beautiful blue and green home! Find out why it is the perfect place for us to live and how we can keep it a safe and healthy planet.

Amazing Ants

May 22, 9:30 – 10:30 am (Tuesday)

They're small, have six legs and often visit our summer picnics! But there's more to ants than that! Come find out about the amazing lives of ants.

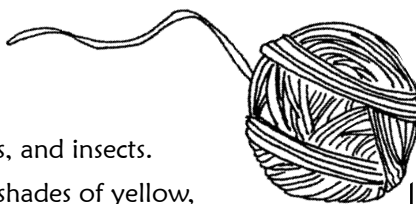
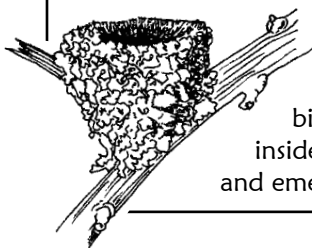
Lichen Harvesting

Lichens are collected and used by people, birds, and insects.

People use lichens to dye natural fibers lovely shades of yellow, brown, red, purple, and green. Certain non-poisonous lichens are used in medicines, deodorant, toothpaste, salves, extracts, and perfumes.

Hummingbirds, gnatcatchers, kinglets, warblers, and vireos use lichens as construction materials. They often place the lichens on the outside of their nests to help camouflage them in the trees.

Lacewing larvae attach pieces of lichen to their backs! These "shelters" allow them to escape predation from birds while hunting down lunch. Lacewings pupate inside lichen-covered cocoons over the winter and emerge as adult lacewings in spring.



Save the Date!

Shakespeare in the Park

August 10 (Friday)
5:30 pm workshop (~45 min)
7 pm performance

They're back! Join the Summit Players as they perform a mini-version of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. Their "play out of a trunk" will run a little over an hour and will include mayhem, character switches, and hilarity. Free!

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WI Dept. of Natural Resources
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Nature in Your Backyard

When most people think about green plants, they imagine trees, garden vegetables, or wildflowers. Non-plant lichens were around long before there were maples, tomatoes, and asters. They shared the landscape with ancient plants. . . plants that didn't flower or make seeds. . . plants that reproduced with spores. As you explore your backyard, neighborhood park, or other green spaces, you might encounter these unusual, ancient plants.



Horsetails

have tiny leaves. It is the green stems that make food for the plant. At Havenwoods, you can find horsetails near the railroad tracks.

Mosses

are so ancient that they don't even have veins in their simple leaves and stems. Use a magnifying lens to look at one leaf. Can you see that it is only one cell thick?



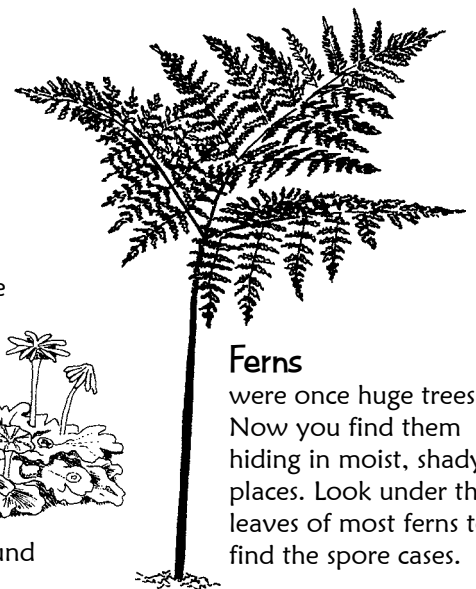
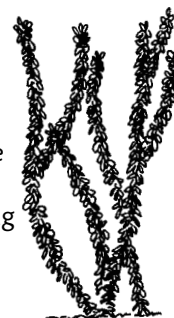
Liverworts

are just strange! Look for flattened, lobed "leaves" in damp places. We have not found liverworts at Havenwoods.



Club mosses

are not mosses at all. Shining club moss can be found in Milwaukee County, but you will have better luck looking for club mosses in northern Wisconsin.



Ferns

were once huge trees! Now you find them hiding in moist, shady places. Look under the leaves of most ferns to find the spore cases.



Ginkgo trees

have been around 270 million years! You can find one in the arboretum at Havenwoods. Check out the veins on the leaves!