

August  
2016

# Volunteer Connection

## Snake Fest - October 1, 10 am - 4 pm

### The snakes are coming!

This festival is a great occasion for kids and adults to see many different kinds of snakes up close and to discover how amazing they are. Besides the live snakes, there will be snake-inspired activities outdoors and indoors, programs, crafts, and food. We hope *you* will join the fun as a visitor or a volunteer.

If you would like to volunteer, call 414-527-0232 or email judy.klippel@wi.gov. Here are ways you can get involved:

#### Before the festival, you can:

- help prepare craft materials
- help set up tables and chairs
- bake snake cookies for Friends to sell
- help distribute publicity
- Donate an item for Friends' silent auction (e.g., baked goods, handcrafted items, gift certificates, nature study items, kids' books, etc.) No second-hand items, please.

#### During the festival, you can:

- be a host
- lead snake crafts

## Fighting the Invasives

In recent years purple loosestrife has spread extensively in our wetlands. It's time for biocontrol! Our wildlife tech, Jamie, acquired 40 pots of "loosestrife beetles" (two species of *Galerucella*) to place among the loosestrife plants here. Over time, these beetles and their offspring will control the invasive plants.

These beetles are native to Europe and feed exclusively on loosestrife. After thorough research, scientists began to release the beetles in Wisconsin 22 years ago to control loosestrife. Read about their success at <http://dnr.wi.gov/wnr/mag/2016/06/Beetles.PDF>



milksnake, Beth Mittermaier, © 2015

- help Friends sell food
- take photographs of activities
- hand out passport stickers to kids after programs or activities
- be a "floater" - for whatever is needed!

#### When it's all over, you can:

- help to take everything down after 4 pm

We will be joined again this year by Milwaukee County Zoo herpetologists Billie Harrison and Craig Berg. They will be displaying a number of exotic snakes from the Zoo's collection and sharing their expertise with visitors.

## Upcoming events

### Bat Hike

August 24, 8-9:30 (Wednesday)

Join Havenwoods staff for a twilight bat hike. First we'll be inside learning about Wisconsin's bats. Then we'll head out with a bat detector to listen for bats and collect data for the DNR. Call if weather is questionable. Rain date is August 25.

### WISCONSIN STATE FAIR

This is our 34th year of having a children's nature activity tent in the DNR area of the Fair. Beth Mittermaier is leading five of our staff and numerous DNR Parks' staff from around the state to provide activities in our tent and State Parks' "Kids' Camp".

Come visit the DNR area at the fair. Take your kids or grandkids and stop to say hi to our staff. We're open 9 to 5:30 daily.

#### The Four Laws of Ecology

1. Everything is connected to everything else.
2. Everything must go somewhere.
3. Nature knows best.
4. There is no such thing as a free lunch.

Barry Commoner - biologist, ecologist, in *The Closing Circle*

#### Stay in Touch

- [dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/havenwoods/](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/havenwoods/)
- [www.friendsofhavenwoods.org](http://www.friendsofhavenwoods.org)
- [www.facebook.com/HavenwoodsStateForest](https://www.facebook.com/HavenwoodsStateForest) 