

April 2016

HAVENWOODS STATE FOREST

# Volunteer Connection

## Fire!

**Reminder:** The prescribed burn will be either April 16 or April 23, weather permitting. *Conditions are looking very favorable right now for it to be on the 16th - this Saturday - at about 10:30 am.* Save the date if you would like to watch our DNR burn crew in action.



2005 burn at Havenwoods

On April 16 and 23, there will be a 10 - 10:30 am program about controlled burns for all interested people.

## Spring Birds at Havenwoods

March and April have been great for bird watching. Here's what people have reported seeing:

- red-winged blackbird male
- hooded merganser
- bluebird
- wigeon
- song sparrow
- kestrel
- sandhill crane
- northern harrier
- long eared owl
- wood duck
- pewee
- woodcock
- killdeer
- eastern meadowlark
- robin
- phoebe
- northern flicker



northern flicker:  
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Greg Hume

- goldfinch
- brown thrasher
- golden crowned kinglet
- yellow-rumped warbler
- brown creeper
- hermit thrush
- red-winged blackbird female
- blue winged teal
- scaup
- coot

We have some opportunities coming up to join a naturalist for a birding walk.

April 30, 9 - 10:30 am (Sat.),  
May 7, 8 - 9 am (Sat.), &  
May 14, 8 - 10 am (Sat.) - adults  
We'll look for migrant birds and listen to their music!

The first two hikes are targeted at families, but all ages are welcome.

## Opportunities

### Wildflower Walk & Garlic Mustard Patrol

April 30, 10 - 11:30 am (Sat.)

We will search some of the best spots for early spring wildflowers. We'll also carry garbage bags to remove garlic mustard that threatens their survival.

### Spring Cleanups

*I still need people to help coordinate the work of other volunteers at the following events. Can you help?*

#### Milwaukee Riverkeeper

April 23, 9 am - noon (Saturday)

Help us clean up trash from Lincoln Creek at Havenwoods.

#### Great American Cleanup

April 30, 9 am - noon (Saturday)

Help clean up along the street, in the woods, and in the fields at Havenwoods.

#### Work Play Earth Day


May 7, 9 am - 2 pm

Plant trees, repair trails, and pull invasive plants. Then join us in a guided nature hike.

**Those who contemplate the beauty of the Earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts.**

*Rachel Carson - author, biologist, environmentalist*

## 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) 

## Volunteers at work

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**Greening up the nature center:** Jim Goetz is sharing some of his skills with us by painting the hallway by the restrooms in a pale green. It's a great change that really brightens up the walls. Thanks, Jim!

**Searching for birds:** Dale Snider and his weekly birding class are responsible for finding and identifying most of the birds listed on the first page. Dale is an excellent birder, and he has provided us with species information for many years.

**Greening up the gardens:** We had a first meeting of the Master Gardener Volunteers who will be working in the Heritage Gardens this summer. Six MGVs are returning, and they will be joined by six new MGVs. 100% increase! That's a first. I'm excited to welcome everybody. They will grow vegetables traditional to cultural groups within the following larger groups: African-, Asian-, European-, Hispanic-, and Native American. The Buds 'n Sprouts kids get to sample the produce, and all the rest goes to a program serving the hungry.

**Taking down dead trees:** Larry Shikes is a frequent visitor to Havenwoods who spends a lot of time looking at the trees. This comes naturally to him as a forester who has a tree service. During March, Larry volunteered his services and equipment to cut down several dead trees on the property that could have become hazardous. A few years ago Larry also removed two large trees that were shading out our education gardens. Thanks, Larry, for sharing your skills with Havenwoods.



**Building a trellis:** In March I asked in the newsletter for a volunteer to build a trellis to put in the kids' Buds 'n Sprouts garden. Two weeks later, we had a trellis! Many thanks to my brother-in-law, Ed Clasen, who took on the project and did a wonderful job. He started with a photo I found online, then designed and built it out of cedar. Can you picture this covered with bean plants this summer and the kids running through it?

The funds for the trellis came from the donation made by my niece and her husband last fall.



**Keeping the nature center humming:** Cathy Harrison has faithfully worked in the office once a week for the past 16 years. She handles much of the publicity that goes out, greets visitors, answers phones, makes copies, keeps library records, prepares crafts for the parent and preschooler nature programs, cleans our refrigerator (and that's not a fun job), and does anything else Beth hands her, all the while with a smile. Thanks, Cathy, for helping to make so many things happen in the nature center.

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Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much. *Helen Keller*

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