

May 2016

# Volunteer Connection

## Budding Partnership

In recent months Judy Dollhausen and I have met a few times with the principal of Brown Deer Elementary School to discuss ways that we can collaborate educationally with the school.

Our first step is to share our Buds 'n Sprouts program with them. Our gardening naturalist, Laura Spencer, will be an employee of the school for five weeks this summer during their summer school session. She will teach kids in the school's own garden on weekday mornings. In the afternoons she will be back here conducting our kids' gardening programs over the whole summer.

The principal wants to find ways that the teachers can use their garden during the school year too. Laura's programs this summer will help initiate that kind of learning. We hope to develop other opportunities to share gardening and nature activities with the staff.

**Volunteers needed:** Can you spare an hour once a week from June 20 to July 22? Laura will be making a quick transition four days a week between Brown Deer and Havenwoods. She needs someone to fix the snacks for her groups before they come in from the garden (around 2:30). The food and notes about what to do would be waiting for you. It's mostly slicing and chopping veggies for about 12-15 kids. Call Judy to ask questions or to tell us if you can help.

## To Burn or Not to Burn

Our planned April dates came and went without appropriate conditions for burning. Marty, our DNR burn boss, persisted in trying to make it happen. On May 5, everything fell into place, and he called his nine crew members together to come here. In the space of 90 minutes, they burned about 20 acres on the west side of the property.

Months of planning, hours of checking weather forecasts, and numerous visits to walk the site all came together to create a safe and successful burn.

Watch with us over the next several weeks for blackened earth to return to green as the prairie grasses and flowers begin to grow.



## Staffing

It's that wonderful time of year when there are more staff here, bringing their energy, skills, and knowledge to help keep Havenwoods growing. Continuing on are Beth, Sam, Andy, and Laura. Occasionally you will also see Kat and Christee, who will continue to help conduct programs when we need extra staff.

We are being joined by three new staff for the next few months. Jamie Beaupre is here Mondays and Wednesdays as a wildlife technician. She works on the opposite days at Hank Aaron

State Trail. Calvin Stefanczyk will be here five days a week, also as a wildlife technician. Nichole Cochenet will be our visitor services associate, helping me out in the office. Please stop to say hi and introduce yourself to our new staff. *As always, tell me, not the staff, about tasks you think they should do.*

### 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) 

## Spring Cleaning

About 80 people have come here for our spring workdays to help clean up litter on the grounds, plant trees, and begin the attack on invasive plants. Volunteers included students from Marquette University and Wauwatosa East High School, a Girl Scout troop, individuals, families, and Friends members.

Twelve students from UWM have been here for service learning again this semester, each contributing 10 hours of work on the grounds or in animal care.

The Heritage Garden Master Gardeners had their first group workday on May 7, and they are off to a wonderful start. Weeds are gone (for now!), paths are woodchipped, and early some crops are coming up.



**Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's party!"**  
*Robin Williams, actor and comedian*

## More Signs of Spring

### Spring Migrant Bird Walk

May 14, 8 - 10 am (Saturday)

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

Here are just *some* of the many species that birders have been seeing and hearing so far this month:

blue-winged teal  
turkey great blue heron  
sharp-shinned hawk  
sora sandhill crane  
killdeer common snipe



great blue heron

eastern kingbird  
blue jay  
tree swallow  
rough-winged swallow  
barn swallow  
white-breasted nuthatch  
house wren  
blue-gray gnatcatcher  
eastern bluebird  
brown thrasher  
Nashville warbler  
yellow warbler  
chestnut-sided warbler  
yellow-rumped warbler  
palm warbler  
black-and-white warbler  
ovenbird  
common yellowthroat  
eastern towhee  
chipping sparrow  
clay-colored sparrow  
field sparrow  
savannah sparrow  
song sparrow



kingbird



trout lily

### Flowers in Bloom

These ephemeral wildflowers are in bloom at Havenwoods now:

spring beauty  
false rue anemone  
bloodroot  
trillium  
buttercup  
trout lily