

October 2016

Volunteer Connection

You're invited to the Volunteer Dinner

The staff invites you and your guest to our volunteer recognition dinner and program at Havenwoods on Thursday, November 10, to celebrate our year together.

Please call Nichole or Judy at 414-527-0232 or email Judy at judy.klippel@wi.gov by 4:30 on November 3 to provide your acceptance or regrets.

5:30 *gathering and appetizers*

6:00 *property update & preview of 2017*

6:15 *dinner*

7:00 *program*

We will provide dinner and beverages. If you would like to make a dessert to share, please let me know when you confirm your attendance.

Upcoming programs

Bats Live!

October 22, 1 -2 pm (Sat.) All ages



Join Jennifer Redell, DNR bat biologist, for a program about Wisconsin's bats. Find out why they are important, how white nose syndrome affects them, and what the DNR is doing in response. Jennifer will have several live bats with her.

Willow Plant Tower Workshop

November 12, 9 am - 1 pm (Sat.) Adult program

Weave a small conical tower (~1' x 4') for your holiday lights or next year's climbing plants. You will use willow cut at Havenwoods and learn how and where it grows. It's fun to make! To register, call 414-527-0232 or email judy.klippel@wi.gov by November 4. Cost is \$10, payable to Friends of Havenwoods.

Invasive Species Symposium

November 16, 1 - 4 pm (Wed.) Adult program

Join us at Havenwoods for the ninth annual educational gathering of the SE Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium. The event is free and open to all. The guest speakers will share information about exotic animal species invading our region and the work being done to control them. Emphasis is on crazy worms, mute swans, and feral swine.

The afternoon will also include a review of 2016 activities and an overview of 2017 plans, awards, and refreshments.

Check the SEWISC website at <https://sewisc.org/> for more information.



Community events

Doors Open Milwaukee

What a great weekend it was! Over 250 people visited to learn about Havenwoods. Most of them had never been here before.

This is the most visitors we have had in our four years of participation.



5k/10k Run/Walk

On September 24, Havenwoods Economic Development Corporation held its annual event here. For the first time, the entire route was within the park. Afterwards, runners, walkers, and their families gathered in the arboretum to listen to a band, have lunch, soak up some sun, and participate in the awards distribution. About 60 people participated in the run/walk.

Campfire Chat

HEDC held a very different kind of event here October 5. As part of their weeklong Conference for Makers and Manufacturers, business people from around the metro area gathered here. They sat on the benches in the woods, and shared business ideas and success stories while being illuminated by a small campfire.

Stay in Touch

- dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/havenwoods/
- www.friendsofhavenwoods.org
- www.facebook.com/HavenwoodsStateForest



Snake Fest revisited

October 1 brought together six staff, 42 volunteers, 332 visitors, and 20 snakes inside the nature center. What a great mix of energy! It was a wonderful festival. Visitors had lots of opportunities to touch snakes, ask questions, and do activities to learn how snakes are adapted for survival.

Putting on a successful festival involves coordinating many people in lots of different activities. We thank all our volunteers for being great partners.

The members of the Friends group helped with everything from publicity to food services and from crafts to a fundraising silent auction.

Master Gardener Volunteers helped with crafts and visitor services.

Milwaukee County Zoo herpetologists Billie Harrison and Craig Berg came with several of the Zoo's snakes and a larger-than-life massasauga rattler costume. The massasauga visited with surprised kids during the festival.

Ten students from UW-Whitewater and UW-Milwaukee helped as snake handlers and craft leaders.

Our youngest volunteer was Ariel, a high school student and an experienced snake handler.

Some of our family members and friends even came to volunteer.

We have always known that we simply could not provide nature festivals without volunteers. Thank you for helping to make Snake Fest happen!

Festival income: The Friends have reported a net income of \$689 from the event. All their income goes to supporting future Havenwoods programming.

Upcoming volunteer needs

By the end of October, most of the staff will be leaving or working reduced hours until spring. That leaves us very short handed. Can you help with any of this work?

Contact Judy (527-0232) to indicate your interest and availability.

Building maintenance: We have a long to-do list to clean up from the busy year and to prepare the center for the seasonal change.

Snow blowing and shoveling: We have a snow blower and shovels, you just need to know how to operate a snow blower and provide your warm clothes and muscles.

Ongoing cleaning: Visitors use the nature center year-round, and so our routine cleaning needs continue: vacuuming, sweeping, replenishing paper supplies, cleaning bathrooms. Just like at home, right?



Naturalist Andy Brawn showed snakes to visitors and led hikes.



Betty Koch and Horace Palmer helped to lead crafts.



Friends member Cathy Harrison provided visitor services. Billie Harrison and a massasauga impersonator helped people learn about snakes. Billie is Cathy's granddaughter.



Friends members Diane Warner and Jim Goetz provided snacks for sale.