

Winter 2016-17

December–January–February

Nature Center

Monday – Friday
(winter hours)
9 am – 3:30 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

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Havenwoods State Forest

There are many wonderful things about taking a hike during the winter, and the lack of mosquitoes is one of them! Being cold-blooded, insects can't move, eat, or reproduce when temperatures drop. We know monarchs migrate, but insects don't simply disappear. Like other animals, insects have strategies for surviving winter. If you look closely, you can find them in winter, even mosquitoes!

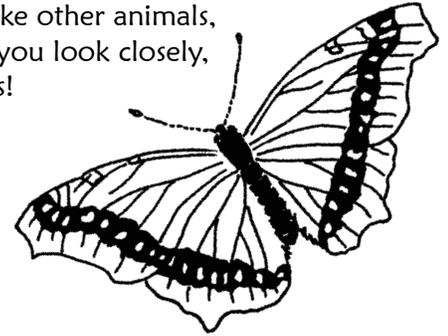
Survival En Masse

You can sometimes find overwintering groups of ladybugs under bark, leaves, or rocks.



Downward Migration

Ants dig deeper underground and stay below the frost line all winter.



Tucked Away

Mourning cloak butterflies find tree holes or crevices. Watch for them flying about on warmer winter days.



In the Bag

Cecropia moths, like many insects, survive winter as pupae in cocoons. Glycerol in their bodies acts like antifreeze to keep their tissues from freezing.



Busy as Bees

Bees clump together in their hives, eating honey and vibrating their wings to stay warm.

Motherlode

Most yellow jackets and hornets die with the first hard freeze. Only pregnant females survive the winter in protected places.



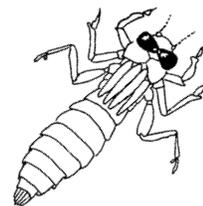
Woolly Outerwear?

Tucked away under leaf litter, you would think woolly bear caterpillars would stay warm enough. They still freeze solid. However, glycerol protects their cells from bursting.



Snug as a Bug

Watch for swollen plant stems and odd "bumps" on twigs and leaves. Inside these galls an egg, larva, or pupa may be waiting out winter.



Life in Slowmo

Look through clear ice to see aquatic insects, like dragonfly larvae, moving and eating in slow motion.

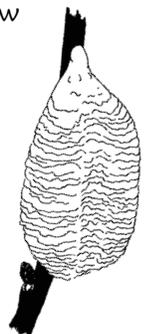


Party on the Snow!

Sometimes, on warmer winter days, springtails emerge from the leaf litter and gather around the bases of trees. Look for tiny specks the size of pepper jumping around on the snow!

Eggs in One Basket

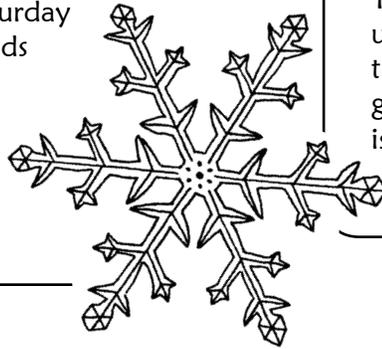
Many adult insects die in fall. Before dying, the females mate and lay eggs. Sometimes you can find egg cases like this one left by a praying mantis.



Nature Center Winter Hours

From December 1 to February 28, the nature center will be open from 9 am – 3:30 pm Monday to Friday. Saturday hours (9 am – 2 pm) will stay the same. The grounds remain open from 6 am – 8 pm every day.

During this winter, remember that Havenwoods features 237 acres to explore. There are about 6 miles of trails open for hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and jogging.



Snowshoes!

You can borrow snowshoes to use at Havenwoods any time there is enough snow on the ground and the nature center is open. Call for details.

Family Nature Hikes

Spend an hour 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.



Winter Bug Hunt

December 3
10:30 – 11:30 am (Saturday)

Head outside with a naturalist to look for insect eggs, larvae, pupae, and adults waiting for spring. We'll peek under bark, scoop in the pond, sift through leaf litter, and search for galls and egg cases. What do you think we will find?

Winter Birds

January 7
10:30 – 11:30 am (Saturday)

Winter is a great time to go bird watching, with leafless trees and a snowy landscape making it easier to find the birds. Dress warmly as we will spend most of the time outside looking for sparrows, juncos, hawks, and owls. We have binoculars you can borrow.

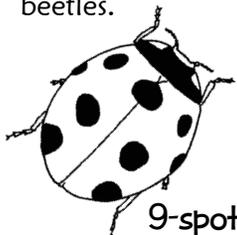
Nature at Night

February 4, 6 – 7 pm (Saturday)

The Forest is a different place at night. Join us on a walk to find animals moving about, listen for their sounds, and check out some winter constellations. We'll end up inside with hot cocoa. Dress for the weather. We have snowshoes you can use.

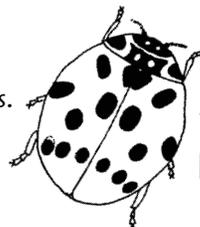
Know Your Ladybugs

The ladybugs that gardeners love are our native ladybugs. The ladybugs that homeowners don't love are the invasive Asian ladybugs. However, none of them are "bugs." They are beetles. This is why some people call them ladybird beetles.



9-spotted ladybug

The number of spots on a ladybug does not reveal the ladybug's age. Each species of ladybug has a different pattern of spots.

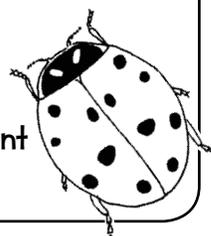


15-spotted ladybug

Asian Ladybugs can be yellow, orange, or red with 0 - 19 spots, but they usually have M-shaped markings on their thoraxes.



convergent ladybug



2-spotted ladybug

Insect Names Tell All!

Groups of animals are often given a special name (e.g., a herd of deer). When it comes to insects, our feelings about them are reflected in these collective nouns:

- A loveliness of (native) ladybugs
- An eclipse of moths
- An army of ants
- A kaleidoscope of butterflies
- An intrusion of cockroaches
- A business of flies
- A horde of gnats
- A cloud of grasshoppers
- A plague of locusts
- A scourge of mosquitoes
- A flock of lice

And, though not insects, you have to love a clutter of spiders!

GO! Discover

Families, friends, and youth groups are invited to head over to Havenwoods on the second and/or third Saturdays of each month. Drop in any time between 9 am and 2 pm to discover something new about nature.



Nature Gifts

December 10 & 17
9 am – 2 pm (Saturdays)

Drop in to create a unique, handmade gift from nature. You can try nature prints, twig picture frames, sweet gum animals, and more. We'll supply the materials—you'll supply the creativity.



Winter Birds

January 14 & 21
9 am – 2 pm (Saturdays)

A lot of birds are “fair weather friends” in Wisconsin, but a surprising number tough it out in winter. Drop in to find out how they are adapted to survive the snow and cold, make a bird feeder, and explore for birds on your own. We have binoculars you can borrow.

Winter Nights

February 11 & 18
9 am – 2 pm (Saturdays)

What is happening in nature while we're in our cozy winter homes? Find out about nocturnal mammals, owls, evergreen trees, and winter stars. Create a *Night Journal*. Then borrow some snowshoes to search for tracks left by animals overnight.

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.

Slithering Snakes

December 6
9:30 – 10:30 am (Tuesday)

Could you move without any legs or eat without hands? Come meet some snakes and learn how they survive.

Keep Looking

January 17
9:30 – 10:30 am (Tuesday)

The more you look - the more you see! Come to Havenwoods and open your eyes to look at nature in new ways.

Fox Tales

February 28
9:30 – 10:30 am (Tuesday)

What would you do if you had pointed ears, a long nose, and a furry tail like a fox? Find out how a fox uses these things to help it survive.

Animals in Winter

December 20
9:30 – 10:30 am
(Tuesday)

Some animals stay active during our long cold winters. How do you think they find food and keep warm?

Owls: Nighttime Hunters

January 31
9:30 – 10:30 am (Tuesday)

While you are sleeping, the owls are flying about. Find out what these nighttime birds are doing.

Animals Get Hungry, Too!

January 3
9:30 – 10:30 am (Tuesday)

Some animals eat plants. Some animals eat other animals. We'll discover how plants and animals need each other.

Star Stories

February 14
9:30 – 10:30 am (Tuesday)

Listen to some magical star stories and create your own glow-in-the-dark star picture.

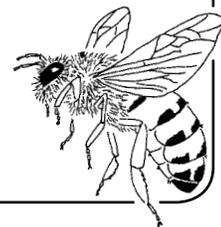
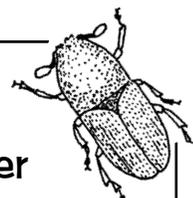
Read About Insects in Winter

Bugs and Bugsicles
by Amy S. Hansen (ages 7 - 10)

Not a Buzz to Be Found
by Linda Glaser (ages 5 - 9)

Where Do They Go?
by Millicent Selsam (ages 7 - adult)

Discover Nature in Winter
by Elizabeth Lawlor
(things to know
and do for all ages)

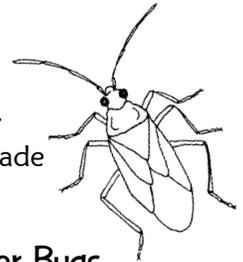




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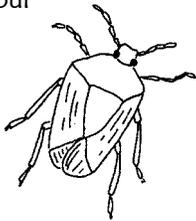
Nature in Your Backyard & in Your House

One way insects (and other small critters) survive winter is to hang out in our backyards and invade our warm homes. Here are a few uninvited “guests” that you might encounter:



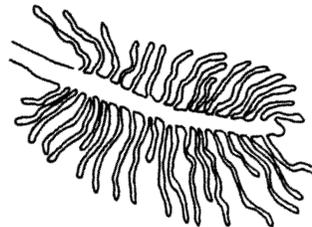
Don't Take It Personally

As winter approaches, insects (such as stinkbugs) search for warm, dry places. Your overlapping siding might simply look a lot like the bark of a tree to a small-brained insect.



Gypsy Moths

Female gypsy moths lay their eggs and cover them with a straw-colored fuzzy sac. Search outdoor furniture, woodpiles, tree trunks, and play equipment. If you find them, destroy the eggs by scraping off the egg cases and soaking them in soapy water a few days.



Emerald Ash Borers

Stay alert for the S-shaped carvings left by emerald ash borers on ash trees. Engraver beetles and other native wood-boring insects also leave carvings, but these natives rarely kill healthy trees.

Look just under the bark for the amazing engravings left by bark beetles.



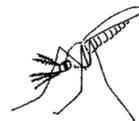
S-shaped carving of emerald ash borer

Box Elder Bugs

In fall, box elder bugs flock from nearby box elder, maple, and ash trees to the south side of “lucky” houses. Too many of these insects find a way inside! Except for stains left by their excrement, they are harmless. You can wait until they die or suck them up with a vacuum cleaner.

Asian Ladybird Beetles

These beetles have a black “M” on their thoraxes. They nibble on people, smell bad, and leave behind yellow-orange “poo.” In other words, they are terrible house guests! Vacuum them up and throw away the bag.



Mosquitoes!

While most mosquitoes survive winter as eggs or larvae, there are some that can survive as adults. Unfortunately, they are pregnant females. Think carefully about sparing the lives of mosquitoes you see in winter and early spring!

