

Winter 2014-15

December–January–February

Nature Center

Monday – Friday
7:45 am – 4:30 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

Become a member!



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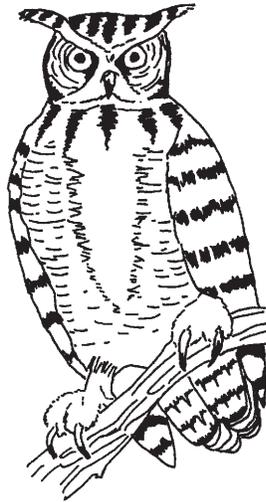
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Havenwoods State Forest

Whether you were ready or not, cold temps and icy winds have arrived at the forest. Gear up so that you don't miss some great opportunities to explore!

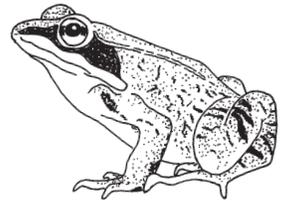
Exploring Nature in the City

It's easy for us to put on an extra sweater, snuggle under a blanket, and sip hot soup. But what about our wild neighbors? Some will migrate, some will hibernate, and some will do amazing things to survive until spring.



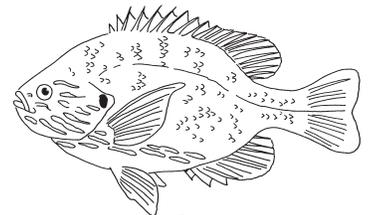
Thinking Ahead!

Owls mate and lay eggs while the cold winds blow. Why? By the time their owlets are getting really hungry, there should be plenty of little mice and rabbits for easy pickin's.



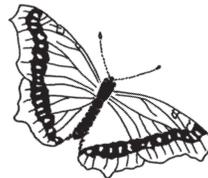
Frozen Alive!

Wood frogs snuggle under fallen leaves and then freeze into frosgicles!



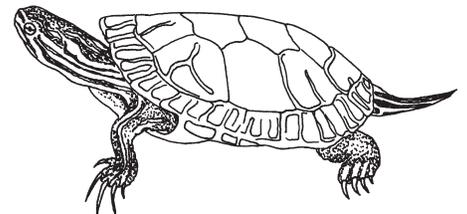
Life in the Slow Lane

Most fish sink to the bottom of lakes and rivers where the water is "warm." They just hang out until spring.



Exceptions to the Rule

While most butterflies overwinter as pupae or larvae, anglewings and tortoiseshells overwinter as adults. Take a walk on a warm, sunny winter day and look for butterflies.



Suspended Animation

Painted turtles breathe oxygen from the air just like we do. But for up to three months in the winter, they can survive underwater with NO oxygen!



What?

While most mosquitoes survive winter as eggs or larvae, there are some that can survive as adults. Unfortunately, they are pregnant females!



Antifreeze

The larvae tucked inside goldenrod galls have special antifreeze proteins in their blood.



Snowbirds in Wisconsin?

When we think about birds flying south for the winter, we don't usually think about northern birds flying here to Wisconsin for the winter. But this is exactly what juncos do!

Never Say Never!

Even ticks can be active when the temperature is above freezing!



Family Nature Hikes

Spend an hour with a naturalist on a family-friendly hike. We'll use magnifiers, binoculars, super-duper outdoor lookers, and other exploring tools to discover what's happening in nature.



Cold Case

December 6, 10:30 – 11:30 am
(Saturday)

Are you good at solving mysteries? We'll look for footprints, scat, animal homes, and feeding signs. We'll try to track down the culprits, and we might even catch them in the act. Dress for the weather. We'll use snowshoes if there is enough snow.

Surviving Sub-zero

January 3, 10:30 – 11:30 am
(Saturday)

How do plants and animals survive the harshness of winter? We'll spend one hour outside exploring plants and animals that survive the cold ALL winter. Find out who's hibernating, who's napping, and who's toughing it out. We'll use snowshoes if there is enough snow.

Light up the Night

February 7, 6:00 – 7:00 pm
(Saturday)

Step into a winter's night to listen for animal sounds, watch for nocturnal neighbors, check out some winter constellations, and enjoy hot cocoa! Dress for the weather. We'll use snowshoes if there is enough snow.

Trees can't go south!

Trees don't have as many options as animals. They either have to "hibernate" or stay active. Deciduous trees store food under the ground in their roots, lose their leaves, and go dormant for the winter. Evergreen trees have adapted to stay more active.

Evergreen trees evolved in areas with cold climates and short growing seasons. It takes a lot of time and energy to grow new leaves each year. By keeping their needles, evergreens save energy. As an added bonus, the needles can photosynthesize and make food for the tree even during the winter.



cedar



spruce

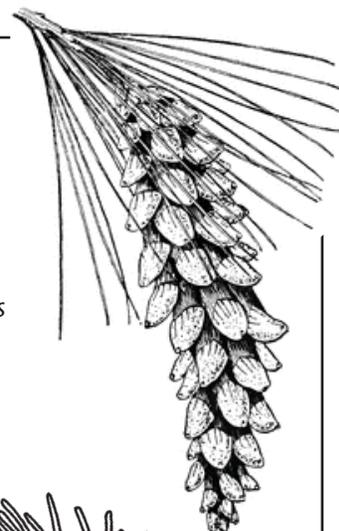


pine

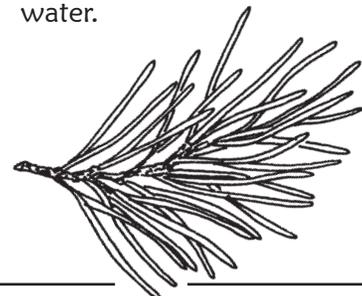


spruce

The silhouettes of evergreen trees give us clues to some of their winter survival strategies. Because evergreen trees tend to have one main stem (as opposed to the multiple stems of deciduous trees), they grow up cone shaped. This shape more effectively sheds snow. Their branches also tend to grow out rather than up. When snow does pile up on branches, they do not have to bend quite so far before they can "dump" the snow.



The needles of evergreen trees function like regular leaves, but they are rolled up very tightly and covered with wax. Both of these adaptations allow evergreens to conserve water.



GO! Discover

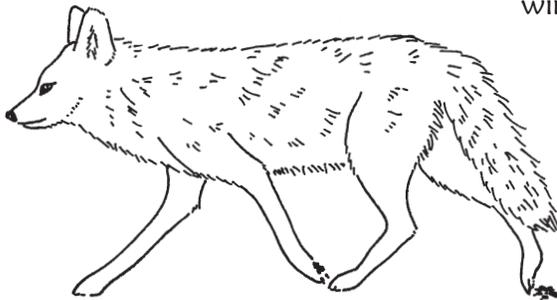
Families, friends, and youth groups are invited to head over to Havenwoods on the second and/or third Saturdays of each month. Drop in any time between 9 am and 2 pm to discover something new about nature.



Wily Coyotes

December 13 & 20, 9 am – 2 pm (Saturdays)

Have you seen the coyotes that live at Havenwoods? Come learn about these canines and their adaptations for survival. Make a plaster coyote track to take home, and head outside to look for real tracks.



Frozen

January 10 & 17, 9 am – 2 pm (Saturdays)

Feeling grumpy about being cold? LET IT GO! Ice, cold, and snow can be fun. Build a snowman, go on a scavenger hunt, check out frozen fractals with a microscope, and discover some of the wonders of winter.



coyote track and track pattern

Nocturnal Neighbors

February 14 & 21, 9 am – 2 pm (Saturdays)

During winter, animals have to be active as long as it takes to find enough food to survive. Find out who's out there while you are snug in your house. Take a hike on your own to find tracks and signs of their overnight activities.

Preschool Storytimes

We'll use stories, crafts, and activities to explore a different topic each storytime. Preschool storytimes are for preschoolers, ages 3-5, and their parents, grandparents, or other adult. These programs are not for day care centers or organizations.

Be-Kind-to-Earth Gifts

December 9, 9:30 – 10:30 am (Tuesday)

We'll make gifts from recycled materials. You'll have fun making them and giving them away!

Wild Animals Really Don't Act Like People

December 23, 9:30 – 10:30 am (Tuesday)

Sometimes books and movies show wild animals doing make-believe things. We'll explore the differences between "real" and "make-believe."

Feather Coats

January 6, 9:30 – 10:30 am (Tuesday)

How do birds keep themselves warm in winter? Take a close-up look at feathers of all colors, shapes, and sizes.

Winter Sleepers

January 20, 9:30 – 10:30 am (Tuesday)

Some of the animals at Havenwoods sleep all winter! Find out why they are sleeping and discover their secret resting places.

Nature's Night Light

February 3, 9:30 – 10:30 am (Tuesday)

The moon looks different every night! Come celebrate our changing neighbor. Take a look at moon maps, and imagine frogs, polar bears, and cheese!

Let's See Your Teeth

February 17, 9:30 – 10:30 am (Tuesday)

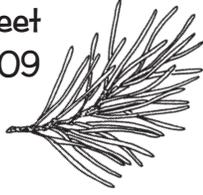
Smile and say "Ahhhh!" We'll take a close look at our teeth and the teeth of some wild animals. Touch real skulls and discover how animals use their teeth.



raccoon track pattern



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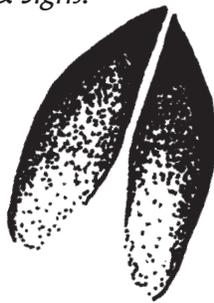
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Nature in Your Backyard

Check out your wild neighbors! Next time you are wandering around your backyard or a nearby park, look for clues left behind by birds and mammals awake in winter. For detailed information, check out Mark Elbroch's books: *Mammal Tracks & Signs* and *Bird Tracks & Signs*.



Some animals sleep during the coldest parts of winter. When it warms up a little, look for raccoon, opossum, and skunk tracks.



Deer are active all winter. Can you tell by looking at their tracks if they are walking or running?



As squirrels eat evergreen seeds, they chew away the scales. Look for half-eaten cones.



Owls eat their prey whole. Later they cough up pellets containing the undigestible fur and bones. To find a pellet, look under evergreen trees where owls tend to roost.



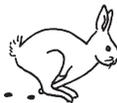
If you crawl around under bushes, you will probably find scat. Rabbits leave behind round balls the size of Cocoa-Puffs. Mourning doves leave curved, brown and white droppings.



Look for bird tracks, too! If you are lucky, you might find wing prints in the snow.



You will probably find a lot of cat and dog tracks. Remember that cats have retractable claws, so they don't leave claw marks.



Squirrel tracks and rabbit tracks are very similar. Follow the tracks and remember that only squirrels can climb trees!

