

# HORIZONS

THE VOICE OF THE FRIENDS OF HAVENWOODS



## ***Doing good and feeling good***

There isn't much that tops working together with others to achieve a common goal—and laughing along the way! We always feel better when we're on the land.

Volunteering's great for spirit, mind and body, and it can help you:

- Reduce stress
- Meet all kinds of new people
- Build skills and confidence

**Interested?** You'll find a list of opportunities on the insert and one on page 3, or go to:

[www.friendsofhavenwoods.org/volunteer](http://www.friendsofhavenwoods.org/volunteer)

## **With a little help from our friends...**

Volunteer help is always needed at Havenwoods State Forest, a 237-acre property with trails, boardwalks, and a nature center filled with exhibits, including live reptiles and amphibians. Our small staff operates and maintains this unique urban state forest, but there is always more work to be done than people to do it. That's why, when we say, "we need you," we mean it.

The generous gift of time from our volunteers, whether we are talking about land management or helping to greet visitors, is what helps us to survive. To place a value on that is extremely difficult, but many grants are now allowing us to use the figure of \$29.95/hour to account for the in-kind contributions of our volunteers.

But volunteering can be worth so much more. Inside this newsletter, see how volunteers Dennis Kaehny, Alex Wisth, and Johnson Controls' Jenna Kunde (her coworkers are pictured above) find volunteering beneficial.

And if nothing else, it's just plain FUN. We'd love to have you join us!

# Volunteers Care for Havenwoods



Volunteers of all ages and backgrounds have worked at Havenwoods State Forest since it was established in 1980, helping restore woods and grassland, serving refreshments, maintaining the nature center, and assisting staff during special events.

Community residents retired from their jobs donate time alongside young people seeking new skills and experiences to bolster their resumes for job applications. Teams of employees from local corporations arrive ready to plant trees or other single-day tasks needing many hands. Other residents show up to plant and weed flower beds or remove litter.

**Dennis Kaehny** (*above*) started cutting invasive buckthorn on Saturdays in the mid-1990s, soon after his early retirement due to a business closing, and he hasn't stopped volunteering since then.

In nearly three decades, Dennis has pitched in wherever he was needed, continuing to cut buckthorn when he was physically able, joining

the board of the Friends of Havenwoods in 2004, cleaning the grounds after festivals, building bird houses and bird feeders, and mowing grass.

The work at Havenwoods keeps him active and occupies time, according to Dennis.

Dennis turned 80 years old in March and uses a walker for mobility but that hasn't stopped him from helping inside the nature center where he recently helped convert old photographic slides to digital copies.

**Alex Wisth** (*below*) credits volunteer work at Havenwoods since the summer of 2022 with giving her hands-on experience with animal feeding and handling as she met and interacted with visitors that assured staff she could work there as a regular employee. She also helped at special events. (*continued next page*)



(continued from p. 2)

Alex graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in January 2023 with a bachelor's degree in biology. Two months later she was hired as a natural resource educator at Havenwoods.

In that job, she will help with educational programming and continue to feed resident reptiles and amphibians in the nature center. She'll be removing Foxy, a fox snake, from its exhibit so that it can coil around one of her arms as visitors watch and touch the snake.



In April 2019, **Jenna Kunde** (*pink jacket, above*) joined fellow employees representing the company sustainability resource group for a day of planting trees in the forest. Johnson Controls' corporate culture recognizes the responsibility to contribute to communities where their employees work and live, Jenna said. She is the Global Sustainability Director for Johnson Controls.

Employees are encouraged to serve as board members for non-profit groups or volunteer time to help in other ways. The corporation's worldwide goal is to reach 2 million volunteer hours by the year 2025.

As local corporations greet employees returning to offices three years after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, the Friends of Havenwoods reminds businesses looking for team-building opportunities to consider a volunteer day at the forest. Fresh air, exercise and fun are added benefits.

## Volunteers Needed: Free Field Trip Event

**Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo (MOHEE)** is coming to Havenwoods on May 10th with approximately one thousand 4th - 7th graders. And we could use your help to make it a success!

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/MOHEEMKE> to sign up for a volunteer shift and interest area for the day.

There's still time to register your school or homeschool group to participate in MOHEE MKE. Go to: <https://ohceyes.oprg/unicdn/expo/>



Friends of Havenwoods, Inc.  
6141 North Hopkins Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53209

### FOH Board of Directors

President: Judy Dollhausen  
Vice President: Melissa Cook  
Treasurer: Dale Yerkes  
Secretary: Rachel Jones

Board members: April Calvert,  
Jim Goetz, Stephanie Harling, Dennis  
Kaehny, Naomi Miller, George Morrison,  
Lamont Smith

### Nature Center Hours

**8:30 a.m.—4 p.m.**

**Tuesday thru Saturday**

The grounds are open 6 a.m.—8 p.m. If you will need to enter the building please call 414-527-0232 to make sure the staff are not busy elsewhere.

### Friends of Havenwoods Membership

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Email\_\_\_\_\_

Amount\_\_\_\_\_

#### Individual Memberships

\_\_\_ Single. . . . . \$20

\_\_\_ Family. . . . . \$25

\_\_\_ Lifetime. . . . \$400

Corporate Supporters: for information about corporate donor levels, please contact [fohpresident@gmail.com](mailto:fohpresident@gmail.com)

Please send your membership check to:

Friends of Havenwoods, Inc.

6141 N. Hopkins Street

Milwaukee, WI 53209