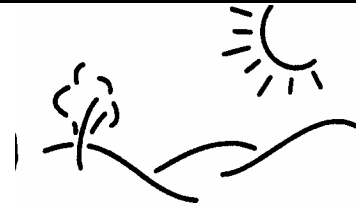


# Horizons

The Voice of the Friends of Havenwoods, Inc.



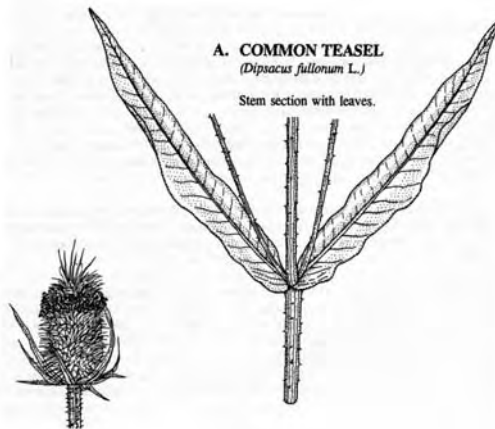
## The invasive plant battle shapes up as a long effort on many fronts

By Judy Klippel

Ever since Havenwoods became a state forest, people have been fighting invasive plants here. The battle against the invasives started simply, with FOH removing buckthorn back in the early 1980s. Today, as we've expanded to trying to control 23 species of plants, the battle is certainly more complex.

We've been fortunate to have great crews of volunteers to work with us on invasive removal. FOH still faithfully kills buckthorn and other invasives. Students in UWM's conservation program and kids from local schools come every year to help with garlic mustard, teasel, thistle, and others. This year we also got help from the Whitefish Bay Masonic lodge and 50 participants in United Way's Days of Caring (from Kahler-Slater, Manpower, and Wipfli). To help us track all our staff and volunteer control efforts and outcomes, our conservation biologist, Beth, maintains detailed data bases and maps.

Over the years, we've seen a huge increase in the amount of information available about invasives, the problems they create, and how to control them. The best resource



we've found and used extensively is on the DNR's website: <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/plants.asp>. Check it out. It's a useful tool for homeowners too.

We've joined forces with a fairly new organization in a mutual effort to  
(Continued on page 3)

## Snakes are Spectacular coming October 10th

Another great Fall NatureFest is coming to the Environmental Center on Saturday, October 10, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The theme is "Snakes are Ssspectacular!"

A host of indoor and outdoor activities will interest guests of all ages. Visitors can touch, experiment, and learn about snakes and other reptiles. Snake, turtle, and toad programs are scheduled throughout the day. Visitors can take a snake hike or play the Snake Survival Game.

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### Notice

Friends of Havenwoods  
Annual Membership Meeting  
13 October 2009 - 6:30 P.M.  
Havenwoods Environmental Center  
All members are welcome!

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## Endowment Fund stands ready to help

The long term permanent needs of an Environmental Center, whether operated privately or publicly, remain as one of the major concern of its managers. The Havenwoods Board of Directors, some years ago, established an Endowment Fund as a way of accumulating funds and making them and/or the interest available to the Havenwoods State Forest on a long term permanent basis. The Havenwoods Fund has been built up to almost \$5000 but needs to grow even more in order to provide the funding needed for the future. Endowment funds usually are permanently invested while a portion of the interest earnings are distributed annually so they can be used for programs and other needs of the organization like the restoration of a nature trail or funding for their park naturalist position.

In addition to providing a source of permanent funding, endowments can also attract major gifts from  
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Letters and contributions are invited. Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of January, May, and September.

## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT



### *Greetings Friends;*

One of the latest ideas to help limit our dependency on foreign oil and reduce CO2 emissions is the conversion of algae to fuel. This seems like a much better idea than producing ethanol from corn, soybeans or switch grass. We've gotten fairly good at producing large quantities of these little green water plants by "accident" through over-fertilization and other runoff pollutants at the expense of many smaller bodies of water and fish populations.

The stuff can be grown just about anywhere. We wouldn't have to waste cropland or create any mining debris. It would be great if we could establish a production facility locally and get some folks back to work. I wonder if our newest Board member would be interested in putting together a demonstration model?

Just kidding Jim, I know you're a Hydrogen guy.

Eventually, I believe that the Milwaukee region will need to accept the idea of mass transit. I could see a plan that would also include bike and pedestrian paths under canopies covered with photovoltaic collectors. Some could be integrated along the new transit lines. Well lit with solar power and probably fenced in some areas, it might be a way to utilize vacated rail lines and utility easements. I think that the Neighborhood Identification Program created by the Norquist administration really helped create pride and sense of place. It might be time to make some connections. What about an inter-neighborhood pathway? Think – Nodes.

*Regards,*

President – Friends of Havenwoods



*Welcome*  
*to our*  
*Newest Members*

*Cathy Padgett*  
*Carole Raether*  
*Rebecca Ferguson*

*Thanks for joining and supporting us!*

## Superintendent's Report

By Judy Klippel  
Havenwoods State Forest Superintendent

(Continued from page 1)  
educate about and control invasives: the Southeast Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium (SEWISC). The group encompasses the eight counties of this corner of the state and consists of 24 partner agencies and organizations. SEWISC's major goals in the fight against invasives are prevention, early detection and rapid response, control and management, and rehabilitation and restoration.



SEWISC holds its meetings here and will be conducting workshops on invasive species here. The first workshops, October 21 and 22 and next spring, are designed for people who work on highways, rights-of-way, and



Glossy Buckthorn

parks. The classes will help them identify invasive plants, understand the problems they create, and successfully manage them. Using the resources of its member groups and grant money, SEWISC has plans to conduct more workshops in the future. We look forward to participating in these and other SEWISC education efforts.

A huge boost in invasives control statewide came this month in the



Garlic Mustard

form of new legislation. As of September 1, Wisconsin has a new administrative rule, Chapter NR 40, which is designed to contain invasive species. A summary on the DNR's website says, "The new rule establishes a science-based classification and regulatory system for invasive species and addresses possession, sale, transportation and introduction of listed invasive species. The rule's classification system lists species of plants and algae, animals and plant disease-causing organisms as prohibited or restricted and focuses on education and prevention, and cooperative action to contain new problem species when found in the state." You'll find the unofficial text of the Invasive Species Identification, Classification and Control rule at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/code/nr/nr040.pdf>.

I wonder where Wisconsin (and the world!) will be 30 years from now in the efforts to control invasives. We'll never be rid of them; many are so well established they'll never leave. I hope folks will be able to say that hard work, legislation, and education help them contain new invasive species and minimize their effects on ecosystems and the economy. Meanwhile, we need to keep using all the "tools" we have.

## Endowment fund stands ready to help

(Continued from page 2)  
donors who otherwise wouldn't have considered making a large gift to a Friends group or organization. Camille Zanoni, director of member relations for the Natural Resources Foundation commented recently, "Donors like the assurance that says their gift will be managed wisely. We've seen a remarkable increase in donor support towards our endowment. One member who traditionally contributed \$25 annually to our organization made a \$25,000 donation towards our endowment. That same donor later left a \$600,000 bequest to our endowment through his estate."

Please consider Havenwoods Endowment Fund when you feel the need to donate to a worthy cause. Havenwoods remains as a local green oasis in the middle of miles of homes, businesses, and work places. The Environmental Center continues to provide one of the few means for local school children to get out in nature and be educated about its complexity and benefits to the world.

The Endowment Fund stands ready to help if you do. Send us your check today no matter how large or small. Please mark it for the endowment fund. And many thanks for helping.

### Have You Moved?

**Keep your address current!  
Undelivered mail costs FOH  
money AND you do not  
get a newsletter.**

**Call 527-0232**

**Let us have your new address!**

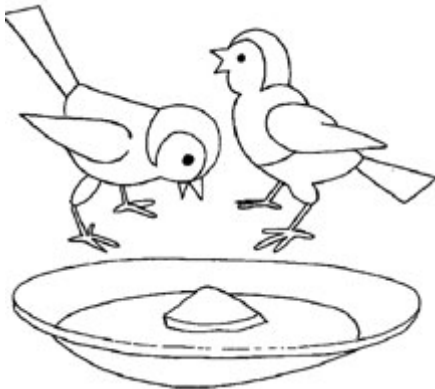
## Feed the birds but please don't forget to give them water

**By Sue Johansen**

**Environmental Education Specialist**

Many of us enjoy feeding the birds in our backyards, but we forget that birds not only need food, but water, too. Fresh, clean water, especially during the winter months, can be hard for a bird to find. A great benefit for the birds in your neighborhood would be to add a birdbath to your backyard. Water will actually attract more species of birds than your feeders can since every bird needs water, not all birds eat seeds. You don't need to spend lots of money on a fancy birdbath, but there are certain things you should consider. Check out the tips below for purchasing and placing a birdbath in your yard.

While your birdbath doesn't need to be fancy, it does need to have some specific features that make it usable for the birds. The basin of the birdbath should be shallow; no deeper than 3 inches at the center. The edges of the basin should be shallower than the center so a bird



can ease its way in to the deeper water. Many birdbaths are too deep, and if you have one like that now, just add a few rocks to make it shallow enough for the birds to use.

Another feature the basin needs is a rough bottom. Birds have a hard

time when they lose their footing when they go in for a dip. A basin that has a glazed bottom and sides can be quite slippery for a bird to get in and out. A basin made of cement is good, but can be heavy and hard to handle, especially when you need to clean it. There are many birdbaths on the market now that are made from fiber and resin that are extremely lightweight and have a rough texture that makes it safer for birds to use. Because it is lightweight, it is easier for you to move and clean.

A final feature that can make your birdbath more attractive to your feathered friends is the sound of moving water. You can dramatically increase the number of birds that will use your birdbath if you have dripping water. For example, hummingbirds will only bathe while in flight, zipping in and out of the drips, and won't wade in the water like a robin does. You can buy fancy pumps and fountains to add moving water, but some people have had success with just using a bucket with a hole. Make a ½ inch hole in the bottom of a bucket and plug the hole with a bit of cloth. Suspend the bucket over the bath, fill it, and let the water drip.

The type of birdbath you choose is important, but you also want to find a good place for its location. You can have the greatest birdbath, but if it's not in the right location in your yard, the birds won't use it. Your birdbath should be in an area somewhat in the open where cats and other predators can't hide. Cats will lie in wait under shrubs or behind other concealing objects to pounce on birds when they are wet and can't fly well. You'll want to place your birdbath at least five to ten feet from



any such hiding places to give the birds a chance to see danger coming. It's also a good idea to place your bath on a pedestal so it is somewhat off the ground, giving the birds a better "bird's-eye-view" to watch for danger. Birds also need a place to bathe where there is an escape route. An ideal place for your birdbath is under low hanging branches that are only within two to three feet of the bath. A wet bird may not be able to fly far, but it can flutter a few feet up to the safety of a tree branch or shrub if there is danger.

While you are thinking about a place that is good for the birds, don't forget to think about where it will be best for you, too. Make sure you place your birdbath where you can easily reach it with a hose. You will not only need to refill the bath, but you will need to keep it clean, too. Having a hose that can easily reach your birdbath will make it easier for you.

To keep your birdbath clean and free of diseases, change the water  
(Continued on page 10)

## Fall 2009

The Havenwoods State Forest grounds are open from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm daily. The Environmental Awareness Center is open from 7:45 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday. The building is open every Saturday from 9:00 to noon or later. Please call to determine afternoon availability on Saturdays.

All events listed below will begin in the Environmental Awareness Center located at 6141 N. Hopkins Street (one block west of Sherman Blvd. on Douglas Ave.), unless otherwise noted. Registration is required only where indicated in program descriptions. Admission to programs is free unless otherwise noted. Please call (414) 527-0232 for further information.



## Special Events

### Bats!

September 26, 11:00 am – 12:00 noon (Saturday)  
Havenwoods welcomes Bat Conservation of Wisconsin (Bat COW) and their live bats. Come and see these beautiful bats and learn more about these misunderstood creatures. This is a program for all ages.

### Fall NatureFest - Snakes are Ssspectacular

October 10, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm (Saturday)



Join us for a special day of scaly surprises with several spectacular species of Wisconsin snakes for you to meet. Get up close and personal with the snakes, meet some of their herp relatives, go for a snake walk, do snake activities and crafts, and much more! This festival is for all ages.

## Adult Programs

### Havenwoods Birding Walks

Every Wednesday throughout the year, 8:00 – 9:30 am  
Join the Havenwoods Birding Group for our weekly birding walks. We'll hike through fields, forests, and wetlands in search of birds. No experience is necessary. Please ask at the front desk if you need to borrow a pair of binoculars.

## Programs at Havenwoods

### PV (Solar Electric) Systems for Your Home

October 24, 12:00 – 12:00 noon (Sat.)

Participants in this seminar will learn about how photovoltaics (PV)

systems create electricity from the sun, what components make up a PV system, how to determine what size system will



meet your needs, where to locate a system on your home or property, what PV systems cost and the financial incentives that are available. Cost: \$15 per person; \$5 for WE Energies' Energy for Tomorrow customers. To register, visit: [www.we-energies.com/RE](http://www.we-energies.com/RE), or call the Midwest Renewable Energy Association at 715-592-6595.

### Solar Water Heating Systems for Your Home

October 24, 1:00 – 3:00 (Sat.)

Participants in the seminar will learn how to supplement their existing water heating system with a solar water heater that uses the sun's energy to heat water. They will also learn about the components that make up a solar water heating system, the most reliable system types for cold climates, where to locate a system on a home or property, what solar water heating systems cost and the financial incentives available, and the steps to get started with an installation. Cost: \$15 per person; \$5 for WE Energies' Energy for Tomorrow customers. To register, visit: [www.we-energies.com/RE](http://www.we-energies.com/RE), or call the Midwest Renewable Energy Association at 715-592-6595.

### Willow Workshop

October 31, 10:00 – 11:30 am (Saturday)

Make a simple wall hanging of willow and vines using materials collected at Havenwoods. Then decorate it at home for the holiday season. Please register and pay by October 23. Cost is \$5.

## Family Hikes

Spend an hour on a family-friendly hike through Havenwoods. We'll use magnifiers, binoculars and super-duper outdoor lookers to spend the morning in nature.



(Continued on next page)