

Winter 2011-12

December - February

Education 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.

Website

www.friendsofhavenwoods.org

Friends of Havenwoods

Become a member!



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Havenwoods State Forest

During the winter, some animals hibernate, some migrate, and some spend the winter simply trying to stay alive. If there is snow on the ground, animals that are active leave signs as they search for food, water, and shelter. Learning to “read” those signs can be a lot of fun!

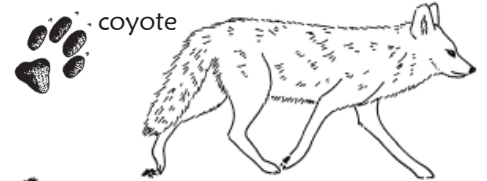
Stop by the nature center to borrow some snowshoes and a field guide to animal tracks. Then make tracks outside to look for signs of wildlife!

Exploring Nature in the City

When you are out and about at Havenwoods, you might see tracks like these.

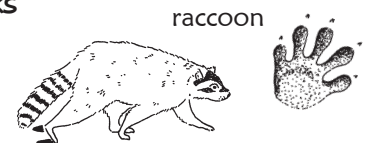
Coyotes—Foxes—Deer

Animals with long legs leave single prints in almost a straight line. Housecats and dogs also leave prints like these.



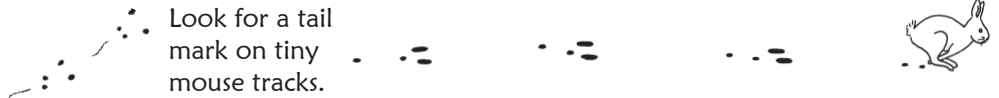
Raccoons—Opossums—Skunks

Animals that are short and stocky usually leave pairs of tracks.



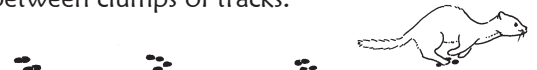
Squirrels—Rabbits—Mice

Animals with large back legs and small front legs usually hop to get around.



Weasels—Mink

Animals with long, slender bodies and short legs leave long spaces between clumps of tracks.



Turkeys—Crows

Birds that spend a lot of time on the ground leave tracks in a walking pattern.



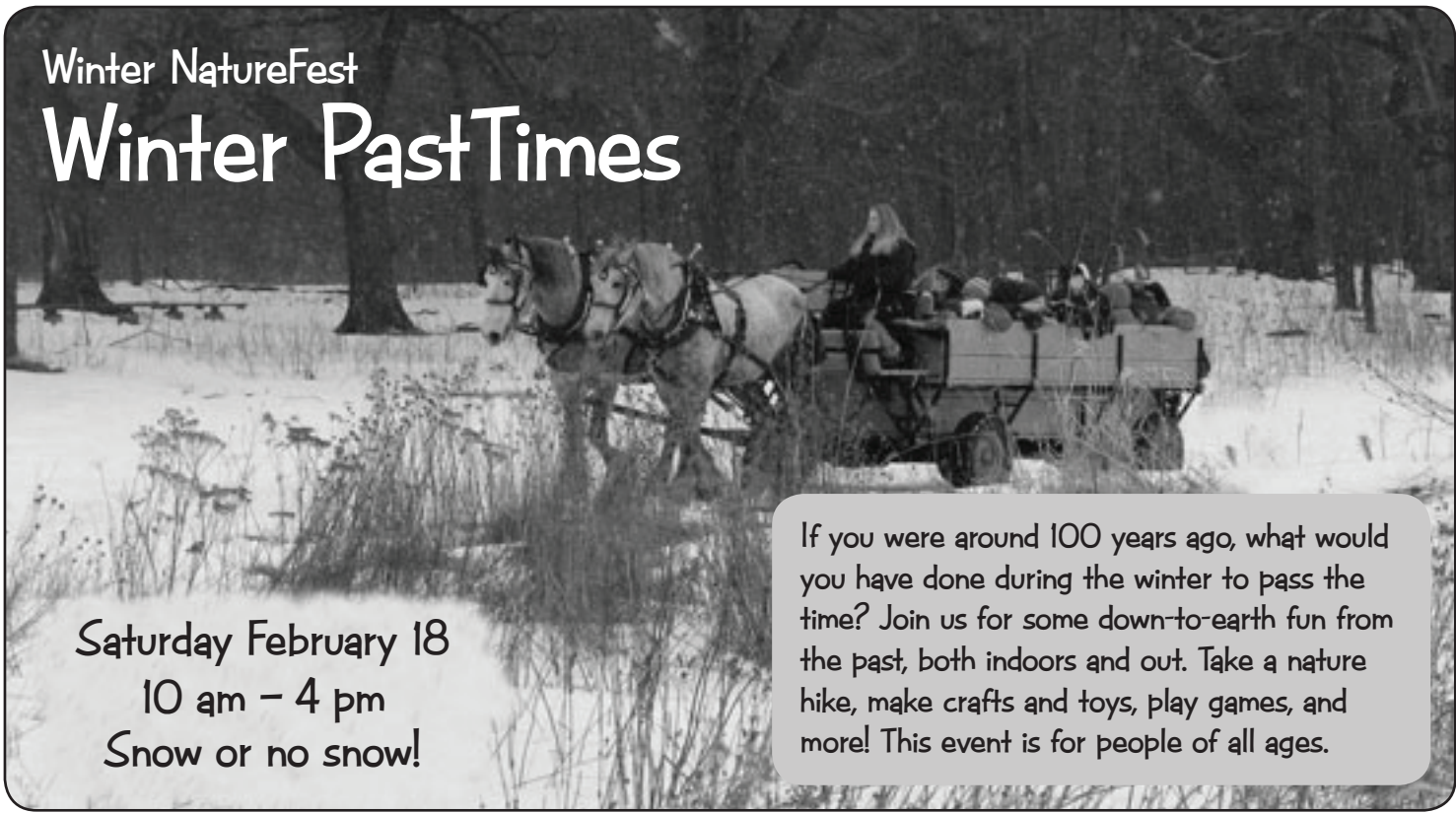
Songbirds

Birds that spend most of their time in trees leave hopping patterns.



Winter NatureFest

Winter Pastimes



Saturday February 18
10 am – 4 pm
Snow or no snow!

If you were around 100 years ago, what would you have done during the winter to pass the time? Join us for some down-to-earth fun from the past, both indoors and out. Take a nature hike, make crafts and toys, play games, and more! This event is for people of all ages.

Hikes and Workshops for Adults

Registration is required only where indicated in program descriptions. Admission to all programs is free unless otherwise noted.

Nature Center Winter Clean-Up

January 28 (Saturday), 9 am – noon

Cleaning isn't on everyone's favorite to-do list, but it has to be done! Join together with staff and volunteers to do some once-a-year deep cleaning in the center. We'll supply the cleaning supplies, coffee, and cookies. You just bring your energy and enthusiasm. No sign-up needed.

Snowshoe Hike

January 28 (Saturday), 1 - 2 pm

If you have wanted to try snowshoeing, this is the hike for you. We'll use plastic bearpaw snowshoes to hike around Havenwoods. Dress for the weather, as we will spend the whole time outside. Keep in mind that snowshoes tend to kick up snow on the backs of your legs. If there is no snow, we will take a winter walk instead.



Family 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.

Winter Stroll

December 3 (Saturday),
10:30-11:30 am

Put on an extra layer of clothes and head outside to see how plants and animals are surviving the cold. After we check out the active mammals and birds, we'll look for green plants in winter and insects hibernating under bark.

Snowshoe Hike

January 7 (Saturday),
10:30-11:30 am

We'll head out on snowshoes to discover how different the park looks covered in snow. Bring your own snowshoes or borrow a pair from us. If there is no snow, we'll take a hike instead.

Tracking Trek

February 4 (Saturday),
10:30-11:30 am

Snow can be a great place to find animal tracks. We'll head out on snowshoes to find tracks and discover which animals have been out and about in the cold. Dress warmly!

Drop-In on Nature

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.

Owls

December 10 & 17 (Saturday)

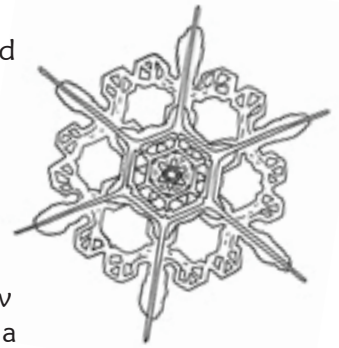
Havenwoods is home to several owls—great horned, long-eared, and screech. Drop in to dissect an owl pellet, learn how owls find their prey in the dark, and make an owl puppet. Then take a map outside to look for owls and pellets.



Snowflakes

February 11 (Saturday)

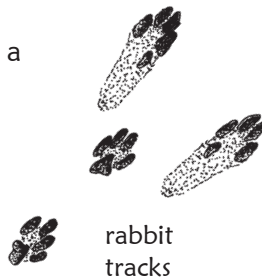
Discover different types of snow crystals, solve some snow mysteries, print snowflakes on a bandana, and get ready to really enjoy the next snowstorm!



Tracks

January 14 & 21 (Saturday)

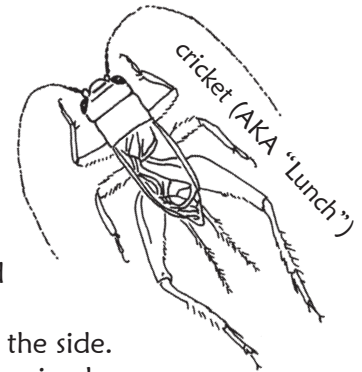
With snow on the ground, winter is a great time to look for animal tracks. Stop inside the building to learn how to identify tracks and play some tracking games. Then grab a tracking guide and head outside to look for real animal tracks.



Hungry Animals

February 25 (Saturday)

Get a front row seat to watch turtles, snakes, and toads eat lunch. What’s on the menu? Mice, worms, and crickets are the main entries, but expect some vitamins on the side. While our staff is feeding the animals, you can think of questions to stump the naturalist! (Not recommended for those with weak stomachs!)



Preschool Storytimes

We’ll use stories, crafts, and activities to explore a different topic each storytime. Preschool storytimes are for children 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 13 (Tuesday), 9:30-10:30 am

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

Wild Animals Don’t Really Act Like People

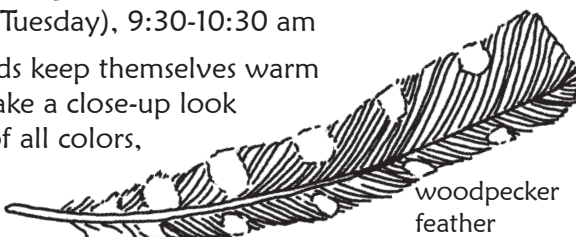
December 27 (Tuesday), 9:30-10:30 am

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

Feather Coats

January 10 (Tuesday), 9:30-10:30 am

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



Winter Sleepers

January 24 (Tuesday), 9:30-10:30 am

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 7 (Tuesday), 9:30-10:30 am

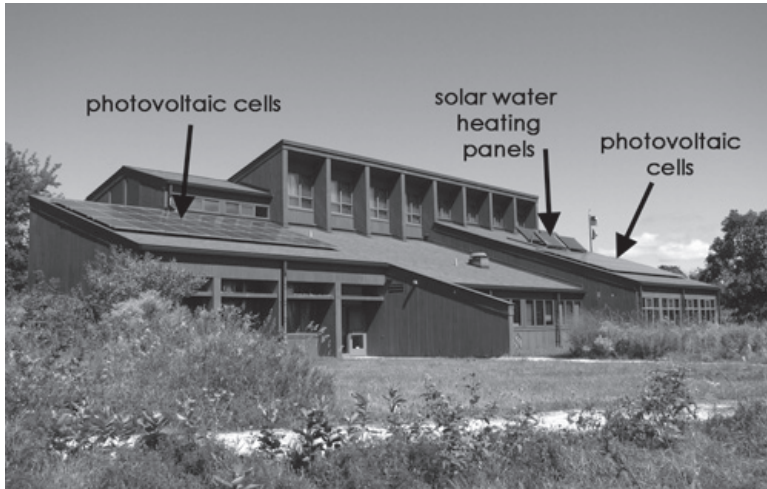
The moon looks different every night! Come celebrate our changing neighbor! Take a look at moon maps and imagine frogs, polar bears, and cheese!

Let’s See Your Teeth

February 21 (Tuesday), 9:30-10:30 am

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.

Going Greener!



We are excited to announce a big leap forward in renewable energy use at the State Forest. A 15 kW photovoltaic system has been installed on the south roof of the nature center. The system should generate about a third of Havenwoods' electricity needs.

We are grateful to Friends of Havenwoods, Focus on Energy, and WE Energies for providing financial assistance. We would not have been able to complete this project without their support. Stop by and take a look!

Take Smokey for a Hike!

Smokey has been out hiking with lots of kids this summer and fall. He would like to remind everyone that he also likes to hike in the winter. You can check out Smokey, a ranger hat, and a backpack anytime the nature center is open.

