

# RIDGES LITES

*News from the trailhead*

*An update of Ridges Activities • January 2013*

## Lower Range Light's Future Looks Bright



For the first time in 20 years, the Baileys Harbor Lower Range Light will undergo a major restoration. Fundraising for the project began in 2011 and concluded in June of 2012 when Marge Binder and Sarah Wright generously agreed to donate the remaining amount needed for the restoration.

Since The Ridges Sanctuary was founded in 1937, the Upper and Lower Range Lights have been icons of the Sanctuary and a visual attraction for the community. In 1937, the Door County Parks Department leased the 40 acres surrounding the Range Lights to The Ridges Sanctuary. In 1965, when use of the Upper Range Light was included in the lease, the responsibility for upkeep of the two buildings was transferred to The Ridges. Over the years, we have re-painted and replaced rotting boards on both buildings. The last major restoration of the Lower Range Light was in 1992; however, due to issues with the design and high humidity within the building, the restoration did not last as long as anticipated.

Like the Upper Range Light, the Lower Range Light is on the National Register of Historic Places and is subject to specific guidelines delineated by the Secretary of the Interior which need to be followed during restoration. In 2010, to ensure compliance with the specific historic preservation guidelines and to determine the scope and extent of needed repairs and long-term maintenance, we retained Restoric, LLC to perform a Historic Structures Report. The thorough conditions survey addresses all key architectural and historical features. Once begun, the restoration will follow the preservation approach recommended by the Report to ensure the work's longevity. This will include moving the structure 15 feet North of its current location in order to prevent snow from accumulating against the building when Ridges Road is plowed.



Work on the new foundation began on December 17. Watch the Lites for updates on our progress!

## ATTENTION BIRDERS!!!

American Transmission Company (ATC) is for the birds. Literally!

Birds nesting on utility equipment can pose problems, both for the safety of the birds as well as the reliability of the electric system. Osprey, in particular have huge nests and like to use wide flat surfaces. To address the situation, the utility company installs osprey nesting platforms on its transmission system, as well as at other locations in partnership with various agencies, organizations, and individuals throughout Wisconsin. Since 1993, ATC and other conservation organizations and utility companies have installed over 100 such platforms. In addition to enhancing service reliability, these nesting platforms protect the ospreys and promote the successful breeding of this once declining species.

On December 17th ATC installed a nesting platform on the north side of our new building site. It's easy for bird watchers to spot the 70 foot platform from both Ridges Road and Hwy 57. We'll be watching closely next spring in hopes that it will be used.

For more information about Osprey, visit [www.birds.audubon.org/species/osprey](http://www.birds.audubon.org/species/osprey)



## Mark Your Calendars!

It's not too early to save the date for the 2013 Ride for Nature! This year the Ride will take place on Saturday, June 15.



This is our biggest fundraising event of the year and, not surprisingly, it takes a village to staff it!

If you'd like more information about the types of volunteer positions available for the Ride, contact Kate LeRoy, [info@ridgessanctuary.org](mailto:info@ridgessanctuary.org) or 920-839-2802.

## Volunteers in the News

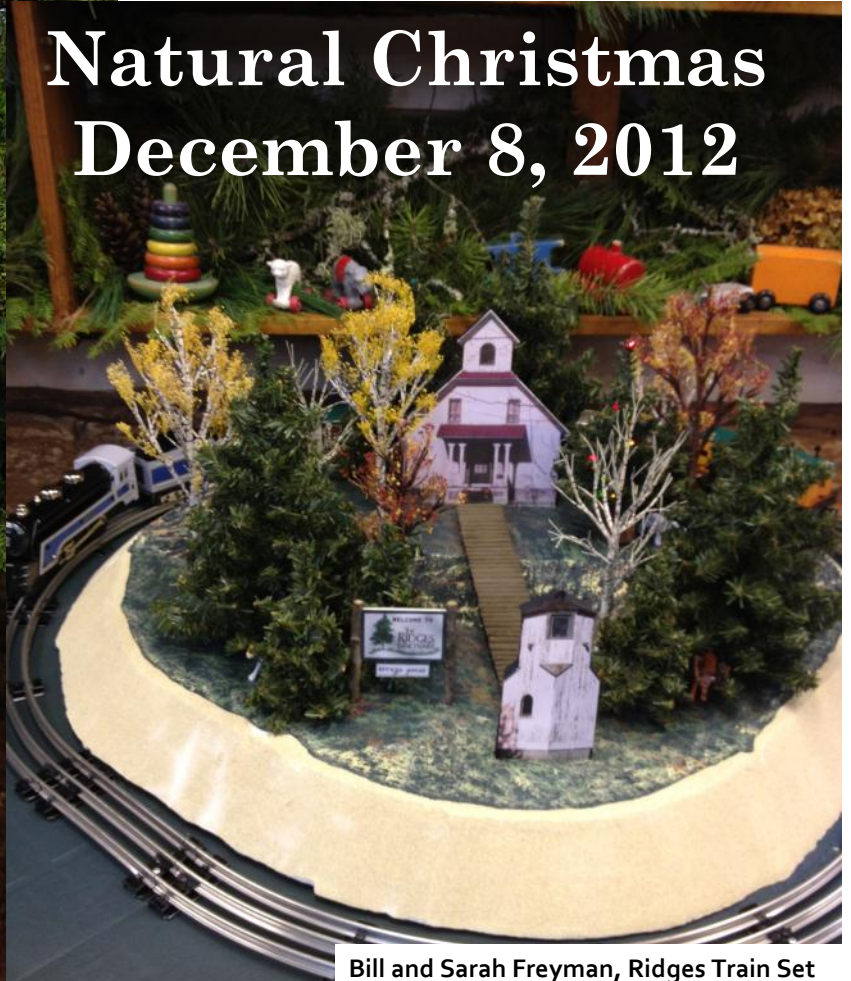
We know **Judy Dobbins** and her husband Greg as two volunteers who are always willing to lend a hand with mass mailings here at The Ridges. Now victims of Hurricane Sandy have also been on the receiving end of Judy's volunteerism. In November, Judy spent two weeks working at a Red Cross shelter in Toms River, New Jersey. At times, the shelter housed as many as 500 people. Judy's position involved everything from counseling to helping people get a change of clothes. Welcome back, Judy!

## It IS Easy Being Green, Subscribe by Email

Go green while you keep up-to-date with what's happening at The Ridges! Sign up to receive your copy of the Lites by email and help us save paper plus printing and mailing costs. The Ridges Lites is published 8 - 10 times a year. To subscribe by email, just give us a call at 920-839-2802, send an email to Kate LeRoy, [info@RidgesSanctuary.org](mailto:info@RidgesSanctuary.org), or subscribe on-line at [www.ridgessanctuary.org/newsletters](http://www.ridgessanctuary.org/newsletters)



Julie Knox and Jane Whitney



Bill and Sarah Freyman, Ridges Train Set



Our Natural Christmas event was a resounding success thanks to the astonishing amount of work done by our volunteers. **Jane Whitney** and **Julie Knox** have taken the lead on this event since its inception five years ago and continue to surprise and delight us with their decorating themes. Thanks also to **Bill and Sarah Freyman** for the charming addition of a toy train circling a model of the Upper and Lower Range Lights. Many thanks to the 30 volunteers who donated cookies, staffed the wreath-making and crafts workshops, assisted with parking, tended the campfire, guided hikes, staffed the Range Lights and lent their spirit and enthusiasm to this fast-growing Ridges tradition. Finally, a special thank you to **Sturgeon Bay Florist** and to **Pick 'n Save** for supplying the bouquet sleeves to hold the lovely handmade dried arrangements that were sold at the event.

# Ridges Sanctuary Membership / Donation Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Second Address from \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Membership: Individual \_\_\$40 Family \_\_\$65 Family Plus \_\_\$95 Business \_\_\$150 New \_\_ or Renewal \_\_\_\_  
Additional Donation to our operating fund: \_\_\$25 \_\_\$50 \_\_\$100 \_\_\$150 \_\_ Other \$\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ Check enclosed \_\_\_\_ Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to and make checks payable to: The Ridges Sanctuary • PO Box 152 • Baileys Harbor • WI • 54202 or [signup/donate](http://signup/donate) online [www.RidgesSanctuary.org](http://www.RidgesSanctuary.org)

## Citizen Science: The Christmas Bird Count

Karen Newbern, Naturalist

Sponsored by the National Audubon Society, The Christmas Bird Count is the longest running citizen science program in the world. The Count started in 1900 as a more humane alternative to a holiday tradition known as the Christmas "Side Hunt." Participants would choose sides and go afield with their guns; at the end of the day, the team that brought in the most birds (or other animals) was declared the winner.



Photo by: Dale Goodner

Ornithologist Frank Chapman proposed that birds be counted instead of shot, and the Christmas Bird Count was born.

The Ridges has coordinated the Ephraim Count since 1969. Each year we record about 45 species, but as many as 55 species have been seen. Along with common birds such as chickadees, rare and/or unusual birds are often sighted. Fourteen Gray Partridge were seen in 1969, but not since; a Ruby-throated Hummingbird was seen in 1980; the 1995 count recorded an Eastern Towhee and a Varied Thrush; two Eastern Bluebirds were seen in 2005; and in 2011 we recorded the first Greater White-fronted Goose and Red-necked Grebe. The highlight of this year's count was the Northern Hawk Owl. This handsome fellow was spotted in the vicinity of Cty Q & Hwy 57 in Sister Bay and attracted birdwatchers from as far away as Ohio.

Although this year's count is done, we are always looking for more volunteers. If you are interested in contributing data to this important project, contact Karen at the Ridges for more information.



Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

Ridges Sanctuary

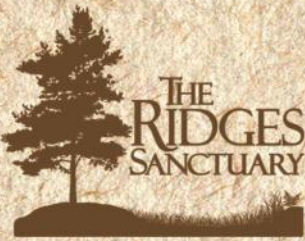


## RIDGES BUSINESS MEMBERS

We thank them for their support!

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PO BOX 152 • Baileys Harbor • WI • 54202

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## Coming Up!

Mark Your Calendars!

Jan 4 - Feb 23 - Guided Snowshoe Hikes

Feb 2 - Great Waffle Breakfast

May 15 - Naturalist Guided Hikes Begin

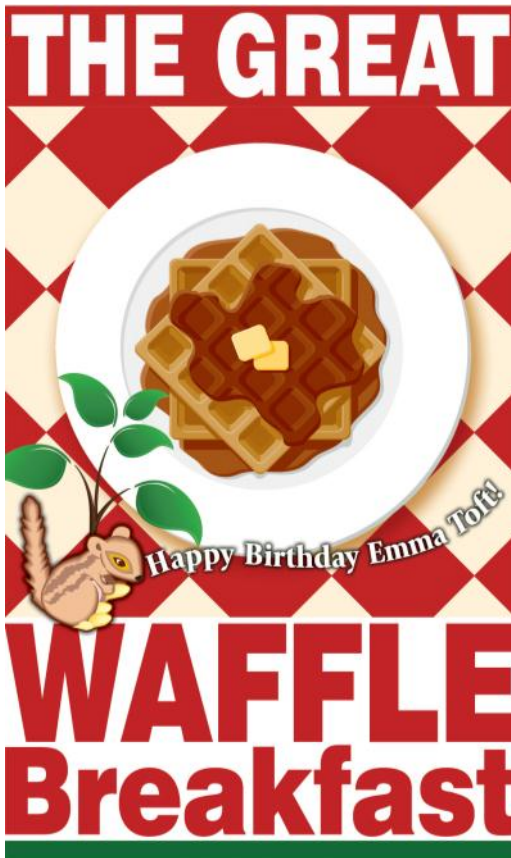
May 24 & 25 - Festival of Nature

June 15 - Ride for Nature

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### 5th Annual Great Waffle Breakfast Saturday, February 2nd. 9 to 11am

What better way to start a busy weekend than with a hearty breakfast? These days, many of us either skip breakfast or we grab 'n' go -- a bagel, donut or a muffin washed down with a hit of caffeine. Or if we have the time, we may swing through a fast food restaurant. If you're long overdue for a really great breakfast, join the staff and volunteers of The Ridges Sanctuary for the Great Waffle Breakfast at the Baileys Harbor Town Hall on **Saturday, February 2, 9:00 to 11:00 AM.** Enjoy waffles of all shapes and sizes, topped with Door County maple syrup, homemade cherry topping and whipped cream. Donations of \$6 for adults and \$3 for children under 12 will be accepted at the door.

The Ridges Sanctuary was founded by a group of visionaries who recognized the extraordinary biodiversity of the Baileys Harbor bog. Emma Toft was one of the most vocal and persistent of those visionaries, and the Great Waffle Breakfast celebrates the 122nd anniversary of her birth.

#### Wish List

- Black sunflower seed and cracked corn for the birds
- Copy paper/laser labels/office supplies
- Stamps
- 1-gal shop vacuum for the Nature Center
- AA batteries
- Donations to replace the Weather Station

#### Sign up today!

Dust off those waffle irons!  
We are looking for Waffle Bakers, Greeters, Dishwashers and Coffee Keepers.

Interested in Volunteering?  
Contact Kate LeRoy at  
info@ridgessanctuary.org or  
920-839-2802