

# RIDGES LITES

## *News from the trailhead*

*An update of Ridges Activities • April 2013*

### **From the Trailhead**

The Ridges Sanctuary is now a member of the Organization of Biological Field Stations (OBFS). So what does that mean exactly? The mission of the OBFS - supporting environmental research, education and public understanding - closely aligns with our own. Biological field stations provide living libraries and outdoor laboratories for students, researchers, and the general public interested in the environment. These stations provide an invaluable service to local communities and the country by providing unbiased scientific information and facilities to help governmental and other stakeholders tackle critical environmental issues. To learn more about Biological Field Stations visit [www.obfs.org](http://www.obfs.org).



In addition to strengthening the research component of our mission, field station status will provide us with access to training and networking opportunities, as well as funding options for environmental projects like the orchid reintroduction initiative we will begin later this year. Read more about the orchid project in the Bike to Benefit article on page 4.

### **Register Now for the Festival of Nature**

Registration is underway for this year's Festival of Nature and, trust us, you don't want to miss this premiere nature event! Two big "firsts" are the **Nature Trivia Night on Thursday evening** and **Friday's Local Land and Lake Picnic** featuring irresistible little burgers made with Waseda Farms grass-fed beef, Lake Michigan whitefish finger sandwiches, asparagus and mushroom bread pudding, spring greens and radish salad and rhubarb crisp. Is your mouth watering yet?

Almost 40 field trips and programs and a fascinating keynote presentation on the connection between the tropical forests of Costa Rica and our own beloved Door County migratory birds make the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Nature the place to be this Memorial Day weekend.

Capacity is limited, so preregistration is required - the earlier, the better!

For brochure and online registration, go to [www.RidgesSanctuary.org/festival-of-nature](http://www.RidgesSanctuary.org/festival-of-nature). To receive a brochure by email, contact [Karen@RidgesSanctuary.org](mailto:Karen@RidgesSanctuary.org). To request a brochure by mail, call 920-839-2802.



### **Subscribe to the Lites by Email**

We're serious about making changes that ease the burden on our planet. Here's an easy one. Reduce your own carbon footprint and help us reduce ours by signing up to receive your **full color copy** of the Lites by email. Sign up online at [www.RidgesSanctuary.org/newsletter](http://www.RidgesSanctuary.org/newsletter) or send an email to [info@RidgesSanctuary.org](mailto:info@RidgesSanctuary.org).





## Spruce Up Your Home for Spring & Help The Ridges

Our friends at Door County Nature Works are holding their annual Spring Seminar this month and are generously donating the registration fee to The Ridges. The seminar features wonderful design classes and demonstrations. This event is well-attended each year, so register by April 11 to reserve your place!



### Introducing Our Door County Coastal Byway Tour Series

Door County's Coastal Byway (Hwy 42/57), a Wisconsin Scenic Byway, stretches over 66 miles of Wisconsin's beautiful Door Peninsula. What better way to explore some of the natural wonders along the Byway than with two seasoned naturalists as your guides? That's why we've

partnered with naturalist Paul Regnier to bring you our first Door County Coastal Byway Tour series.

Tours begin in late May and offer a Birding Primer, two half-day tours and one full-day outing. Registration is open and space is limited, so call The Ridges to make your reservations now. All programs meet at the Marshall Cabin.

#### Bird Watching Primer

Become familiar with essential tools for bird watching. We'll supply the equipment, or bring your own for a review. Whether you want to bird watch on your own or join us for Birding Along Door County's Coastal Byway the next morning, this workshop is a great way to get up to speed on the basics.

**Date & Time:** May 31, 2013 •

**6:30 - 7:30 PM**

**Cost:** Free!

**Capacity:** 25



#### Orchid Mania and Wildflower Wonders Along the Coastal Byway

Join Naturalists Paul Regnier and Karen Newbern in search for one of Door County's natural claim to fame - native orchids. Some are common, some elusive, all pretty amazing! Over two dozen orchids grace the County's landscapes throughout the season. Orchid and wildflower natural history, photo opportunities and transportation provided.

**Date & Time:** June 22, 2013 •

**8 AM - Noon**

**Cost:** \$30/Ridges Member, \$40/General Public

**Capacity:** 16



## Spring Seminar

**Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> 5-7pm**  
**Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup> 9-11am**

\$10.00 registration fee will be  
donated to the **Ridges Sanctuary**



#### FEATURING:

- \* Creating Easy Centerpieces
- \* The Latest Trends in Fabrics and Textures
- \* Front Door Arrangements
- \* Bringing Design to Your Outdoor Living Space

**Call 920-868-2651 or email [shop@dcnw.biz](mailto:shop@dcnw.biz)**

(We ask that you please pay prior to April 11th)



**Door County Nature Works**

7798 Hwy 42 • Egg Harbor • 920.868.2651  
[www.doorcountynatureworks.com](http://www.doorcountynatureworks.com)

#### Birding Along Door County's Coastal Byway

The Door County Coastal Byway showcases miles of Lake Michigan shoreline - excellent habitat for birds and fledging birdwatchers. Join Naturalists Paul Regnier and Karen Newbern in a half-day exploration of birds! This tour is for beginner and advanced birders. Equipment and transportation provided or bring your own optics.

**Date & Time:** June 1, 2013

**• 7 AM-11:30 AM**

**Cost:** \$30/Ridges Member,  
\$40/General Public

**Capacity:** 16

#### The Nature of Door County Along the Coastal Byway

What makes Door County so special? Experience a day of natural and cultural history with Naturalists Paul Regnier and Karen Newbern.

Discover the highlights of the Door County Coastal Byway. Transportation provided.

**Date & Time:** July 20, 2013 • 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

**Cost:** \$55/Ridges Member, \$70/General Public  
Bring lunch and drink, cooler provided.

**Capacity:** 16



Check your mailing label for the expiration date of your membership and support the oldest member based nature preserve in Wisconsin. Or consider a donation to support The Ridges. *Please let us know if you wish to remain anonymous.*

## 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 \_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_

Additional Donation to our operating fund: \_\_\_\_ \$35 \_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_ \$75 \_\_\_\_ \$125 \_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Check enclosed \_\_\_\_ Credit Card: Visa or MC # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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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)



### The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual National Natural Landmarks Photo Contest is Open!

In 1967, The Ridges was designated a National Natural Landmark by Secretary of the Interior, joining the ranks of other national sites that contain outstanding biological and geological resources. For the past 10 years, photographers from around the country have been submitting spectacular images of the scenic and diverse natural heritage found within the nearly 600 NNL sites nationwide. Winning photographs from this year's contest will be prominently displayed in the 2014 NNL Calendar.

Each person can submit up to three photographs to the contest, but each photograph must be from a different NNL site. Entries will be accepted through **June 30, 2013** and winners will be announced in September. Each photograph must be accompanied by a separate Entry Form. For more information, including the **Official Contest Rules and On Line Entry Form**, go to <http://www.nature.nps.gov/nnl/photocontest.cfm>.

A picture is worth a thousand words, so grab your cameras and take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to share the natural beauty of The Ridges with nature lovers nationwide!

### Volunteer Opportunities!

Volunteers are needed for the **Festival of Nature** Wednesday - Saturday, May 22 - 25. Tasks include preparing packets, staffing registration, set up, clean up & take down.

**The Nature Store** is open May 15 - Oct 13, Mon-Sat 9am-4pm, Sunday 12-3. Shifts are available from 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM and 12:30 to 4 PM. You can volunteer weekly, semi-weekly or monthly, and we always need substitutes.

**Ride for Nature/Door County Beer Festival** volunteers are needed starting Thursday, June 13, all day Friday, June 14, and Saturday, June 15. Tasks include setting up routes, clearing debris from roads, manning aid stations, registration, making pretzel necklaces, selling water and non-alcoholic drinks.

To volunteer or to find out more about available tasks, dates and times, contact Kate LeRoy, 920-839-2802 or [info@RidgesSanctuary.org](mailto:info@RidgesSanctuary.org).

## Ridges Business Members - We thank them for their support!

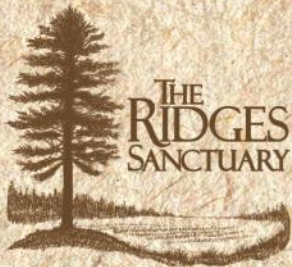
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## Coming Up!

April 12 & 13 - Frog Walks

May 11 - Signs of Spring

May 15 - Naturalist Guided Hikes Begin & the Nature Store opens for the season

May 24 & 25 - Festival of Nature

June 15 - Ride for Nature/DC Beer Festival

August 3 - Ridges Annual Event  
Featuring "A Standard of Change" -  
A one-man show about Aldo Leopold

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## Support The Ride for Nature on June 15, 2013

### To Ride ...

This year's event will mark the 25th annual bike ride to benefit The Ridges Sanctuary, Wisconsin's first land trust. From its grassroots beginnings, this event has grown to be our largest annual fundraiser with over 700 cyclists participating in 2012. Proceeds from the Ride support our efforts in research, education and preservation. **Register at [www.RideforNature.com/register1](http://www.RideforNature.com/register1).**

### To Sponsor ...

Bike to Benefit is an additional way for Ride participants and supporters to raise funds to benefit a specific Ridges project. Last year, this program helped raise money for a full restoration of the historic Lower Range Light which is anticipated to be completed this June. This year, Bike to Benefit will support the first phase of an important conservation initiative – *the reintroduction of the Showy and Yellow Lady's-Slipper orchids to the restored ridges and swales behind the future site of The Ridges new interpretive center*. Reintroduction of these key species in their natural habitat will create a living exhibit for the new center and provide an opportunity to study orchid ecology and the preservation of the species. **The restoration project will take place over three years with the first year focusing on germinating plants. The estimated cost for the germination phase is \$15,000.**

The Cordon Family Foundation has generously agreed to match, dollar for dollar, the first \$1,000 in sponsorships.

Cyclists participating in any distance of the Ride are eligible to participate. After raising at least \$250, participants will receive a Ride for Nature jersey. Prizes will be awarded to our top three fundraisers.

**Download a pledge sheet at [www.RideforNature.com/Bike-to-Benefit](http://www.RideforNature.com/Bike-to-Benefit).**

### To Donate ...

Not riding this year? Don't have a cyclist to sponsor? No worries!



**BIKE TO  
BENEFIT**  
the ridges sanctuary

You can still support the Ride and our orchid project by donating online. **Go to [www.RideforNature.com/Bike-to-Benefit](http://www.RideforNature.com/Bike-to-Benefit) and follow the Crowdrise link.**