A Standard of Change

What a difference a year makes! As we approach our Annual Meeting, we can’t help but think about how far we’ve come in twelve short months. Last July, we were celebrating the fact that we had received full funding for the restoration of the Lower Range Light thanks to the generosity of Ridges members, Marge Binder and Sarah Wright—a restoration that is now nearly complete. At our August 2012 Annual Meeting, we announced a $1 million lead gift to our building campaign and the receipt of a $554,900 Scenic Byways grant. This May, we announced the launch of a $3.5 million capital campaign to raise the remaining funds needed for the construction of our new facility, the Cook-Albert Fuller Center.

Thanks to the lead gift from the late Chester Cook, a lifelong Ridges member, and the unprecedented support of our membership, almost $2.4 million has been committed to the Bringing Nature to Life campaign. Now as we reach out to the community, we hope people will give what they can to this important project and help us secure the future of The Ridges for generations to come. Our goal is to raise the remaining funds by the end of September and break ground for the new building in the spring of 2014.

On August 3, we’ll hold this year’s annual meeting and gathering on the site of our new building. Throughout the afternoon and evening, you’ll have the opportunity to learn more about the building and site development, get an update on the progress of the campaign, tour the site and walk the trail which will soon become the handicapped accessible Hidden Brook boardwalk. As excited as we are about the new building, The Ridges has always endured because of the passion, dedication and commitment of people. During a picnic meal, we’ll honor several of those individuals as we announce our 2013 Volunteer Recognition Awards.

After dinner, Jim Pfitzer will take the stage to perform his one-man play, Aldo Leopold: A Standard of Change. Pfitzer’s play is so-titled because Leopold, a scientist and ecologist, set the standard for environmental ethics and is generally acknowledged as the father of conservation ecology. We like to think that our founders would find the title of Pfitzer’s play a good way to describe The Ridges, too. Throughout our history, we have expanded thoughtfully and strategically to protect this unique wild place—to set a Standard of Change for its growth and development and to make it a model of preservation through research and education.

Thanks to all of you for the part you’ve played in The Ridges continued success. Please join us as we honor the past and celebrate the future on August 3rd!

RSVP by July 26 to reserve your spot!

$40 per person includes beverages, a picnic meal and the play. Space is limited.

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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 or send an email to info@RidgesSanctuary.org.

For more information on upcoming events and news visit the website: www.RidgesSanctuary.org
Annual Meeting: Prospective Board Members

This year Jim Flint and Bill Wolff have been nominated to fill the vacancies on our Board of Directors left by departing board members Carl Giessel and Vicki Medland. Board member Bob Ryan has been nominated for a second term.

Voting by the membership will take place at the Annual Meeting, August 3, 3-5 PM. Please review the biographies below in preparation for voting. Remember that this year’s meeting will be held under the big tent on the site of our new interpretive center - Hwy 57 & Ridges Road in Baileys Harbor.

Jim Flint

Jim and his wife Barbara hail from Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin, and are seasonal residents of Baileys Harbor. Jim has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Economics from Milliken University and has spent his career working in investment management and is still active in the financial services field.

He is actively involved in outreach in the Milwaukee area through Rotary and other community organizations. At The Ridges, he is a member of the Endowment Committee and has volunteered his time to help control invasive species on the Sanctuary grounds. Jim is also a gifted photographer and has donated a number of his pieces for use in our silent auctions. Going forward, he is interested in implementing an ongoing student exchange program in partnership with The Ridges to expose Milwaukee children to the natural areas of Door County while providing Door County children with a cultural urban experience. In 2012, he collaborated with The Ridges to bring a group of Milwaukee students to Baileys Harbor for a day-long experience at the Sanctuary.

William R. Wolff

My name is Bill Wolff and I am a happily retired year-round resident of Door County. My wife and I retired here in 2004. We are fulltime residents of this wonderful community. My professional life was spent as a high school teacher and coach in the suburbs of Chicago north along the lake. After 40 years working in public high school education, it was time to retire to our present location.

Much of my time here is spent enjoying and working for the many organizations that make this such an exceptional place to live. I feel a real sense of obligation to give back to my community in thanks for the many blessings I have enjoyed in my life so far. I have been active in the Door County Land Trust Membership Committee and have spent many summer weekends at various local events promoting that organization. This summer we begin the same effort for The Ridges. I have also been active in the Wednesday morning work crew at the Ridges. In addition, I have served on the Board of Directors for the Toft Point Preserve.

My focus of involvement in these organizations has been membership recruitment and promoting the organization to the public. I am excited about the future for The Ridges with the new building and nature trail that is being planned. I see the future role of The Ridges growing dramatically as an agent for outdoor education of youth, adults, and families. I am excited, as I am sure all of us are, about being involved in such dramatic growth in our organization. The qualities that I hope to bring to this job are my attention to detail, my energy to accomplish goals, and my dedication to the efforts of my responsibilities. I also greatly enjoy interacting with the public in the effort to publicize the mission of The Ridges. I look forward to the opportunity to help the Ridges grow in its effort to serve our community.

Festival of Nature & Ride for Nature Hit New Highs

Many, many thanks to the volunteers who helped with two of our biggest annual events - the Door County Festival of Nature and the Ride for Nature. This year the Festival of Nature returned to Memorial Day weekend which meant that the two events were a mere three weeks apart and requiring 160 volunteers in total representing over 430 hours of donated time.

We’re delighted to tell you that both events were bigger and better than ever! Total participation for the Festival was 206 raising over $13,000 for The Ridges. The Ride for Nature attracted 884 riders - up 160 riders from 2012 - and raised almost $14,000 for our general fund, including $2900 for our orchid restoration project in Bike to Benefit sponsorships.

Planning is already underway for next year’s Festival and Ride. Something tells us they’ll be bigger and better than ever!
No Family Left Inside - Just Added!
$10/family  No Advance Registration Required

July 15 & August 12, 10:30 AM - Insect-igations  A close-up look at the bugs all around us. Suitable for children of all ages.

July 22, 10:30 AM - Boreal Forest Quest  Join us on the Ridges trails in search of a special prize and learn about plants, trees and wildlife along the way.

July 22, 7:30 PM - Monday Moon Walk  Designed for all ages and will be non-scary in nature. Learn about moon phases and walk to the beach to watch the moon rise. Bring your night eyes, your curiosity, and explore with all your senses!

July 29 - Butterflies and Other Pollinators  Bees aren’t the only pollinators in the garden! Suitable for children of all ages.

August 5 - Tracks and Traces  Learn about wildlife by their tracks and other “evidence” that they leave behind - nests, burrows, food leftovers and droppings. Make an animal track cast to take home. Program is designed for families with children of all ages.

Ridges Business Members - We thank them for their support!

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Ridges Sanctuary
July 9 - Lake Lessons: The Costa Rican Bird Connection
July 12 - Dragonflies in the Field - Paul Burton
July 13 - Not So Early Bird Hikes
July 18 - Lake Lessons: Honeybees & Native Pollinators
July 25 - Lake Lessons: Dragonflies
Aug 3 - A Standard of Change: Annual Mtg & Gathering

Saturdays - Discovery Bird Hikes
Wednesdays - Guided Kangaroo Lake Paddle Tours
Guided Hikes - Tuesday thru Saturday


Water Conservation Room Cards Available Soon
Promoting Conservation Practices to Support Tourism

Door County’s karst topography is responsible for some of our most beautiful geologic features. But the combination of that fractured karst bedrock and our thin soils can enable pollutants to be carried quickly into our groundwater. Protecting our groundwater quality and quantity is essential — it impacts our health, our wallet, our biodiversity and our local business community.

Our green space and scenic water frontage are some of the main reasons tourists visit the Peninsula every year. Door County’s strong tourist economy offers an opportunity to educate our visitors on protecting water resources and endangered species such as the Hine’s emerald dragonfly. In support of our number one economy and our local businesses, we’re seeking to partner with lodging establishments to instill a sense of stewardship with visitors and to provide them with information about how they can protect the things they value on their vacation.

Water conservation in Door County can start in lodging rooms by asking guests to reuse their towels. Demonstrating that local businesses are taking steps to conserve water and safeguard its quality will inspire patrons to do the same and encourage their return.

Ridges lodging business members, you can order your water conservation room cards today by calling Marne: 920-839-2802

* Receive Travel Green points by placing water conservation room signs in guest rooms!