



RIDGES LITES

News from the trailhead

An update of Ridges Activities • August 2013

Annual Meeting & Gathering

Change was the theme when Ridges members gathered at the future site of our new building on August 3. The day celebrated accomplishments of the past twelve months, including the public launch of our capital campaign, and focused on the organization's vision for the coming year.

During the program, Director Steve Leonard highlighted the recently completed restoration of the Lower Range Light, as well as several projects that are currently underway: the reintroduction of certain orchid species in the ridges and swales behind the building site and the monitoring of Northern flying squirrels.

Members also received an update on the status of the capital campaign which now has surpassed the \$2.5 million mark. As part of the presentation, Steve provided details about how funds have been allocated within the project and stressed that only \$700,000 more is needed to fully fund the building and site. Our goal is to secure that amount in pledges and gifts by the end of September, obtain bids this fall and break ground in the spring of 2014. Following the business presentation, members were free to tour the site, walk the future boardwalk trail and take a shuttle to the Lower Range Light.



Evening activities included a picnic meal and the one-man play, *Aldo Leopold: A Standard of Change* performed with grace and passion by storyteller, writer and actor, Jim Pfitzer.

We're already making plans for next year's annual gathering, so save the date - Saturday, August 2, 2014 - and watch the Lites for details. Whatever we do, we promise that the format will include a serving of facts and liberal portions of food and fun!

Reflections on Summer

By Tony Kiszonas, Summer Naturalist



The motivation to apply for The Ridges Sanctuary Summer Naturalist position came from a need to rediscover the joy of working with children who are eager to discover nature. As my days were becoming more focused on biological minutiae and the administrative part of education, I found myself craving to get back to the fundamentals of guiding children with their inherent curiosity about our natural world. Selfishly, I wanted to get back to the foundational components of what I enjoy most about working with youth. Watching the reckless abandonment with which children experience our natural world is very spiritual. My soul needed to get back to the basics.

The vision and passion exhibited by everyone whom I've had the pleasure to meet at The Ridges Sanctuary is absolutely inspiring. The staff and volunteers ALL exhibit a revered dedication to this marvelous entity of which I have been welcomed. It is with extreme gratitude that I have the opportunity to recapture the essence of why I love teaching in an environment that is truly a Sanctuary.

Growing up on a small northern Wisconsin dairy farm with a large "woods" out back destined me to spend my formative years forming a bond with our natural world; a sometimes bittersweet relationship, but a bond none the less. After receiving a degree in biology from Saint Norbert College, I relocated to Sturgeon Bay, where my wife, Diane, and I have lived for over thirty years. The siren song of the outdoors still whispers my name and I willingly succumb by finding as many curricular reasons as possible to hold class in our school forest.

Tony has been a Southern Door High School faculty member for 32 years. He teaches Biology.

Sneak Peek at Late Summer/Early Fall

For more information, download the season flyer at www.RidgesSanctuary.org.

Monarch Workshops -

Fri & Sat, Aug 30 & 31 at 10 AM

Help tag Monarchs in order to track them on their migration routes. \$10/Family

Naturalist-Guided Hikes -

Wed thru Sat, Sept 4 - Oct 12 at 9:30AM

Enjoy the fall beauty of the Sanctuary with an expert naturalist as your guide.
\$5 Members • \$8 General Public

Harvest Moon Walk -

Fri, Sept 13, 7:30 PM

Bring your night eyes and your curiosity and explore with all your senses. If skies are cloudy, alternate date is Sept. 14. \$10/Family

Logan Creek Fall Colors Hike -

Fri, Sept 27 at 1 PM

Fall colors and wildflowers in a beautiful hardwood forest.
\$5/Person

Fall Equinox Beer & Cheese Tasting - Thurs, Sept 26 at 8:30 PM

A fundraiser for The Ridges Capital Campaign at the Cornerstone Pub.
\$15/Person

Fall Colors Paddle Tours on Kangaroo Lake - Sat. Sept 28, 8 - 11 AM & 3 - 6 PM

Enjoy the colors of the season from a glass bottom kayak. Register with Lakeshore Adventures - 920-493-3474.
\$55/person

A Round for The Ridges -

Sat, Sept 28, 9:30 AM Shotgun Start

Our 6th annual golf outing. Enjoy a 9-hole scramble at Maxwellton Braes followed by lunch at Maxwellton Lodge. \$75 includes golf, cart & food. Extra guest tickets for lunch - \$15.

Apples, Cider and Colors on the Coastal Byway - Sat, Oct 5, 1 - 5 PM

Fall road trip with Paul Regnier and Karen Newbern featuring stops to sample fruits and ferments!
\$30/Person - Members • \$40/Person - General Public

Going Coastal Shoreline Walk -

Sat, Oct 12, 1 - 4 PM

Join Paul Regnier and Karen Newbern for an off-the-beaten-path walk along the shoreline of Lake Michigan.
\$15/Person - Members • \$20/Person - General Public

Monitoring Northern Flying Squirrels

By Marne Kaeske, Stewardship Coordinator

When Steve Leonard found a Northern flying squirrel outside the Upper Range Light last fall, it sparked one of the most exciting wildlife projects at The Ridges!

Northern flying squirrels are a species of special concern in the state of Wisconsin. Their habitat preferences, distribution and local abundance are not well understood. By monitoring flying squirrel nest boxes, we hope to answer two questions: 1) if there are Northern and/or Southern flying squirrels in on the peninsula, and 2) if there is a difference in micro-habitat selection based on forest type.

Eagle Scout candidate Chris Anderson will earn his rank with this project by leading volunteers through nest box construction and placement throughout the Sanctuary's "living laboratory" and Logan Creek property. Nesting boxes will also be placed on private property throughout Door County where flying squirrels have been identified or where volunteer interest exists. Undergraduate students from UW-Stevens Point will join us to train volunteers in nest box monitoring in September.



You Can Donate to the Ridges Sanctuary Directly from Your IRA -- TAX FREE

By Bob Ross, Ross Estate Planning

Individuals who are over 70-1/2 can take advantage of tax law changes signed by President Obama on December 31, 2012 and just extended for 2013. In 2013 persons who are over 70-1/2 can make contributions to their favorite charity directly from their IRA or Roth IRA.

The rules are:

- You must be 70-1/2 or older.
- Transfers must be made directly from the IRA custodian to the Charity. If the distribution comes to you first and then you write a check to the Charity, you will NOT get the same benefit.
- Up to \$100,000.00 may be gifted in 2013. The IRA distributions can come from multiple IRAs, but they are limited to a total of \$100,000.00.
- The transfer will count toward your required annual distribution.
- This is available only for distributions from an IRA or a ROTH IRA.

Bob Ross has more than 37 years of experience in estate planning, business succession planning, retirement planning, asset protection, charitable giving, probate, tax and real estate law. He is a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin, Wealth Counsel, and the Wisconsin Council of Estate Planning Attorneys and is a Fellow of the Estate Planning Institute of Collaborative Resources (EPICOR). The staff of the Ross Estate Planning office distinguishes itself by giving caring and professional attention to clients and their advisor teams.

Check your mailing label for the expiration date of your membership and support Wisconsin's first land trust or consider an additional donation to support The Ridges. Please let us know if you wish to remain anonymous.

Ridges Sanctuary Membership / Donation Form

Name: _____ Date: _____
Address: _____
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Second Address from ____/____ to ____/____
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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 August Lites 2013

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

Volunteer Corner

Congratulations to Our 2013 Volunteers of the Year!

As part of the Annual Gathering on August 3, we announced our Volunteer Recognition Awards.

This year, we are pleased to recognize Pam and Dwight Zeller, both of whom have given countless hours and much hard work to manage our Nature Store. Also receiving awards are Michel Roy and Dean Shumway. Both Michel and Dean are members of our invaluable Wednesday Crew and have logged many, many hours keeping The Ridges in good working order.

These individuals, along with all of our volunteers, will be honored at the Volunteer Gathering on Sunday, August 18, at Bjorklunden.

Volunteers are the backbone of The Ridges and the core of many of our important programs. Over 200 dedicated individuals assist our staff each year. In 2012, volunteers donated 5260 hours to the Sanctuary in support of our mission, the equivalent of two part-time staff members.

New Emma Toft Documentary Premieres in Door County

Crossroads at Big Creek will host the premiere showing of the Wisconsin Public Television documentary "Emma Toft: One with Nature" at 2pm September 7. The WPT broadcast premiere is scheduled for 7pm September 12.



The program includes film footage of The Ridges and Toft Point and looks at how the area was saved from commercial development and other challenges decades ago. It also examines the present-day challenges of invasive species and other factors that pose a risk to this pristine area.

Ridges Business Members - We thank them for their support!

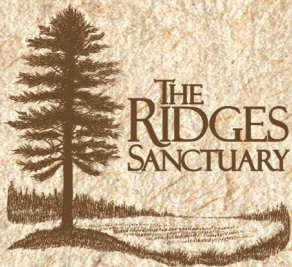
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Coming UP!

Aug 30 & 31 - Monarch Workshop
Sept 13 - Harvest Moon Walk
Sept 26 - Beer & Cheese Tasting
Sept 27 - Logan Creek Hike

Wednesdays - Guided Kangaroo Lake Paddle Tours
Guided Hikes – Tuesday thru Saturday until Aug 31
(Wed-Sat at 9:30am beginning Sept 4)

Visit www.RidgesSanctuary.org for full details.

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A ROUND FOR THE RIDGES

Saturday, September 28, 2013

Mark your calendars and pack up your putters! Our 6th annual golf fundraiser returns to Maxwellton Braes in Baileys Harbor on Saturday, September 28.

Enjoy a 9-hole scramble with a 9:30 AM shotgun start on the greens of this historic Door County landmark resort. Afterwards relax and enjoy lunch in the beautiful second floor banquet room of the recently reopened Maxwellton Lodge. Extra lunch tickets can be purchased for non-golfer spouses and friends.

Sign up individually or as a team. Cash prizes will be awarded to Individuals and teams - and everyone gets a Ridges gift bag!

Your \$75 fee includes golf, cart and food. Guest tickets for lunch are \$15.

Visit www.RidgesSanctuary.org to download your registration form or reply by September 20 to 920-839-2802 or info@RidgesSanctuary.org.



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