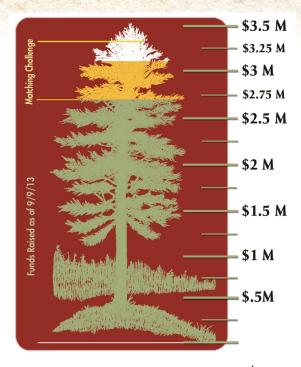


## RIDGES LITES

## News from the trailhead

An Update of Ridges Activities



In the September issue of the Lites, we published an update on our capital campaign and asked that you help put us over the top by the end of the year - and boy, did you respond! On September 10, we received a wonderful anonymous \$350,000 Matching Challenge Gift. The donors, longtime supporters of The Ridges, will match, dollar-for-dollar, all donations and pledges up to \$350,000 received between now and the end of the year. This extraordinary gift is the largest matching gift in the Sanctuary's history. It presents a singular opportunity for members and donors to double their gifts and make twice the impact

Thanks to your support of the Matching Challenge Gift, we are closing in swiftly on our campaign goal. We have already raised \$196,257. With the matching amount, that brings our campaign total to \$3,178,680.

All gifts and pledges must be made by December 31, 2013 and will be matched on a first-come, first-served basis until the \$350,000 level is reached. Multi-year pledges of up to three years are welcome. There is no upper limit on the size of a single gift that will be matched.

We're not the only ones who are excited about this exceptional opportunity. Read on to see the creative ways in which members of our Door County community have stepped forward to support the Match!

## 2013 Annual Appeal

The end of the year is fast approaching and soon our annual appeal letter will appear in your mailbox. Seventy-six years ago, our founders took a stand to preserve the Sanctuary's original 40-acre parcel. Since that time, our members, volunteers, staff and board have had the privilege of carrying on their work. Each year our annual appeal renews our shared dedication to this special natural area and provides 18% of our operating budget - funds that are essential to preservation for the long term.

As you make your year-end giving decisions, please consider a donation to support our ongoing initiatives in invasive species control, stream monitoring and other watershed protection activities, and environmental education and outreach for kids, families and adults throughout the year. There are many levels at which you can give, and every dollar makes a difference.

## Door County North Rotary Club Matching Challenge

The Rotary Club of Door County North is hoping to work a little financial magic on behalf of the Sanctuary this year by multiplying donations through inter-Club involvement. Through the end of the year, a private individual who is a Rotary member in Illinois, will match donations received from other Rotary members. In addition, Door County North Rotary Club is inviting the other Rotary Clubs in Door and Kewaunee counties to join them on November 6, 2013 at 6:00pm at the Cornerstone Pub in Baileys Harbor for a Ridges fundraiser. Everyone is welcome to attend. Admission is free.

Steve Leonard, executive director of The Ridges Sanctuary, explained, "Rob Davis, a Ridges member and a Rotarian, offered to match up to \$5,000 in donations made through his own Wilmette, IL club and Door County clubs between now and the end of the year. Our Ridges member Jim Flint is taking the challenge to his Milwaukee club as well."

Davis made his Rotary challenge in support of the \$350,000 matching challenge that was launched on September 10. If completed, his match will raise \$10,000 that will in turn be donated to The Ridges and qualify for the matching challenge currently underway.

"In effect," says Davis, "A \$1 donation has the potential to become \$4."

Donations can be submitted through the Door County North Rotary Club, an individual's own Rotary Club, or made directly to The Ridges Sanctuary, PO Box 152, Baileys Harbor, WI 54202. Donors should be sure to identify their Rotary chapter and indicate that the donation is part of the Davis Matching Challenge.

## **Holiday Decorating Tips & Holiday Shopping** Help The Ridges Campaign

Our friends at Door County Nature Works are offering two different ways for customers to support the Matching Challenge. First up are their annual Holiday Decorating Classes on November 15 & 16. Nature Works will generously donate the \$10 registration fee to the challenge. This event is well-attended each year, so register now to reserve your place!

Then on Saturday, November 23, Nature Works will hold a Gift of Giving Day. When making a purchase, you can designate The Ridges Sanctuary to receive 20% of the purchase price.

## Wisconsin Master Naturalist Training Program

This winter, The Ridges is partnering with Peninsula State Park and The Clearing to offer training for volunteers interested in becoming certified as Wisconsin Master Naturalists (WIMN). Modeled after the highlysuccessful Master Gardener program, this course includes 40 hours of classroom and field instruction on Wisconsin's natural resources. Participants will learn from natural resource experts to gain understanding of ecological communities, be immersed in Door County's dramatic landscapes, and participate in service projects that directly benefit local conservation organizations. Time will also be spent completing a capstone project which helps volunteers focus on specific topics while practicing skills in interpretation, stewardship, or citizen science. After completing the training course, Master Naturalists must provide 40 hours of volunteer conservation service and take 8 hours of advanced training each year to maintain certification.



The classes will be held at The Clearing from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM on seven consecutive Fridays, January 10 through February 21. Participants must attend all sessions. Cost is \$250, which includes a binder of course materials and certification through UW-Extension. Registration begins on November 25, and must be done through the WIMN website, http:// wimasternaturalist.org. For questions or assistance, contact Karen at The Ridges.

#### Ten Things We've Learned from the **Christmas Bird Count**

http://birds.audubon.org/ten-things-we-learnedaudubon-s-christmas-bird-count

- 1. Birds are not Climate Skeptics, having spoken with their wings.
- 2. The Bald Eagle is back; the Endangered Species Act Works.
- 3. Many of America's most familiar and beloved birds are in serious decline.
- 4. Eurasian Collared-Doves invaded America.
- 5. Peregrine Falcons are no longer in trouble.
- 6. Sage-grouse are in deep trouble.
- 7. More and more hummingbirds are staying in the USA and Canada for winter.
- 8. "Eastern" House Finches having been moving west for 60 years.
- 9. How fast and how far West Nile virus spread.
- 10. Birds are early indicators of environmental problems that can affect people.

## The Audubon Christmas Bird Count is the

longest-running citizen science survey in the world, and provides researchers with critical data on population trends. Tens of thousands of participants know that it is

also a lot of fun. Since the Christmas Bird Count began, it has relied on the dedication and commitment of volunteer counters. In other words, it all starts with you!

The Ephraim/Northern Door Christmas Bird Count will be held on Saturday, December 14, and anyone can participate. The count takes place within a designated geographical area called a "Count Circle." Participants can walk or drive anywhere within the count circle, and record numbers and species of birds seen on that day. In addition, if your home is within the boundaries of a Count Circle, you can stay home and report the birds that visit your Christmas Bird Count

feeder. There is no minimum time commitment - some counters spend an hour or two, others are in the field all day. The data collected by Christmas Bird Count participants over the years provide a wealth of information to researchers interested in the long-term study of early winter bird populations across North America.

Additional volunteers are always welcome! If you are interested in participating in this year's Count, contact Karen at 920-839-2802 or karen@ridgessanctuary.org for more information.





Mame

# Campaign Pledge A Vision for the Future

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	o support the construction of the Cook-Albert Fuller Center; (we) hereby agree to pay the Ridges Sanctuary the sum of:
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To be p	oaid either in cash, securities or other property of equivalent v (I / we understand that a portion of this contribution will be used to underwrite the administrative costs of running the campaign.)
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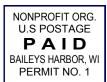
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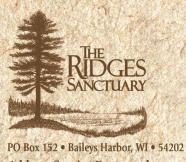
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#### COMING UP!

Nov 18 - Wreath Training/Workshop for Natural Christmas Volunteers. Call Kate to sign up 920-839-2802 or info@ridgessanctuar.org

Dec 7 - Natural Christmas

Dec 14 - Christmas Bird Count

Feb 1 - Waffle Breakfast

**Guided Snowshoe Hikes** Friday & Saturday in Jan & Feb Beginning Jan 3rd

Visit www.RidgesSanctuary.org for full details

RIDGES LITES News from the trailhead

## Mark Your Calendars for Saturday, December 7th!

It's Not Too Early to Save the Date ...

... for this year's Natural Christmas. Seriously, it's not! We all know how quickly these last few months of the year whiz by, and this popular event has grown by leaps and bounds every year since its inception. This year, it will be held on Saturday, December 7, and we want to give you a heads-up about a small change that we think you're going to like.



For the first time, our Natural Christmas will be held on the same day as the Baileys Harbor Christmas festivities. We're starting Natural Christmas an hour earlier at 2 PM to give you ample time to enjoy some of the activities in

town as well, including the Baileys Harbor Tree Lighting ceremony. As always, our muchloved Christmas program will feature an enchantingly decorated Nature Center, holiday music, cookies and cider, a wreath-making workshop, crafts - and a few surprises!

Admission to Natural Christmas is free. However there is a charge of \$10 for the wreathmaking workshop which includes materials for one wreath. Additional wreaths and swags are \$5 each.



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