

RIDGES LITES

A monthly update of Ridges' Activities • April 2012

News from the Trailhead

Over the last month, the future site of our Trailhead and Interpretive Center has been abuzz with activity. Earlier in the year, we contracted with Peil Construction LLC, located in Baileys Harbor, to provide project oversight in the removal of the existing buildings on the property.

Under Eric Peil's supervision, every resource available has been utilized to reuse and recycle as much of the material as possible. The north building and both small outbuildings will be relocated to new sites. Siding, trusses, roof sheathing, windows, awnings, insulation, electrical wiring, decorative stone, lights, AC units, furnace, hood fans, and doors from the main building will be reused in other construction projects. Shingles will be recycled into an asphalt base material. Cardboard, paper, plastics and metals will be recycled into new goods. Clean untreated lumber will be recycled for wood chips or an alternative fuel source. Concrete will be crushed for either gravel or dry aggregate for new concrete. Electrical wiring will be reused or

made into new. *Our goal with this phase of the project is to build awareness on options for recycling building material in the Door County community.*

Once the buildings have been removed, we will address the **remediation of the soil** on the site. Through an environmental investigation in 2010, it was discovered that there had been some soil contamination as a result of the fish boils which had been held on the property for many years. Although this was an unex-

pected turn of events, a coordinated effort by The Ridges and Sandpiper owner Donn Valenti resulted in an accurate assessment of the level of contamination and a solution to address it. Together with geologist Roger Kuhns, the DNR, Omni Professional Environmental Associates, a private company which specializes in environmental clean-up, and The Boldt Company, we formulated a remediation plan which will be implemented this spring.

Plans for the **new handicapped accessible** boardwalk are also under development. Meetings are in process with the Departments of Natural Resources and Fish & Wildlife regarding placement of the boardwalk to protect the Dwarf lake iris and Hine's Emerald dragonfly. In addition, we're working with the county to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Construction will begin this summer, assuming funding is in place. When completed, the boardwalk will be accessed from the northern edge of the site. *We still need cedar logs – 8" in diameter, 8 ft. long. Call us at 920-839-2802 if you have*



The Peil Construction crew are determined to salvage or recycle the old Sandpiper building.

Registration is OPEN!

The wait is over! Registration for the 2012 Door County Festival of Nature is now open. This year's Festival will be held on **May 18 & 19** and features almost 50 field trips and workshops.

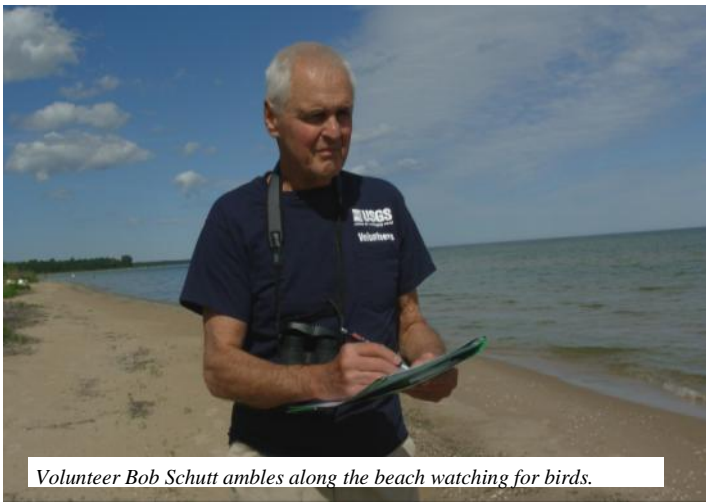


Up close with a Pitcher plant flower on a previous Festival of Nature hike.

Program highlights include photography workshops, early morning bird-watching trips, visits to properties using renewable energy technologies, wildflower outings, an evening frog walk and bat monitoring program and recognition of Baileys Harbor as a **Bird City USA**. Keynote speaker **Sadie O'Dell**, US Fish & Wildlife Service, will present "*The Island Refuges of Door County - Connecting Habitat, Wildlife and People.*" An old-fashioned **Barn Dance and Social** will wrap up the weekend's activities

Visit the Festival website - <http://ridgessanctuary.org/festivalofnature.aspx> to review the schedule and register immediately for your choices.

Call 920-839-2802 or email karen@ridgessanctuary.org with any questions, or if you would like to have a registration brochure mailed to you.



Volunteer Bob Schutt ambles along the beach watching for birds.

Avian Monitoring for Botulism Lakeshore Events (AMBLE) is a citizen science monitoring project coordinated through the USGS to identify drivers of shore bird die-offs in the Upper Lake Michigan basin. The Ridges Sanctuary partnered with AMBLE in 2011 and we are happy to learn that the project will be funded again in 2012.

AMBLE Along the Beach!

This season AMBLE is looking for more volunteers on the Door peninsula to stroll the beach every 7-10 days in the summer. They hope to increase coverage on the Green bay side of the peninsula this season but increasing monitored shorelines overall is the main goal.

Mark Your Calendars! Tentative training dates for 2012 include May 10th on Washington Island, May 11th at Newport State Park, May 12th at Crossroads at Big Creek. These trainings are held as refresher courses and introductory info for new members. All new participants will receive a free t-shirt or hat!

Stop by the AMBLE booth at the Festival of Nature to learn about exciting volunteer experiences from last season.

Contact Project Coordinator Jenny Chipault with any questions: *Jennifer (Jenny) Chipault (USGS National Wildlife Health Center)*

Phone: (608) 270-2473 Email: JChipault@usgs.gov Check out the AMBLE website: <http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/amble/>



VOLUNTEERS—RE-NEW & RE-VIEW

“Renew” acquaintances and “Review” the workings of this important ‘face’ of The Ridges. We’ll share information and get feedback from you that will help support your efforts for The Ridges. Although this training is directed toward the Nature Center volunteers—anyone is welcome to attend. May 8th or 9th, or June 12th or 13th. You do not need to come to all of them but please try to attend at least one. There will be snacks!

Trail Talk at The Ridges

- **Folk Art Quilt Silent Auction** A benefit for The Ridges Sanctuary sponsored by Base Camp Coffee Bar in Sister Bay and Green Roof Farm Quilts. Visit Base Camp behind Ecology Sports. Auction starts April 20 and goes until mid-May!
- **Bring in a new Member—or give a membership as a gift!** It seems that everyone who enjoys The Ridges’ trails feels the need to protect this special spot. Invite your friends to hike the trails. If they want to become a member—stop at the Range Light and we’ll give them AND you a free Celebrating Door County’s Wild Places book. *You decide who gets the Anniversary Hat!*
- **A’Round for The Ridges** on Sunday, July 8th at the Alpine Golf Course and Resort. This big fundraiser is a 9-Hole Scramble overlooking Green bay.
- **Celebrate 75 Years of History, Reflection & Discovery!** on Saturday, July 28th. Under the tent at the Baileys Harbor Town Hall! Our “*Diamond in the Rough*” event.
- **Restore the Range Lights!** We have raised over \$22,500 to restore the Lower Range Light. Work on the foundation will begin this spring. Any donation over \$50 receives a free Phil Austin Range Light poster.
- **Building Bridges at The Ridges** Watch for the volunteer days to help build the new boardwalk for The Ridges. Donations of cedar logs are ‘piling’ up and will be used to build the handicapped accessible walk between the new property at Ridges Road and the Highway and the Range Light boardwalk.
- **Memories Are Made for Sharing!** Thanks to everyone who shared their memories of The Ridges Sanctuary and the special place that inspired them. The book will be published in late Spring 2012. *Reserve a copy for \$8 plus \$3 shipping.*

Learn more on any of these items at

<http://RidgesSanctuary.org>

Coming Up!

April 18 • Sevastopol School kids come to The Ridges as part of their Earth Day activities.

April 22 • Earth Day • Celebrate Earth Day by doing something GREEN for your community.

May 4 & 5 • Logan Creek Hikes Search for wildflowers at the Logan Creek property—1 PM.

May 5 • Spring Volunteer Day at The Ridges. Time for fresh air and sprucing up! 8:30 AM

May 8 & 9 • Volunteer Training at The Ridges. Tues at 10 AM • Wed at 1 PM

May 18 & 19 • Festival of Nature Hike to special spots with special guides!

June 16 • Ride for Nature Bicycle the backroads of Door County. www.ridefornature.com

June 16 • Door County Beer Festival A fundraiser for The Ridges. <http://doorcountybeer.com/>

July 1-31 • Reading The Ridges II Art show at The Link Gallery at the Door Community Auditorium.

July 9 • Cockroach Monologues A special Funday Monday with author Shelly Clarke. 2 PM

July 18 • Creatures of the Night A hands-on program by David Stokes at the McArdle Library at 2 PM and followed by **Night Creatures** observation at The Ridges at 8 PM

For more information call The Ridges or visit our website

<http://RidgesSanctuary.org>

Check your mailing label for an expiration date for *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: _____ Send a gift card? 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: \$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 online: <http://RidgesSanctuary.org>)

DISCOVERY BIRD HIKES

Saturdays • May 12 & 25 and June 2—July 28

6:30 AM at the Marshall cabin

Discover some of the BEST birding spots in the county! Door County is a busy flyover and stopping spot for many birds. Join this early morning group to visit the hot spots of birding on the peninsula. *Beginners are welcome! \$5/person - members are free.*



NOT SO EARLY BIRD HIKES

May 12, June 11, and July 9 • 9:00 AM • Marshall cabin

For those who don't want to greet the dawn but do want to discover some of the feathered visitors to Door County. Join this morning group to visit the hot spots of birding on the peninsula. *Beginners are welcome! \$5/person - members are free.*



Wish List

- Cedar wood chips (always!)*
- Black sunflower seed for the birds*
- Copy paper/laser labels/office supplies*
- A plastic sled to haul stuff in the winter*
- Roofing fork (for digging invasive shrubs! ~\$35 at hardware stores)*
- 1-gal shop vac for the Nature Center*
- Large plastic (covered) tubs/bins for storage*
- AA batteries*
- Digital camcorder*
- Weather station (talk to Karen)*
- Energy efficient refrigerator*
- Copy of the Baileys Harbor Range Lights log book*
- Copy of the 50th Anniversary book*

Thank you to Mike Steffen for the generous donation to our Wish List—We bought a laser printer for the office and had money left over for the Roofing fork!! Thanks to Pat Loomis & Mark Sprague for sunflower seed!

RIDGES' BUSINESS MEMBERS

ASSOCIATED BANK

www.AssociatedBank.com

BAILEYS HARBOR YACHT CLUB RESORT

www.BHYCR.com

BAYLAKE BANK

www.Baylake.com

BEACHFRONT INN

www.BeachfrontInn.net

THE BLACKSMITH INN

www.TheBlacksmithInn.com

THE COOKERY

www.CookeryFishCreek.com

COYOTE ROADHOUSE

(920) 839-9192

DOOR COUNTY ICE CREAM FACTORY

www.DoorCountyIceCream.com

DOOR COUNTY TROLLEY

www.DoorCountyTrolley.com

DOOR LANDSCAPE & NURSERY

www.DoorLandscape.com

DOOR PROPERTY OWNERS

www.DPO.com

ECODOOR

www.EcoDoorLiving.com

ECOLOGY SPORTS

www.EcologySports.com

FISH CREEK KITE COMPANY

www.FishCreekKites.com

FISH CREEK MOCCASIN WORKS

www.FCMoccasin.com

FLANIGAN DISTRIBUTING

920.743.2036

GLIDDEN LODGE BEACH RESORT

www.GliddenLodge.com

GOING GARBAGE & RECYCLING

www.GoingGarbage.com

GREAT LAKES YACHT SERVICES

www.GLYServices.com

HARBOR FISH MARKET & GRILLE

www.HarborFishMarket-Grille.com

HOMESTEAD SUITES

www.HomesteadSuites.com

INN ON MAPLE

www.InnOnMaple.com

INNOVATIVE PRINTING, LLC

www.innovativeprintingllc.com

JOHN E LUDWIGSEN, DDS

920.854.6556

JOURNEY'S END MOTEL & CABINS

www.JourneysEndMotel.com

LIBERTY SQUARE

www.libertysquareshops.com

MEISSNER LANDSCAPE

http://meissnerlandscape.com/

NATHAN NICHOLS & COMPANY

www.Nathan-Nichols.com

PINKERT LAW FIRM

www.pinkertlawfirm.com

SAIL DOOR COUNTY

www.SailDoorCounty.com

SISTER BAY BOWL

www.SisterBayBowl.com

THOMAS/PFEIFFER INSURANCE

www.DoorCountyInsurance.com

TOWNLINE TIMBER SERVICES

www.townlinetimber.com

TR POTTERY

www.TRPottery.com

VILLAGE GREEN LODGE

www.VillageGreenLodge.com

WHITE GULL INN

www.WhiteGullInn.com

WISCONSIN PUBLIC SERVICE

www.WisconsinPublicService.com

1937

Apr 17—Elmer Fudd, Daffy Duck,
& Petunia Pig debut

Apr 26—Guernica, Spain destroyed
by Luftwaffe

Apr 27—First US Social Security
payment made

Apr 28—Pan Am makes first com-
mercial flight across the Pacific

*“...a botanical garden traversed by
a labyrinth of trails and rustic
bridges ...will attract ... people
each spring, summer, and fall if
properly cared for ...*

Albert Fuller, 1937

75 Reasons

to purchase a **Gift Membership** to The Ridges

25 Native Wisconsin Orchids grow
here

13 Threatened & Endangered Species
are protected

5 miles of trails beckon the wanderer

1 Federally endangered dragonfly flour-
ishes here

30 unique ridges and swales provide a
diversity of habitat

AND you will receive a special 75th
Anniversary hat!



Looking

For our 75th Anniversary, we are looking for:

- The Baileys Harbor Range Light Keeper's log—last seen at the 50th Anniversary celebration.
- Names and addresses of relatives of the Founders of The Ridges back in 1937. Also former board members.

Founders: Frank Oldenburg, Mrs James J McArdle, Olivia Traven, Emma Toft, Jens Jensen, Albert Fuller, George Sieker, John Matter, William E Sieker, Mrs W C Sieker (Emma), Mertha Fulkerson, A.B. (Arthur Burchard) Gochenour

New! Ride for Nature Sponsorship Program



This year, the Ride for Nature is offering the **Bike to Benefit** program, a sponsorship program to raise funds in support of The Ridges Sanctuary.

Cyclists participating in any distance of the ride can participate by obtaining sponsors. Anyone raising \$250 in sponsorship will receive a **free Ride for Nature jersey**. Our top three fundraisers will each win a **Saris Bike Rack**.

For more information and to download a pledge form, go to <http://ridefornature.com> and click on **Bike to Benefit**.

June 16, 2012



**ride
for nature**
ridefornature.com