



RIDGES LITES

News from the trailhead

Sprint 2014, Vol. 7 Issue 2

An Update of Ridges Activities

We're On Our Way!

Ridges Staff

We've reorganized to better position The Ridges for the changes ahead. Current staff & areas of responsibility are:

Steve Leonard

Executive Director

Judy Drew

Assistant Director

Brian Forest

Manager, Program Development & Land Management

Brian brings 14 years of experience as a Conservationist at Door County Soil & Water and has also operated his own ecotourism business, Door County Classrooms.

Marne Kaeske

Stewardship Coordinator

Kate LeRoy

Manager, Visitor Services

Kate has been promoted to Manager of Visitor Services and will coordinate our volunteer and membership programs, as well as oversee the operation of the new visitor center and store.

Debbie Rzentkowski

Office Manager

Debbie replaces Kate as Office Manager and comes with a strong background in office administration and customer service.

Some of you may already know that as of early January, **Karen Newbern** is no longer with The Ridges. During her 14 years with The Ridges, Karen taught and had oversight for a variety of programs, supported The Ridges at a number of public events and coordinated the Door County Festival of Nature. We thank her and truly wish her the best in her future endeavors.

The opening of our interpretive center and trailhead in 2015 ushers in a new era of opportunity for The Ridges – opportunities to reach out to a variety of audiences and to utilize the areas of our learning campus in new and different ways.

- The **Cook-Albert Fuller Center** will provide an orientation to the various destination points in The Ridges, as well as the opportunity to welcome members and visitors, support expanded programming and keep our Nature Store open year-round.

- Our **Marshall Cabin** and current **Nature Center** will become class room space. These cabins, along with the fire ring area, will support member events, workshops, family programs and our new **Backpack Adventure Camps** for children.

- Once staff is relocated to the new center, the front section of the **Upper Range Light** will be restored and open to the public, while the back office and kitchen will function as workspace for our volunteers and summer interns.

As you'll see in the following pages and in the months ahead, our new programming will use all areas of our campus – **the Sanctuary, Logan Creek, Hidden Brook** and the **Family Discovery Trail** – to connect adults, children and families to the natural world. Our **Natural Connections** series continues the multigenerational programming that has always been an integral part of our schedule and provides ways for all age levels to experience the outdoors. We are also in the process of developing a school for conservation called **Lifelong Learning – Lessons in Conservation**, a series designed to build a land ethic both for conservation at The Ridges and in our participants' backyards. Each spring and fall, hour-long clinics will cover a variety of topics to prepare members and visitors for the season ahead. The clinics will be followed by in-depth workshops throughout the year that will allow participants to delve into these natural history topics in greater detail.

The Ridges has always been supported by a core of incredible **volunteers**. Along with our campus and program expansion will come new opportunities for volunteer involvement – naturalists, hike leaders, assistant hike leaders and program assistants, to name a few.

These are exciting times! We hope you take advantage of the opportunity to investigate a new class or volunteer for a new position and give us your feedback. As always, we look forward to seeing you on the trails!



Celebrate With Us!

Breaking Ground

Earth Day takes on an even greater significance for us this year as a new era for The Ridges begins on **Tuesday, April 22** with an exciting groundbreaking ceremony from **10 – 11 AM** on the future site of our new facility.

Thanks to the gratifying level of support we received from individuals, foundations and the community during our capital campaign, the Cook-Albert Fuller Center will inspire and encourage conservation by providing a place where residents, visitors and community groups can interact and better understand the value of our landscape and its watershed.

Architects from The Boldt Company designed the 7400 sq. ft., one-story facility which is scheduled to open in early 2015. The center will be the first LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Development) certified commercial building in Door County and serve as a model for responsible development in a sensitive environment. Boldt will also provide oversight for the building project, and company representatives will be on hand for the groundbreaking.

Following the ceremony at the site, attendees are invited to join us for refreshments at the Baileys Harbor Town Hall.



COOK
ALBERT FULLER CENTER

“Breaking Ground II”

Another Celebration!

Since groundbreaking for the new center will take place before many of our members return to the county from warmer climes, we’ve designated a second time to gather in honor of this milestone event. Besides, we’re too darn excited to celebrate just once!

We hope you’ll join us at the Upper Range Light on **Wednesday, June 18 at 11 AM** for the first of our summer cookouts and an official celebration with the folks that supported this important project. Bring a dish to pass, and The Ridges will supply the hamburgers. There may even be tasty beverages and a toast or two!

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Spring Workday - May 3

Is your wheelbarrow itching to get out of the garage? Garden gloves feeling neglected? The Ridges Sanctuary has a cure for those garden woes!

The Ridges will be hosting a Spring Clean-Up Day on Saturday, May 3, from 9am to noon. Members and volunteers are invited to get out and enjoy the fresh trails while helping to lay mulch, spruce up around the Range Lights and work on other spring projects. Come prepared to get dirty and bring those neglected garden/work gloves. Lunch will be provided for everyone who helps out! And don't forget your wheelbarrow!

Nature Store Opens May 16!

Each year thousands of visitors enjoy the peace and solitude of The Ridges. They come from all over the world to experience the natural beauty, see unique wildflowers and check birds off their life list. This

year the Nature Store will open Friday, May 16th and feature a wide variety of new field guides, Ridges apparel and gifts for the whole family.

Help make a visitor's experience one to remember by becoming a Nature Store Volunteer. As a volunteer in the store you will learn about the Sanctuary and meet lots of interesting people. Training sessions and volunteer hikes give you a better understanding of the area and give you the knowledge nuggets that you can pass on to the many visitors who hike our trails. **Store Hours are Monday-Saturday 9am-4pm and Sunday 12-3pm.** Choose a weekly or monthly shift, sign up when you are in the county or be on our substitute list.

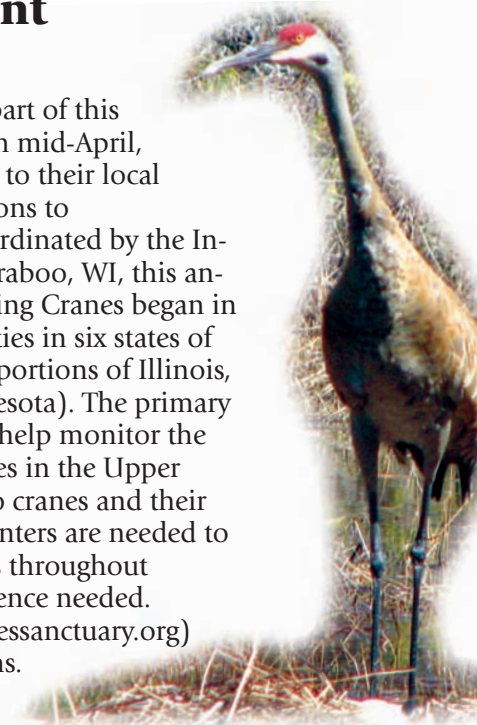


Get Involved With the Midwest Crane Count

April 12, Sat. at 5:30 AM

Volunteers are the most important part of this citizen-based inventory! Each year in mid-April, over 2,000 volunteer counters travel to their local wetlands and favorite birding locations to participate in the Crane Count. Coordinated by the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, WI, this annual survey of Sandhill and Whooping Cranes began in 1976 and now spans over 100 counties in six states of the upper Midwest (Wisconsin and portions of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, and Minnesota). The primary purposes of the Crane Count are to help monitor the abundance and distribution of cranes in the Upper Midwest, and to introduce people to cranes and their natural environment. Volunteer counters are needed to survey for cranes on designated sites throughout Door County. No previous experience is needed.

Contact Brian Forest (brian@ridgessanctuary.org) for more information and data forms.



National Volunteer Month

April is National Volunteer Month, a time set aside to celebrate the extraordinary gift of service.

For almost 77 years, our members and volunteers have formed the backbone of The Ridges, supporting and supplementing our efforts in research, education and conservation. One of our favorite sayings around here is a quote attributed to Elizabeth Andrews: "Volunteers do not necessarily have the time, they just have the heart." They definitely have our hearts, along with our gratitude. We celebrate and salute them!

RIDGES LITES

An Update of Ridges Activities

Registration opens April 1 for the **12th ANNUAL Door County Festival of Nature**

For nature enthusiasts, there's no time of year quite as exciting as spring. And in spring, there's no place like Door County. This year, we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program. Seasoned trip leaders will guide you through some of the most pristine and unique natural areas in the county, many of which have been protected with Stewardship grant funds.

Highlights of the Festival:

- **NEW!** Full-Day Birding Outing on Washington Island
- **NEW!** Study Lake Ecology Aboard a Great Lakes Research Vessel
- **NEW!** Ida Bay Forest & the New Trails at Crossroads
- **NEW!** Plum Island Tour
- **NEW!** Waseda Farms Tour

Nature Trivia Night – Thursday, May 22, 6:30 – 8 PM

Keynote Program – Friday, May 23, 7:00 PM

Pam Foster-Felt, Stewardship Nonprofit Grant Manager, WI DNR Presents "Where Would Stewardship Be Without Door County?"



The Festival program brochure contains a complete listing of field trips and special events and can be downloaded at <http://www.ridgessanctuary.org/programs/featured/2014-door-county-festival-of-nature/>.

Registration online and by mail will open April 1. Watch our website for details.

The Festival of Nature is brought to you by the cooperative efforts of:

The Ridges Sanctuary, Crossroads at Big Creek, The Door County Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

amazonsmile – You Shop. Amazon Gives.

Is there anyone who *hasn't* purchased something from retail giant Amazon?

Now when you shop on a new version of the company's website – AmazonSmile – the company will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to The Ridges. On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you simply select The Ridges Sanctuary to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. AmazonSmile will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make will result in a donation.

There is no cap on the amount Amazon will donate and almost every physical product sold by the company is eligible, which means tens of millions of items. Everything else about the Amazon online shopping experience stays the same – including prices, shopping cart, wish lists and shipping options.

Get started by visiting **www.smile.amazon.com**

RIDGES LITES

An Update of Ridges Activities



Registration for the 2014 Ride for Nature is Open! The 26th annual bike ride to benefit The Ridges Sanctuary returns to kick off Door County's summer season on Saturday, June 14, 2014. The event has doubled in size each year since 2013 with last year's ride boasting a record turnout of nearly 900 riders. From its grassroots beginning, this event has grown to be our largest annual fundraiser. There's more than one way to get involved, so read on and see how you can participate to make this the most successful Ride for Nature yet!

To Ride ...

Proceeds from those of you who register to ride support The Ridges' efforts in research, education and preservation. Route lengths and levels of difficulty vary. Find the one that best suits the experience you seek. For more information or to register at www.RideforNature.com.

To Sponsor ...

Bike to Benefit is an additional way for Ride cyclists and supporters to fundraise for a specific Ridges project each year by obtaining sponsorships. In 2013, this program \$2600 to 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 visitor center.

In total, the orchid restoration project will span 2 – 4 years. With the hand pollination and seed collection completed, the germina-

tion phase can begin. In 2014, Bike to Benefit funds will support this critical second phase of the restoration process. Germination will take place in labs and will produce 4000 plants that will be ready for planting during the third and final phase of the project in 2015. Reintroduction of these key species in their natural habitat will create a living exhibit for the new center and provide an opportunity study orchid ecology and the preservation of the species.

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. You can download the form at <http://www.ridgessanctuary.org/programs/featured/2014-ride-for-nature/> or call us at 920-839-2802 to obtain a copy by mail.

To Volunteer ...

It's no exaggeration to say that it takes a village to pull off an event of this size and importance. Volunteers – and lots of 'em – are needed to staff the Ride for Nature. For more information about volunteer positions, contact Kate LeRoy, info@RidgesSanctuary.com or 920-839-2802.

Our Partnership with the Peninsula Pacers.

Since 2010, The Ridges has partnered with The Peninsula Pacers to make the Ride for Nature a memorable experience for riders, a successful benefit for The Ridges and a celebration for the Baileys Harbor community. Over the last 5 years, the Pacers have expanded the Ride, earning it a reputation as a premier biking event and making the Ride one of our biggest annual fundraisers. Although separate events, the pairing of the Ride and the Beer Fest two years ago has added to the enjoyment of the day, making the Ride attractive to a broader audience, and has provided opportunities for cost sharing and joint marketing.

THE RIDGES SANCTUARY

SPRING

Schedule of Programs & Events - April thru June

Price is per person. Register online at RidgesSanctuary.org or 920.839.2802
(Unless otherwise noted, programs are held at the Marshall Cabin.)

Hikes

Themed Hikes

**APRIL 12 – Geology & Culture, APRIL 19 – Flora,
APRIL 26 – Trees, MAY 3 – Birds & MAY 10 - Insects**

Saturdays at 1 PM

A series of presentations on the unique features of The Ridges, followed by a hike, trails conditions permitting. Meet at The Ridges Nature Center.
\$5 – Members • \$8 – Public • Under 18 Free

Naturalist Guided Hikes

MAY 14 thru 31, Wed, Fri & Sat – 9:30 AM & 1:30 PM

JUNE 3 thru AUGUST 30, Tues thru Sat – 9:30 AM & 1:30 PM

SEPT 3 thru SEPT 27, Wed thru Sat – 9:30 AM

OCT 1 thru OCT 18, Wed, Fri & Sat – 9:30 AM

Join a naturalist for a relaxing 90-minute hike to explore wildflowers, insects and other features. Meet at The Ridges Nature Center.
\$5 – Members • \$8 – Public • Under 18 Free

Birding

Discovery Bird Hikes

MAY 10, 17 & 31 and June 7, 14, 21 & 28 - Saturdays at 6:30 AM

Join fellow birding enthusiasts for a morning excursion into the woods, fields and waters around Baileys Harbor. Beginners and experienced birders welcome. Bring binoculars if desired. Meet at The Ridges Nature Center.
Free – Ridges Members • \$5 – Public

Birding 101

MAY 17 and June 21 - Saturdays at 9 AM

New to birdwatching? Join us for a relaxed outing to learn more about the avian residents of The Ridges. Short program followed by ramble on the trails. Bring binoculars if desired.
Free – Ridges Members • \$5 – Public • Under 18 Free

Natural Connections

Nature Programs for Adults & Families

Woodcock Watch

APRIL 25 - Friday at 7:30 PM

Each spring American Woodcocks engage in one of the animal kingdom's most interesting courtship displays. Experience first-hand what Aldo Leopold called the "sky dance." Ages 7 and up. Bring binoculars if desired. Advance registration required
\$10 – Members • \$13 – Public • Under 18 - \$5

Who Croaks There?

MAY 9 - Friday at 7:30 PM

For frogs and toads, spring means mating season. Join us to learn the quacks, trills and peeps of different species, then take a hike to look and listen for them. Advance registration required
\$10 – Members • \$13 – Public • \$5 - Under 18

Bellies on the Boardwalk

MAY 17 - Saturday at 1 PM

Lie on the boardwalk to use nets, buckets, hands, or feet to scoop up some tadpoles, whirligig beetles, dragonfly larvae, and all manner of tiny wetland critters. Advance registration required
\$10 – Members • \$13 – Public • \$5 - Under 18

Father & Son Overnight

MAY 30 & 31 - Friday at 7 PM thru Saturday at 8:30 AM

This camping adventure includes a night hike, campfire, breakfast 'and morning bird hike! Bring your own tent and camping supplies. Marshmallows, cold breakfast and good times provided.
Ages 6 – 10 with an adult. Advance registration required
\$30 Family – Members • \$40 Family – Public

Campfire Open House

JUNE 13 - Friday at 7:30 PM

Gather 'round the fire with us while we roast marshmallows, share stories and let the good times roll. FREE

Solstice Walk

JUNE 20 - Friday at 8 PM

A celebration of the longest day of the year! Hike followed by a bonfire and s'mores! Advance registration required
\$10 – Members • \$13 – Public • \$5 - Under 18

Mother & Daughter Overnight

JUNE 27 & 28 - Friday at 7 PM thru Saturday at 8:30 AM

This camping adventure includes a night hike, campfire, breakfast and morning bird hike! Bring your own tent and camping supplies. Marshmallows, cold breakfast and good times provided.
Ages 6 – 10 with an adult. Advance registration required
\$30 Family – Members • \$40 Family – Public

Lifelong Learning Lessons in Conservation

The Importance of Early Detection

MAY 2 - Friday at 3 PM

The Ridges Sanctuary and the Door County Invasive Species Team host Anthony Summers, Weed Scientist with the University of Wisconsin Extension. Join other natural area stewards and land managers and learn to identify early detection invasive plants. Don't miss a demo of the latest online database, and hands-on instruction of how to use your smartphone as a mapping tool. Baileys Harbor Town Hall. Admission is Free.

Warbler Watch

MAY 19 - Monday at 8 AM - Noon

Visit some of the best bird-filled areas in the northern-most enclaves of Door County with Daniel Edelstein, an accomplished birding guide with more than 25 years experience. Meet at The Ridges Nature Center to carpool. Limit 15 people. Advance registration required. \$30 – Members • \$40 – Public

Programs continued on next page

SPRING

Schedule of Programs & Events - April thru June, *continued*

Lifelong Learning

Lessons in Conservation, *continued*

Lichen Lecture

JUNE 20 - Friday 10 AM - 1 PM

Mary Bartowiak, of the UW-Stevens Point Freckmann Herbarium will hold a classroom session on function, habitat, and identification of area lichen then guide participants in outdoor applications. Advance registration required. \$30 – Members • \$40 – Public

Lake Lessons Speaker Series

Thursday evenings at the Baileys Harbor Town Hall.

Admission Free. Donations welcome.

Lichens

JUNE 19 at 7 PM

Explore the inconspicuous world of lichen relationships with Mary Bartkowiak, of the UW-Stevens Point Freckmann Herbarium.

Historical Archaeology of Rock Island and Wisconsin's Door Peninsula in Regional Context

JUNE 26 at 7 PM

Heather Walder, archeologist and Ph.D. Candidate at University of Wisconsin-Madison, discusses the historical settlement of peoples throughout the Door Peninsula and their relationship to the Upper Great Lakes region. Presentation coincides with the installation of a new exhibit on Rock Island highlighting findings from this research.

Conservation Clinics

In-depth classroom training followed by hike, trail conditions permitting.

FREE - Members • \$8 - Public.

Tuesdays at 1 PM. Meet at Marshall Cabin.

Geologic and Cultural History of The Ridges Sanctuary

APRIL 8 - Tuesday

Learn about the natural and human influences that shaped Wisconsin's first land trust.

Flora of The Ridges Sanctuary

APRIL 15 - Tuesday

An overview of the nearly 500 vascular plants that thrive in our rich complex of boreal forest and wetlands and will begin appearing in a few, short weeks.

Trees of The Ridges Sanctuary

APRIL 22 - Tuesday

Learn to identify the diverse collection of tree species that make The Ridges Sanctuary home.

Insects of The Ridges Sanctuary

MAY 6 - Tuesday

Discover how insects supply diversity to a number of food-webs in the Sanctuary habitats.

For complete program info, visit RidgesSanctuary.org

Introducing ... Backpack Adventure Camps for Summer 2014! Register Now!

Our new **Backpack Adventure Camps** are designed to provide your child or grandchild with outdoor experiences exploring wetlands, forests and fields. All programs will focus on natural discoveries, children's literature and artwork. Each day, your child will hike the trails using Ridges backpacks filled with bug boxes, nets and other tools to participate in hands-on activities as they explore

the wonders of the outdoors. Taken in sequence, the full-week camps are intended to build on skills and awareness from one camp to the next; however, you can register your child by the day.

Maximum campers/day: 10. Meet at Marshall Cabin.

Full Week Camp: \$100 - Members • \$130 - Public

Per Day: \$25 - Members • \$30 - Public

JULY 7 - 11, 9 AM - Noon

Tiny Twigs – Ages 4 - 5

Using their senses, kids will explore the many different habitats of The Ridges.

Mucky Ducks – Ages 6 - 8

Muck around the wetlands like a duck and other water loving creatures!

JULY 14 - 18, 9 AM - Noon

Fire Flies – Ages 4 - 5

Discover the wild world of insects.

Trail Trekkers – Ages 6 - 8

Explore the many different trails of The Ridges.

JULY 21 - 25, 9 AM - Noon

The Imagination Tree – Ages 4 - 5

Explore the life around a Ridges' tree.

Mudpuppies – Ages 6 - 8

Investigate the wonders of wetlands.

JULY 28 - AUGUST 1, 9 AM - Noon

Call of the Wild – Ages 4 - 5

Become a Ridges Wild Child as you explore the trails looking for flying squirrels, ant lions and tiger salamanders.

Catch the Bug – Ages 6 - 8

See what hops, chomps, swims and flies in the insect world.



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BAILEYS HARBOR, WI

PERMIT NO. 1

Coming This Summer!

JULY 11

Dragonfly Workshop

JULY 18, AUG 12 & SEPT 19

Evening Hikes

AUGUST 2

Ridges Annual Gathering

AUGUST 29 & 30

Monarch Magic

SEPTEMBER 27

Ridges Ramble

Walk for the Benefit of The Ridges!

For information, call 920.839.2802
or visit www.RidgesSanctuary.org

RIDGES LITES

Spring 2014, Vol. 7 Issue 2

Ridges Business Members

Please patronize our business members.

Baileys Harbor Yacht Club Resort

www.BHYCR.com

Baylake Bank

www.Baylake.com

The Beachfront Inn

www.beachfrontinn.net

The Blacksmith Inn

www.TheBlacksmithInn.com

Bob The Painter

920-746-0549

Cedar Beach House

<http://cedarbeachhouse.biz>

Cornerstone Pub

www.BaileysHarborCornerstonePub.com

Coyote Roadhouse

www.coyote-roadhouse.com

Door County Cottages

www.DoorCountyCottages.com

Door County Distillery

www.DoorCountyDistillery.com

Door County Ice Cream

www.DoorCountyIceCream.com

Door Landscape & Nursery

www.DoorLandscape.com

Door Property Owners

www.DoorPropertyOwners.net

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

The Harbor Inn

www.StayAtTheHarborInn.com

The Harbor Loft

www.harborloft.net

Homestead Suites

www.HomesteadSuites.com

Inn On Maple

www.InnOnMaple.com

Innovative Printing, LLC

www.innovativeprintingllc.com

Inge Alverson Bacon

www.ibaconcpa.com

Journey's End Motel & Cabins

www.JourneysEndMotel.com

LfpDesign! LLC

www.LfpDesign.com

Liberty Square

www.libertysquareshops.com

Ludwigsen & Tishler, DDS

920-854.6556

Main Street Market

www.doorcountygrocery.com

Maxwelton Braes

www.maxweltonbraes.com

Meissner Landscape

<http://meissnerlandscape.com>

Ministry Door County Medical Center

www.ministryhealth.org/DCMH/home.nws

Pinkert Law Firm

www.pinkertlawfirm.com

Sister Bay Bowl

www.SisterBayBowl.com

Thomas/Pfeifer Insurance

www.DoorCountyInsurance.com

TR Pottery LLC

www.TRPottery.com

Staudemaier Chiropractic Wellness Center

www.BacktoWellness.org

Waseda Farms

www.wasedafarms.com