



RIDGES LITES

News from the trailhead

Fall 2014, Vol. 7 Issue 4

An Update of Ridges Activities

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The Ridges Sanctuary, Inc.
PO Box 152
8270 Hwy. 57
Baileys Harbor, WI 54202

Office: (920) 839-2802
Nature Center: (920) 839-1101
Fax: (920) 839-2234

info@ridgessanctuary.org
RidgesSanctuary.org

Fall Back? Not Us!

The arrival of fall usually signifies an easing in the frenetic pace that accompanies summer in Door County. Apparently, this year The Ridges didn't get the memo! One look at the schedule of programs and events on page 3 will tell you that things will be hopping around here right through year-end.

New this season is our Fireside Series. Meeting on the second Tuesday in October, November and December, this new program series features discussions on various aspects of Door County's rich cultural heritage. Why "Fireside"? We thought you'd never ask! Thanks to a generous donor, we've installed a wood burning stove in the Marshall Cabin, making it available for year-round use and the perfect place for cozy fall and winter workshops.

Also new is the Countdown to the Christmas Bird Count. Whether you've participated in the past or are new to the CBC this year, this series of classes will get you and your backyard ready for the big day and set the stage for some great birdwatching in the interim.

And please note that we've extended our guided hike schedule for October. Fall is one of the best times to hike the Sanctuary trails – moderate temperatures, beautiful colors and no bugs! Our naturalists will be available October 1 – 18, Wednesday through Saturday at 9:30 AM and 1:30 PM.

Before ... and After!

If you're ever in doubt about the difference a year can make, these photos of our building site are a powerful reminder. Roughly 10 months after completing the capital campaign, our new building is taking shape and, as this goes to print, is almost under roof!

And speaking of making a difference, with the progress of each passing day we thank our members and donors for their wholehearted support of this project.



*"Never underestimate the power of dreams
and the influence of the human spirit." – Wilma Rudolph*

RIDGES LITES

An Update of Ridges Activities

Annual Gathering

Members enjoyed a beautiful afternoon on the grounds behind the cabins on Saturday, August 2. During the Annual Meeting, Steve Leonard, along with staff and board members, reported highlights of the last 12 months and reviewed the 2013 Annual Report (available online at RidgesSanctuary.org).

Following the business session, members dispersed to take guided tours of the new building and the Family Discovery Trail and then returned to the Sanctuary to enjoy a pig roast and the music of Jess Holland and Nick Hoover.

Plans are already underway for **next year's Gathering**, so mark your calendars for **Saturday, August 1, 2015** when nationally recognized and self-proclaimed Grillologists **Mad Dog & Merrill** will entertain and educate us on the finer points of grilling while cooking up a summer feast for our enjoyment!



Ride for Nature Update

For 26 years, the Ride for Nature has been a highly anticipated Baileys Harbor event and an important fundraiser for The Ridges. For the last five years, The Ridges has partnered with the Peninsula Pacers to present the event, making it a memorable experience for riders and a benefit for The Ridges. The 2014 Ride marked the end of the initial 5-year contract with the Pacers. We began negotiations for a new contract period this spring but ultimately, the Pacers elected not to enter into a new contract for the Ride.

In anticipation of the staff and volunteer resources that will be required to support the opening of our new center in June of 2015, we have decided that we will not hold the Ride

for Nature next year. The Pacers have indicated that they will continue to host a spring ride in Baileys Harbor. However, since the Ride For Nature name is trademarked by The Ridges, they will be operating under a different name and logo.

The end of our partnership with the Pacers and the imminent move to the new building have provided us with the opportunity to re-evaluate all of our special events and to ensure that they reflect our mission. As we continue the expansion of the Festival of Nature that began this year, we will model our other smaller events on its signature blend of recreation and education. One idea under consideration for cycling is to feature bike tours as a Festival field trip option. However we choose to incorporate cycling in the future, our goal is to return to our original family friendly touring ride with its emphasis on the natural assets and resources of the Door peninsula.



Marne Kaeske



It's with great regret that we announce Marne Kaeske's departure from The Ridges. Marne resigned her position as Stewardship Coordinator effective 9/14/14 to pursue new opportunities.

We first met Marne in 2009 when she was hired as our Summer Naturalist. She made such an impression on us that we hired her to coordinate subsequent grants from the Door County Invasive Species Team (DCIST) and US Fish & Wildlife in 2011 and 2012. As Stewardship Coordinator, she has been a valuable member of our team, acting as a liaison between The Ridges and the Door County community to protect The Ridges and our local native landscapes. She has also developed and worked closely with many of our volunteers to implement our citizen monitoring programs. Most recently, she provided oversight for our Flying Squirrel Monitoring project.

We know you join us in wishing Marne every success in her new endeavors.

Price is per person. Register online at RidgesSanctuary.org or 920.839.2802
Unless otherwise noted, programs are held at the Marshall Cabin, 8288 Hwy Q, Baileys Harbor.

Hikes

Trails open for self-guided hikes, dawn to dusk, year-round.

Naturalist-guided Hikes

OCTOBER 1 thru **OCTOBER 18**, Wed thru Sat – 9:30 AM & 1:30 PM

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 • Children under 18 Free

Lifelong Learning Lessons in Conservation

NEW! Fireside Series

OCTOBER 9, **NOVEMBER 13**, **DECEMBER 11** at 6:00 PM

If you're a fan of our Lake Lessons series, you'll enjoy these discussions about some of the key industries that played a role in Door County's rich history.

October 9 – Logging

November 13 – Agriculture

December 11 – Maritime

Admission is Free – Donations Welcome

Natural Connections Nature Programs for Adults & Families

Migrate, Hibernate or Adapt

OCTOBER 11, Saturday from 4 - 6 PM

Join us in a light discussion of how animals make it through the winter; but more importantly, how the heck are we planning to make it through? Some of us will be preparing to migrate, others are going to wish they could hibernate. Tonight our program includes wine and cheese to ease the transition.

Register online or call 920-839-2802 by October 8th. \$15/person.

Discover the Family Discovery Trail

OCTOBER 11 - OCTOBER 13

Visit us over the Columbus Day weekend and check out our Family Discovery Trail on its final weekend of the season. Naturalists will be on site all weekend and the Nature Store and Cabin will feature some of the fantastic discoveries that can be made on the newest addition to The Ridges campus. Stop by the Nature Store for more information, or just pop in on the trail!

NEW! Countdown to the Christmas Bird Count

OCTOBER 22, **NOVEMBER 5 & 19**, **DECEMBER 3** Wed at 1 PM

This series of hands-on workshops will prepare participants for bird watching in their backyard as well as participation in the Christmas Bird Count.

October 22 – Feeders

November 5 - Species and Habitat Identification

November 19 - Optics

December 3 - Field Guides and Reference Materials

\$10 – Members • \$13 – Public • \$5 – Children under 18

Natural Connections, *continued*

Backyard Birding 101

OCTOBER 25 and **NOVEMBER 29**, Saturdays at 1:00 PM

Learn the basics of enjoying birds in your own backyard. Participants will be prepared with all of the skills that they will need to enjoy birding on their own time, as well as participating in events such as the Christmas Bird Count and the Great Backyard Bird Count.

\$10 – Members • \$13 – Public

Fall Decorating Workshop

NOVEMBER 1, Saturday from 2:00 - 5:00 PM

This workshop will help you get your home into the fall spirit. We'll use flowers, plants, leaves, wood and other natural materials to create wreaths, swags, shadow boxes, picture frames and other items for your walls or Thanksgiving table. Crafting will also be accompanied by discussion of trees, seeds and the culture of wreath making. Fee includes materials.

\$10 – Members • \$13 – Public

Geology Tour of Baileys Harbor

NOVEMBER 7, Saturday from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Join us for a trip through 425 million years of history, all right here in Baileys Harbor! This mini field trip will make several stops throughout town and the Sanctuary and explore several key elements in the geologic history of Baileys Harbor and The Ridges.

\$10 – Members • \$13 – Public

Late Fall Hikes

NOVEMBER 15 and **DECEMBER 20**, Saturdays at 1:00 PM

Enjoy The Ridges Sanctuary during a quieter time. Although the orchids and other stars of spring and summer are not out, there is still plenty to see and to learn on a naturalist-guided hike. Meet at The Ridges Nature Center.

\$5 – Members • \$8 – Public • Children under 18 Free

Introduction to Plant & Animal Folklore

DECEMBER 18, Thursday at 6:00 PM

Folklore has an important place in human history and has many times been the cornerstone of modern ideals. This discussion will look at the role of plants and animals in the folklore of different cultures and how it applies today.

\$10 – Members • \$13 – Public • \$5 – Children under 18



For complete program info, visit RidgesSanctuary.org

RIDGES LITES

An Update of Ridges Activities

Out on the Family Discovery Trail

Our Family Discovery Trail made its debut on Wednesday, June 25, welcoming 60 children from the Door County YMCA to try out the ten interactive stations along the trail. Since then, we have hosted a variety of groups including the Boys & Girls Club, the Northern Door and Sturgeon Bay YMCAs, as well as a number of individual families. All participants were asked to share feedback about their experience on the Trail. Comments across the board were overwhelmingly positive. Here are a few of our favorites:



Things I enjoyed...

- *"Making a play stage for a puppet show at the fort station."*
- *"Picking up the snake board!"*
- *"Bird houses with baby birds."*
- *"Watching our kid' interest with what they were seeing."*

Things I learned...

- *"What baby birds look like."*
- *"Tadpoles grow into frogs!"*
- *"That the forest ground provides a lot of material to build a shelter."*
- *"Bee stings hurt! Ouch."*
- *"Bugs are annoying."*

Things that would improve the Family Discovery Trail...

- *"We like it the way it is."*
- *"A geocache series."*
- *"No mosquitoes."*
- *"I would like to pet a deer."*



Subscribe to the Lites by Email

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.

RIDGES LITES

Ridges Volunteer Activities

Hats Off to Our Nature Store Volunteers

In the last issue of the Lites, we told you that we'd added a TripAdvisor icon to our website to make it easy for visitors to share their experiences with others. We've now accumulated 30 reviews and our 5-Star average rating makes us the #1 ranking attraction in Baileys Harbor! Most importantly, it's clear from the reviews that the volunteers who staff the Nature Center have had a lot to do with all those positive feelings. Here are just a few excerpts:

- "...you can absolutely tell the staff here cares about the sanctuary; they are very helpful and can you tell where to go and what to see."
- "Very knowledgeable and helpful volunteers who care deeply about this sanctuary."
- "Many thanks to the staff and volunteers who take care of this wonderful place."
- "The Nature Center at the beginning of the stroll is well-stocked, and staffed with friendly and knowledgeable people."

Thanks to all of you who volunteer your time at the Nature Center. You are truly the face of The Ridges!

Fall Work Day is Upon Us!

Mark Your Calendars for Saturday, October 4 at 9:00 AM, and help us prepare the Sanctuary for winter.



Volunteers of all ages are invited to help with a variety of indoor and outdoor projects—hauling wood chips, raking, organizing, washing windows,

sprucing up the cedar signs and posts—there's a lot to do before the snow flies! Afterwards, enjoy lunch on us and take some time to visit the Nature Store and take advantage of our end-of-season sale.

Volunteers of the Year

Our Volunteers of the Year were announced at our Annual Gathering on August 2 and presented with their awards at our Volunteer Recognition event on August 17. Jim Jauquet, Ed Miller, Eric Peil and Bob Ryan were recognized for their work on the 2013 restoration of the Lower Range Light. The foursome not only tackled many of the physical tasks related to the full restoration, but also participated in researching historically accurate materials and design features for the project. Congratulations and well done!

Changing of the Guard



Many thanks to Bruce Frudden for tending our Ridges vegetable garden for many seasons. Jay and Nancy Dickson have volunteered to take the torch from Bruce and are planning a Heritage Garden that will use seeds from cultivars commonly grown during the late 1860s. Thank you, Nancy and Jay. We can't wait to see what you do!

Volunteer Wreath-Making Workshop

Wed., November 19, 1 – 3 PM

Volunteers! Make one, take one! Make a wreath to help us decorate The Ridges in preparation for our Natural Christmas event, and then make one for your own front door or mantel!

Contact Kate at 920-839-2802 or kate@ridgessanctuary.org if you plan to attend.

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Full Circle

The cover photo on the fall issue of Sanctuary has elicited warm responses from a long list of members, including Bob and Rita Sullivan who found the image reminiscent of a photo Bob took in August of 2012. The Sullivans were kind enough to share it with us and, in addition to the striking similarities of the two photos, we found it to be a delightful and evocative representation of the scope of our mission and the importance of connecting children to nature.

Which makes it all the more embarrassing that we neglected to give photo credit to Samantha Phillips (pictured bottom left below) at the time Sanctuary was published!

As one of our part-time naturalists this summer, Samantha assisted Tony Kriszonas (pictured bottom right below) with our Backpack Adventure camps. The cover photo and the others on this page are just some of many that she took during the camps. They are a colorful and joyful reminder of why we do what we do. A belated thank you to Samantha, with our apologies for the oversight!



Backpack Adventure Camp

We can't get enough of our children's Adventure Camp photos from this summer. We hope you feel the same!



RIDGES LITES

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

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.libertysqureshops.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

Staudemaier Chiropractic Wellness Center

www.BacktoWellness.org

Thomas/Pfeifer Insurance

www.DoorCountyInsurance.com

TR Pottery LLC

www.TRPottery.com

Trishann C Photography

http://trishacphoto.zenfolio.com

Waseda Farms

www.wasedafarms.com

Become a member today to support Wisconsin's first land trust and one of the most biologically diverse areas in the state. Or consider a donation to support The Ridges. Please let us know if you wish to remain anonymous.

Ridges Sanctuary Membership/Donation Form

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Signature _____ E-mail address _____

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Membership Levels

Individual \$40
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Additional Donations

Operating _____
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Make checks payable to:
The Ridges Sanctuary

Check your mailing label for the expiration date of your membership and consider renewing before its too late!



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RIDGES LITES

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Natural Christmas

Saturday, December 13, 3 - 6PM

Take a break from the chaos of the holiday season and spend a few hours surrounded by the natural beauty of the Sanctuary. As always, our much-loved 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 wreath-making workshop which includes materials for one wreath. Additional wreaths and swags are \$5 each.



Wreath-Making Workshop Added

Saturday, December 6 – 10:00 AM

The wild success of our Natural Christmas festivities has prompted us to plan an extra wreath building workshop! Join us for the merriment as we create wreaths from natural materials from our own backyard. Meet at the Ridges Workshop. The charge of \$10 includes materials for one wreath. Swags and additional wreaths are \$5 each. Call 920-839-2802 to reserve your clippers, frames and greens!