It is with great pleasure and sincere gratitude that we announce the success of our capital campaign. Thanks to overwhelming support for this project from members, donors and community partners, we exceeded our goal in November of 2013, raising just over $3.5 million for our new interpretive center.

This was accomplished only six months after going public with the campaign and our lead gift of $1 million from Lifetime member, the late Chester Cook. In September, the announcement of an anonymous $350,000 matching gift resulted in a flood of donations and pledges that pushed our campaign over its goal.

The campaign’s primary purpose is to support the construction of a new visitor center in a prominent location on Hwy 57 in Baileys Harbor. In addition to providing a visible entrance to the Sanctuary, the facility will also serve as a focal point for environmental education on Door County’s unique natural heritage. Funds will also be allocated to various site improvements including the restoration of the ridges and swales directly adjacent to the building site, the development of a handicapped accessible boardwalk and Family Discovery Trail and general long-term sustainability of the organization. The facility will be the first LEED-certified commercial building in Door County. (LEED stands for Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design.)

As we have known from the beginning, this campaign was never about a building, but rather about the dedication and commitment of the members, donors and volunteers who have connected with this special wild place.


We have a bold vision and high aspirations for The Ridges. The Cook-Albert Fuller Center is the foundation of that vision. With your help, we will build on that foundation to ensure that The Ridges is sustainable for generations to come.
**New Format for the Lites**

This year, we’re switching to a quarterly publication schedule for the Lites with issues coming out in January, April, July and October. Although you’ll be receiving the Lites a bit less frequently, the redesign will feature an increase in page count and a higher production value. Going quarterly gives us the opportunity to provide you with information about an entire season’s worth of programming at a time – and give you a sneak peek at the next season. We’ve also added a New Member listing and a convenient Season Schedule at a Glance page.

As always, we encourage you to subscribe to the Lites by email. Sign up online at www.RidgesSanctuary.org/Publications/Ridges-Lites/ or send an email to info@RidgesSanctuary.org. You’ll be reducing our carbon footprint and your own while helping us save on printing and postage.

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**Open for Business**

Although our Nature Center is closed for the season, you can now pay your trail fees and/or arrange for snowshoe rental at our Business Office located in the Upper Range Light. Our office is open Monday – Friday, 9 AM – 5 PM.

On Saturday & Sunday, please deposit trail fees in the receptacle provided at the trail kiosk.

And remember to join us for guided snowshoe hikes Fridays & Saturdays at 1 PM. (If there’s no snow, we’ll hike without snowshoes.)

**Coming Soon:**

**Online Registration!**

In April of 2013, we launched our new easy-to-navigate website and introduced a number of features including an integrated blog and both photo and video galleries. This year, we are again working with Boettcher Communications to add an online registration capability for our programs and special events.

Online registration is quick and easy, and your online data submission will be secure. This exciting new feature will be available March 1st.
Guided Snowshoe Hikes
January 3 thru February 28
Fridays & Saturdays from 1 - 2:30 PM
Experience The Ridges in a whole new way and a whole new season! These hikes with a Ridges naturalist cover the cultural and natural history of the ridges and swales in their "off season." Enjoy a leisurely hike on level terrain. If snow cover is insufficient, the hike will be done without snowshoes. Meet at The Ridges Nature Center.
$5/Person – Members  •  $8/Person – General Public
Children Under 18 Hike Free
$5 additional for snowshoe rental (call ahead to reserve)

Owl Prowl
Friday, January 17, 6:30 – 8 PM
Mating season begins early for owls, and it’s not unusual to hear them start their romantic hooting shortly after New Year’s Day. Join The Ridges naturalists to learn more about the owls of Door County and their amazing adaptations as nighttime hunters. Learn how to recognize a few of the more common owls by their calls, then take a hike to listen for them.
$10/Adult – Ridges Member  •  $13/Adult – General Public
Children Under 18 - $5

Geocaching
Saturday, February 8, 10 AM – Noon
Modern technology combined with an old-fashioned walk in the woods! We’ll learn what geocaching is and how it got started, then seek out several caches hidden along the Sanctuary trails. Bring your own GPS if possible. Limited number of loaner units available.
$10/Adult – Ridges Member  •  $13/Adult – General Public
Children Under 18 - $5

Valentine’s Day Moonlight Walk
Friday, February 14, 6:30 – 8 PM
Stroll beneath the light of the silvery moon and experience The Ridges in a whole new way. This hike is designed for all ages, but couples may find it an especially romantic way to celebrate Valentine’s Day! Night animals, stars and stories await! If skies are cloudy, the Moonlight Walk will be held on Saturday, February 15.
$10/Adult – Ridges Member  •  $13/Adult – General Public
Children Under 18 - $5

Bluebird Workshops
Saturday, March 8, 10 AM & 2 – 3:30 PM
Bluebirds are an iconic symbol of spring, but due to competition for nesting spots and other issues, their populations had dropped dramatically by the 1970s. Since then, their numbers have been rising, thanks in part to nesting boxes. Learn what bluebirds need to survive, how we can help and make your own bluebird nest box. Choose from one of two sessions. Fee includes materials for one nesting box per party (adult, couple or family). Tools provided, but extra hammers are welcome!
$10/Adult – Ridges Member  •  $13/Adult – General Public
Children Under 18 - $5
Additional nesting boxes - $5 each

Full Moon Walk
Friday, March 14, 7 – 8:30 PM
What goes bump in the dark? Night hikers at The Ridges! This hike is designed for all ages and will be non-scary in nature. Test your night vision and take a guided hike through one of our woodland trails by the light of the moon. If skies are overcast, the moon walk will be held on Saturday, March 15.
$10/Adult – Ridges Member  •  $13/Adult – General Public
Children Under 18 - $5

For more information on any programs, call 920-839-2802 or visit RidgesSanctuary.org.
2014 Door County Festival of Nature Celebrates Stewardship

With the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program observing its 25th anniversary in July 2014, it was only fitting for the organizations collaborating on this year’s Festival of Nature to choose stewardship as its unifying theme.

Now in its 12th year, the Festival is conducted by the Ridges Sanctuary in cooperation with Crossroads at Big Creek, the Door County Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy and the Wisconsin DNR – all organizations that powerfully illustrate the Stewardship Program’s impact in our communities and its significance to the preservation of the health and beauty of Wisconsin.

The Stewardship program funds state purchases of land for outdoor recreation and resource protection. Additionally, a portion of the program provides grants to local governments and land trusts to help purchase lands and conservation easements. Since it was created in 1989, the program has helped protect more than 500,000 acres. Many of the properties that will be visited during the Festival of Nature were purchased with Stewardship grant funds.

Plans are currently underway for another spectacular event featuring over 40 hikes, workshops and presentations conducted by expert leaders. Although details are not yet available, programs will focus on the unique biodiversity and natural beauty of the Peninsula and include wildflower and birding hikes, as well as adventures on the water.

Two popular newcomers to last year’s event will be returning this year. The Nature Trivia Challenge will be back on Thursday, May 22, so assemble your teams and get ready to test your nature knowledge! On the evening of Friday, May 23, Guy Fortin and Judy Samida will prepare a delicious dinner for you to savor before the Keynote Presentation gets underway.

Mark your calendars now for a Memorial Day Weekend filled with adventure, exploration and education. Watch www.RidgesSanctuary.org for details as they develop. Registrations opens April 1.
Natural Christmas in Photos
Saturday, December 7, 2013

Join us on
Saturday, December 13, 2014
for the
7th Annual Natural Christmas.

Happy New Year
from the Staff & Board
of The Ridges Sanctuary!
The Great Lakes are constantly undergoing drastic ecosystem changes, including invasion by non-native mussels and fish, warmer water temperatures, and the growth of nuisance algae. Each of these is bad enough by itself but together, these unpredicted changes may be causing more frequent outbreaks of type E botulism among wildlife that depend upon the lakes.

In recent years, over one hundred thousand birds and fish in the Great Lakes—including the federally endangered piping plover, common loons, and lake sturgeon—have died from this form of “food poisoning” caused by toxins produced by the naturally occurring bacterium, Clostridium botulinum. The anaerobic bacteria that produce the toxin live in aquatic environments, and current environmental conditions within the Great Lakes basin may be contributing to enhanced production of the toxin.

When a research team was formed to study botulism outbreaks in the Great Lakes, The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) approached The Ridges for assistance in setting up a program to gather data from the shorelines of the Door Peninsula. Supported by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), the AMBLE (Avian Monitoring for Botulism Lakeshore Events) monitoring program kicked off in 2011. Now after three years of data collected by citizen scientists from around the thumb, the AMBLE volunteers can be proud that they have helped to develop a model to monitor further changes through partnerships. Taking a stroll down the beach once a week has contributed to a better understanding of botulism outbreaks and how to mitigate them.

Check out the full project story at: http://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/70048731
And investigate further through the AMBLE website: http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/mortality_events/amble/
Welcome New 2013 Members!
January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013

Karen Allen
Martha Anderson
Judy Bartels
Mary Kay Baum
Pamela Beam
Carole Becker-Schmidt
Melissa Blood
Kendra Bonderud
Roger Brooks
Barbara Bullock
Linda Busha
Cristy Christensen
Timothy Chybowski
Andrea Connelly
Cheryl Culver
Alice D’Alessio
Petra Daubner
Robert Dean
Andrea Degner
Mary Denig
Julie Djuplin
Judy Ela
Michael Elkow
John English
Robert Evensen
Millicent Ficken
Mary Fragassi
Rich Fredrick
Anthony Furlick
Steve Gillis
Laurie Haig
Cass Hale
Nancy Hammen
Paige Hawkins
Paul Heim
Kelly Hendee
Jon Henry
Sharon Hohl
Dawn Holsen
Nancy Hume
Roberta Johanson
Richard Johnson
James Justen
Thomas Kapellen
James Kelly
Philip Kohler, M.D.
Dennis Kois
Connie Kreif
Lori Kroening
Joan Laux
Carl Lenz
Mari LeRoy
Barbara Lundquist
Janice Marlett
Robert McCoy
Barry McLeish
Joseph Melendes
Robert Merline
Julia Messitte
Jim Middenoof
Jennifer Moeller
Ronald B. Nelson
John Newton
Carol Notermann
Tony Nowak
Larry Ohnesorge
Kathryn Padorr
Harry Peterson
Kathleen Poi
Sharon Rasmusson
Ralph Redlin
Dan Reshel
Mary Reynolds
Pat Richardson
Steven G. Robillard
Ruth Rohlich
Rita Russ
Rose Sage
David Schuda
Anne Schuette
Andrew Schwalbe
Mary Lou Serchen
Elizabeth Skinner
Marty Solhaug
Joan Sommer
Renee Soto
Susan Steinbrueck
Thomas Stram
Charles Streich
Doris Thompson
Linda Thompson
Dennis Tiener
Bob Wahlgren
Carol Wahlstrom
Al Wittkowski
David Woelfel
Jeff Wood
Barbara Zellmer

Become a member today 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

☐ New    ☐ Renew    ☐ Change of Address    ☐ Donation    ☐ Memory/Honor    ☐ Anonymous

Name __________________________
Address ________________________________
City, State, Zip __________________________
Phone ( ) __________________________ Date __________

Charge my:
☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover # __________________________ Exp date ___ / ___
Signature __________________________ E-mail address __________________________

Second Address From _____ / _____ to _____ / _____ Phone ( ________ )
Address __________________________
City, State, Zip __________________________

Membership Levels
☐ Individual $40
☐ Family $65
☐ Family Plus $95
☐ Business $150

Additional Donations
☐ Operating ________
☐ Endowment ________
☐ Land ________

Total ________

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!
Coming This Spring!

APRIL 12
Midwest Crane Count

APRIL 25
Woodcock Watch

MAY 2
Who Croaks There?

MAY 9 & 10
Wildflower Walk
at Logan Creek

JUNE 14
26th Annual Ride for Nature

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

6th Annual
RIDGES SANCTUARY
Great Waffle Breakfast
Saturday, February 1, 9 - 11 AM

What better way to start a busy weekend than with a hearty breakfast? These days, many of us either skip breakfast or we grab ‘n’ go – a bagel, donut or a muffin washed down with a hit of caffeine. Or if we have the time, we may swing through a fast food restaurant.

If you’re long overdue for a really great breakfast, join the staff and volunteers of The Ridges Sanctuary for the Great Waffle Breakfast at the Baileys Harbor Town Hall on Saturday, February 2, 9:00 to 11:00 AM. Enjoy waffles of all shapes and sizes, topped with Door County maple syrup, homemade cherry topping and whipped cream. Donations of $6 for adults and $3 for children under 12 will be accepted at the door.

The Ridges Sanctuary was founded by a group of visionaries who recognized the extraordinary biodiversity of the Baileys Harbor bog. Emma Toft was one of the most vocal and persistent of those visionaries, and the Great Waffle Breakfast celebrates the 123rd anniversary of her birth.