



# RIDGES LITES

*News from the trailhead*

Fall 2015, Vol. 8 Issue 4

*An Update of Ridges Activities*

## What a Summer!

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**The Ridges Sanctuary, Inc.**

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RidgesSanctuary.org

We've just completed our first season in the Cook-Fuller Center, and it was one for the record books! Whoever said that the anticipation often exceeds the actual event was definitely not talking about the months that followed our opening in mid-June.

Time has flown by, and with good reason! As of August 31, we have welcomed **11,365 visitors** to the Center, and added **over 100 new members**. **Almost 3,200 hikers** have taken to our trails, either on self-guided explorations or as part of a naturalist-guided tour. And not only is our Nature Store experiencing unprecedented volume, the staff is also having a lot of fun stocking the shelves with seasonal merchandise and items that coordinate with our program offerings.

With summer behind us, we look forward with great anticipation to the fall and early winter. The Center will be open daily, 9 AM – 5 PM, and we have lots of great program offerings to help you enjoy this lovely and less hectic time on the Peninsula.

Please note that we've extended our guided hike schedule for October. Fall is one of the best times to hike the trails – moderate temperatures, beautiful colors and no bugs! Our naturalists will be available daily at 1:30 PM, October 1 – 31.

## Our Orchid Project is Blossoming

If you've been following the progress of the Orchid Restoration project along Hidden Brook, then you know that our efforts to protect and propagate several rare, native species of orchids began in 2014. This May, botanist Melissa Curran from Stantec supervised our volunteers during the second phase of the project – the outplanting of 1,100 fragile rams head lady's- slipper orchid seedlings.



Smithsonian Institution

In addition to the orchid project being closely watched by the research community, it has captured the attention of the Smithsonian. We're proud to announce that The Ridges is proud to be part of the Smithsonian's North American Orchid Conservation Center, a network of organizations striving to conserve and protect native orchids. We'll keep you posted as our role with the Center develops!



photo by Len Villano



# RIDGES LITES

An Update of Ridges Activities

## Fund for Lake Michigan Grant



In July The Ridges received a \$75,000 grant from the Fund for

Lake Michigan in support of our storm water management plan for the Cook-Fuller Center. Rain gardens, native plantings and other storm water management practices are part of a comprehensive plan to protect Lake Michigan water quality. The project also serves as an educational tool, showing visitors what they can do to improve water quality while attracting more birds and butterflies to their homes and businesses.

The grant is one of 27 projects sharing in \$1.9 million in support this year from the Fund for Lake Michigan, a Milwaukee-based philanthropic group backed by We Energies and WPPI energy. Established in 2011, the Fund's mission is to safeguard the lake and improve water quality in the region.



## Extreme Home Makeover - Ridges Style!

Those of you who attended our Annual Meeting & Gathering on August 1 may recall that our summer naturalist, **Tony Kriszonas**, put out a request for a calf hut to be used on our Family Discovery Trail. One short week later, **Ann and Don Niles of Dairy Dreams** in Casco were kind enough to donate a hut which Tony has since transformed into a beaver lodge! Now that's a makeover!

## Rotary District Grant

The Rotary Club of Door County North has received a Rotary District grant to support additional landscaping around the Cook-Fuller Center. The grant will fund plantings of butterfly gardens, support the orchid restoration project and also provide funds for the purchase of bird feeders and bird houses. Rotary volunteers will be working side by side with Ridges volunteers every Wednesday in October to add to the landscaping around the new center. If you're interested in volunteering, contact Kate LeRoy, [kate@ridgessanctuary.org](mailto:kate@ridgessanctuary.org) or 920-839-2802.



## They're Ba-ack! Phragmites Control

This September, we will be taking back our shoreline on Moonlight Bay. The Ridges has contracted with **Jason Wilke of Nature Care Ecological Consulting and Services** to treat five acres of Phragmites (*Phragmites australis*) or Common Reed, on the shore near the mouth of the outlet from Pickerel Pond. This area has been treated in the past, but this very aggressive invasive has made its way back and has once again established a foothold. Once treated, Ridges staff and volunteers will spot treat to stay on top of the treatment. Subsequent treatment on the shoreline will likely be necessary before moving the effort inland to established colonies around Pickerel Pond.



# RIDGES LITES

An Update of Ridges Activities

## Volunteer Appreciation

On August 16, over 80 volunteers enjoyed a light supper buffet catered by Top Shelf while listening to the music of Jim Jennings, Dave Gunderson, Steve Gomoll and Lee Nordgren. This year's Volunteer Appreciation event represented a departure from past years in two respects. For the first time, we were able to host the event at the Cook-Fuller Center rather than off-site. A second significant difference is that no Volunteer of the Year awards were given. Instead all volunteers were recognized for the enormous contributions of time, energy and expertise required to support the opening and operation of the new Center.

Once again, to our outstanding volunteers:

***Congratulations and well done all!***



## Fall Work Day

***Saturday, October 3 at 9 AM!***

Mark your calendars and help us prepare the campus 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, then take some time to visit the Nature Store and check out our fall merchandise.



Fall Work Day 2014



# THE RIDGES SANCTUARY

## FALL

### Schedule of Programs & Events - October thru December

Price is per person. Register online at [RidgesSanctuary.org](http://RidgesSanctuary.org) or 920.839.2802  
Unless otherwise noted programs are held at the Cook-Fuller Center, 8166 Hwy 57, Baileys Harbor.

#### Reservation Policy

Although many of our programs do not require advance registration, please consider registering for any program you plan to attend. Registration helps us plan more effectively and ensure a quality experience for you!

#### Hikes

**Trails open for self-guided hike, dawn to dusk, year-round. All trails will be closed November 21st – 29th for the Gun Deer Hunting Season.**

#### Guided Hikes at the Sanctuary

**OCTOBER 1 - 31, DAILY at 1:30 PM**

A relaxing 90-minute guided walk through the sanctuary. Learn about our boreal forest, its residents and what they are doing to prepare for Wisconsin winter. Includes access to the Upper Range Light lantern room and historic cabins. Appropriate for all ages. Hikes will end at the Nature Center with a cup of hot chocolate.

\$5 – Members • \$8 – Public • Under 18 Free

#### Guided Hikes at Logan Creek

**OCTOBER 4 & 18, NOVEMBER 14 & DECEMBER 19 at 1 PM**

A different kind of hiking experience. Owned and managed by The Ridges, this 170-acre property is comprised of a variety of habitats, including upland hardwood forest, lowland cedar-hemlock forest and frontage along Clark Lake and Logan Creek. Bring binoculars. **Meet at trailhead: 5724 Loritz Road.**

\$5 – Members • \$8 – Public • Under 18 Free

#### Upland Hikes at Appel's Bluff

**OCTOBER 11 & 25 – Sunday at 1 PM**

**NOVEMBER 14 & DECEMBER 19 – Sat at 10 AM**

This newly acquired property that features ledges, a hardwood forest, open fields and opportunities to see a variety of habitats. Moderately easy hike.

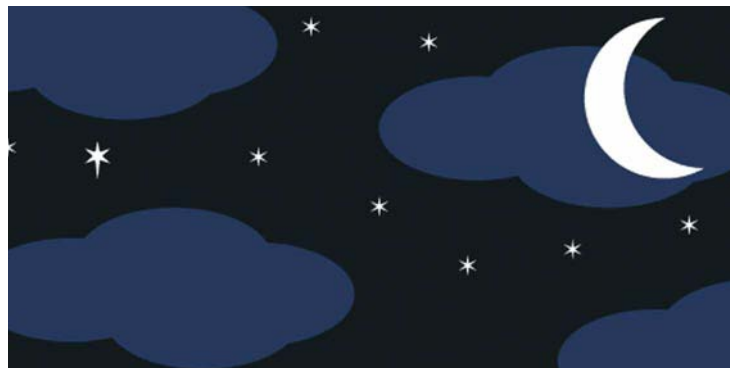
\$5 – Members • \$8 – Public • Under 18 Free

#### Night Sky Hike

**DECEMBER 11 at 6:30 PM**

A hike at The Ridges is nice anytime, but a night walk can be amazing! On this night, the moon will be on the same side of the Earth as the Sun, creating spectacular conditions for viewing objects in the sky. We'll stop at key vantage points to enjoy celestial wonders. Round out the evening with a campfire and marshmallow roast back at the cabins! Suitable for all ages. **Bring a flashlight, or use one of ours. Meet: Ridges Cabins, 8288 County Q.**

\$5 – Members • \$8 – Public • Under 18 Free



#### Health Connection

*Focused on the healing power of nature*

#### Slow Flow Yoga

**OCTOBER 1 - NOVEMBER 19, Thursdays at 5 PM**

Come join us at the beautiful Ridges Sanctuary for Slow Flow Yoga, a mindful, slowly paced yoga practice that incorporates conscious flowing of the breath with movements of the body. The class will include foundational yoga poses and Sun Salutations, attention to breath and alignment, some long holds for active stretching and plenty of time for meditation and relaxation

**Please bring your own mats, blankets, blocks or straps.**

\$6 – per session

#### Fall Fun Days

**OCTOBER thru DECEMBER at Noon to 4 PM**

Saturdays are even more fun at The Ridges this year! Visit our new Nature Center for a variety of activities to help you and your kids celebrate fall in the natural world.

Every Saturday afternoon in October, November and December, our naturalists will be available to share easy-to-do projects and science activities! No registration necessary - just drop in anytime between noon and 4 PM! Themes and activities will change from week to week and month to month. \$5 per participant



#### October

Learn how our boreal forest and its residents prepare for winter by scavenging through the forest and witnessing our critters get ready for winter. We will have hot chocolate and snacks to enjoy while you create your own fall treasure, including leaf crowns, tree cookies and woodland mobiles to take home!

#### November

Ever wonder where all the backyard birds go in the winter? Which birds travel the furthest and which stick around when the Wisconsin winter snow flies? Find out all about it at our Nature Center and join the ranks of backyard birders by making your own bird feeder. We'll also talk about what birds eat and what you can do to attract a variety of feathered friends.

#### December

It's winter and time for holiday fun! Festivities will include papermaking, card making, and decorating with natural materials to make unique ornaments and gifts. Get crafty and enjoy hot apple cider while making something special for you or a friend. A perfect afternoon activity for kids! We'll help them make a homemade card or gift for someone special.

*Programs continued on next page*

# FALL

For complete program info, visit [RidgesSanctuary.org](http://RidgesSanctuary.org)

## Natural Connections

### Nature Programs for Adults & Families

#### Fall Colors of The Ridges

**OCTOBER 10, Saturday at 10 AM**

As we all prepare for the winter season, we'll discuss the inner workings of trees as they make their preparations. How do trees survive the winter? Why do leaves turn colors? We will answer these questions and more in an interactive lesson followed by a hike on our trails!

**\$10** – Members • **\$13** – Public • **\$5** – Under 18

#### Fall Wreath Making

**OCTOBER 17, Saturday at 2 PM**

Get your homes ready for fall using nature as an inspiration! In this wreath and candle holder workshop we'll use natural items collected from our woods, fields and yards. There will be lots of great materials waiting for your creative hands! Supplies will be provided. **Meet: Ridges Cabins, 8288 County Q.**

**\$10** – Members • **\$13** – Public • **\$5** – Under 18

#### Conifers of The Ridges

**OCTOBER 24, Saturday at 10 AM**

Do you know what a Boreal Forest is? Join us in a walk through the Sanctuary's diverse collection of tree species that create this unique habitat. We'll spend some time learning to use an identification key to ID tree species and follow up with a hike to test your skills.

**\$10** – Members • **\$13** – Public • **\$5** – Under 18

#### Back Yard Bird Feeders

**NOVEMBER 14, Saturday at 1 PM**

Lots of us enjoy feeding birds, but have you ever wondered what options might be available? Fly on over and discover how to make your own feeders from recycled objects and natural items. Learn what feeds are good for our wintering friends and how easy it is to help them through the season! Supplies will be provided. **Meet: Ridges Cabins, 8288 County Q.**

**\$10** – Members • **\$13** – Public • **\$5** – Under 18

#### Wine, Cheese and Crafty Things

**NOVEMBER 28, Saturday at 3 PM**

Mushroom ink, a little dirt and some berries! Welcome to a hands-on art night of unexpected media and creative guidance! We will be creating bold and beautiful treasures for keepsake or gift giving while we sample some Door County wine and taste the inspired cheeses made right here in our county. Come relax with us and use your imagination!

**Meet: Ridges Cabins, 8288 County Q.**

**\$10** – Members • **\$13** – Public

#### Backyard Birding 101

**DECEMBER 1 & 8, Tuesdays at 10 AM**

Learn the basics of enjoying birds in your own backyard. We'll supply you with all the skills needed to birdwatch on your own or even participate in the Christmas Bird Count, held every year to help document bird populations throughout the country. We'll discuss basic identification skills, choosing optics (binoculars and field scopes) and field guides, then wrap up with a hike to practice in the field

**\$10** – Members • **\$13** – Public • **\$5** – Under 18

## Lifelong Learning

### Lessons in Conservation

#### Discovery Series

**OCTOBER 1, NOVEMBER 12 & DECEMBER 3, Thursdays at 7 PM**

Just because the temperatures are dipping, the light is fading and things are slowing down doesn't mean that your learning opportunities have to follow suit. This new series is modeled after our popular summer series, Lake Lessons. Each month, we'll host a discussion based on the phenology of The Ridges Sanctuary and the surrounding area.

- October 1 - *Trees*
- November 12 - *Bird Species and Behavior*
- December 3 - *Winter Adaptation*

**Admission is Free. Donations welcome.**

#### Box Lunch Hikes

**OCTOBER 21, NOVEMBER 18 & DECEMBER 16, at 11 AM**

Meet at the Cook-Fuller Center and hike through the woods to The Cabins. Once there, we'll have lunch and lively discussion about timely ecological topics and maybe view a short video ... or sometimes just enjoy each other's company as we settle in for the coming winter.

**\$15** – Members • **\$18** – Public

#### Special Instructions:

Lunch from The Top Shelf Café & Gourmet is included in the cost. Please call The Ridges, 920-839-2802, by 4 PM the previous day with your selection from these delicious choices:

#### Potawatomi Sandwich

sliced roast turkey, sharp cheddar cheese, and fresh greens topped off with raspberry cranberry sauce

#### Peninsula Sandwich

roasted and thinly sliced beef, sweet onion and cucumber, with fresh greens and herbed cream cheese

#### Ridges Wrap

a wrap overflowing with a seasonal assortment of fresh vegetables and hummus

## Rent a Naturalist!

#### Special Request Hikes

**Daily, 9 AM - 5 PM**

Can't make it for one of our scheduled hikes? Call us to arrange a guided hike that fits your schedule. There's no shortage of things to see on our campus, so tell us about your interests and we'll take you out for a great experience. Hikes end at the Nature Center with a mug of hot chocolate. Here are some of the wonders you can expect to observe and learn about:

- Spectacular Fall colors
- Migratory birds
- Preparation for winter by trees & plants
- Discussion of invasive species
- Mosses & lichens
- Tracks & scat

**\$5** – Members • **\$8** – Public • Under 18 Free

**Please schedule at least 24 hours prior to your desired hike.**



# RIDGES LITES

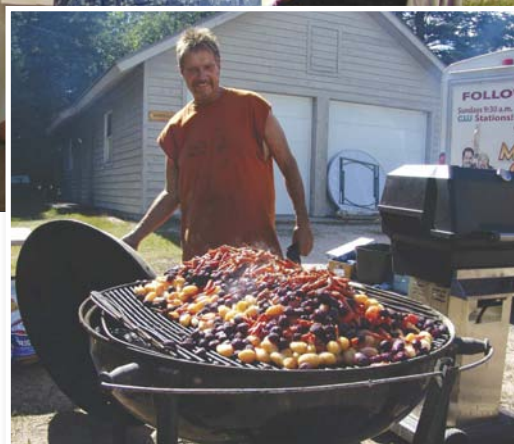
An Update of Ridges Activities

## Annual Meeting & Gathering



Members enjoyed a summer afternoon on the grounds behind the cabins on Saturday, August 1. During the Annual Meeting, Steve Leonard, along with staff and board members, reported highlights of the last 12 months and reviewed the 2014 Annual Report (available online at [RidgesSanctuary.org](http://RidgesSanctuary.org)). Following the business session, **Mad Dog & Merrill** entertained with a comic delivery of tips on grilling and then served up a feast of grilled chicken and vegetables.

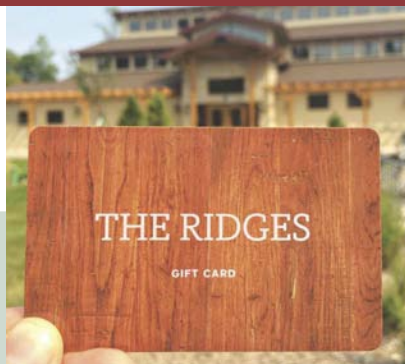
Plans are already underway for next year's Gathering, so mark your calendars for **Saturday, August 6, 2016!**



## 2015 Hunting Procedures

Recent Ridges land purchases have been made with funds from the Knowles Nelson Stewardship Fund which requires that land be opened up for a variety of public uses, including all hunting and trapping seasons. Please refer to the hunting maps to see what properties are open to different hunting seasons. Hunters are required to follow all WDNR hunting and trapping regulations. The Ridges ask that all hunters and trappers fill out a **2015 Registration Form** and return it to The Ridges prior to hunting or trapping on our property. Registration is optional and is used to gather relevant data on each season. This form also lists the Special Hunters' Provisions by which all hunters must abide. Registration Forms and property maps are available online at <http://www.ridgessanctuary.org/our-impact/hunting/> or at the Ridges office, 8166 Hwy 57.

If you have any questions or wish to report violations of DNR hunting laws, call (920) 839-2802 or the Door County Sheriff at (920) 746-2400.



### **NEW! Our Ridges Gift Card**

The holidays will be here before we know it, and a Ridges gift card is the perfect gift for those indecisive nature lovers in your life. Gift cards are available in any denomination and can be used towards membership, programs, guided hikes or Nature Store merchandise!



# RIDGES LITES

## Ridges Business Members

Please patronize our business members.

### Baileys Harbor Yacht Club Resort

www.BHYCR.com

### Baylake Bank

www.Baylake.com

### Beachfront Inn\*

www.BeachfrontInn.net

### The Blacksmith Inn

www.TheBlacksmithInn.com

### Bluestem Farm

www.Bluestemfarm.com

### Bob The Painter

920-746-0549

### Cedar Beach House

http://cedarbeachhouse.biz

### The Cookery\*

www.CookeryFishCreek.com

### Cornerstone Pub

www.BaileysHarborCornerstonePub.com

### Coyote Roadhouse

www.coyote-roadhouse.com

### Dave's Tree Service\*

www.DaveTreeService.com

### Door County Cottages

www.DoorCountyCottages.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

### Grasse's Grill\*

www.GrassessGrill.com

### Gravity Trails, Inc.\*

www.GravityTrails.com

### The Harbor Inn

www.StayAtTheHarborInn.com

### Inge Alverson Bacon

www.ibaconcpa.com

### Innovative Printing, LLC

www.innovativeprintingllc.com

### Journey's End Motel & Cabins

www.JourneysEndMotel.com

### LfpDesign! LLC

www.LfpDesign.com

### Liberty Square

www.LibertySquareShops.com

### Loc Haven Log Cabins\*

www.LocHavenLogCabins.com

### Ludwigsen & Tishler, DDS

920-854.6556

### Main Street Market

www.DoorCountyGrocery.com

### Maxwelton Braes

www.maxweltonbraes.com

### Meissner Landscape

www.MeissnerLandscape.com

### Ministry Door County Medical Center

www.ministryhealth.org/DCMH/home.nws

### Ostrand Family Dentistry\*

www.OstrandFamilyDenistry.com

### Pinkert Law Firm

www.pinkertlawfirm.com

### Sail Door County

www.SailDoorCounty.com

### Sister Bay Bowl

www.SisterBayBowl.com

### Staudemaier Chiropractic Wellness Center

www.BacktoWellness.org

### Thomas/Pfeifer Insurance

www.DoorCountyInsurance.com

### Townline Timber Services, Inc.\*

www.TownlineTimber.com

### TR Pottery LLC

www.TRPottery.com

### Trishann C Photography

http://trishacphoto.zenfolio.com

### Voyager Inn\*

www.VoyagerInnDC.com

### Waseda Farms

www.WasedaFarms.com

### Wilson's Restaurant & Ice Cream Parlor\*

920.854.2041

\*New in 2015

**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

☐ 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

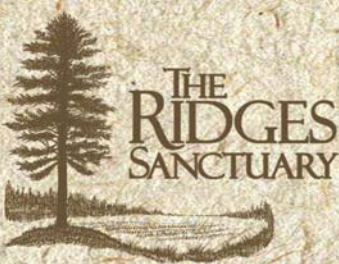
☐ Operating \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Endowment \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Land \_\_\_\_\_

**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!





PO Box 152 • Baileys Harbor, WI 54202

*Address Service Requested*

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
BAILEYS HARBOR, WI  
PERMIT NO. 1

## **Coming This Winter!**

### **Beginning January 2**

#### ***Guided Snowshoe Hikes***

Fridays at 2 PM

Saturdays at 10 AM & 2 PM

### **January 2**

Night Sky Hike

### **January 9**

Nest Box Building

### **January 24 & February 23**

Full Moon Hikes

### **February 6**

Great Waffle Breakfast

**RIDGES LITES**

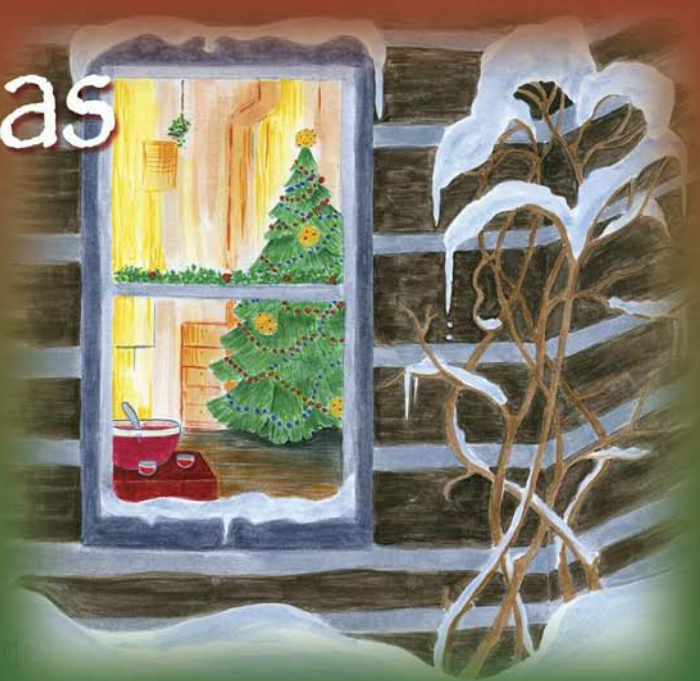
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# Natural Christmas

**Saturday, December 12, 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. This much-loved Christmas program will feature an enchantingly decorated Nature Center, holiday music (by), cookies and cider, a wreath-making workshop, crafts, marshmallows and chestnuts round the fire pit – 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 5 – 1 to 4 PM***

Last year's extra wreath building workshop was so well received that we've decided to offer one again this year. Join us for the merriment as we create wreaths using 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!