

RIDGES LITES News from the trailhead

Winter 2015, Vol. 8 Issue 2

An Update of Ridges Activities

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We're On The Move!

By the time you read this issue of the Lites, we will have begun the transition to the Cook-Fuller Center. Staff began the process of moving to the new Center during the week of March 16 and is becoming familiar with the new space in preparation for opening to the public in mid-June.

The Center will not be open to the public other than for visitors meeting with the staff. Visitors can enter through the staff entrance at the south end of the building. Hours of operation through mid-May are Monday – Friday, 9 AM – 5 PM. Snowshoe hikes and programs will continue to be run from the cabins. Beginning May 15, our business office will be open Monday – Friday, 9 AM – 5 PM. The Kaye Cabin (formerly the Nature Store) will be staffed Monday – Friday from 9 AM – 2 PM to greet visitors and facilitate hikes.

Our public occupancy permit for the Center cannot be issued until the parking lot has been installed. Assuming that work can begin in April, we are projecting that the Center will open to the public on June 13. Our new hours of operation will be Sunday through Saturday, 9 AM – 6 PM. Any changes to the anticipated schedule will be posted on both our website and Facebook page.



Best Laid Plans ... and Boardwalks

The Hidden Brook boardwalk will connect the new Center to the existing Sanctuary trail loop and, in doing so, it will wind through over a quarter mile of critical wetland habitat for native orchids, the federally threatened dwarf lake iris and the federally endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly. Multiple agencies collaborated to develop the guidelines for installing the boardwalk in this sensitive area: US Fish & Wildlife, the US Corps of Engineers, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Town of Baileys Harbor and other Door County departments.

With those successful agency collaborations in place, we're now in the final planning stage and are coordinating with the Department of Transportation (DOT), the federal department that oversees the Scenic Byways grant funding we received for the project. Our initial construction schedule called for the work on the new boardwalk to begin in the fall of 2014. However, based on the remaining DOT requirements, we now estimate that construction will begin this coming fall. In the interim, the trail between the new Center and the Sanctuary trail loop will be cleared, chipped and open for hikes by the time the Center opens in mid-June.

An Update of Ridges Activities

Parent Property Acquisition

Since its inception in 1937, The Ridges Sanctuary has held fast to a three-pronged mission; protection of the sanctuary, education & outreach to the public and research to ensure the sustainability and viability of the sanctuary. One management tool that addresses all three of those guiding principles is land acquisition. In 2010, we began working toward acquisition of the Parent property. Thanks to the commitment of the Parents and funding from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program and US Fish & Wildlife, we're happy to announce that we closed on the property March 16.



This 67-acre tract features dense lowland cedar forest with ephemeral ponds and wetlands in the southern part; open land, exposed bedrock with minimal soil with scattered cedar and white pine in the northern part; and upland forest of maple and birch in the middle. It provides vital foraging habitat and is part of a high recharge potential area contributing groundwater to Hine's Emerald dragonfly larval habitat and is suitable to support populations of other rare species, including the federally-threatened dwarf lake iris. Access is possible on the north from an easement road running along the northern boundary. There is also an existing trail system on the southern parcel, off of County Q east of the property.

Per the requirements of the Stewardship Fund, the area will be open to hunting, hiking, trapping, cross country skiing and snowmobiling. Due to its ease of accessibility, The Ridges plans to use the parcel for youth hunting programs as well as for disabled hunters. The Parents will continue to operate their one-acre quarry for the next three years. Once the excavation in this area ceases, the Parents will return the property to a natural landscape under the guidance of The Ridges.

Save the Knowles-Nelson **Stewardship Program**

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program has funded the purchase and protection of land for 25 years, including The Ridges' recent acquisition of the Parent property. Our ability to continue purchasing open lands for preservation is dependent upon the availability of grant programs like these. The current budget proposal freezes the Stewardship Program until 2028. You can help save the Stewardship Program that protects our lands and waters.

Here's how:

- Call, write and meet with your legislator.
- Copy the Joint Committee on Finance when you write letters.
- Send a letter to the editor.
- Spread the word Tweet, Facebook and talk about what Stewardship does.

It's not too late.

Together we can save the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program and protect Wisconsin's special places.

Annual Appeal Results

Many research and citizen monitoring projects take place behind the scenes here at The Ridges.

Last November as part of our annual appeal,

we included a copy of The Nature of Research to highlight some of the important work that is supported, in part, by your annual contributions to our general fund.

Your overwhelmingly positive response resulted in annual appeal donations

totaling \$96,646, a 49% increase over the prior year's appeal. Thank you!

RIDGES LITES

An Update of Ridges Activities

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month

April is National Volunteer Appreciation Month – a time when we honor those who dedicate themselves to giving back to their communities. Volunteering has steadily increased since the creation of National Volunteer Week in 1975. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 62.8 million people volunteered at least once between September 2013 and September 2014.



Imagine the economic impact of that donated time and expertise!

We know only too well what the extraordinary gift of service means to The Ridges. In April, we celebrate and salute the volunteers who form the backbone of our organization.

Spring Clean Up Saturday, May 2

The Ridges will be hosting its annual *Spring Clean-Up Day* on **Saturday**, May 2, 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. Extra wheelbarrows are welcome, too! Lunch will be provided for everyone who helps out!



Orchid Restoration Project

Thanks to two generous donations, we now have enough money to fund Phase I of our *Orchid Restoration Project*. Late last year, we received \$2,500 for the project from the Hugh and Helena Brogan Foundation. In addition, Bill Gross has donated \$3,500 in memory of his wife, Louise.

The first phase of the project includes the first outplanting of ram's head orchids and the monitoring of those sites, as well as identification of outplanting sites for grass pinks. Outplanting will begin on **Tuesday**, **May 12**, and we will need **40 volunteers** to assist with this exciting step in the restoration project. If you're available to help, contact Kate LeRoy: kate@ridgessanctuary.org or 920-839-2802.

In Memoriam...

"... people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." - Maya Angelou

The Ridges lost two beloved members this year. **Don Juers** passed away on January 3. Don was a longstanding member of our Wednesday Crew and donated countless hours building and repairing boardwalks and overlooks in the Sanctuary as well as working on many other carpentry projects. **Edith Fulkerson** died on January 19. Edith's warm smile welcomed numerous visitors to The Ridges during the many, many years she volunteered at our Nature Center and Store.

We, along with many other members, volunteers and visitors, will never forget the way Don and Edith made us feel.

Welcome...

There's a new face at The Ridges!

Morgan Rusnak joined our staff on

March 9 as Visitor Services Assistant. In her

new position, Morgan will be responsible

for assisting with the Nature Store

operations, volunteer activities, customer

service and social media strategies.

Her background in sustainability,

community relations and public relations

provides a strong foundation for her role

in our daily operations.



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 Ridges Cabins, 8288 Hwy Q, Baileys Harbor.

Trails open for self-guided hikes dawn to dusk, year-round. Adult Day Passes are \$5 and include trail access to the Sanctuary, the Family Discovery Trail and Logan Creek. Members and children under 18 hike free.

Guided Hikes

Guided Hikes at the Sanctuary

MAY 6 - 30 (no hikes May 22 & 23)

Wednesday through Saturday - 9:30 AM & 1:30 PM

JUNE 1 - 30

Monday through Sunday - 9:30 AM & 1:30 PM

Join a Ridges naturalist for a relaxing 90-minute walk on the trails. Learn a little about the history of The Ridges and a lot about the wildflowers, insects and other features of Wisconsin's first land trust. Includes access to the Upper Range Light lantern room. Appropriate for all ages.

\$5 - Adult Members • \$8 - Adult Public • Under 18 Free

Guided Hikes at Logan Creek

MAY 2, 9 16 & 30 - Saturday at 2 PM

JUNE 7 & 21 - Sunday at 2 PM

Enjoy a different kind of hiking experience. Explore this 170-acre parcel on Clark Lake with a Ridges naturalist. Owned and managed by The Ridges, the Logan Creek property is comprised of a variety of habitats, including upland hardwood forest, lowland cedar-hemlock forest and frontage along Clark Lake and Logan Creek. Spring wildflowers will be in bloom and make for a memorable hike. **Meet at trailhead: 5724 Loritz Road.**

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

Birding

Discovery Bird Hikes

MAY 9, 16 & 30 and JUNE 6, 13, 20 & 27 - Saturdays at 6:30 AM

Join fellow birding enthusiasts for a morning excursion into the woods, fields and waters around Baileys Harbor. All members of our group collaborate to identify the birds we see. Both beginners and experienced birders welcome! Bring binoculars if desired.

Free – Ridges Members • \$5 – Public

Not-So-Early Bird Hikes

MAY 16 & June 20 - Saturday 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 a ramble on the trails to look for warblers, woodpeckers and shorebirds. Bring binoculars if desired. **Free** – Ridges Members • \$5 – Public



Natural Connections

Nature Programs for Adults & Families

Zoning Your Yard & Working With Native Plants

APRIL 4 - Saturday at 1 PM

This workshop instructs on establishing zones that focus on plant suitability for hardiness as well as suitability for creation of specific habitats.

\$10 - Adult Members • \$13 - Adult Public • \$5 - Under 18

In the Footsteps of Muir, Audubon & Leopold: The Basics and Future of Nature Journaling

APRIL 9 & 23 - Thursday at 1 PM

Journaling is an important part of nature observations – vital to everything from casual observations to scientific study. In a series of two workshops, we will study the history and techniques of nature journaling from its inception to the digital age.

\$10 - Adult Members • \$13 - Adult Public • \$5 - Under 18

Kestrel Nest Box Workshop

APRIL 16 - Thursday at 2 PM

The American Kestrel is the most common falcon found in North America and is known to thrive in a variety of habitats. Despite this, the species is in decline. Many of the habitats that cover the Door Peninsula are ideal for nesting kestrels and a nesting box is a fantastic way to help encourage the local population. Fee includes material for one kit. Additional kits - \$20 each. REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

\$25 – Adult Members • **\$30** – Adult Public • **\$10** – Under 18

Woodcock Watch

APRIL 24 - Friday at 7 PM

Each spring American woodcocks engage in one of the animal kingdom's most interesting courtship displays. Here's your chance to experience firsthand what Aldo Leopold described as the "sky dance." We'll learn about the habits of this most unusual bird, and then watch them engage in their remarkable flight display. Suitable for ages 7 and up. Bring binoculars if desired.

\$10 - Adult Members • \$13 - Adult Public • \$5 - Under 18

Spring Mushrooms: The What, When Why Where and How APRIL 25 - Saturday, Noon to 4 PM

Each year, mushroom enthusiasts descend upon their hallowed mushroom foraging spots to find the treasures that might be growing there. Join us in this workshop to learn the basics: which ones are safe to eat and where to find them, what to do with them and how to distinguish the look-alikes. Discussion will be a "classroom" style, as well as a hands-on look at samples and equipment. The class will finish with a hike on our Family Discovery Trail. **REGISTRATION REQUIRED.**

\$30 - Adult Members • \$40 - Adult Public

RIDGES LITES

An Update of Ridges Activities

Feeding Spring Migratory Birds

MAY 2 - Saturday at 1 PM

In the spring our backyard visitors return and are looking for nourishment to recover from their journey and begin the nesting season. Join us in a discussion on backyard feeders for fruit and hummingbird feeding. We'll discuss proper placement and material use as well as which foods to key in on for our feathered travelers. \$10 - Adult Members • \$13 - Adult Public • \$5 - Under 18

Who Croaks There?

MAY 8 - Friday at 7 PM

For frogs, spring means mating season, and males use their unique (and very loud) voices to attract a mate. Join us to learn the quacks, trills and peeps of different frog species, and take a hike to listen for them. Program is suitable for all ages. **Limit: 20. REGISTRATION REQUIRED.**

\$10 - Adult Members • \$13 - Adult Public • \$5 - Under 18

Photo Ops Hike

MAY 14 - Thursday at 1:30 PM

JUNE 15 - Monday at 1:30 PM

Grab your camera or camera phone and let our naturalist lead you to the best spots to see and photograph spring wildflowers at The Ridges.

Easy hiking. Beautiful blooms!

\$5 - Adult Members • \$8 - Adult Public

Bellies on the Boardwalk

MAY 16 - Saturday at 1 PM

What kinds of amazing creatures can we find in the water alongside the boardwalk? Use nets, buckets, or hands to scoop up some tadpoles, whirligig beetles, dragonfly larvae, and all manner of tiny skittering critters. Lay your belly on the boardwalk and see what you can find in this "dry", up close and personal look at the critters that live in our wetlands.

Limit: 20, REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

\$10 - Adult Members • \$13 - Adult Public • \$5 - Under 18

Guided Kayak Trips

JUNE 3, 10, 17 & 24 - Wednesdays, 8 - 11 AM

Experience the unspoiled areas of Door County like never before in our Eco Friendly Kayak Tour. Bay Shore Outfitters and The Ridges have teamed up to offer a unique experience of paddling the quiet creeks and waters of Door County. With the help of a Ridges naturalist and a guide from Bay Shore Outfitters, your tour promises to be filled with opportunities to see birds, wildlife and plants native to this very diverse community.

Call Bay Shore Outfitters at (920) 854-7598 for reservations.

\$55 - Per Person. Fully refundable if canceled due to weather.

Herbology 101

JUNE 13 - Saturday at 1 PM

If you've read the Harry Potter series of books, you'll know that Harry and his classmates spent many hours studying the magical effects of various herbs. We think they're pretty magical, too! Although they do not quite have the fictional properties described in the story, there are many healthy and yummy benefits to natural herbs that you can find growing right here at The Ridges and in your own backyard. Join us in a discussion and hike focused on herbs found on the landscape.

\$10 - Adult Members • \$13 - Adult Public • \$5 - Under 18

Lifelong Learning

Lessons in Conservation

Midwest Crane Count

APRIL 18 - Saturday, 5:30 - 7:30 AM

The Annual Midwest Crane Count, coordinated by the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo WI, started in 1976 and currently includes 6 states. The primary purposes of the Crane Count are to help monitor the abundance and distribution of cranes in the Upper Midwest as well as introducing people to cranes and their natural environment. Counters are needed to survey for cranes on designated sites throughout Door County. No previous experience needed.

Contact Brian for more information and data forms at brian@ridgessanctuary.org

Adult Workshops

Improving Your Birding By Ear: Bird Song Ecology

MAY 20 - Wednesday, 9 - Noon

MAY 21 - Thursday, 8 - 11 AM

Daniel Edelstein is a renowned wildlife biologist with decades of experience in the study of warblers and other song birds. Join us in a two-day workshop that will discuss things like just why do birds sing and how and when do they learn their repertoires, improving your birding by ear skills and improving your "memory phrases" to recall the identities of hundreds of possible bird singers. Day one will be focused in a classroom setting, with a presentation and discussion of the necessary skills. Day two will take place in the field with visits to locations that will allow you to test your new skills.

\$45 per day - Member • \$60 per day - Public

Mosses and Lichens of The Ridges

JUNE 5 - Friday, 10 AM - 1 PM

Join award-winning nature writer and photographer **Rob Zimmer** in a discussion of the mosses and lichens that are found in and around the sanctuary. We'll discuss the various species, as well as photographing and drawing them as part of a nature journal. After a classroom style lesson, we'll venture out on the trails to do some hands-on learning about the fascinating world of these biological marvels.

\$30 per day – Member • \$40 per day – Public

Orchid Propagation Workshop

JUNE 12 - Friday, 10 AM - 1 PM

Join biologist **Melissa Curran** in a discussion of some of the exciting work being done here at The Ridges! We will spend some time discussing the history and current status of the project, then head out into the sanctuary to review techniques in surveying and monitoring existing orchid populations, tour the outplanting sites and learn the techniques necessary to propagate these fascinating plants.

\$30 per day - Member • \$40 per day - Public

An Update of Ridges Activities

Frogs, Lizards & Salamanders, Oh My!

JUNE 19 - Friday, 10 AM - 1 PM

Wildlife biologist, Scott Craven, will lead this workshop that will focus on the population of amphibians and reptiles here at The Ridges Sanctuary. Scott will hold a classroom-style discussion that will focus on the type of critters that exist here as well as how to properly study them to find the pertinent information that you seek. Afterwards, we will venture onto the trails to discuss the techniques of setting up a monitoring trail and assembling proper traps to live-capture and study these mesmerizing residents of the sanctuary.

\$30 per day - Member • \$40 per day - Public

Lake Lessons

Thursdays at 7 PM, Baileys Harbor Town Hall Admission is Free.

Mosses and Lichens of NE Wisconsin

Rob Zimmer is an award-winning nature writer and photographer whose work has appeared in publications across the state. Join Rob on a discussion and photo tour of the fascinating world of moss and lichens.

Protecting Wisconsin's Native Orchids at The Ridges **JUNE 11**

Orchid populations have declined for several reasons, and now The Ridges is working with multiple partners to reintroduce the ram's-head lady's slipper,

showy lady's slipper, yellow lady's-slipper and grass pink in a part of the Sanctuary that was once used for grazing. Melissa Curran, biologist for Stantec consulting firm, will highlight the many components and goals of this unprecedented initiative to help protect Wisconsin's native orchids.

Reptiles, Amphibians & Water Quality JUNE 18

What do frogs, toads and other amphibians tell us about water quality? As it turns out, monitoring the health of the amphibian and reptile species that inhabit an area can tell us a lot about the health of the surface and groundwater. Wildlife biologist, Scott Craven, will lead a discussion on the status of various amphibian and reptile species as well as which can be found here at The Ridges and what it can tell us.

The Importance of and Threat to Door County's Bat Population

Bats are some of the most unique and ecologically beneficial animals in the world. They are the only mammals to have evolved true flight and there are over 1,200 species found worldwide. There are several species that inhabit Door County and are currently the focus of research by multiple agencies. Join Bob Bultman in a discussion of the status of the various species, the county's population and the threat of white-nose syndrome. After Bob's talk, we'll venture out into the Bailey's Harbor area with the AnaBat bat detector to do some hands on tracking of the night flyers in the community.

For complete program info, visit RidgesSantuary.org

2015 Backpack Adventure Camps - Register Now!

Our new **Backpack Adventure Camps** are designed to provide children with outdoor experiences exploring wetlands, forests and fields. All programs will focus on natural discoveries, children's literature and artwork. Planned activities will build skills for outdoor interpretation and enjoyment. Each day, campers will hike the trails of the sanctuary and the Family Discovery Trail with a Ridges backpack, filled with bug boxes, nets and

other tools to participate in hands-on activities as they explore 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.

Full Week: \$100 - Members • \$130 - Public Per Day: \$25 - Members • \$30 - Public

JULY 6 - 10, 9 AM - Noon

Tiny Twigs - Ages 4 - 6

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

Mucky Ducks - Ages 7 - 10

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

JULY 13 - 17, 9 AM - Noon

Fire Flies - Ages 4 - 6

Discover the wild world of insects.

Trail Trekkers - Ages 7 - 10

Explore the many different trails of The Ridges

JULY 20 - 24, 9 AM - Noon

The Imagination Tree - Ages 4 - 6 Explore the life around a Ridges' tree.

Mudpuppies - Ages 7 - 10 Investigate the wonders of wetlands.

JULY 27 - 31, 9 AM - Noon

Call of the Wild - Ages 4 - 6

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

Catch the Bug – Ages 7 - 10

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

RIDGES LITES

Ridges Business Members

Please patronize our business members.

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Baylake Bank www.Baylake.com

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Ministry Door County Medical Center www.ministryhealth.org/DCMH/home.nws

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Voyager Inn* www.VoyagerInnDC.com Waseda Farms www.WasedaFarms.com

*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 | m | |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------|
| □ New □ Renew □ Change of Address □ Donation □ Memory/ | Honor 🗆 Anon | ıymous |
| | Membership | Levels |
| Name | □ Individual | \$40 |
| Address | ☐ Family | \$65 |
| City State 7in | ☐ Family Plus | \$95 |
| City, State, Zip | ☐ Business | \$150 |
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| Address | Total _ | |
| City, State, Zip | Make checks pay The Ridges San | |

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



RIDGES LITES Spring 2015, Vol. 8 Issue 2

Celebrating Our World Class Wetlands There's still time to register for the FSTIV

Registration is underway for the Door County Festival of Nature – a countywide celebration of the precious species, rare habitats and natural beauty we protect. This year, we celebrate the exciting news that a number of Door County wetland sites have been designated as Wetlands of International Importance. May 21 - 24, 2015

In response to last year's increase in participation, our schedule has been expanded to include a third day of field trips featuring 67 guided hikes, workshops and presentations. We've also moved the Festival dinner and keynote presentation to historic Maxwelton Braes Lodge so that we can accommodate a larger audience for both these popular features.

Highlights Include...

NEW! Coastal Tour on the Edith M. Becker **NEW!** Breeding Bird Atlas Workshop

NEW! Brussels Meteorite Impact Site

NEW! Discover Lost Lake

NEW! The Wild Potato - USDA Potato Genebank Tour

NEW! Big Creek & Big Creek Cove

NEW! Fish Sticks at Kangaroo Lake

Mix, Mingle & Movie - Thursday, May 21, 6 PM - Baileys Harbor Town Hall

Festival Dinner & Keynote Presentation: Friday, May 22, 4:30 PM, Dinner Seating: 5 PM, Maxwelton Braes Lodge, Baileys Harbor. Keynote Program - 6:30 PM - Katie Beilfuss, Outreach Programs Director, Wisconsin Wetlands Association, presents "Celebrating Our Ramsar Designated Wetlands of International Importance."

The Festival program book contains a complete listing of field trips and special events. To download the Festival program booklet and register online, visit RidgesSanctuary.org. You can also register by phone by calling 920-839-2802.



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