



RIDGES LITES

News from the trailhead

Winter 2015, Vol. 8 Issue 1

An Update of Ridges Activities

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Where's the Staff?

Pinning down a specific date for the opening of the Cook-Albert Fuller Center has been a little bit more art than science since construction activity is so dependent on cooperative weather. At this writing, we know the building itself will be completed by February. The item in question now is the parking lot which must be installed before our public occupancy permit can be issued. That work will begin in April ... or whenever spring decides to arrive in Door County!

Barring the chance that we'll be thrown a left curve by the weather gods, we are projecting an opening date of June 13, 2015. In January, the staff will continue to operate from the offices in the Upper Range Light, Monday – Friday, 9 AM – 5 PM. Here's what will be happening beginning in February:

Hours & Location of Operation

- **Early February:** Staff will begin the transition, moving supplies and store inventory to the new building. During this period, there may be times when it's hard to reach us. We will be checking voicemail and email regularly, so please leave a message, and be assured we'll respond as quickly as possible.

Hours of operation: Monday – Friday, 9 – 5.

- **Mid-February to Mid-May:** Staff will be located at the Center. Snowshoe hikes and winter programs will continue to be run from the cabins.

Hours of operation: Monday – Friday, 9 – 5.

- **May 15:** Our business office will be open Monday through Friday, 9 – 5. The former Nature Center cabin will be staffed Monday through Friday, 9 – 2 to greet visitors and facilitate hikes.

- **June 13:** The Center will open to the public.

Hours of operation: Sunday – Saturday, 9 – 6.

Our mailing address and phone number will not change; however, our physical address as of June 13 will be 8166 Hwy 57, Baileys Harbor, 54202.

We thank you in advance for your patience during this exciting time!

In-Kind Donations Update

Each year The Ridges receives generous in-kind donations that range from office supplies and birdseed to artwork and historical memorabilia. Recently, we've had a number of inquiries from individuals and businesses regarding items they are interested in contributing to the new building.

Because we will begin the process of packing and moving very soon, we will not take receipt of in-kind gifts from now until after we complete the move to the Center. This will not only help us streamline the move as much as possible, but will also prevent damage to or loss of donated items.

In the interim, if you have an item that you are interested in donating and want to make sure that The Ridges can make good use of your contribution, please contact Kate LeRoy, Manager, Visitor Services, 920-839-2802 or kate@ridgessanctuary.org.

RIDGES LITES

An Update of Ridges Activities

Snowshoes! The More the Merrier!

Thanking Cellcom & Ecology Sports ...



Environmental education doesn't end with the conclusion of Door County's high season. Each winter, our naturalist-guided snowshoe hikes provide residents and visitors, adults and children, the opportunity to connect with nature and learn about winter ecology. That's why last September we applied for a Cellcom Green Gift to support the purchase of additional equipment that would allow us to expand both the frequency and capacity of our guided snowshoe hikes. We're pleased to announce that our \$1,200 Green Gift check was presented at The Ridges by Cellcom representatives Rob Van Gemert and Cindy Durand on October 29.

Since 2004 Cellcom has offered a cell phone recycling program where customers can bring in their old or unwanted phones to be reused and recycled. Cellcom sends the phones to recyclers who in return send money to Cellcom for the materials that were saved from the phones. Cellcom has always donated this money back to local non-profits. In 2010, Cellcom launched the Green Gift program, donating their recycling funds to green non-profit initiatives in an effort to complete the green cycle that starts with consumers being environmentally-conscious and donating their

devices. A total of \$32,000 was given out to 26 green organizations in Cellcom's service area this year.



We also want to thank our good friends at **Ecology Sports** in Sister Bay for their generous donation to this project and working with us to select and order our new equipment.

Because snowshoeing requires little or no experience, it's the perfect way to explore the trails of The Ridges during the winter months and to provide a learning experience that also incorporates fun and a sense of physical well-being. Join us for a guided snowshoe hike this season. Hikes will be held on Fridays at 1 PM and Saturdays at 9:30 AM and 1 PM, January 2 through March 28. If there's no snow (like that will happen!), we'll hike without snowshoes.

Private Guided Snowshoe Hikes

Looking for a fun family outing or the perfect activity for visiting friends? Call us at 920-839-2802 to arrange a guided snowshoe experience for your private party at a time and date that work for you.



Save the Date!

We'll be sending reminders of these important dates throughout the year, but if you want to get a jump on your 2015 schedule be sure to mark your calendars for these events:

Waffle Breakfast	February 7
Spring Work Day	May 2
Festival of Nature	May 21 - 24
Living Green House Walk	July 17 & 18
Annual Meeting & Gathering	August 1
Volunteer Recognition	August 16
Ramble Thru The Ridges	September 26
Fall Work Day	October 3

RIDGES LITES

A Look Back at 2014



Ground Breaking Celebration



Festival of Nature



Volunteer Recognition



Ridges Ramble - REGI



Fall Work Day



Cook-Albert Fuller Interpretive Center - Opening June 2015

Schedule of Programs & Events - January thru March

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.

Weekly Hikes

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

Naturalist-guided Snowshoe Hikes

JANUARY 2 thru MARCH 28,

Fridays at 1:00 PM; Saturdays – 9:30 AM & 1:00 PM

Experience The Ridges in a whole new way and a whole new season! Enjoy a leisurely hike on level terrain. If snow cover is insufficient, the hike will be done without snowshoes. Afterwards gather around the wood stove in the Marshall Cabin for hot beverages. **Snowshoes available for hike participants – call ahead to reserve. \$5 rental fee.**

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

Natural Connections

Nature Programs for Adults & Families

Evening Snowshoe Hikes

JANUARY 7, JANUARY 21 & MARCH 5, at 6:30 PM

A snowshoe hike at night is an amazing winter experience. Hike the trails by flashlight and headlamp. Round out the evening with a campfire and marshmallow roast back at the cabins. If snow cover is insufficient, the hike will be done without snowshoes. **Snowshoes available for hike participants – call ahead to reserve. \$5 rental fee.**

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

Raptor Residences –

Owl Nest Box Workshop

JANUARY 15 & FEBRUARY 19, 2:00 - 4:00 PM

Owls do not build their own nests. Some use the old nests of hawks, ravens, and other birds but cavity nesters like Barn Owls, Screech Owls, Saw-Whets and Barred Owls will readily nest in a box. Build one at our early winter workshops and pick up some tips on where to locate it and when to put it out.

Meet at The Ridges Workshop, 8288 County Q, Baileys Harbor.

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

Fee includes materials for one nest box. Additional kits - \$20.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

Make Your Own Bird Feeder

JANUARY 24 & FEBRUARY 21, 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Bird species that stay in northeast Wisconsin for the winter must adapt to changes in their bodies and need a constant food supply. There are many feeders to choose from, but it's practical and very rewarding to make your own! **REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Meet at The Ridges Workshop**

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

Migrate, Hibernate or Adapt

FEBRUARY 2, Monday at 1:00 PM

Celebrate Groundhog Day by joining us in a light discussion of how animals make it through the winter; but more importantly, how the heck we're making it through! Some of us have migrated, others are going to wish they could have hibernated. We'll have wine and cheese on hand to celebrate an early spring or get us through six more weeks of winter!

\$15 REGISTRATION REQUIRED – RSVP by January 30.

Natural Connections, *continued*

Owl Prowl

FEBRUARY 4 & FEBRUARY 11, Wednesday at 6:30 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 Ridges naturalists to learn more about the owls of Door County and their amazing adaptations as nighttime hunters. We'll learn how to recognize a few of the more common owls by their calls then take a hike to listen for them. Suitable for all ages.

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

REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

Get Ready for the Great Backyard Bird Count

FEBRUARY 9, Monday at 1:00 PM

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event for bird watchers of all ages to count birds and create a real-time snapshot of bird populations. Participants are asked to count birds on one or more days of the event. Join us to brush up on some of the basics you'll need to participate. We'll cover everything from feeders to binoculars to identification to prepare you for the February 13 – 16 Count.

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

REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

Great Backyard Bird Count Lunch

FEBRUARY 14, Saturday at Noon

Participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count? Come join us for chili and snacks and share your experiences with the Count thus far. The Count runs from February 13 – 16, and we'll take this mid-point opportunity to share stories and tips for those participating. **Meet at the Marshall Cabin.**

Free

Valentine's Day Hike

FEBRUARY 14, Saturday at 6:30 PM

This sweetheart of a hike is designed for all ages, but couples may find it especially romantic way to celebrate Valentine's Day under the light of the silvery moon. Bring your night eyes and your curiosity, and explore with all your senses. Afterwards enjoy a campfire and marshmallow roast back at the cabins. **REGISTRATION REQUIRED.**

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

Building for Bluebirds

MARCH 7, Saturday at 10:00 AM & 2:00 PM

Bluebird populations dropped dramatically from 1920 to the 1970s, but their numbers have been rising thanks in part to nesting boxes provided by humans. Learn what bluebirds need to survive, and how we can help. You can even make your own bluebird nest box to take home! All materials and tools provided. **Meet at The Ridges Workshop, 8288 County Q, Baileys Harbor.**

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

Additional kits - \$5.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

RIDGES LITES

An Update of Ridges Activities

Natural Connections, *continued*

Pi Day Hike

MARCH 14, Saturday at 6:30 PM

A celebration of this essential mathematical constant! Don't worry though, there won't be any tests. This will be a light-hearted celebration of math with fun facts, a hike and you guessed it ... pie!

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

Why a Duck?

Wood Duck Nest Box Workshop

MARCH 19, Thursday at 2:00 PM

Wood duck females typically build their nests in tree cavities near wetlands, but they can have difficulty finding suitable natural nesting sites. Wood duck boxes provide a man-made alternative, where hens can nest in relative safety from predators. This workshop will teach you a little bit about wood ducks and their habitats and send you home with a nest box that's ready for a resident and made with your own two hands. **REGISTRATION REQUIRED.**

Meet at The Ridges Workshop, 8288 County Q, Baileys Harbor.

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

Fee includes materials for one nest box. Additional kits - \$20.

Hydrology and Water Quality of The Ridges Sanctuary

MARCH 25, Wednesday at 1:00 PM

As spring approaches, many people start to question the quality of their drinking water. The annual spring runoff events can sometimes lead to contamination of the local aquifers. We'll talk about the hydrology of The Ridges, the connection of ground and surface waters and the quality of the water that so many species depend on as an integral part of their habitat.

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

REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

Lifelong Learning Lessons in Conservation

Fireside Series

JANUARY 8, FEBRUARY 12 & MARCH 12, Thursdays at 6:00 PM

Gather 'round the Marshall Cabin's wood burning stove for a lively discussion about the industries that played a key role in Door County's rich history.

January 8 – Commercial Fishing

February 12 – Conservation

March 12 – Orchard Industries

Admission is Free – Donations Welcome

For complete program info, visit RidgesSanctuary.org

Welcome New 2014 Members!

January 1, 2014 to November 30, 2014

Marjorie Andrae
Bonnie Ansley
Katti Ashmore
Gaetano Auricchio
Tom Barounis
Mary Baukert
James Beck
John J. Beck
Penny Beerntsen
Wendy Beilfuss
Mary Bondeson
Clay Bonin
Gregory Bonney
Kathy Breunig
James Brooks
Linda Brooks
Dan Buskey
Patricia Comardo
Michael Condra
Dennis Conta

Debbie Cook
Julia Cosgrove
Jack Covert
Rod Demaranville
Guy Denny
Tammy Devine
Charles Doyle
Thomas Dunn
Michael Dybas
Will Enright
Dale Eskra
Barbara Feeny
Georgiann Flowers
Bernie Friedenfels
Kathy Gilmore
Jay Golla
Michael Gottfredsen
Robert Hall
Robert Hays
Richard Herndon

Barb Hirsch
Roger Honold
Sigrunn Hulburt
Jill Hynum
Michael Janssen
Jason Jenovai
Joellyn Johnson
Krista Keck
Todd Kiefer
Lucy Kingsford
Bev Knutson
Darlene Konkle
Jacob Konrath
Carol Konshak
Jann Kostecke
Paul Liss
Jessica Louthain
Tom McMahan
David McNeil

Dorothy Merriman
Eliz Meyer
Bill Moore
Dan Niesen
Joe Novicki
Andra Nyman
Jim Olson
Barb Ottum
Don Payne
Sandra Prebeg
Debra Rade
Patty Ray
Mary Ann Reilly
Nancy Ruggeri
Debbie Rzentkowski
Jim Sanden
Heather Sannes
Tom Schueppert
Victor Seefeldt

Jane Seidl
Lynn Simarski
Alfred Stark
Shannon Strabala
Arlie Tucker
Deb Turnbull
Rebecca Ullman
John Van den Brandt
Gary Wagner
David Weber
Scott Weber
Bill Wessels
Diana Whitney
Paul Wiesner
Gray Williams
Dorothy Wyandt
Brent Zeinert
Barbara Ziegler
Tom Zimmerman



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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

DOOR COUNTY
FESTIVAL
OF NATURE

May 21 - 24, 2015

Plans are already underway for the 2015 Door County Festival of Nature and this year's Festival promises to be bigger and better than ever.

Our theme, *Celebrating Our World Class Wetlands*, reflects the exciting news that a number of Door County wetland sites soon may be designated as Wetlands of International Importance or Ramsar Sites in accordance with the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The Ramsar Convention is an intergovernmental treaty of 162 member countries adopted in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971 to "develop and maintain an international network of wetlands which are important for the conservation of global biodiversity and for sustaining human life through the maintenance of their ecosystem components, processes, and benefits/services." There are currently 2,027 sites worldwide including 36 in the United States.



We're pleased to announce that the Festival keynote presentation will be given by **Katie Beilfuss, Outreach Programs Director at Wisconsin Wetlands Association.**

As part of her responsibilities, Katie coordinates the annual Wetland Science Conference, Private Landowner Outreach Program, quarterly newsletter, Wetland Gems program, and the Ramsar initiative. She is also a member of the U.S. National Ramsar Committee. Katie has a Masters degree in Land Resources from UW-Madison's Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies. She has nearly 20 years of nonprofit and environmental experience with organizations including the Gorongosa Restoration Project (Mozambique, Africa), the International Crane Foundation, and The Nature Conservancy.

Because Festival participation grew by over 20% in 2014, our schedule has been expanded to include a third day of new and exciting field trips. In addition, we'll be moving the Festival dinner and keynote presentation to historic Maxwellton Lodge so that we can accommodate a larger audience for both these popular features.

Mark your calendars now for Memorial Day weekend - Thursday thru Sunday, May 21 - 24, 2015 - and watch the Spring issue of the *Lites* and our website for updates..

Celebrating Our World Class Wetlands



RIDGES LITES

Ridges Business Members

Please patronize our business members.

Associated Bank

www.AssociatedBank.com

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

Bluestem Farm*

www.Bluestemfarm.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 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.LibertySquareShops.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

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

TR Pottery LLC

www.TRPottery.com

Trishann C Photography

http://trishacphoto.zenfolio.com

Waseda Farms

www.WasedaFarms.com

*New in 2014

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!



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RIDGES SANCTUARY

THE GREAT



Happy Birthday Emma Toft

**WAFFLE
Breakfast**

**7th Annual
RIDGES SANCTUARY
Great Waffle Breakfast**

Saturday, February 7, 9 - 11 AM

If you're long overdue for a really great breakfast, we invite you to join the staff and volunteers of The Ridges for the Great Waffle Breakfast. Again this year, the Baileys Harbor Town Hall will be filled with the aroma of delectable, golden waffles. This is the seventh year for our popular breakfast event, so you can be sure we've ironed out all the details!

Enjoy your fill of 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.

Emma Toft was one of the most vocal and persistent of the visionaries who founded The Ridges. The Great Waffle Breakfast celebrates the 124th anniversary of her birth.