

RIDGES LITES

News from the trailhead

Winter 2016, Vol. 9 Issue 5

An Update of Ridges Activities

Ridges Board

**as of September 2016*

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RidgesSanctuary.org

Greetings from the Trailhead

It has been an exciting and busy Fall. The Cook-Albert Fuller Center, Hidden Brook Boardwalk and sanctuary trails are becoming a year-round destination for our members and visitors. And I have to say, it's a lot warmer in the new center than it ever was during the winter months in the Upper Range Light.

On September 1, we held a dedication for the Hidden Brook Boardwalk. Around seventy-five members and visitors joined us to share an incredible accomplishment for the organization. Having a universal boardwalk, accessible for all, allows everyone to experience the ridges and swales and its incredible diversity. It has been a meaningful project for the volunteers who helped build it and for the donors who gave because they knew the importance of accessibility. We are still in the process of finishing benches, the two overlooks and continue to seek funding for interpretive signs and other enhancements.

Upper Range Light tours have added a unique element to the overall experience for our visitors. While on the tour they learn about how the placement of the Lower and Upper Range Lights helped navigate ships into the harbor, the history of the lighthouse keepers, and how the Upper Range Light was used as a parsonage from the 1930's to 1950's. They also learn how The Ridges took over the responsibility of the Range Lights back in 1966, when Roy Lukes moved in as first naturalist hired by The Ridges. As we enter the winter months, we continue to fundraise for the renovation of the building. Our goal is to raise \$90,000 this year to renovate the exterior of the lantern room and replace the roof, a priority with the obvious deterioration of the shingles.

This past September, we worked with several scientific illustrators from throughout the mid-west and offered our Scientific Illustrator Program. Over several weekends, illustrators taught students how to observe and draw the different fall flora, butterflies, beetles, and other insects. It was just the beginning of a series of seasonal scientific illustration classes we will offer each year that will combine scientific illustration with natural history.

This summer we had several students help with the orchid restoration project. Just recently they submitted their findings on survivability of our Rams' Head orchid plots. In

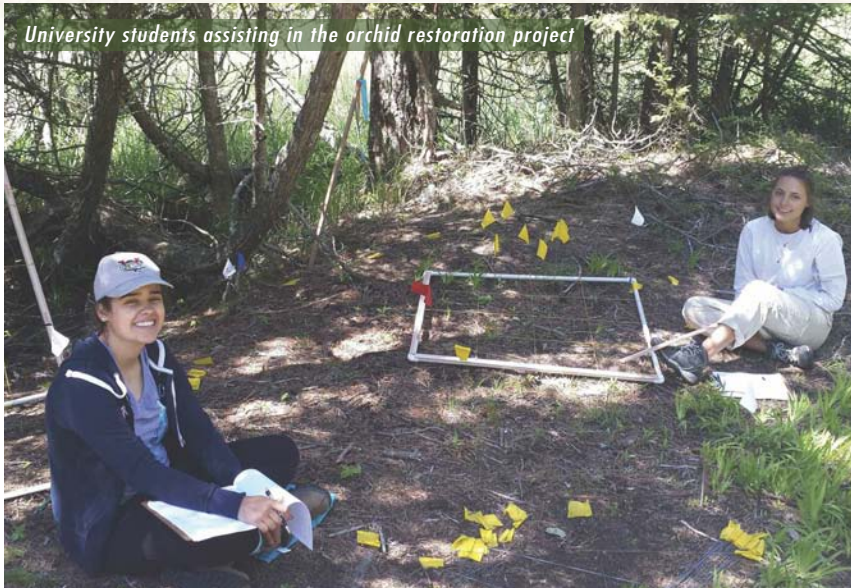
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Boardwalk ribbon cutting

RIDGES LITES

Greetings from the Trailhead, *continued*



comparison, one should expect 8%-10% survivorship in similar projects.

The Ridges Orchid Restoration; years 1 & 2:

- Orchids planted in May 2015 and monitored in July 2015 had a 45.7% survivorship
- Orchids planted in May 2015 and monitored in July 2016 had a 27.6% survivorship
- Orchids planted in May 2016 and monitored in July 2016 had a 54.3% survivorship

Needless to say, we are ecstatic with these results and thank all who have volunteered, donated funds, and who have worked tirelessly to get us to this point. We continue working through this process of propagating and out planting, a research initiative of enormous scale. No other organization has done this before, but it is what we need to do to save our orchids. We continue to seek other funding sources, but also need your help in funding this research initiative. If you are interested in helping fund this initiative, please contact The Ridges.

If you wish to take a closer look, the students also created a video of their accomplishments. It can be seen on YouTube by searching "Ridges orchid" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OkU5Vm6uRi4>).

Again, thank you to all of our members, volunteers and passionate donors that once again made this year a great success. We cannot do all of this without your devotion to the organization. We look forward to a busy winter filled with programming, winter hikes, and continued planning for 2017!

Sincerely,
Steve Leonard, *Executive Director*



Roy Lukes
Ridges First Naturalist & Manager

I've spent the last several weeks writing down my thoughts about Roy and Charlotte and what they've meant to The Ridges, Door County and conservation throughout Wisconsin. And each time, I cannot find the words that can truly express the impact they had on all of us.

At our Annual Meeting on August 6, members shared their personal stories about Roy - as a teacher, scientist and as a mentor. With Charlotte in attendance, it was a wonderful tribute to Roy's influence on so many. Please continue to share those stories. Call, write, or stop by the office and share your personal stories and we will be sure to pass them on to Charlotte.

Back in 2013, several Ridges members worked with Roy and Charlotte on an oral history project of The Ridges and Toft Point. It captures many of their stories over the years. I'd encourage you to stop by the office or the Door County Library to check out a copy.

The community gathered on August 7 to celebrate Roy's life. The video "A Celebration of Roy's Life" can be viewed on YouTube by searching 'Roy Lukes'.

He is dearly missed by many.

– Steve Leonard



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

Educational Programs

Naturalist-led Hikes

Learn about The Ridges' founders Albert Fuller, Emma Toft, Olivia Traven and several others as a naturalist leads you along the trail interpreting the surrounding natural landscape. It's a story on how Wisconsin's first land trust was formed protecting one of the state's most biologically rich communities. Or select a specialty hike to walk with a naturalist on our Logan Creek or Appel's Bluff property.

Ridges Guided Hikes

Join a Ridges naturalist for a relaxing and informative two-hour walk through the sanctuary. Come learn about our founders and the surrounding boreal forest. Hike includes access to the Upper Range Light lantern room and the historic cabins. Appropriate for all ages.

Daily through October; 10:00 AM

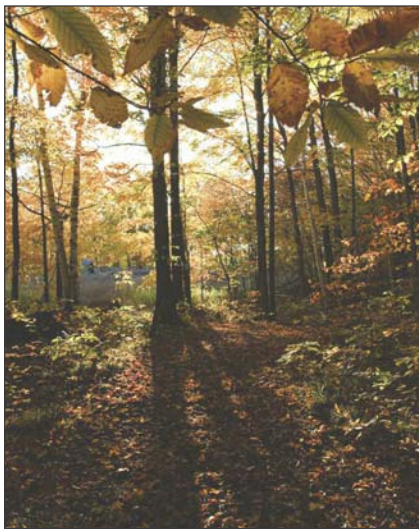
Fee: \$5 members; \$8 public, under 18 free

Location: Cook-Albert Fuller Center

Notes/Special Instructions: No pre-registration necessary.

Logan Creek Fall Color & Winter Hikes

Explore the beautiful winter landscape of 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. We'll hike snow or no snow. Bring your own snowshoes, binoculars if desired.



Sunday, October 16 & Sunday, December 18 at 2:00 pm
(No hike in November due to the deer hunting season.)

Fee: \$5 members; \$8 public, under 18 free

Location: Meet at the Trailhead - 5724 Loritz Road.

Appel's Bluff Winter Hikes

Join a naturalist and explore this winter landscape that features ledges, a hardwood forest, and open fields. Moderate to easy hiking. We'll hike snow or no snow. You may bring your own snowshoes or rent a pair at the Center for \$5.

Sunday, November 6 & Sunday, December 4 at 2:00 pm

Fee: \$5 members; \$8 public, under 18 free

Location: Cook-Albert Fuller Center. Carpool to trailhead.

Night Sky Hike

A hike at The Ridges is nice anytime, but a night walk can be amazing! On this night, the moon will be visible by only a sliver in the sky, 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 hot chocolate back at Kaye and Marshall cabins!

Saturday, December 3; 6:30 pm

Fee: \$5 members, \$8 public, Under 18 free

Location: Ridges Cabins, 8288 County Q



Raptor Program

Have you ever met an owl face to face? What about a hawk? A falcon? Meet some of Wisconsin's common, but rarely encountered birds. Discover what a raptor is, hear their stories and learn what you can do to ensure they remain a significant part of the ecosystem.

Advanced registration recommended.

Saturday, October 22; 10:00 am

Fee: \$10 members, \$13 public, \$5 under 18

Location: Cook-Albert Fuller Center

Fall Wreath Making

Fall is here, so get your homes ready using nature as an inspiration! Stop in for a fall wreath workshop where an instructor will use natural items collected from our woods, fields and yards and teach you the art of wreath making. There will be lots of great material that needs your creative hands! Supplies will be provided.

Saturday, October 22; 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Fee: \$25 members, \$30 public

Location: Kaye Cabin

For complete program info, visit RidgesSanctuary.org

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Natural Christmas

December 10
Saturday, 3:00 - 6:00 PM



You deserve to spend a few hours this holiday season surrounded by the natural beauty of The Ridges Sanctuary. Stroll down the softly lit Hidden Brook Boardwalk and join us in our beautifully decorated Kaye Cabin, while sipping on warm cider, eating delicious cookies and listening to holiday music. This program offers a wreath-making workshop, holiday crafts, and even marshmallows and chestnuts around the open fire. Guided hikes and tours of the Range Light are available throughout the event.

Admission to Natural Christmas is free.
Wreath making is \$10, which includes materials for 1 wreath.
Additional wreaths and swags are \$5 each.

Wreath-Making Workshop

December 3; Saturday, 1 – 4 PM

\$10 fee includes all materials for one (1) wreath.
Additional wreaths & swags are \$5.

Call 920.839.2802 to reserve your clippers, frames & greens!



Between the Holidays!

Join us between the holidays for some family friendly activities. Activities will be set up at the Cook-Albert Fuller Center between 10 am and 4 pm. Snow shoes will be available for rent. All programs are free to the community.

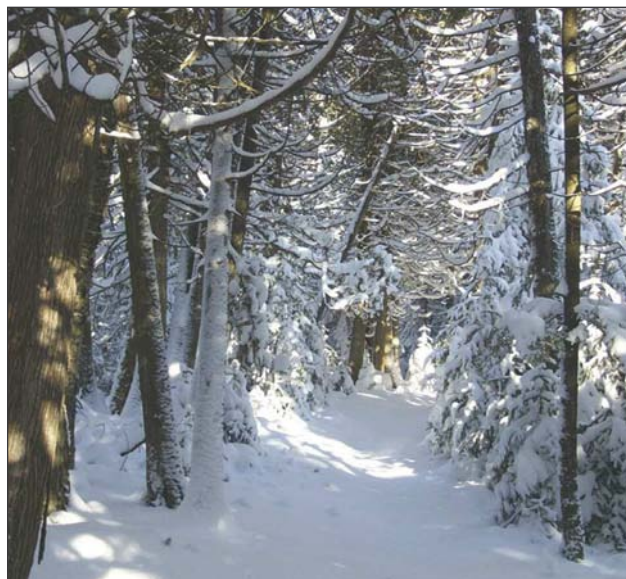
Monday, Dec. 26th: Create natural decorations such as pine cone ornaments or bunting made with cedar etchings.

Tuesday, Dec. 27th: Help our winter bird friends by creating peanut butter bird feeders to display around your yard.

Wednesday, Dec. 28th: Get crafty and create unique woodland mobiles and stick animals.

Thursday, Dec. 29th: Learn how to make homemade paper. Bring in your old holiday cards and recycle them into a unique piece of paper.

Friday, Dec. 30th: Come learn more about animal tracks and make your own track casting.



RIDGES LITES



Shop The Ridges Nature Store this holiday season!

Not sure what to purchase... **The Ridges Gift Card** is the perfect option.

Gift cards are available in any denomination and can be used towards membership, programs, guided hikes or Nature Store merchandise!

Christmas Bird Count

The annual Christmas Bird Count, sponsored by the National Audubon Society, began in 1900 as a way of using all willing and able bodies as a means to get outside and count wintering birds. The effort has grown throughout the entire western hemisphere and has provided a wealth of information for scientific research and journals. The idea of citizen science provides the opportunity for a large group of observers to contribute to meaningful research.

The Ridges has participated in the Christmas Bird Count since the mid-60's and coordinates the efforts of local participants who volunteer their time to head out in the field. There is no need to be an expert birder to participate. You don't even need to walk outside your door! Many Christmas Birders tally species at their bird feeder, from the warm comfort of their homes. Others will travel searching Door County's shorelines, roadsides and forests.

Ridges volunteer and past board president Ed Pentecost has compared the data collected for years. We will display the bird count data and Ed's insight to possible trends in the Cook-Albert Fuller Center for the month of December.

For additional information on the Christmas Bird Count, contact Brian Forest at The Ridges Sanctuary at 920-829-2802, or email brian@ridgessanctuary.org.

Saturday, December 17; all day

Location: Throughout Door County

Deer Hunting Procedures

The Ridges will once again allow gun deer hunting on approved lands from Saturday, November 19 – Sunday, November 27, 2016. The Sanctuary was established to protect and preserve the unique flora of this area. White-tailed deer, with historically and unnaturally high population densities, are threatening the existence of such plants as the Showy Lady's-Slipper. When faced with the fact that orchids and other rare plants are being browsed by deer, the decision was made to continue to allow hunting. Even though hunting is not allowed on established trails, all Ridges trails are closed during the gun deer hunting season. In addition, Ridges land purchases that have been made with funds from the Knowles Nelson Stewardship Fund (Appel's Bluff), require that land be opened up for a variety of public uses, including all hunting and trapping seasons.

Registration forms, guidelines and property maps are available online at ridgessanctuary.org 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.

RIDGES LITES

Volunteers

Every year, more than 200 volunteers share their passion of The Ridges with those that visit.

Their dedication is appreciated and essential to the success of this organization.

Through welcoming folks at the Nature Center, building boardwalks, landscaping and gardening, preparing food, and countless other ways, the Ridges volunteers are critical.

Thank you!



Building the Hidden Brook Boardwalk



Volunteer Appreciation event held August 21



Planting along the boardwalk



Removing invasive plants near the Nature Center

If you are interested in volunteering for The Ridges, please call or stop by the Cook-Albert Fuller Center or fill out the form on the next page and check the box for volunteering and we'll contact you.



The Ridges Board of Directors

This year's Annual Meeting was another great event at The Ridges. Thank you to the Fireside and Sandy Miller for the wonderful food!

This year there was a proposed by-law change - The by-law pertained to proxy voting and from 2007 it read:

Voting shall be by voting members present at a meeting.

Proxy voting shall not be allowed.

The proposed change was:

Voting shall be by voting members present at a meeting or by an absentee ballot process. Proxy voting shall not be allowed. The change was approved.



Katie & Hannah's presentation on Kids' Camp

RIDGES LITES

Ridges Business Members

Please patronize our business members.

Anschutz Plumbing & Heating

920.839.2211

Baileys Harbor Yacht Club Resort

www.BHYCR.com

Bay Point Inn

www.BayPointInn.com

The Beachfront Inn

www.BeachfrontInn.com

The Black Walnut House

www.BlackWalnut-gh.com

Blacksmith Inn On the Shore

www.TheBlacksmithInn.com

Bluegrass Health & Safety

www.BluegrassHealthandsafety.com

Bluestem Farm

www.Bluestemfarm.com

Bob The Painter

920-746-0549

Cedar Beach House

920-559-1877

Chives Restaurant Door County

www.ChivesDoorCounty.com

The Cookery

www.CookeryFishCreek.com

Cornerstone Pub

www.BaileysHarborCornerstonePub.com

Coyote Roadhouse

www.Coyote-Roadhouse.com

Door County Cottages

www.DoorCountyCottages.com

Door County Ice CreamFactory

www.DoorCountyIceCream.com

Door Landscape & Nursery

www.DoorLandscape.com

Door Property Owners

www.DoorPropertyOwner.net

Drink Coffee

920.854.1155

EcoDoor

www.EcoDoorLiving.com

Ecology Sports

www.EcologySports.com

Fish Creek Moccasin Works

www.FCMoccasin.com

Fresh Personal Chefs

dcfreshchefs@yahoo.com

Glidden Lodge Beach Resort

www.GliddenLodge.com

Going Garbage & Recycling

www.GoingGarbage.com

Grasse's Grill

www.GrassesGrill.com

Homestead Suites

www.HomesteadSuites.com

Inge Alverson Bacon

www.ibaconcpa.com

Innovative Printing, LLC

www.innovativeprintingllc.com

Journey's End Motel & Cabins

www.JourneysEndMotel.com

Lakeshore Adventures

www.Lakeshore-Adventures.com

LfpDesign! LLC

www.LfpDesign.com

Liberty Square

www.LibertySquareShops.com

Lighthouse Safety, LLC

www.LighthouseSafety.com

Ludwigsen & Tishler, DDS

920-854.6556

Main Street Market

www.DoorCountyGrocery.com

Meissner Landscape

www.MeissnerLandscape.com

Ministry Door County Medical Center

www.ministryhealth.org/DCMH/home.nws

Nicolet Bank

www.NicoletBank.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

Village Green Lodge

VillageGreenLodge.com

Waseda Farms

www.WasedaFarms.com

Wilson's Restaurant & Ice Cream Parlor

www.WilsonsIceCream.com

YES! I Want to Join The Ridges and Experience an Original!

Name: _____

Primary Address: _____

City / St / Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Second Address: From: _____ / _____ / _____ To: _____ / _____ / _____
DAY MONTH YEAR DAY MONTH YEAR

Address: _____

City / St / Zip: _____

Payment Method: ☐ Check Enclosed ☐ Credit Card - MasterCard / Visa / Discover / AmEx

Membership Level:

☐ Individual - \$40 ☐ Family - \$65 ☐ Family Plus - \$95 Membership Fee \$ _____

☐ Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.

☐ Additional Donation \$ _____

Season: _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Card # _____ 3-digit code: _____

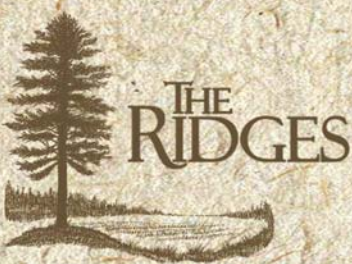
Exp Date _____ / _____ Total \$ _____

Signature _____

Make checks payable to The Ridges

PO Box 152 • Baileys Harbor, WI 54202 • 920.839.2802

The Ridges Sanctuary is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your membership fees and donations are fully tax-deductible.



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Save The Dates

Story Hour

Saturdays at 11 am

January, February & March

Kaye Cabin

Winter Warmups

Saturdays from 10 - 2 pm

January & February

Festival of Nature

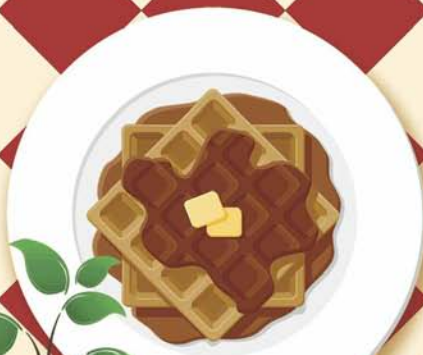
May 25 - 28, 2017

2017 is our 80th Year!

RIDGES LITES

Winter 2016, Vol. 9 Issue 5

RIDGES SANCTUARY THE GREAT



Happy Birthday Emma Toft!

WAFFLE Breakfast

9th Annual

RIDGES SANCTUARY

Great Waffle Breakfast

Saturday, February 4, 9 - 11 AM

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 ninth year for our popular breakfast event! Enjoy your fill of waffles of all shapes and sizes, topped with Door County maple syrup, homemade cherry topping and whipped cream.

Donations of \$7 for adults
and \$4 for children under 12
are appreciated.