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
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 outplanting, 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 programing, winter hikes, and continued planning for 2017!

Sincerely,
Steve Leonard, Executive Director

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.
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, binocolors 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 RidgesSantuary.org
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.

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**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!**

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**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.
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.

**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

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**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!

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**Deer Hunting Procedures**

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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!

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.

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.
Make checks payable to The Ridges
PO Box 152 • Baileys Harbor, WI 54202 • 920.839.2802

Ridges Business Members
Please patronize our business members.

Anschutz Plumbing & Heating
920.839.2231
Baileys Harbor Yacht Club Resort
www.BHYCR.com
Bay Point Inn
www.BayPointInn.com
The Beachfront Inn
www.TheBeachfrontInn.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 Cream Factory
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.HomesteaddSuites.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
Ludwigen & 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
www.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: ________ / ________ / ________

Address: _______________________________________________________

City / St / Zip: __________________________________________________

Membership Level:

☐ Individual - $40 ☐ Family - $65 ☐ Family Plus - $95

☐ Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.

Season: _______________________________________________________

Membership Fee $ ______________ Additional Donation $ ________________

☐ Check Enclosed ☐ Credit Card - MasterCard / Visa / Discover / AmEx 

Card # __________________________  3-digit code: __________

Exp Date __________ / __________ Total $ __________

Signature _____________________________________________________

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