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**Donna Johnson** 

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# RIDGES LITES

News from the trailhead

Spring 2016, Vol. 9 Issue 2

An Update of Ridges Activities

## **Spring Ahead!**

Thanks to a relatively mild December and early January, the volunteer members of our Wednesday Crew, working in conjunction with Peil Construction, have made remarkable progress on the Hidden Brook Boardwalk. At the right are a few statistics that will help convey a sense of what they accomplished just before winter arrived in earnest in mid-January.

A picture is worth a thousand words, so we've included a few photos to help tell the story of this important volunteer-supported project.

**BOARDWALK** BY THE NUMBERS

Total length of boardwalk: 1,571 feet

Framing installed to date: 908 feet (57%)

Decking installed to date: 620 feet (39.4%)

Many of you who visited this summer were intrigued by our unique GeoPave parking lot and wondered how its surface would stand up to a Wisconsin winter. Thanks to a heavy snowfall at the end of December, we had a chance to put it to the test and are happy to tell you it passed with flying colors. As we had anticipated, using shoes to lift the blade on the snowplow did the trick. By the way, our friends at Presto, the manufacturer of GeoPave, tell us they've had inquiries about the product from folks all over the country who've seen our parking lot when visiting The Ridges. So not only is our little lot doing its job to control storm water runoff, it's also functioning as an educational tool for the general public. Life is good!





## RIDGES LITES

An Update of Ridges Activities

#### Spring Ahead, continued

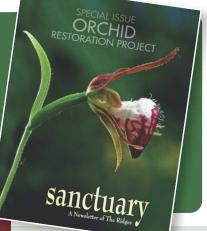
After many months of working and planning, we also have an update on the interpretive exhibits for the Cook-Fuller Center. We'd been hoping that the exhibits would be installed in time for the 2016 summer season. However, as you may recall, these exhibits were funded through a federal Scenic Byways Grant and the process of coordinating with the Department of Transportation has taken longer than anticipated. In order to avoid closing the Center for several weeks during the peak season, we've decided to delay installation of the exhibits until late fall. We'll keep you posted as more information becomes available and, in the meantime, we're looking at other interesting and fun ways to use the interpretive space again this summer!



#### **Annual Appeal Results**

Each year gifts to our annual appeal provide 15 – 20% of our operating budget and underwrite the vital work we do in research, land preservation, environmental education and community outreach. We're delighted to report that the annual appeal has reached \$93,360 – and donations are still coming in. Thank you for your continued support and your help in protecting this special wild place!

Thank you!



#### Hail and Farewell

When a staff works together as closely as ours at The Ridges, it's never easy to say goodbye to a member of the team. **Debbie Rzentkowski**, our administrative assistant, left the staff in mid-January after serving two years in the position. Debbie is returning to her former field of banking and has taken a position with Cornerstone Community Bank in Grafton. We wish her and her family all the best as they leave Door County to take advantage of this exciting new opportunity.

We're delighted to announce that **Donna Johnson** will be moving into the administrative role. Donna has been working with The Ridges as the Front Desk Assistant since July of 2015. In addition to strong computer and communication skills, Donna brings her knowledge of the Ridges and valuable experience with nonprofit organizations, all of which will make for a smooth transition.

Later this year, we'll bid a fond farewell to **Judy Drew**. Judy has announced her decision to retire at the end of May, following the Festival of Nature. She joined The Ridges in 2011 in the midst of the fundraising campaign for the Sandpiper property and went on to manage the capital campaign for the Cook-Fuller Center. During her tenure, she also worked to develop an identifiable brand for The Ridges, expand our advertising and marketing initiatives and grow the annual appeal. Her retirement plans include continuing to be an active member and volunteer here at The Ridges.

Help welcome Judy to the ranks of the happily retired and thank her for a job well done at a gathering on Tuesday, June 14, from 4 – 7 PM, at the Cook-Fuller Center.

## 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 been on the rise ever since the creation of National Volunteer Week in 1975. According to Department of Labor statistics, more than 60 million people volunteer annually in the country. Additional research has shown that the estimated value of volunteer time \$22.14 per hour. 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. This April – and every month! – we celebrate and salute the volunteers who form the backbone of our organization. *Thank you!* 

## Spring Clean Up Saturday, May 7

The Ridges will be hosting its annual *Spring Clean-Up Day* on **Saturday**, **May 7**, **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 Center and 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!



## Reflections on The Ridges

#### An Art & Lecture Series

**Reflections on The Ridges**, our new art & lecture series, brings together a diverse group of artists and presenters under a common theme –

the natural beauty of The Ridges. The series continues with two upcoming exhibits and programs in March and April:

March 3 4 – 6:30 PM Opening Reception - Alfred Stark, Woodblock Prints

7 PM Albert Fuller, Founding Father of The Ridges - presenter, Brian Forest

April 7 4 – 6:30 PM Opening Reception – Doug Sherman, Photography

7 PM Sandhill Cranes in Door County - presenter, Brian Forest



#### 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.



## SPRING

#### Schedule of Programs & Events - March, April & May

If required, register online at RidgesSanctuary.org or call 920.839.2802. Unless otherwise noted programs are held at the Cook-Fuller Center, 8166 Hwy 57, Baileys Harbor.

#### Hikes

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

MARCH 4 - 26, Fridays at 2 PM, Saturdays at 10 AM & 2 PM

Enjoy a leisurely hike on level terrain. If snow cover is insufficient, the hike will be done without snowshoes. Hikes end at the Center with a mug of hot chocolate. NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Snowshoes available for hike participants – call ahead to reserve. \$5 rental fee.

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

#### **Guided Sanctuary Hikes**

MAY 1 - 31, Daily at 10 AM

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. **NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED.** 

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

#### Logan Creek Hikes

MARCH 6, Sunday at 2 PM

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. Meet at trailhead: 5724 Loritz Road. Dress for the weather. Wear good hiking boots.

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

#### **Box Lunch Snowshoe Hikes**

MARCH 16, Wednesday at 11:30 AM

Work up an appetite with a snowshoe hike in the woods! Afterwards enjoy lunch at the cabins and lively discussion about timely ecological topics as we prepare to say goodbye to winter. **Snowshoes available – call ahead to reserve.** \$5 rental fee. \$15 – Members • \$18 – Public

**Special Instructions:** 

L<sup>u</sup>nch from The Top Shelf Café & Gourmet is included in the cost. Please call The Ridges Sanctuary office, 920-839-2802, by 4 PM the previous day to submit your selection:

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

#### Appel's Bluff Hikes

MARCH 20, Sunday at 2 PM

Join a naturalist to explore this winter landscape featuring ledges, a hardwood forest, and open fields. Wear good hiking boots. Snowshoes optional. Snowshoes available – call ahead to reserve. \$5 rental fee.

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

## Special Request Guided Hikes AVAILABLE DAILY Between 9 AM & 5 PM

Looking for a fun family outing or the perfect activity for visiting friends? Call us at 920-839-2802 to arrange a guided hike – with or without snowshoes – for your private party at a time and date that work for you! End your hike at the Cook-Fuller Center with a mug of hot chocolate.

Please call us at least 24 hours prior to your desired hike date and time.

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

#### **Bird Hikes**

#### **Discovery Bird Hikes**

MAY 7, 14, 21, 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. The May 14 hike will celebrate International Migratory Bird Day and focus on migrating waterfowl. Meet: Ridges Cabins, 8288 Cty Q, Baileys Harbor Free – Members • \$5 – Public

#### Not-So-Early Bird Hikes

MAY 21 & June 18, Saturdays at 9 AM

New to birdwatching? Join us on this mid-morning birding excursion into the woods, fields, and shorelines around Baileys Harbor. Beginners are especially encouraged to come but all levels of experience are welcome. Bring binoculars if you have them or use those we supply.

Meet at The Ridges Cabins, 8288 Cty Q, Baileys Harbor

Free - Members • \$5 - Public

#### **Natural Connections**

#### Owl-O-Rama Weekend Hands-On Activities

MARCH 4 & 5, Friday & Saturday from 10 AM - 4 PM

Stop by the Center and check out our displays. Have you ever held an owl skull or wondered what helps owls to be so sneaky when hunting? Lots of fun activities for all ages to learn a little bit about these feathered wonders. Free

## **Eastern Screech Owl Nest Box Building**

MARCH 5, Saturday from 10 AM - 2 PM

Cavity nesting owls like Eastern Screech Owls can be attracted with nesting boxes. Drop in at the workshop anytime between 10 & 2 to build a nest box and pick up some tips on where to locate it and when to put it out. **Meet at The Ridges Workshop**, **8288 Cty Q**, **Baileys Harbor**. **\$25** – Members • **\$30** – Public

#### **Owl Prowl**

MARCH 4 & 5, Friday & Saturday at 6:30 PM

Winter is mating season for owls, and it's not unusual to hear their romantic hooting out on the trails. Join the Ridges naturalists to learn more about the owls of Door County and the characteristics that make them amazing nighttime hunters. We'll head into the night to listen, then return to the Center for a mug of hot chocolate. Suitable for all ages. **REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Limit:** 16 \$10 - Members • \$13 - Public • \$5 - Under 18

#### **Snowy Owl Presentation**

MARCH 5, Saturday at 11 AM

Project Snowstorm is a working group of owl researchers that has tracked snowy owls using with cell phone transmitters the past two winters.

Presenters Mark & Sue Foote-Martin, Managers at Madison Audubon
Society's Goose Pond Sanctuary, report on what they have learned from "Goose Pond", a male snowy owl that was fitted with a transmitter last winter at Goose Pond in Columbia County. Free

continued

An Update of Ridges Activities

#### **Owl Meet & Greet!**

MARCH 5, Saturday at 1 PM

Get up close and personal with some of Door County's resident raptors. Representatives from Open Door Bird Sanctuary will be on hand with birds for you to observe. Drop in and learn a little bit about what separates raptors from other birds and owls from other raptors. Free

#### **Blue Bird Nest Box Workshops**

MARCH 12, Saturday at 10 AM & 2 PM

Eastern bluebird populations are back on the rise thanks to the help of nest box building enthusiasts! Continue to help by learning what bluebirds need to survive and creating a nest box to take home. Meet us at The Ridges Workshop, 8288 Cty Q, Baileys Harbor to make your very own bluebird nest box. Tools and materials for one box provided. Additional kits - \$5 \$10 - Members • \$13 - Public • \$5 - Under 18

#### Pi Day Celebration

MARCH 14, Monday at 7 PM

3.14159.....! Celebrate this essential mathematical constant at the Cook-Fuller center on a hike searching for nature numbers, fun facts and you guessed it... pie! All ages welcome! \$10 - Members • \$13 - Public • \$5 - Under 18

## Earth Day Extravaganza APRIL 23, Saturday - All Day

#### **Hands-On Activities**

Stop by the Center and check out our interactive displays to learn how we can all take care of the Earth, including in-home composting techniques, recycling, and sustainable and renewable energy. Activities for all ages. Free

## **Tree Planting Techniques Workshop**

Planting trees can be tricky, and sometimes not all trees can survive in a certain area. Join us for a workshop that teaches you how to properly pick, prepare, and plant a tree for your own landscaping. Practice by planting one at the Cook-Fuller Nature Center.

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

#### **Just So Storytime**

NOON - 3 PM

How did the camel get its hump or the whale get its throat or the dragonfly get its wings? Join us for an afternoon filled with Just So Stories by Rudyard Kipling, followed by stories and crafts of your own creation! Great for all ages! Free

#### **Arbor Day Paper Making**

APRIL 30, Saturday at 1 - 3 PM

What better way to recycle paper than by making new paper? Drop in to celebrate Arbor Day, help us recycle our old newspapers, cards, construction paper and make new paper to take home. Perfect for any age! Free. Donations welcome.

For complete program info, visit RidgesSantuary.org

#### Woodcock Watch

APRIL 30, Saturday at 7 PM

Here's your chance to experience firsthand what Aldo Leopold described as the "sky dance." After a short presentation, we'll head out into the field to watch woodcocks engage in this remarkable courtship display. Suitable for ages 7 and up. Bring binoculars if you have them, and a blanket or cushion to sit on if desired. Meet at the Ridges Cabins, 8288 Cty Q, Baileys Harbor. \$10 - Members • \$13 - Public • \$5 - Under 18

#### Who Croaks There?

MAY 6, 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, peeps, and snores of the frog species that live here in Door County. After a short presentation, we'll take a hike to listen for the frogs. Suitable for ages 5 & up. Meet at the Ridges Cabins, 8288 Cty Q, Baileys Harbor. Limit: 20. PRE-REGISTRATION HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

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

#### Photo Ops Hike

MAY 14, MAY 31, JUNE 11, JUNE 28 - at 10:30 AM

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! Meet at the Ridges Cabins, 8288 Cty Q, Baileys Harbor. \$5 - Members • \$8 - Public • Under 18 Free

#### Bellies on the Boardwalk

MAY 21, Saturday at 2 PM

Use nets and buckets to scoop up caddisfly larvae, wigglers, whirligig beetles, and other skittering critters. Lay your belly on the boardwalk and see what you can find in this up-close and personal encounter. High and dry on the boardwalk, we won't get wet on this hike! Suitable for ages 5 & up. Meet at the Ridges Cabins, 8288 Cty Q, Baileys Harbor. Limit: 15. PRE-REGISTRATION HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

\$5 - Under 18, Member • \$8 - Under 18, Public

## **Nightime Navigation**

MAY 21, Saturday at 7:30 PM

Nighttime navigation in the 1800s was radically different than the present day. Come experience the Sanctuary as it was back then and learn what it took to navigate boats into Baileys Harbor using only the Range Lights and celestial cues. \$10 - Members • \$13 - Public • \$5 - Under 18

#### **Story Hour @ The Ridges!**

Join us at the Cook-Fuller Center for Story Hour, Saturdays from 11 AM - Noon. We'll be reading nature themed books and creating a related craft to take home, with plenty of hot chocolate to keep everyone warm. All ages welcome! Free.

March 12 Where the Wild Things Are

March 19 Verdi

March 26 Tale of Peter Rabbit April 2 Hurry and the Monarch April 9 The Scaredy Squirrel April 16 Waiting for Wings

## RIDGES LITES

#### **Land Steward & Volunteer Opportunties**

Contact Brian Forest for more information about these and other volunteer opportunities: brian@ridgessanctuary.or or 920-839-2802

#### **Midwest Crane Count Volunteers**

APRIL 16, Saturday, 5:30 - 7:30 AM

The primary purposes of the Crane Count are to help monitor the abundance and distribution of cranes in the Upper Midwest and to introduce people to cranes and their natural environment. Counters are needed to survey for cranes on designated sites throughout Door County. No previous experience needed. End the morning with coffee and donuts at the Cook-Fuller Center.

We're seeking dedicated volunteers to help run the following programs.

Meet: Kaye Cabin, 8288 Cty Q . FREE

#### Eastern Bluebird Monitoring

APRIL 26, Tuesday, 1 - 4 PM

Learn about the Eastern bluebird's natural habitat and restoration efforts across the Midwest. Volunteers will help build and install Eastern Bluebird nest boxes on Ridges property in Baileys Harbor and at Logan Creek. Monitoring will occur each spring and follow Bluebird Restoration of Wisconsin guidelines. **Limit: 5** 

#### **Wood Duck Monitoring**

APRIL 27, Wednesday, 1 - 4 PM

The Ridges plans to install wood duck boxes along the Family Discovery Trail and at Logan Creek. Volunteers will learn about wood duck habitats and needs and then actively participating in monitoring of the wood duck boxes. **Limit: 5** 

## Northern Flying Squirrel Monitoring

APRIL 28, Thursday, 1 - 4 PM

The Ridges has over 60 nest boxes on site and has helped many landowners to in-

stall nest boxes on private property. The boxes need to be monitored for use to determine Northern Flying Squirrel versus Southern Flying Squirrel populations. Limit: 5

#### **Orchid Propagation Project**

**APRIL 29**, Friday, 1 - 4 PM

Volunteers are needed to "adopt" orchid plots on site and to help plant and monitor key orchid species. As the program grows, volunteers will be needed to maintain a future greenhouse, assist with monitoring protocols, surveys, seed collection, etc. **Limit: 40** 

## **Coming This Summer!**

#### Ridges Naturalists: The Next Generation

JULY 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 Saturdays from 9 AM - Noon

Students will participate in different service-based activities to help protect The Ridges. Weekly activities will include monitoring nest boxes, setting live traps to survey local reptiles and amphibians, insect collecting and identification, helping with phenology studies, etc. Each Saturday will be filled with hands-on field studies and time to share experiences to aid in developing individual outdoor learning skills. Ages 10 - 12

**\$25 / Day – Members** • **\$30 / Day – Public** 

## Backpack Adventure Camps - Register Now!

Mark your calendars for our Backpack Adventure Camps. Throughout the month of July we invite campers age 4-11 to join us for weeks filled with nature fun. Camps are held Monday through Friday, 9-Noon, and are a great opportunity for kids to connect with nature. Every Friday campers will enjoy Friday Fun Day - a day at the beach when families can join campers for a

snack and activity. Register your child by the day or by the week online at RidgesSanctuary.org or 920-839-2802.

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

\*No Camp July 4.

July 5 - 8 Full Week: \$75 - Members • \$105 - Public

#### **WEEK 1: JULY 5 - 8**

Critters Club - Ages 4 - 6

Learn about different critters of the forest and wetlands by creating habitats for observations and then explore the natural wonders of The Ridges.

**Trail Trekkers –** Ages 7 - 11

Explore and trek through the Family Discovery Trail.

#### **WEEK 2: JULY 11 - 15**

Happy Hikers - Ages 4 - 6

Explore different habitats throughout The Ridges and learn what lives in each.

Mucky Ducks - Ages 7 - 11

It's time to get muddy and muck through water habitats of The Ridges.

#### WEEK 3: JULY 18 - 22

Tiny Twigs - Ages 4 - 6

Discover the many ways trees are linked with the life all around them.

Ridges Rangers - Ages 7 - 11

Spend the week learning how to explore, navigate and survive the great outdoors.

**WEEK 4: JULY 25 - 29** 

Monarch Madness - Ages 4 - 6

Learn about the importance of monarchs and what makes them so magical.

Monarch Madness - Ages 7 - 11

Become a citizen scientist and discover what it takes to help restore a population.

#### 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

**Bluegrass Health & Safety** 

www.BluegrassHealthandsafety.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

**Covote Roadhouse** 

www.coyote-roadhouse.com

Dave's Tree Service

www.DaveTreeService.com

**Door County Cottages** 

www.DoorCountyCottagescom

**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 Moccasin Works

www.FCMoccasin.com

Flanigan Distributing

920.743.2036

Glidden Lodge Beach Resort

www.GliddenLodge.com

Going Garbage & Recycling

www.GoingGarbage.com

Grasse's Grill\*

www.GrassessGrill.com

**Gravity Trails, Inc.** 

www.GravityTrails.com

The Harbor Inn

www.StavAtTheHarborInn.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

**Loc Haven Log Cabins** 

www.LocHavenLogCabins.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

**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

**Voyager Inn** 

www.VoyagerInnDC.com

**Waseda Farms** 

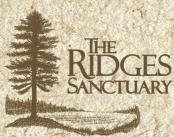
www.WasedaFarms.com

Wilson's Restaurant & Ice Cream Parlor

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 For	m	
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	<b>Membership Levels</b>	
Name	_ □ Individual	\$40
Address	☐ Family	\$65
	☐ Family Plus	\$95
City, State, Zip		\$150
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Address	Total _	
City, State, Zip	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





RIDGES LITES Spring 2016, Vol. 9 Issue 2

# FESTIVALE OF NATURE

May 26 - 29, 2016

#### Protecting Spaces in Wild Places:

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Endangered Species Preservation Act

Registration will soon be underway for the Door County Festival of Nature - a countywide celebration of the county's precious species, rare habitats and natural beauty. This year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Preservation Act, the forerunner to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and groundbreaking legislation that first provided a means for listing and protecting native animal species.

Since 2014 we have steadily increased the number of field trips as well as the variety of activities. We're delighted to say that that this year, the Festival will offer over 75 field trips, including art and food based classes as well as locations that exemplify sustainable practices.

Our Festival dinner and keynote presentation will take place Friday, May 27 in the beautifully restored, rustic barn at About Thyme Farm, an organic farm on the outskirts of Baileys Harbor. And, as always, the dinner will support our local agricultural economy and model fresh, healthy and nutritious food choices for our Festival participants. Dinner, catered by Chives, begins at 5 PM, followed at 6:30 by our keynote speaker Jennifer Redell, conservation biologist and cave & mine specialist with the Wisconsin DNR's Bat Program. Jennifer's program, *Stalking a Killer in the Darkened Door: Bat Conservation & Protection in the Era of White-Nose Syndrome*, will describe protections in place for bats and address reasons for hope.





The Festival program guide, a complete listing of field trips and special events, will be mailed and available online in early March. Watch our website and Facebook page for updates about registration availability, and then register online at RidgesSanctuary.org or call 920-839-2802.