



RIDGES LITES

News from the trailhead

Winter 2017, Vol. 10 Issue 1

An Update of Ridges Activities

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Greetings from the Trailhead

We've had a busy Fall, filled with programs and lots of visitors. It's hard to even think that winter is right around the corner with the beautiful November weather we've had here in Door County – 50 degrees and sunny!



This past July, under the direction of Southern Door High School biology teacher Tony Kizonas and Gibraltar High School student Jenny Leonard, a group of staff and volunteers worked with various agar recipes (nutrients for seeds) to find a combination that would successfully germinate Showy Lady's Slippers. The seeds were collected from the Sanctuary in Fall of 2015 and properly stored over the winter.

On November 9th, we unveiled our results and for the first time ever The Ridges germinated its very own Showy Lady's Slipper orchids! As we learn how to germinate orchid species, we will add to our knowledge on how best to protect orchids in their own habitat and continue this initiative in plant conservation. These orchids will eventually be planted in

specific areas throughout the Sanctuary.



Just a few weeks ago, with the help of the Northern Door Rotary Club, we added several bird feeders around the Center. The Club received a Rotary District grant for native plantings and bird feeders for The Ridges. It has been a great partnership between Rotary and The Ridges. The club meets Wednesday mornings at The Ridges and in return, club members volunteer their time and seek funding for projects like this. A big thank you to the Northern Door Rotary Club!

And finally, thanks to the Range Light Committee, donors, The Raibrook Foundation, and Friends of Door County Parks, we raised the funds to start Phase 1 of the Upper Range Light renovations! Phase 1 includes replacing the roof and restoring the exterior lantern room of the Upper Range Light, replacing the roof of the privy and adjacent shed. We hope to begin this project after the first of the year.

As we enter the Holiday Season, we must give thanks to all our members, volunteers and passionate donors who help us fulfill our mission in research, education and preservation. Have a Happy New Year and we look forward to celebrating our 80th with everyone in 2017.



Sincerely,

Steve Leonard, *Executive Director*



RIDGES LITES

An Update of Ridges Activities

2017 Save the Dates!

- Winter Hours – Open Daily 10-4 through April
- Between The Holidays Programs Dec.26 – 30 (see page 4)
- Cook-Albert Fuller Center to be closed
Monday, February 20th – Friday, March 3rd for
installation of new Exhibits. Sanctuary Trails will remain open
- Earth Day – April 22nd; *Spring Clean-Up & Plant a Tree Day*
- Midwest Crane Count – April 8
- Door County Festival of Nature – May 25 - 28
- Ridges' 80th & Annual Meeting &
Anniversary Celebration – August 5th



RIDGES SANCTUARY THE GREAT



Happy Birthday Emma Toft!

WAFFLE Breakfast

9th Annual RIDGES SANCTUARY *Great Waffle Breakfast*

Saturday, February 4, 9:00 - 11:00 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.



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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
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Sign up online at www.RidgesSanctuary.org/newsletter or send an email to info@RidgesSanctuary.org.

RIDGES LITES

An Update of Ridges Activities

Reflections on The Ridges

I Love You... Unconditionally

Written by Kelly Condon

Illustrations by Pat Dobrinska

Friday, January 20th from 4:00pm - 6:00pm; artist opening

Saturday, January 21st from 11:00am - 12:00pm; reading and book signing

Wisconsin Author, **Kelly Condon**, was inspired with the idea for the book, *I Love You... Unconditionally*, when she was fighting cancer and wanted to give her children a message of love. She wanted her kids to know that she loved them forever, no matter what! Inspired, Kelly called friend and artist, Pat, and asked her to create the paintings.

Illustrator/Artist, **Pat Dobrinska**, is having a book signing and reading of her children's book, *I Love You... Unconditionally*. You and your children can meet Pat and get a signed, personalized copy of the book. The original paintings, seen as illustrations in the book, will also be available for viewing and purchase Jan. 1st thru Feb. 19th.

Story Hour at The Ridges

Join the wonderful Ridges Staff Saturdays starting in January for Story Hour! This year, we will be reading nature themed books featuring local authors. We will accompany each story with a related craft to take home and hot chocolate to enjoy while visiting with us. (*)Some stories will be read by the authors themselves. Stop by and meet the authors of these books that focus on some of Door County's most exciting summer visitors.

- **January 7 – *Nuts to You*** by Lois Ehlert
- **January 14 – *Leaf Man*** by Lois Ehlert
- **January 21* – *I Love You... Unconditionally*** illustrated by & read by Pat Dobrinska
- **January 28 – *Holey Moley*** by Lois Ehlert
- **February 4* – *Mr. McGinty's Monarchs*** written & read by Linda Vanderheyden
- **February 11 – *The Sign Fairy*** by Jill Harding
- **February 18 – *Good Morning Door County*** by Ann Heyse
- **March 18 – *Owl Moon*** by Jane Yolen
- **March 25 – *The Curious Garden*** by Peter Brown



Backpack Adventure Camps – July 2017!

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, 9:00 to noon. Registration begins in March.

New for 2017! Family Camp - parents or grandparents can explore nature together with their children. **July 5 - 7.**

More information will be in the next *Lites*.

WEEK 1: JULY 10 - 14

Critters Club – Ages 4 - 6

Trail Trekkers – Ages 7 - 11

WEEK 2: JULY 17 - 21

Happy Hikers – Ages 4 - 6

Mucky Ducks – Ages 7 - 11

WEEK 3: JULY 24 - 28

Tiny Twigs – Ages 4 - 6.

Ridges Rangers – Ages 7 - 11

WEEK 4: JULY 31 - AUG 4

Monarch Madness – Ages 4 - 6

Monarch Madness – Ages 7 - 11

RIDGES LITES

An Update of Ridges Activities

Winter Hiking at the Sanctuary

Come visit us this winter to experience the sanctuary in all of its winter beauty. Our ungroomed trails are open for snowshoeing, cross country skiing, and boot hiking. Stop by the nature center to pick up a trail map and pass.

Guided Sanctuary Snowshoe Hikes

Experience The Ridges in an entirely new way during the winter season! These naturalist-guided hikes cover the cultural and natural history of the ridges and swales in their "off season." 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. Snowshoes available for hike participants – call ahead to reserve. \$5 rental fee.

Fridays starting January 6th – March, 2:00PM

Saturdays starting January 7th - March, 10:00AM & 2:00PM

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

Location: Cook-Albert Fuller Center

Guided Logan Creek 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, January 15, Sunday February 19, Sunday, March 19 2:00PM

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

Location: Meet at Trailhead, 5724 Loritz Road

Cabin Winter Warmups

Saturdays starting January 7th, The Ridges beautiful Kaye Cabin will be open and available for winter hikers from 10:00-2:00. Sit by the fire with some hot chocolate and snacks and chat with our naturalists and other visitors about what you saw out on the trails.

Saturdays, January 7 – February 25

Fee: Included in trail fee

Location: Kaye Cabin, 8288 County Q

Cross Country Skiing

The Sanctuary trails are available for cross country skiing. These trails will be left natural, ungroomed, and will be traveled by snowshoes and hikers, but skiers are welcome. Pets are never allowed on Ridges Trails. Trail Fees Apply.

Shoeshoe Rental

Snowshoes are available for rent at the Cook-Albert Fuller Nature Center. Rent snowshoes and explore the winter marvels of the sanctuary. Call ahead to reserve.

Not available Monday, February 20th – Friday, March 3rd while the nature center is closed.

Fee: \$5 **Location:** Cook-Albert Fuller Center.



Between the Holidays!

Join The Ridges' Staff for a wonderful variety of family friendly activities and crafts for the week between the Holidays. All activities are free and will be set up at the Cook-Albert Fuller Center between 10:00AM and 4:00PM

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

An Update of Ridges Activities

2nd Annual Owl-O-Rama!

Join us Saturday, March 11th for Owl-O-Rama!

These fascinating birds of prey are known for their distinct calls, nocturnal habits, and silent flight. There's something for everyone who gives a hoot about these remarkable raptors! We have great learning experiences for the entire family from crafts to night hikes to live owls!

Evening Activities

The Owl Prowl

March 10 & 11, Friday & Saturday from 6 PM - 7:30 PM

Winter is mating season for owls, and it is 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 and then return to the Cook-Albert Fuller Center for a mug of hot chocolate by the campfire (weather permitting). Suitable for all ages.

Fee: \$10 - member, \$13 - public, FREE under 18

Location: Cook-Albert Fuller Center

Daytime Activities

Hands-On Activities

March 11, Saturday at 10 AM - 4 PM

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

Free Location: Cook-Albert Fuller Center

Eastern Screech Owl Nest Box Building

March 11, Saturday at 10 AM - 2 PM

Cavity nesting owls like Eastern Screech Owls can be attracted with nesting boxes. After perusing our displays at the Center, drop in at the workshop anytime between 10 am & 2 pm to build a nest box and pick up some tips on where to locate it and when to put it out.

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

Fee: \$25 - Adult Member; \$30 - Public

Open Door Bird Sanctuary

March 11, Saturday at 11 AM

Open Door Bird Sanctuary, located right here in Door County, prides itself in its mission to raise avian awareness while inspiring people to coexist with the natural world that surrounds them. Join Executive Director, Rob Hults, as he brings us his knowledge and passion for the development and care of our avian partners.

Free Location: Cook-Albert Fuller Center

Owl Meet & Greet!

March 11, Saturday at 1 PM - 4 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. Stop in and learn a little bit about what separates raptors from other birds and owls from other raptors.

Free

Location: Cook-Albert Fuller Center

Owl Taxidermy Demonstration

March 11, Saturday at 10 AM - Noon

Master Taxidermist Mike Orthober is well known in his field and has won many national and international awards. He also judges World Taxidermy Championships and teaches others his methods. Mike will be joining us at the Nature Center to demonstrate the delicate art of creating an owl mount. Drop by the Cook-Albert Fuller Center to watch Mike bring wildlife to life through taxidermy.

Free

Location: Cook-Albert Fuller Center

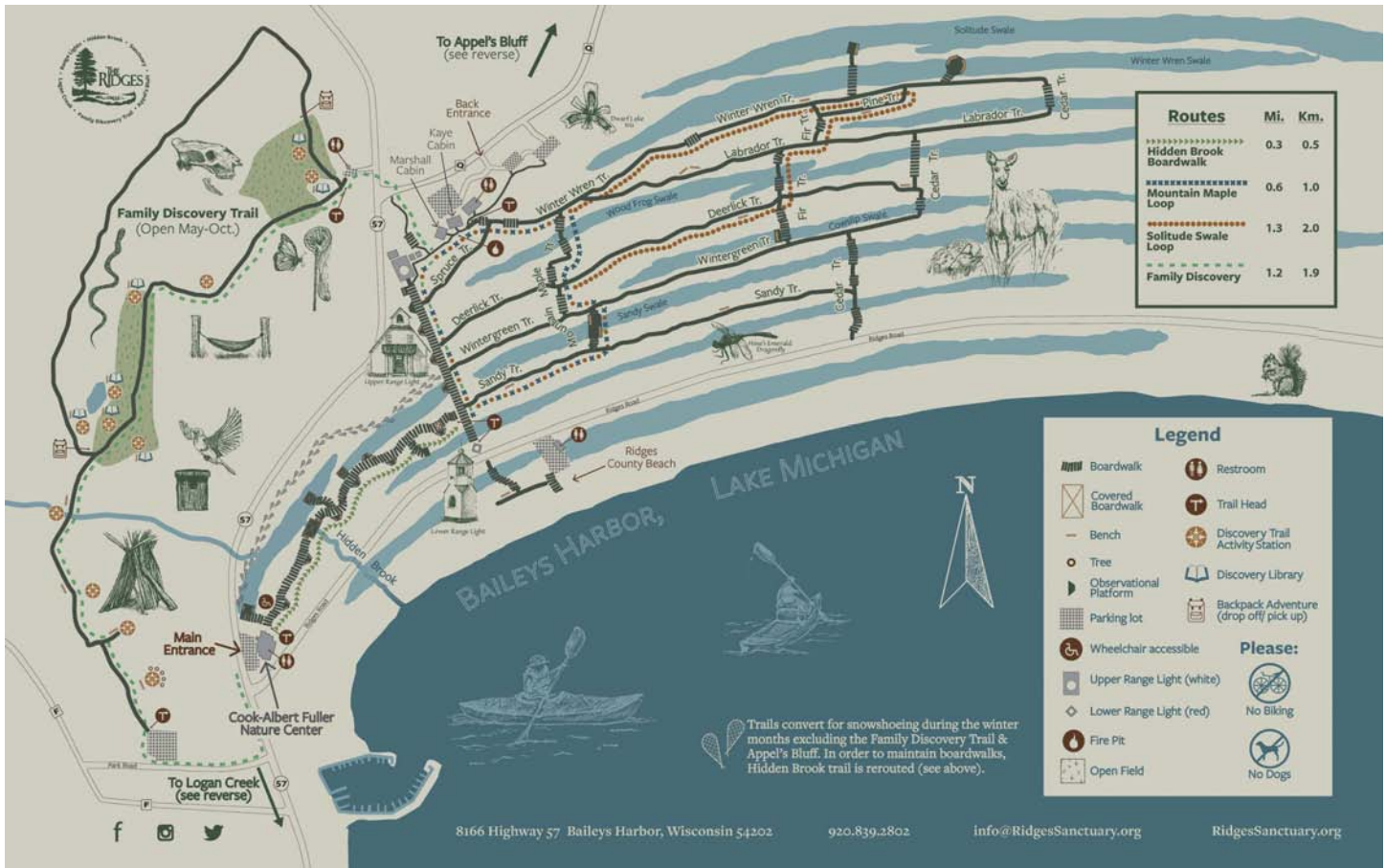


RIDGES LITES

An Update of Ridges Activities

New Ridges Trail Map

This fall, Natalie Renier joined our team for an internship through California State University, Monterey Bay. Her objective was to create a new and all-encompassing trail map for The Ridges. Natalie has created a wonderful piece and it will be available in January.



Shop The Ridges Nature Store this holiday season & all year 'round!

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!

RIDGES LITES

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Please patronize our business members.

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www.DoorCountyGrocery.com

Meissner Landscape
www.MeissnerLandscape.com

Door County Medical Center
www.DCMedical.org

Nicolet National Bank
www.NicoletBank.com

Pinkert Law Firm, LLP
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

Village Green Lodge
www.VillageGreenLodge.com

Waseda Farms
www.WasedaFarms.com

White Gull Inn
www.WhiteGullInn.com

Wilson's Restaurant & Ice Cream Parlor
www.WilsonsIceCream.com

Photo by Len Villano



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

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Primary Address: _____

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

Address: _____

City / St / Zip: _____

Membership Level:

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

☐ Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.

☐ Additional Donation \$ _____

Season: _____

TOTAL \$ _____

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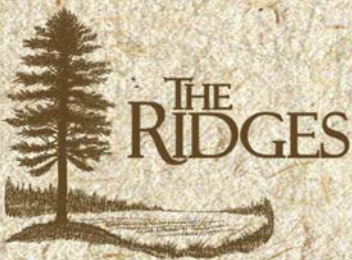
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Make checks payable to The Ridges

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2017 is our 80th Year!



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15TH ANNUAL DOOR COUNTY FESTIVAL OF NATURE



Once again, four Door County conservation organizations have joined with the Wisconsin Wetlands Association and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to bring you the Door County Festival of Nature. Though the missions of our partnering organizations overlap, each brings a particular strength and focus to the goals of preservation and environmental stewardship.

Registration begins in March of 2017.

The Festival runs:

THURSDAY - SUNDAY
May 25 - 28