



Worth "Two In The Bush"

The **Build a Bluebird House** workshop has been a favorite event since it started several years ago. For \$15, a family receives all the materials needed to build a bluebird house, help building it, and information on how to attract bluebirds and what to do once they take up residence. Pre-registration is required (how many screwdrivers will we need?). Call The Ridges at 839-2802 or the Northern Door Y at 868-3660. A *No Family Left Inside* program.

This program partially funded by the Door County Community Foundation's Green Fund

Become a charter member of the newest club in Door County. **The Early Birders club** has its first meeting on April 9 at 10 AM in the Marshall cabin. There'll be activities, crafts, bird hikes, programs and lots of fun for families. Targeting kids from 6–11 but younger are welcome if accompanied by an adult. Dues \$15/year.



What Happened?

Even though snowstorms occasionally sock us in during the 'off' season and the cold weather keeps us from jumping up to go outside as easily as in the summer, The Ridges is a busily humming place from October—May. While much of our time is spent preparing for the hectic pace of the summer, here are a few of the other things that kept us busy.

The **Great Waffle Breakfast** was a 'great' success! Over 240 people ate their fill of waffles, visited, played games, and ate more waffles! Tudy Ekmann loaned a portrait of Emma Toft to help us celebrate the occasion of Emma's 120 birthday anniversary. The donation jar yielded \$1,400 to help with The Ridges' programs.

The Ridges accepted the contract to manage the **Door County Invasive Species (DCIST)** program for 2011. Marne Kaeske will again work with landowners, groups, and individuals to advance the mission of DCIST.



The Door County Community Foundation's Green Fund awarded The Ridges a grant to help with the **No Family Left Inside**

program that encourages families to get outside and connect with nature.

Nancyanne & Frank Soprano donated part of the cost of a **new server** to help the staff be more efficient.

Our intrepid **Wednesday Crew** has been busy dismantling two unusable cabins on properties purchased by The Ridges. Much of the material has been sent to the local Habitat for Humanity's ReStore or salvaged for bird houses or building materials for other projects.

The Raibrook Foundation awarded a grant to The Ridges to pay for birding books for the **Early Birders** program.

We said a semi-goodbye to our bookkeeper, **Pam Zeller**. The Zellers (Pam & Dwight) will still manage The Ridges' Nature Center and will remain involved in that and other volunteering for the Sanctuary.

We welcomed a new bookkeeper, **Sally Hunter**, who is still finding out where we store the staples and how to operate the copy machine.

Starting a new club, the **Early Birders**, for kids and families has received a lot of support from volunteers. Tori Martinez, Maureen McGrath, Ed Pentecost, George Cobb, Jane Whitney, & Julie Knox have all contributed time and effort to make this a reality.

Winter snowshoe Fridays have been popular—even on bitter cold days!

Geocache event had 20 people on the trails searching for hidden 'treasures'.

Planning has begun for the **75th anniversary** of the founding of The Ridges Sanctuary. We welcome any ideas, help coordinating events, organizing activities, promoting the celebration, or sitting on a committee. Let's make it a great CELEBRATION!

Coming Up!

Mar 18 • Build a Bluebird House Everything you need to build and maintain a bluebird house.

Apr 9 • First Early Birders meeting Join other bird enthusiasts of the younger type!

Apr 16 • Midwest Crane Count—Call to get involved.

Apr 16 • Signs of Spring get re-acquainted with the small things that give us hope!

May 7 • Spring Volunteer Day at The Ridges. Time for fresh air and sprucing up!

May 13 • Frog Walk at The Ridges. Who's making all that noise!

May 26-28 • Festival of Nature Hike to special spots with special guides!

June 15 • MOON WALK Listen to the riveting ribbiting.

June 18 • Ride for Nature Bicycle the backroads of Door County. A fundraiser for The Ridges.

July 10 • a'Round for The Ridges & a 2nd Round at The Alpine Golf Course & Resort in Egg Harbor. A fundraiser for The Ridges' education programs.

July 16 • W.O.W Raptors Meet some WILD birds 10 AM and 2 PM

For more information call The Ridges or visit our website <http://RidgesSanctuary.org>

We Wish ...

Laser or inkjet mailing labels
Copy paper
\$\$ for clean cedar wood chips
Clippers & loppers for the *Berry Pirates*
Heavy Metal Shelving units
Garden gloves, rakes, tools, etc.
Blank CDs & DVDs
Digital cameras for education programs
Black sunflower seeds
Donations for GPS units
Chocolate for the staff
A heated birdbath (ours died)
Donations for the Flea Market

Wishes Do Come True!

We received a very generous donation toward a new server — THANK YOU! AND chocolates at Christmas. For a list of our many wonderful benefactors, go to the "Donors" link at <http://RidgesSanctuary.org>.

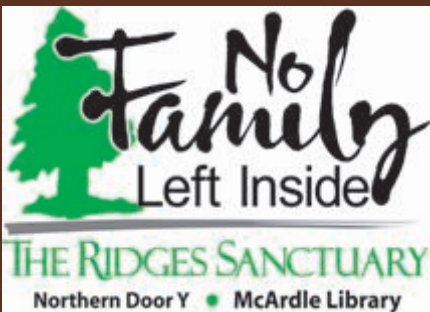
VOLUNTEER—MEET THE NICEST PEOPLE!

The Ridges is looking for volunteers for the Nature Center and several other areas that contribute to the smooth running of the organization. Our dedicated volunteers enable us to offer a variety of programs to children, adults, and families. Our volunteers are also the nicest in the County! — we checked! If you have some time to spend amid the spruce, hemlock and wildflowers, and want to meet more nice people, call 839-2802. **Training is provided!**

Address Service Requested

MEMORIES

The **Ridges Memory Project** is seeking submissions for a collection of personal memories for our 75th anniversary coming up in 2012. A few sentences, photos, or detailed paragraphs are all welcome. **All who submit will be entered in a drawing for one of 10 of the finished books!** *Deadline June 1st, 2011!!*



EXPLORE the OUTDOORS with these No Family Left Inside Programs

Saturday March 19 • 10 AM
Build a Bluebird House

Everything you need to build a birdhouse and help building it! Learn more about the Early Birders Club.

Saturday April 16 • 10 AM
Signs of Spring!

Will Spring ever come? Search for the signs!

Friday May 13 • 6 PM
Frog Walk

Frogs are noisy—but can we FIND them?

This series of Family Events is a collaborative effort with the Northern Door Y to encourage families to connect with the outdoors.

Get outside and enjoy the many sides of nature with your family and The Ridges' naturalists. Lots of activities are planned for this summer such as: Survival; Geocaching; A Bug's Life; Build a TeePee; Digital Camera Scavenger Hunt; Living THINGS Under Your Feet!; Trees are Terrific!; Dragonfly Drama; Monarch Magic; Have a Swale Time; and many more. Each program will be about 1 1/2 hours long. Great for all ages. \$10/ Family. Mondays at 2 pm June-August.

• Pre-Registration required.

Check your mailing label for an expiration date for your membership and support the oldest member-based nature preserve in Wisconsin. Or consider a donation to support The Ridges. *Please let us know if you wish to remain anonymous.*

Tickler! Fundraiser for The Ridges Sanctuary

Spring Cleaning! *In case the dust is tickling your nose as you are doing your Spring Cleaning!*

Please remember The Ridges Flea Market. (no clothes, used electronics, furniture, or fleas). If you have something good and don't have room to store it until September—give us a call and we'll come up with something!

Trail Talk at The Ridges

• **Repetition is good!** If you missed the Moon Walk or the Survival program from last Fall or if you'd like to do it again—you're in luck. They were so popular that we are planning to do them again this summer (*can't do a summer Snowshoe Hike!*) **But we CAN do a Geocaching workshop!**

• **Monthly Cookouts!** One of the strengths of The Ridges' organization has been the friendships that have formed around a casual get together to celebrate our achievements. Each month, the staff will host a cookout at The Ridges. Plan to come, renew friendships and meet some new friends!

• **Bring in a new Member—you'll both be rewarded.** It seems that everyone who enjoys The Ridges' trails, feels the need to protect this special spot. Invite your friends to hike the trails. If they want to become a member—stop at the RangeLight and we'll give them AND you a free *Celebrating Door County's Wild Places* book.

• **75th Anniversary Planning.** Lots of things are planned for 2011, but **next** year is the 75th anniversary of the oldest member-based nature center in Wisconsin. We will be celebrating the vision of our founders, the milestones we've passed, and the direction we're going! Got some ideas? Let us know.

• **What do YOU think?** Send us a letter or go to www.uwsp.edu/schmeckle/ridges to give us ideas for improvement.

• **Watch for the Discovery Bird hikes starting on May 14 through July 30 at 6:30 AM.** Discover some of the BEST birding spots in the county! There will be a **Early Bird** hike at 9 AM on May 14, June 11, and July 9 for those who don't want to greet the dawn but do want to discover some of the feathered visitors to Door County.

• **Finest Silent Auction in the County!** A big fundraiser for The Ridges on Sunday, July 10th at the Alpine Golf Course and Resort. Golfing at 3:30. A Silent Auction/Raffle at 5:30 at the Yodel Inn—with food! - and a cash bar!

• **Lower RangeLight Renovations!** Restoric LLC has been hired to draft a historic structures report and restoration work will start this Summer. Funding for the report came through a match for Lee Traven's volunteer hours from the ExxonMobil Foundation.

Learn more on any of these items at <http://RidgesSanctuary.org>



Ridges Sanctuary Membership / Donation Form

Name: _____ Send a gift card? Date: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____ Phone () _____

Email address: _____

Second Address from ____/____/____ to ____/____/____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Membership: Individual __\$40 Family __\$65 Family Plus __\$95 Business __\$150 New? or Renewal?

Donation: __\$25 __\$50 __\$100 __\$150 Other \$ _____

Check enclosed Credit Card # _____ Exp date ____/____/____

Signature _____

Mail to and make checks payable to: The Ridges Sanctuary • PO Box 152 • Baileys Harbor • WI • 54202 (or signup/donate online: RidgesSanctuary.org)