

WHERE HAS THE SUMMER GONE?!



A young participant at an evening hike!

Summer's gone and the leaves are falling furiously around the Rangelight. Our summer was a productive one and many new members and friends were introduced to The Ridges programs.

Nature Center Over four thousand people visited our nature center & store and walked The Ridges' trails. Our NC volunteers have consistently given a welcoming face to The Ridges. Sometimes we had difficulties staffing the Center but we are optimistic about next year! Watch for training opportunities next Spring!

Children's Programs Almost 40 children learned about the unique ecosystems and wildlife of The Ridges while catching insects, searching for animal homes, identifying trees and making crafts. A few parents even stayed to learn alongside their children and grandchildren!

a'Round for The Ridges The golf outing was a great fundraiser and next year will be even bigger AND better. Two very savvy volunteers have offered to head up this effort for July 10, 2011.

Lake Lessons The Family Discovery Night started off the summer with families digging in and finding marvels in the water, the dirt, and participating in interesting activities. The Giant Bubble Wand was again a huge hit. The rest of the summer was devoted to geology, wildlife, water quality, and ended with an fascinating look at BATS! How are we going to top this next year?

Flea Market & Recycling Extravaganza There were people at the flea market from 8:30 AM until 2 PM and The Ridges raised over \$1,200 at its booth. Thank you to all who donated items for resale. Start looking around for next year. What a great way to get a tax write-off!

No Family Left Inside The Ridges' new program to get children and adults outside and connecting with nature has been growing since its inception last winter. It seems the technology (GPS & cameras) were most popular as well as the evening outings (Frog Walk & Moon Walk). There must be some lure in technology and the moonlight! Watch for more offerings from this collaborative program with the Northern Door YMCA and the McArde Library.

Edge of the Ledge raffle The raffle netted over \$1,400 for the *No Family Left Inside* programs and some great prizes to 42½ people (actually 43!). The person who won the skydive was giving it to her brother for a 60th birthday present!

Barberry Pirates These intrepid volunteers have been attacking the invasives that are invading the Sanctuary. From the beautiful Forget-me-not to the dreaded Black swallow-wort, no alien invader is safe from their cutlasses, dirks, & pirate tools.

The Wednesday Crew Our dedicated men & women of the Crew have given over 500 hours to various outdoor projects at The Ridges including clearing trails and applying mesh to the bridges! Their behind-the-scenes efforts make for a more enjoyable visitor experience at The Ridges.

Wisconsin Naturalists Nineteen people are finishing their training in the third session of the Wisconsin Naturalist program and will soon be volunteering at nature programs throughout the county.

Thank you to the many sponsors who helped make these programs a success! See a listing at www.RidgesSanctuary.org/donors.



The Barberry Pirates experiment with a new use for Phragmites. Mmmm, tasty?!

Coming Up!

Nov 13 • Learn survival skills SURVIVAL!

Nov 20 • A full moon—come for an evening hike on your own at The Ridges!

Dec 11 • An afternoon of old-fashioned Christmas fun—The Ridges' Natural Christmas

Dec 21 • A full moon—come for an evening hike on your own at The Ridges!

Jan 15 • Try out snowshoeing with the kids! Family Snowshoe Hike

Jan & Feb • Snowshoe Hikes Fridays at 1:30—guided snowshoe hikes.

Feb TBA • A digital scavenger hunt! GEOCACHING

Mar 19 • Build a Bluebird House

For more information call The Ridges or visit our website www.RidgesSanctuary.org

EARLY BIRDERS

The Ridges is developing a program for young people interested in the adventure of birding. The club will have meetings with presentations and activities revolving around birds as well as nature outings to spot and enjoy birds in their habitats.



photo by Len Villano

Club members will receive binoculars and an easy bird guidebook. By Spring, we will also have available an Early Birders' checklist to record birds that are sighted.

Call The Ridges if you want to help or join!

We Wish ...

Laser or inkjet mailing labels
Copy paper
\$\$ for clean cedar wood chips
Clippers for the Barberry Pirates
Shelving units (plastic or metal)
Garden gloves, rakes, tools, etc.
Blank CDs & DVDs
Digital cameras
Black sunflower seeds or suet
Canoe or kayak
Donations for a new server & laser printer (computer)
Chocolate for the staff

Wishes Do Come True!

For a list of our many wonderful benefactors, go to the "Donors" link at www.RidgesSanctuary.org.

THE RIDGES SANCTUARY

SURVIVAL!

Nov. 13
Saturday
10 AM – 11:30 AM

- Learn Survival Skills
- Build a Survival Shelter
- Discover Nature's Survival Secrets
- A No Family Left Inside program

Pre-registration required. Call The Ridges Sanctuary: 839-2802
\$10/Family (2 adults & 1-4 children)



Natural Christmas!

Carols, cookies, crafts, campfire, & More at The Ridges' Natural Christmas!

December 11

3-6 PM

Notes from the Range Light

9/15/10 First-of-season Dark-eyed juncos arrived at The Ridges

9/23/10 First day of Autumn and 2-inches of rain!

10/??/10 Warm weather in early to mid-October brought out a few Dwarf lake iris blooms.

10/13/10 Our guided hike group saw a mature Bald eagle flying over Sandy swale.

10/15/10 The Maples and Birches are stunning in their Fall foliage.

10/22/10 Meadowhawk dragonflies are still active—as are a few lonely mosquitoes.

10/25/10 As of today, the birds have cached away over 100 lbs. of sunflower seed!

10/26 & 27/10 Furious winds are blowing the leaves and trees today.



Trail Talk at The Ridges

• **Annual Appeal is coming up!** At this time of year, everyone is asking for your help—please consider this special place on the Door peninsula for some of your generosity.

• **Your IDEAS are important to us!** Send us a letter or go to www.uwsp.edu/schmeeckle/ridges to give your input on what The Ridges' future should look like.

• **Volunteers continue to amaze us!** So many of you give generously of your time and talents to help The Ridges offer quality programs to the public—Thank you!

• **ENJOY the winter in Door County** Come and spend some time at The Ridges in winter—either at a Ridges' event or just to enjoy the quiet of the trails.

• **Thanks to all the volunteers** who helped with DCIST and the Monitoring programs. Volunteer hours are still being collected as match funds. Send in your form or call Marne at 839-2802.



Planning for the Future

The Schmeeckle Interpreters have started the process of taking a fresh look at the message, signage, audiences, and programs that define The Ridges Sanctuary. They will look at what is working, what could be improved upon, what could change and how we should move forward after 75 years. Taking the Strategic Plan of 2008 into consideration, they will suggest ways to connect our visitors with our resources and history. You can watch their progress and make comments at <http://www.uwsp.edu/schmeeckle/ridges/>.



**Sunday
July 10, 2011
Alpine Golf Course**

Better than ever! Golf, Music, Prizes, Food, and at the 2nd Round After-glow—a Silent Auction and Raffles!

MEMORY LANE (Bridge)



Volunteer Cathleen Haskins has interviewed some of The Ridges' movers and shakers of the initial years. Now we would love to have stories about the teen years and beyond of this special place. What was YOUR first impressions of The Ridges? What bridge, swale or trail is special to YOU!? Any pictures you may have that you could send us to scan (we WILL return them) along with a short paragraph? (*Anyone whose contribution is included will be entered in a drawing for one of 10 copies of the published book!*) The contributions can be prose, poetry, sketches, or photos. Contact Cathleen at 262-949-4617, or The Ridges Sanctuary at 920-839-2802, or info@ridgessanctuary.org, or cathleenhaskins@yahoo.com.

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.*

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?

Additional Donation for Planning: __\$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)