



*The mission of  
The Ridges Sanctuary is to  
protect the Sanctuary and inspire  
stewardship of natural areas  
through programs of education,  
outreach and research.*

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# From the Range Light

## Creating a Vision

We've done a lot together in 70 years: we've bought land, introduced children and adults to the Sanctuary, and done research on the ridges. Your membership, our dedicated board and staff, and partnerships with UW-Green Bay, Wisconsin DNR, and other local conservation organizations have all helped us be successful.

To build on this success, however, we now need a focus, or a vision – one which maps out our future work protecting The Ridges. We also want to explore ways to encourage stewardship, here and throughout the county.

Based on our founders' wishes, members' survey, and input from partnering organizations, our **Long-Range Planning Committee** has created such a vision. It includes six goals for The Ridges (one each in Land Preservation, Education, Research, Outreach, Administration, and Development) to guide our planning process.

It's summarized here:

### Our Vision

*The Ridges Sanctuary, the oldest member-supported nature preserve in Wisconsin, will build on its exceptional biodiversity, the dreams and commitment of its founders, and its significant historical accomplishments to expand its role as a leader in environmental stewardship. With the help of its members, The Ridges Sanctuary will:*

- *Protect its land through acquisition and stewardship, and provide opportunities for people to enjoy the land forever;*
- *Encourage stewardship throughout Door County, by becoming an education and information resource for members, visitors, regional communities and institutions;*
- *Serve as a regional, national and international destination for research on The Ridges' and Door County's landscapes, ecosystems and individual species.*



**Our first priority is to protect Ridges' Land.** Board of Directors, Committees, Staff and Members will continue to work together to purchase adjacent land, creating a **buffer zone** around existing properties. We'll continue to remove invasive species and manage our land to preserve its biological integrity.

**In Education,** The Ridges

*continued on page 2*

# Board News



## Reflections

*Ever had one of those moments where something you're doing reminds you of something from your*

*past?* Like when you're talking with a friend and the conversation reminds you of something your grandfather said years ago? I had a similar experience the other day. I was walking near Rieboldt's Creek (northeast of The Ridges at Moonlight Bay). The wind was blowing hard from the south and I smelled mud from the streambed: That smell of mud and rotting plants brought back to me memories of "messing about" in the swamp out behind my grandparent's cottage in Michigan.

We kids would go out into the wetlands with only the tools of our fertile imaginations, traveling to far-off lands on journeys and adventures. We had swinging bridges, fallen trees, rope ladders of woody vines, boats, sunken stumps and – most of all – we had nature. My grandpa, Stanley Smith, would take me and my cousins on rides into the "hazely gazely" (a term we made-up – for river bottoms and flats) searching for treasures and adventures. I'm sure you can remember a similar experience.

In discussions with Steve and Karen about our vision and summer programs, I was reminded again of Richard Louv's

book "Last Child in the Woods". Louv writes about children today missing the experience of nature, and all that's getting lost because of it. Even when kids want to be in the woods there are few places they can go and experience nature, like I did in the swamp. The restraints parents and landowners put on nature to make it pure and unsullied also make it difficult for children to experience nature "for real".

*Louv urges parents and adults to make use of natural areas as "learning labs" for children.* This idea is one that makes perfect sense for The Ridges. Because of the precious balance needed at The Ridges, however, **we need other sites to do this teaching.** Here's where we need your help! Do you know of a place where kids can be exposed to nature and learn at the same time? A place where supervised youngsters can begin to explore bugs, snakes, birds and other animals but not be afraid to "mess" things up? If so contact Steve Leonard, Karen Newbern or myself.

We must be good stewards and teach these values to our children and grandchildren. Maybe, along the way, we'll even introduce them to the "hazely gazely".

Cheers,

## Creating a Vision, *continued from page 1*

will work with community organizations to **enhance existing programs and expand educational opportunities** for adults and

children. Youth programs will emphasize **discovery opportunities** and interdisciplinary community programs, connecting students to the outdoors. Adult programs will continue to provide awareness of Ridges' biodiversity but also provide more opportunities to **"take action"** to protect The Ridges and Door County.

**Our Research Program will identify threats and changes** to local landscapes, ecosystems and individual species at The Ridges and in Door County: Water quality, air pollution, invasive species and other concerns are not just a threat to The Ridges, but a threat to the county. The Ridges will **collaborate** with others evaluating past research projects, and determining what future research is needed. As the program progresses, researchers will work side by side with individuals involved with a variety of **citizen monitoring programs.**

The key to our continued success in land preservation, research, education and outreach programs is to **remember our values:** Protect our land, involve our

members, and create the organizational support needed to do this.

To show yearly progress, our staff will develop annual action plans to prioritize work on these projects. To balance program initiatives, we'll identify education and research sites (at The Ridges and in the community), to make sure we never jeopardize the biological integrity of our land. **This coming summer we'll begin scheduling opportunities for your input on this vision and its strategic goals.** We need your help to discover, dream, design and transform all our ideas into the greatest good for our institution and the county. Over time, we'll fulfill this vision together: In a professional and fiscally responsible manner that will protect The Ridges for many more years to come.

I look forward to working with you on our vision.



Steve Leonard, Executive Director  
steve@ridgesanctuary.org

# Ridges Spring Programs

*You can enjoy The Ridges 365 days a year!*

*Hiking trails are open from dawn to dusk. For more information on any of these programs, call (920)839-2802 or email: [info@ridgesanctuary.org](mailto:info@ridgesanctuary.org)*

## Naturalist-Guided Sanctuary Hikes

**May 16, 18, 21, 23, 30** (1:30 pm)

**June-August**

Daily (except Sundays):

9:30 am & 1:30 pm

Meet at The Nature Center

Free to Ridges members

\$5 nonmembers/ under 18 free

## Spring Bird Outing

**Saturday, May 5, 6 am**

Meet at the Nature Center and carpool to avian hotspots. Free for Ridges members, donations accepted for guests.

## Spring Hikes at Logan Creek

**Saturday, May 5, 10 am and 1 pm**

Early woodland wildflowers will be the focus of guided hikes through the Ridges' Logan Creek Property. Meet at the Logan Creek parking lot, 5724 Loritz Road, south of Jacksonport. **Call the Ridges to preregister for either the morning or afternoon hike.**

\$5/person, children under 18 free.

## Lighthouse Walk

**Saturday, May 19**

Both Range Lights open 8:30 am - 6pm

**Sunday, May 20**

Both Range Lights open 9am - 4pm

Tickets may be purchased from the Door County

Maritime Museum, tel. (920) 743-5958

Some proceeds benefit The Ridges.

**Volunteers Needed!** Training & Lunch Provided! (see insert)

## Door County

### Festival of Nature:

**Exploring Wildflowers, Birds & Conservation**

**Thursday - Saturday, May 24 - 26**

The Festival is a cooperative event celebrating and promoting the protection of the Door Peninsula's natural landscape. See page 8 for more information on this exciting annual program!

## NATURE CENTER Notes

### The Ridges Nature Center

2007 Season

Wednesday, May 16- Sunday, October 14

Daily (except Sundays): 9am - 4pm

Sundays: 11am - 3pm

*Don't forget Ridges members always receive a 10% discount on Store purchases!*

### Birds and Blooms Sale

**Saturday, April 21, 9 am - 1 pm**

Enhance your "backyard habitat" with bird feeders, benches and other selected products from the Nature Store. Books on natural landscaping and attracting birds and wildlife will also be available. Sale held at Baileys Harbor Town Hall, Hwy. 57 in downtown Baileys Harbor.

### Volunteer Orientation Session

**Monday, May 14, 9 - 11 am**

**All Nature Center volunteers** are invited to refresh your memories from last season, learn about changes in the Nature Store, get a sneak peek at new merchandise, and take a hike on the trails. Refreshments provided. Current volunteers who bring a guest to this training will receive a special gift!

**Note:** A second training session will be held in June. Watch for date and time in summer Ridges News.

## Looking Ahead

### Discovery Bird Hikes

Every Saturday in June and July, 6 am

### Bike Ride for Nature - Sat., June 16

Call or e-mail The Ridges for a brochure, or download information from our website:

[www.ridgesanctuary.org/Ride\\_for\\_Nature.htm](http://www.ridgesanctuary.org/Ride_for_Nature.htm).

### 70th Anniversary Celebration

**August 5th - 11th**

A weeklong series of special events celebrating our Anniversary! Watch the summer Ridges News for more details.

### Ridges' 70th Annual Meeting

**Saturday, October 6, 2007**

# Summer Youth Programs

*"Must we always teach our children with books?  
...Let them look at the beauty of the waters and the trees  
and flowers on earth. They will then begin to think, and to  
think is the beginning of a real education."*

– Rachel Carson

The Ridges Sanctuary is an ideal location for your child's "outdoor learning"! Here, children can search for dragonfly larvae in a sedge meadow, examine animal tracks along the beach, and learn about the appetites of insect-eating pitcher plants and sundews. They can become animals in an active game of predators and prey, build a tree model, or dress up as a bat. All these activities, and more, are a part of the Ridges' popular **Summer Youth Programs!**

We're already planning an exciting schedule of programs for this summer (see listing). More detailed program descriptions will appear in our summer edition of Ridges News. **Please Note: Grade level refers your child's grade in fall 2007.**

To register now, write Youth Programs, The Ridges Sanctuary, P.O. Box 152, Baileys Harbor, WI 54202, or e-mail [karen@ridgesanctuary.org](mailto:karen@ridgesanctuary.org). Registration forms will be posted on the Ridges website, [www.ridgesanctuary.org](http://www.ridgesanctuary.org).



Ridges' Explorers

### Kit Camp (age 4-K)

June 25, 26 & 27: 9 am - 12 noon  
\$45 members / \$55 nonmembers

### Foxes (Grades 1-2)

July 2, 9, 16 & 25: 9 am - 12 noon  
Sign up for one or all sessions.  
\$15 per session members  
\$20 per session nonmembers

### Explorers (Grades 3-6)

July 3, 11, 18 & 25: 9 am - 12 noon  
Sign up for one or all sessions.  
\$15 per session members  
\$20 per session nonmembers

### Taiga Camp I (Grades 1-2)

July 30, 31 & August 1: 9 am - 12 noon  
\$45 members / \$55 nonmembers

### Taiga Camp II (Grades 3-6)

August 6, 7 & 8: 9 am - 12 noon  
\$45 members / \$55 nonmembers

## Quick Takes

- Our **first accumulating snows** arrived the first week of December. However, by mid-month, the snow was gone – not to return until mid-January.

- The **Ephraim Christmas Bird Count**, held on December 16, 2006, recorded 40 different species (down from 51 in 2005). No snow and relatively warm conditions kept a variety of waterfowl in the area later than usual. An **Eastern Towhee** and **Northern Shrike** were sighted during the week of the count. Large flocks of **Cedar Waxwings** were reported from the Ellison Bay area.

- **Snow conditions** weren't good for our weekly Snowshoe Hikes in January and February, but **heavy snows** in late February and early March were ideal for showshoeing and skiing.

- Activity at the **bird feeders** picked up significantly in mid-February, as many wild foods were buried.

- **Lake levels** remain at near-record lows.

### What's Up With This Weather? One word can be used to describe the winter of 2006-07: **unusual!**

Above-normal temperatures and very little snow until late January, then heavy snow and frigid wind chills – what will happen this spring? The groundhog says that spring will arrive early, but we'll have to wait and see. Other weather observations from the Ridges:

Month	High Temp	Low Temp	Mean Temp	Normal Temp	Rainfall	Normal Rainfall
November	54	20	38	35	.26 in.	2.53 in.
December	44	6	30	23	.38 in.	1.76 in.
January	46	-2	23	16	.01 in.	1.79 in.
February	40	-16	15	20	20" snow	1.11 in.

# Volunteer Opportunities

**Ridges volunteers** are an integral part of land preservation, education, research and outreach at The Sanctuary. Come join one of these teams and help with The Festival of Nature, Bike Ride or another special project!

**Nature Store Volunteer:** Help greet visitors and orientate them to our trails. This is a great opportunity to meet people from Door County and the Midwest. Two volunteers work each shift, morning or afternoon, four hours per shift.



**Members Picnic:** Work with the staff to help plan and coordinate our Members' Picnic, scheduled the 1st Sunday in August—August 5, 2007.

**“Special Skills” Volunteers:** Do you have a unique ability (computer skills, writing, fundraising) that might be used to benefit the Sanctuary? We may be able to put your special skills to work on a Ridges project or program.



## **Wednesday Crew:**

A weekly group comprised of hard-working men and women – monitoring trails, building and repairing bridges and decks, and performing other Sanctuary maintenance. The group meets each Wednesday morning, but you don't have to be available every week to participate.



**Invasive Plant Control:** Several species of unwanted, non-native plants threaten the ecological integrity of The Ridges. We need volunteers to pull these Sanctuary invaders. You can work independently or in small groups, and no special skills are required. Although knowledge of plant identification is helpful, we'll train you to locate the right invasives!



**Lighthouse Keepers:** Help maintain the gardens and grounds around the Nature Store and Upper Range Light.

## **We need you!**

If you're able to help out in any of these capacities – especially in the Nature Store or on the Members Picnic – please return the enclosed *“Volunteer Interest Form”*.

For more information, call the office & talk with Development Director Linda Shealey: (920) 839-2802.

# Member News

## Albert M. Fuller Society

By now you've received our Albert Fuller Society **planned giving** brochure. Your responses have been extremely encouraging for The Ridges!

To-date we've welcomed **18 member households** into this special group – fellow members interested in sustaining the Sanctuary even beyond their lifetimes. Thank you all! **Fuller Members** will be acknowledged in our next issue of "Ridges News", and honored in August – part of our 70th Celebration week. Thanks, also, if you requested more information about The Fuller Society.

*If you didn't get a brochure, or would like more detailed information on ways you can help secure the future of The Ridges, please contact Development Director Linda Shealey: (920) 839-2802, or Linda@ridgesanctuary.org.*

Thank you for helping ensure this special place will be here forever!

Bob Ragotzkie  
Planned Giving Committee

## Member Email Updates - Don't Forget to Sign Up!

The Ridges is currently working on sending "Email Updates" to those who'd like to receive them. These program updates will be sent quarterly, spaced between issues of Ridges News. Occasionally, we'll send special news or volunteer opportunities, too.

If you'd like to be part of this initiative, please **send your current email address** to Office Manager, Pat Sample, at info@ridgesanctuary.org. Simply write "Email Update List" in the subject line. She'll make sure your address is on-file, and your name included.

First (trial) Update is scheduled for June '07. Let us know what you think!

Karen Newbern  
Assistant Director / Naturalist

## Thanks for Your Generous Support

### Welcome New Members

#### Life Member

Robert Fellman  
Louise A. Gross

#### Adult & Family Members

Sarah Freyman  
Giz & Linda Herbst  
Jim & Judy Schwengel  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Stenzel  
Lynn & Harold Thorpe  
Joseph Zmuda

### Contributions

#### Sanctuary Stewards

Jim Radtke & Sue Kressin  
Albert & Cynthia Johnson

#### Ridges Advocate

Anonymous (1)

#### Ridges Sustainers

Bruce & Beverly Blietz  
Nancy A. Ciezki  
Peter & Barbara Classen  
Jane & Jim Comiskey  
Bruce & Tina Duemler  
Chuck & Carolyn Fields  
Lee & Marjorie Forrest  
Nita Herreman  
Robert & Maureen Quinlan  
Bill & Mary Jo Schaars  
Dwight & Pam Zeller

#### Gifts from Members

Anonymous (technology)  
Doris Ellmann (historic flag)  
Nita Herreman (chocolates)

Jo Holderman (chocolates)  
Richard & Roberta Larson (printer)  
Margery Melgaard (technology)  
Karen Newbern (laminator)  
Pat & Max Sample (microwave)

#### Gifts from Businesses & Organizations

Baylake Bank  
Bridenhagen Tree & Landscape  
Door County Memorial Hospital  
Ecology Sports  
Ironwood Foundation  
On Deck Clothing Co., Inc.  
Orchid Growers Guild  
Quad Graphics  
Roundy's, Inc.  
Wisconsin Energy Corp. Fdn

#### Gifts to the Rangelight Garden Fund

Marlene Hinsch  
David Jowett

#### Gifts to the Endowment Fund

James Akey  
Carol J. Barry  
W. James Burnidge  
Ken & Mary Bussard  
Megan Fellman & Tony Rosso  
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Grace & Bruce Frudden  
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William & Louise Gross  
Bill & Katie Hebal  
Darlene Kallaus & Nancy Williams  
Alyce Kilsdonk

Leonard & Jeannette Klappauf  
Thomas McGovern  
J.C. & Arlene Pfeiffer  
Frank & Meral Shaw

#### Gifts to the Land Fund

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Ken & Mary Bussard  
David Fenner  
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Gladys Gores  
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Jim Radtke & Sue Kressin  
Michael Raap  
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Ted & Peggy von Briesen

#### Gifts to the Operating Fund

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Warren A. Larson  
Lincoln & Florence McGurk  
Florence & Ted Podraza  
Chuck & Diane Pribbernow  
Joan M. Ritter  
Meryl & Frank Shaw

### In honor of

Roy Lukes  
Millie Blaha

Robert & Virginia Fellman  
Megan Fellman & Tony Rosso

### In memory of

Ron Beno  
Moonlight Bay Estates Prop. Owners  
Nancy Rafal

Mary P. Christianson  
Katherine Deutsch

Joan & Orville Cleveland  
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Helen DeFaut  
Bill & Katie Hebal

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Bill & Susan Hotz

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Bill & Katie Hebal

Katie Sturgis  
Tony & Priscilla Beadell

L. & J. Thomson  
Donald & Elaine Orstrom

Olivia Traven  
Lynda Withbroe

# In Appreciation- 70 Years of Support

In our Anniversary year, and thanks to generous gifts from the following individuals, we've met our Board challenge and raised the most ever in this fall's appeal: \$53,000!  
Your donations will help sustain The Ridges as we create our vision, and a workplan to fulfill that vision.

**Thank you all for your generous & vital support!**

Eugene and Lina Abraham  
Cindy and Fred Acker  
Betty Aik  
Mr. James H. Akey  
George and Ruth Alt  
Virginia Amen  
Joanne and John E. Anderson  
Morse Anderson  
Nick and Gail Anderson  
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Eugene and Elaine Balke  
Ruth and Hartley Barker  
Jerome and Elaine Barnwell  
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## **Door County Festival of Nature** *May 24 - 26, 2007*

***Greet long-awaited spring with us  
in Door County!***

As the earth awakens from its winter rest, join us as we celebrate wildflowers blooming and birds returning from their winter homes – all in a 3-day series of hikes, presentations and workshops in Door County.

The **Fifth Annual Festival of Nature** offers a great opportunity to join fellow nature enthusiasts in a rich array of activities: Wildflower hikes, birding trips, evening programs, and much more. Experts guide participants on tours of pristine and unique sites (including some usually inaccessible private lands). This year we are offering **additional canoe trips, more bird outings, and an exciting keynote presentation** by Noel Cutright, Senior Editor of the “Breeding Bird Atlas of Wisconsin.”

The Festival of Nature is brought to you by the cooperative effort of local conservation organizations: The Ridges, Door County Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, The Clearing, Crossroads at Big Creek and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

To receive a registration brochure, including information on lodging in Door County, please contact us:

email: [festival@ridgesanctuary.org](mailto:festival@ridgesanctuary.org)

visit our website: [www.ridgesanctuary.org/festival.htm](http://www.ridgesanctuary.org/festival.htm)

or call: (920) 839-2802.

Our brochure will be available late April.

***We look forward to welcoming spring with you!***

