



*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

...Always About the People

The Ridges' founding members had the foresight to know we needed program initiatives in land protection, education, outreach and research to protect The Ridges and develop an understanding on how to become better stewards of the land. Our success in carrying out these initiatives has always been about the people behind the scenes, the staff and our members who volunteer, offer financial support or provide insight on specific initiatives to protect The Ridges. It is why The Ridges is the oldest, member-based nature preserve in Wisconsin.

The Ridges has been fortunate to have a very devoted staff. Pat Sample, our office manager, is no exception. Thanks to Pat, the administrative responsibilities were always taken care of over the past eight years. She has always been there for our members by answering questions over the phone, greeting visitors with a warm welcome at the Range Light, or helping serve her famous baked beans at several

of our events. Pat is now passing on the administrative responsibilities to our new office manager, Pam Gregory. Pat might not be answering the phone anymore at The Ridges, but she will continue to volunteer for special projects.

Besides managing the administrative responsibilities, Pam Gregory will start to work with the Nature Store Committee and volunteers to help coordinate the volunteer schedule, etc. Pam will also work with our Archives Committee (Gloria Drummond, Marilyn Mahlberg and Gwynne Schultz) who dedicated their time over the past winter to continue the incredible work done by the Archives Committee in the 1990s.

Linda Shealey is another staff person The Ridges needs to thank. She organized the membership database and started the Albert Fuller Society, our planned giving program. Due to financial con-

continued on page 2



Board News

What do we mean by the term *biodiversity*?

Biodiversity has been defined as the variety of living organisms considered at all levels of organization, from genetics through species, to higher taxonomic levels, and including the variety of habitats and ecosystems. The Ridges Sanctuary, and the surrounding Baileys Harbor landscape, has been identified by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as the most biologically diverse area in Wisconsin. Through past inventories, we know The Ridges supports 475 vascular plant species, 63 breeding birds and 12 threatened or endangered species, including the Federally Endangered Hines Emerald Dragonfly. Because of this diversity, **The Ridges Sanctuary has been designated as a National Natural Landmark by the National Park Service, a Wisconsin State Natural Area by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and a**



Volunteers working on Tree Survey at Logan Creek

National Audubon Important Bird Area.

The Ridges, through its citizen monitoring program will survey habitats to determine what changes are taking place in biodiversity both from natural succession and the impacts of invasive species. This spring we have initiated a tree survey of Logan Creek to determine the relative importance of tree species both in the canopy and understory layers. Over the next several years, we will continue the tree survey in other locations and start additional citizen monitoring programs to help us protect our land.

Not only at The Ridges do we need to understand biodiversity, but local Door County landowners often question how best to maintain biodiversity in their own backyards. Understanding natural processes, ecological relationships between native species and the importance of invasive species control is vital to making proper management decisions. Through a citizen monitoring program to support efforts at The Ridges and teach local landowners the same monitoring technique, we all can share a common interest in learning how biodiversity may be changing throughout Door County.

Ongoing monitoring will require your help as volunteers both through active participation in field data collection and by identifying issues you believe need further study. Take time to review the The Ridges' Strategic Plan available on our website (www.ridgesanctuary.org) to see our goals for gathering information on biodiversity.



Edwin D. Pentecost

Ed Pentecost, Board President

About People, *continued from page 1*

cerns and new strategic initiatives, The Ridges needed to realign the full-time Development Director position into two part-time positions to support our membership communication, technology initiatives and volunteer training.

Marc Demoly has been hired on as our part-time Communication and Technology Consultant to facilitate membership renewals, manage our website and assist with digital images and mapping for research initiatives. This summer, we will hire a part-time Membership and Volunteer Coordinator to help Karen Newbern, Ridges' Naturalist, with volunteer training and other education initiatives. Pam Zeller will continue to be our part-time

Bookkeeper and assist with special administrative projects.

I look forward to working with our staff, members, volunteers, partnering organizations and the Door County community in supporting our strategic initiatives over the next five years – protecting The Ridges and Door County. Please stop by the Range Light and introduce yourself to our new staff.



Steve Leonard

Steve Leonard, Executive Director
steve@ridgesanctuary.org

Ridges Spring & Summer 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

Walks in the Sanctuary

Naturalist-led walks in The Ridges are scheduled at 1:30 p.m. on **May 16, 21, 28 and 30**. From **June 1 through August 31**, guided hikes are given at **1:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, and 9:30 a.m. on Saturday**. Cost is \$5/person, children under 18 free.

Door County

Festival of Nature:

Exploring Wildflowers, Birds & Conservation

May 22-24

The Festival is a cooperative event that celebrates and promotes the protection of the Door Peninsula's natural landscape and all its components. See page 8 for more information on this exciting annual event!



Kylie Cork at Dragonfly Workshop

Looking Ahead

Discovery Bird Hikes

Every Saturday in June and July, 6:30 a.m.

Bike Ride for Nature

Saturday, June 14

Call or e-mail The Ridges for a brochure, or download information from our website: www.ridgesanctuary.org/Ride_for_Nature.htm.

Baileys Harbor: The Door to Family Adventures

Three weeks of family activities and programs! Co-sponsored by The Ridges, Baileys Harbor Library, Novel Ideas and the Baileys Harbor Community Association. Contact The Ridges for more details.

Ridges' 71st Annual Meeting & Members' Picnic

Saturday, August 2

Thursday Evening Programs

The Thursday evening programs will start in mid-June and end the first Thursday of August. The new start time is 7:00 pm in the Baileys Harbor Town Hall. See website: www.ridgesanctuary.org for full descriptions. Free & open to the public. Donations encouraged.

June 19 - Mariette Nowak, *author* – Backyard Birdscapes

June 26 - Mike Grimm, *The Nature Conservancy* – Door County's Old Growth Forests

July 3 - No program (setup for 4th of July Celebration)

July 10 - Family discovery night on slugs, bugs and more – the Creepy Crawlies of Baileys Harbor

July 17 - Scott Craven – Wisconsin's Reptiles and Amphibians

July 24 - Vicky Harris, *UW Sea Grant Institute* – Lake Michigan Concerns

July 31 - Ken & Barb Wardius, *photographers & authors* – Cana Island Lighthouse

August 7 - Hickey Brothers Fisheries, of Baileys Harbor, presenting their Lake Trout Research in Montana

Summer Youth Program

The Ridges Sanctuary is an ideal location for a 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. Session dates follow. All camp



Ridges' Explorers

sessions run from 9 am to 12 noon. **Please Note:** *Grade level refers to the grade a child will be entering in the fall of 2008.*

More detailed program descriptions will appear in our summer edition of Ridges News. To register now, write Youth Programs, The Ridges Sanctuary, P.O. Box 152, Baileys Harbor, WI 54202, or e-mail karen@ridgesanctuary.org. **Registration forms** are also posted on our website, www.ridgesanctuary.org.

Kit Camp (age 4-K)

June 23, 24 & 25

\$45 Ridges members / \$55 nonmembers

Foxes (Grades 1-2)

June 30, July 7, 14, & 21

Sign up for one or all sessions.

\$15 per session Ridges members / \$20 per session nonmembers

Explorers (Grades 3-6)

July 2, 9, 16 & 23

Sign up for one or all sessions.

\$15 per session Ridges members / \$20 per session nonmembers

Taiga Camp I (Grades 1-2)

July 28, 29 & 30

\$45 Ridges members / \$55 nonmembers

Taiga Camp II (Grades 3-6)

August 4, 5 & 6

\$45 Ridges members / \$55 nonmembers

New Twist for Members Showcase

This year the **Third Annual Members Showcase** will run for the whole season. The plan is to mark each product made by Ridges members and offered in the Nature Store with a sticker that will identify that it is *"Made by a Ridges Member"*. The Store will be celebrating the creativity of our members for the whole season and all shoppers will have the chance to enjoy your creative output.

So, if your products are already carried in the store, all you have to decide is whether you would like to have additional products of yours carried there. If you are not currently represented in the store's inventory and would like to be, that too is something we want to see happen.

In either case, please contact Sue Hengenbarth at 920-839-2791, glhegenbarth@dcwis.com or Carl Giessel at 630-665-3203, cgiessel@sbcglobal.net with your thoughts on added or new products that you have made and would like to have the store carry this

season. We will respond quickly and work out the details with you for a season-long celebration of your creativity during the Third Annual Members Showcase.

As you may remember, there is no restriction of any kind on the medium you use. But the products should have drawn their inspiration from The Ridges or nature in general.

NATURE CENTER *Notes*

Volunteer Orientation Session

All Nature Center volunteers are invited to refresh your memory from last season, learn about changes in the Nature Store, and get a sneak peek at new merchandise. Refreshments provided.

Wednesday, June 18th at 9:00am

Please call the Ridges at 920-839-2802 for more info.

Journal of a Naturalist

Notes on seasonal changes at **The Ridges**



● The **Ephraim Christmas Bird Count**, held December 15, 2007, recorded 53 different species, with 4 additional species sighted the week of the Count. The most abundant species were **Crows, Chickadees, Goldfinches, American Redpolls**, and **Wild Turkeys**. No Robins were seen this year. Unusual sightings included one **Hoary Redpoll** (rarely found this far south), and a **Townsend's Solitaire** (typically found in the Rockies and Pacific Northwest).

● **Warm weather** the first week of January melted almost all of the snow. Winter returned shortly after, with plenty of snow through January and February.

● Snow conditions were ideal for **snowshoeing**

this year. Our **Friday Snowshoe Hikes** usually had between 8-10 participants, but 20 hikers came out on February 22!

● Despite the fact that the groundhog didn't see his shadow on February 2, an **early spring was not to be**. February and March continued with frequent snowfall and sometimes below zero temperatures.

● Although the thermometer read below zero on February 21, a male **Cardinal** was singing anyway. **Chickadees** were starting their mating calls as well.

● Ed Pentecost and Karen Newbern lead a group of volunteers on monitoring the diversity of tree species at **Logan Creek**.

Life in the Range Light

Helen Girod of Bryant, Wisconsin, is a life member of the Ridges with a unique perspective on the Sanctuary and its history. Read on:

It was June 1944 when I came as a young bride with my husband, the Rev. Robert Girod, who was called to be the pastor of the Immanuel Lutheran Church, Baileys Harbor. Because the church owned no parsonage, they rented the Upper Range Light from the U.S. Coast Guard for \$20 a year, but threw in the pastor's time and energy to keep the two range lights bright.

Oh, yes, the Coast Guard kept track of us, and sometimes they called from Sturgeon Bay to have us walk down the path to the lakeshore and see if the Cana Island light was on.

The Upper Range Light was very stark and dark inside with its grey walls and the large trees darkening the windows. The Coast Guard gave us permission to paper some walls and put in linoleum. Two Baileys Harbor ladies, Hattie Peil and Grandma Oldenburg, came to our rescue and did the wallpapering. The rooms seemed so much brighter.

Winter arrived and we realized the lighthouse had no

insulation. All we had for heat was a wood-burning kitchen range and a cranky oil burner that clogged and went out too often. Spilled water even froze on that kitchen floor. We were cold!

We soon began to love the Ridges Sanctuary with its many paths leading to trailing arbutus, dwarf lake iris, lady slippers, columbine, trees, ferns and sedges. We also began to know the friends of The Ridges – Emma Toft, Jens Jensen, Frank Oldenburg, Olivia Traven, the Prueters, the Tischlers, and many others who taught us about the Ridges. I was intrigued by the ant lions in Sandy Ridge.

People of the whole Baileys Harbor community were very friendly. The church thrived for my diligent husband. Everything was looking up when reluctantly, nine years later, we left the Baileys Harbor Range Light with our five-year-old son, Paul, so my husband could pastor two Langlade County churches that seemed to need us more.

Thanks to individuals like Helen Girod, and our Archives Committee, we are preserving our cultural history. We will continue to share stories in our newsletter and website as we learn more about our members and individual connections to The Ridges Sanctuary.

Financial Support for Capital Projects

Sewer Line Extension

Working in cooperation with Baileys Harbor, The Ridges has removed the old septic tank and has replaced it with a new septic line, supporting the offices in the Upper Range Light, in order to better protect local water quality and The Ridges. This was completed in early May of 2008, prior to resurfacing of State Highway 57. Two gifts were received to support half of the financial needs for this project.

\$10,000 gift from American Transmission Company (ATC)

David Hovde, ATC Local Relations Representative, and Michelle Stokes, Environmental Project Manager, visited The Ridges February 15 to deliver the check.



The Clearing class building The Ridges wood shed

ATC is the first utility company to receive the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' prestigious Green Tier designation. Green Tier recognizes corporations for exceptional environmental performance and practices that go above and beyond requirements of the law.

\$15,000 Gift from Wisconsin Public Service Foundation

Wisconsin Public Service Foundation, incorporated in 1964, is a private, charitable foundation that supports charities and organizations that need financial assistance. The Foundation is funded by stockholders of the corporation, not by WPS electric and gas customers. The Foundation provides nearly \$1.2 million annually in contributions to programs that support activities in the areas of arts and culture, community and neighborhood development, education and life-long learning, human services and health, and care for the environment.

Lynn Kroll, Community Relations Leader with the Foundation, visited the Ridges in mid-March to deliver the check.

Historic Wood Shed

An anonymous donor provided funds to help rebuild the historic wood shed next to the Upper Range Light. Thanks to John Turner, Dick Malm and The Clearing students, the shed was built off site during a Clearing class this winter. The new shed will be reassembled this summer in the existing location to maintain the historic value of the site.

Thanks for Your Generous Support

November 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008

Welcome New Members

Life Member

Mark Hagy

Ridges Sustainer

Timothy & Cindy Byers

Individual and Family Members

Michael Bacsi
Steve & Suzanne Gabriel
Charles & Tina Gott
Lori Gott
Jane Lare
Walter Naleway
Heather Runge
Thomas Straus
Robert Tidball
Barbara Yeast

Ridges Advocate

Stephen Hinkle & Margie Boyles

Ridges Sustainers

Nancy Ciezki
James & Eleanor De Vries
William & Mardi Glenn
Barbara Hyde
Marie Sieker & Rod Matthews
Marc & Katie Steele
Dwight & Pam Zeller

Sanctuary Stewards

Susan Kressin & James Radtke

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Gifts from Businesses & Organizations

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Sturgeon Bay Home and Garden Club
Wisconsin Public Service Foundation

In honor of

Roy Lukes
Kert & Ruth Marty

Carol Tishler
William & Betsy Tishler

In memory of

Luke Madden
Karl & Sheila Ballestad
Marcey Loehlein
Mike & Barb Madden

Joan Oppeneer
Irma & Paul Bjerke
Kenneth & LaVerne Fehrre

Katherine McArdle
Daniel & Liz Braun

Lou & Ray Hotz
William & Susan Hotz

Lorraine Zarling
Katherine Johnson

Jim Hale
Teresa Klinger
Neil & Pat McCarty
Jane Moeller
Robert & Betty Ragotzkie
Eugene & Jean Roark
Allan & Betty Schneider
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Van Akkeren Family Trust

Samuel Kruty
Patricia Nagulb

C. Robert Keller
Carolyn Keller

Lee Forest

Jean Thompson
Peter & Carol Schuster

Lee Tishler

William & Betsy Tishler
William & Jennifer Tishler

Verena Le Von

Bob & Joan Tweit

John Shaw

Roy & Charlotte Lukes

R. Onan

Robert Onan

F & E Ratliff

Ruth Ratliff

Marian J. Laines

Deborah Townsend

Annual Appeal Contributions

November 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008

Thanks to your generous gifts, we've exceeded our goal and raised \$59,000 through our annual appeal. Your donations will help us sustain our program initiatives in Land Protection, Education, Outreach and Research.

Thank you all for your generous support!

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
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Ridges Sanctuary Membership/Donation Form

- New
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Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ Date _____

Charge my Visa MasterCard # _____ Exp date ____ / ____

Signature _____ E-mail address _____

Second Address From ____ / ____ to ____ / ____ Phone (_____) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: RE TY ____ RN ____ # ____ / ____

Membership Levels

- | | |
|--|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult | \$40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$65 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ridges Sustainer | \$125 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sanctuary Steward | \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ridges Advocate | \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member (pp) | \$1000 |

Additional Donations

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Operating | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Endowment | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building | _____ |

Total _____

**Make checks payable to:
The Ridges Sanctuary**



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Vol. 35, No. 2

Door County Festival of Nature May 22 - 24, 2008

During two days of guided hikes, workshops and presentations, you'll learn more about the unique biodiversity of Door County, by investigating natural areas across the peninsula. Trips focus on a variety of topics, including wildflowers, birds, geology and insects. Our keynote presentation is on "*Door County's Living Jewel: the Hines Emerald Dragonfly.*" We even offer canoe trips and nighttime excursions!

The Festival is a unique program collaboration between all principal conservation organizations in Door County: The Ridges Sanctuary, Door County Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, The Clearing, Crossroads at Big Creek and the WI Department of Natural Resources.

Due to the delicate nature of many Festival sites, **field trip registration is limited!** To learn more about the Festival, visit www.ridgesanctuary.org/festival.htm, or call the Ridges office at 920-839-2802 to request a brochure.

***Bicycle the backroads of Door County!* Ridges Ride for Nature Saturday, June 14, 2008**

How about starting a family tradition? Bring your kids and join us for a scenic bike ride (25k, 50k or 100k routes) through rural Door County! You'll enjoy well-marked routes, rest stops and sag wagons, as well as a great lunch at ride's end.

More information online at:
www.ridgesanctuary.org/Ride_for_Nature.htm
or email karen@ridgesanctuary.org.

The Ridges Nature Center

will open for the season on Friday, May 16. Regular hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Sunday. The Nature Center will be open every day through Sunday, October 12.

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