For the past year, we’ve been developing The Ridges “Long-Range Plan”. To do this, we’ve been reviewing the members survey, archive files, past research projects, and talking with many of you – and with other organizations. Our committees have been acting as focus groups, reviewing the information gathered to create strategies for the outcome-based Plan.

The Research Committee, for example, is comprised of talented individuals (Bob Ragotzkie, Emeritus Biologist, UW-Madison; Ed Pentecost, Retired Biologist, Argonne Natl. Laboratories; Gary Fewless, Botanist, UW-Green Bay; Vicki Medland, Assoc. Dir./ Cofrin Center for Biodiversity, UW-Green Bay; and Roy Lukes, Naturalist, former Ridges Director) who’ve spent the past several months compiling past Ridges & related county-wide research projects. They are now reviewing these projects, using the information gathered to recommend future research initiatives.

That we’ve permanently protected 1600 acres of Ridges is a great success story! This success, however requires we take further steps. The Research Committee, after reviewing the information, has divided Ridges lands into six management zones – each with its own location and ecology. The Committee will develop a unique management plan for each zone. These plans will require making inventories of flora and fauna, developing an invasives species control plan for each zone, addressing water quality issues, and considering other potential threats to the land’s health.

Management Zones
1 - Ridges and Swales
2 - Pickerel Pond area
3 - Northwest of County Q
4 - West of 57
5 - Logan Creek Property on Clark Lake
6 – Roadsides, Drainage Ditches or other corridors for Invasive Species

We haven’t yet begun the work of the Education Committee, but have created a partnership with the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (LNRP) to assess the county’s environmental education & research needs. Together we’ve received a grant to complete a Community Needs Assessment over the upcoming year. The assessment will identify gaps in resources, which we’ll fill with up-to-date materials. The resulting clearinghouse of educational materials and research documentation will be available through the Door County Library system, and will provide the information needed to explore local environmental issues and address the county’s critical environmental needs.

Other Committees hard at work are the Bylaws Committee, addressing administrative issues (outlined in the proposed bylaws changes that were mailed to you). The Development Committee is working on funding, and

continued on page 2
Greetings,

Exciting things have been going on at The Ridges and at recent Board meetings, and I want to share them with you.

• The Research Committee, as Steve mentioned, has been discussing the role of research at The Ridges. It’s now developing a plan for needed studies within the ridges complex. At a recent Board meeting I was struck by something Bob Ragotzkie, Committee Chair, said: Bob reminded us that one of our primary purposes (and part of our mission) is to “inspire stewardship”. Stewardship requires knowledge, and research is a tool to provide that knowledge.

So we’re moving forward with our research plans!

• The Board of Directors is discussing ways to increase revenues as we undertake these ambitious new plans to accomplish our mission. We appreciate the many gifts and wonderful support you’ve provided in the past, and look forward to your future support. The Development and Planned Giving Committees have been developing programs and ways for you to help. Donations to The Ridges may be made through designated or undesignated gifts. Undesignated gifts are greatly needed, because they go directly to the day-to-day operations of the Sanctuary. These gifts may be made in a number of ways, including but not limited to: cash/checks, remembering us in your will (see p.7), gifts of stock or land. All are helpful to us! Contact Development Director Linda Shealey with any questions or ideas: (Linda@ridgessanctuary.org).

• Recently we acquired 37 additional acres of adjoining land (see p.5)! This was accomplished through an easement on nearby land, with the help of the Door County Land Trust. The easement translated into enough additional matching state funds (Stewardship Fund) to allow us to buy the land. As cash is not always available in the Land Fund, we’re working on other ways to make these land acquisitions happen!

The events of our busy summer season are done, and I’d also like to thank the many volunteers and sponsors that helped make them successful. The Festival of Nature and Ride for Nature brought many new folks to The Ridges, and helped further our mission of “outreach and education”. The Members Showcase at the Nature Center was a wonderful way for members to showcase their art. And the Fourth Members Picnic, a fun kick-off for our 70th Year Celebration. The Volunteer Recognition, at Bjorklunden, showcased all volunteers but especially Volunteers of the Year – Sunny and Dave Sinnett. Sunny and Dave have been involved in countless ways over the years: Dave has headed up the Wednesday Crew and been critical to the Bike Ride, Volunteer, Research and Building Committees. He was also active on the Board for 8 years! We greatly appreciate both their service to The Ridges – THANK YOU to Sunny and Dave, and to you for your continued support.

Cheers,

George Cobb, Board President

Creating a Focus, continued from page 1

staff is working on monthly work plans to prioritize projects and achieve yearly program goals.

Please take some time to hear more about the Long Range Plan by attending our next Planning Session: Sat., Sept. 29 (9-11am) in the Baileys Harbor Town Hall. If you can’t make the meeting, feel free to call me if you’d like to help with the Plan.

I look forward to talking with you!

Steve Leonard, Executive Director
steve@ridgessanctuary.org

Board News

The Ridges News
Annual Meeting

You’re Invited to
The Ridges Sanctuary 70th Annual Meeting
Saturday, October 6, 2007

8 am
Ridges Members Hike
Enjoy a quiet autumn walk through The Ridges. Meet at the Nature Center for coffee and donuts before the hike.

10 am
70th Annual Meeting
Baileys Harbor Town Hall
Year-end business, election of Officers, and a discussion of Ridges program goals.

12 noon
Lunch at the Town Hall
After the meeting, enjoy a light lunch catered by neighboring Weisgerber’s restaurant. Cost $8/pp; reservations are required. Call The Ridges by October 1 to sign up: (920) 839-2802.

9 am - 4 pm
Annual Members-Only Sale
While you’re here, why not visit our once-a year sale at the Nature Center? Save 20% off all purchases of $30 or more – fleece, t-shirts, aprons, new children’s toys, books, jewelry, cards, and more.

Fall Hikes & Programs

Logan Creek Ramble
Friday, September 28 - 1:00 – 2:30 pm
Saturday, September 29 - 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Explore the trails at Logan Creek with Naturalist Karen Newbern. The fall colors will be near their peak as we hike through upland deciduous forests, cedar swamps and several natural communities in between. Meet at the parking lot, 5724 Loritz Road, just south of Jacksonport.

Families are welcome! $5/adult, children under 18 free. Please call to preregister for either the Friday or Saturday hike: (920) 839-2802.

Guided Sanctuary Tours
$5/adult
Children under 18 free
Free to Ridges members!

September
9:30 am tours
Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday

October
9:30 am tours - Monday, Wednesday, Friday through October 12

Nature Center & Nature Store

Autumn Hours
Open daily through October 14
Monday thru Saturday
9 am to 4 pm
Sunday - 10 am to 2 pm
Summer Camp Highlights

During my second summer at The Ridges I had the pleasure of leading the summer day camps. It was a wonderful experience to work with pre-schoolers through sixth graders, and a joy to see the world from their eyes: Every spider web and deer trail a source of wonder and intrigue! A great deal of planning went into each day of the camp, as I tried to choose just the right story, craft, hike, games, and other activities for the group. However, my favorite moments were those that were unplanned, when something amazing and unexpected awaited us around the trail bend.

One such moment took place on a sticky, sunny day in July. A group of children from the Explorer camp and I were hiking a loop of Labrador and Winter Wren Trail. We’d been talking about birds of prey and were searching for nests and birds at the Ridges, pausing to take a closer look at anything else that caught our interest: insects, moss, trees, and flowers. As we headed back to the Marshall cabin, excitement for snack time was high and discussions momentarily turned to pokemon, movies, and Harry Potter. That is until an odd sound surprised us, causing even the most rambunctious of our group to freeze. We all stood still as stone, peering through the surrounding cedars until we found the noise’s source: a black-crowned night heron balancing on a thin slip of wood in the swale before us. Awed whispers ensued as we slowly shuffled to find the best vantage point. We waited and watched as the heron preened and stretched, the high energy of just a few moments ago completely refocused on observing this single creature. I held my breath as six and then seven minutes slipped by without so much as a shoe scuffle breaking the silence. My ultimate favorite moment of the day was when the group gently tiptoed past the heron to return to the cabin. The group so quiet that the heron never moved, simply kept one eye in our direction as we forged on.

It is these moments, unplanned and perfect, that stick with us. They create strands of memory that connect us to wild places, like The Ridges, and remind us throughout our lives of the wonder they can contain. It has been a delight to share such moments with the children in the summer day camps. I hope that they in turn will share their excitement for nature with others. Judging by their enthusiasm on the trail, this shouldn't be too tall an order!

Jenni Webster, Summer Naturalist

Quick Takes

- Spring was obviously underway on April 19: Wood Frogs quacking, Spring Peepers peeping, Garter Snakes slithering, and Antlions digging.

- Green Darner dragonflies and Question Mark and Red Admiral butterflies were all spotted on April 30.

- The first Monarch butterflies of the season in Baileys Harbor were spotted May 23. Numbers of adults and caterpillars seemed to be higher than usual this summer.

- On June 5, we had a “five orchid” hike: Striped Coralroot, Heartleaf Twayblade, Ram’s-head Lady’s Slipper, Pink Moccasin Lady’s Slipper, and Yellow Lady’s Slipper were all seen in bloom!

- Hines Emerald dragonflies were first seen on June 8. Lower numbers of Hines adults this year are likely the result of dry conditions of the past several summers.

- On July 22, Summer Naturalist Jenni Webster watched a Porcupine nursing her prickly baby along one of the Ridges trails.

- Five Great Blue Herons were seen on the observation deck in Winter Wren Swale in late July. The shallow water around the deck seems to be a good hunting spot.

- Participants in the Discovery Bird Hikes this summer have recorded a total of 89 species. Some of the more interesting sightings included Northern Waterthrush & White Pelican.
This May we permanently protected another 59 acres in our project area! The Ridges bought a 37-acre parcel between Hwy. 57 and Moonlight Bay, and protected another 22 acres through a conservation easement that helped ensure the purchase. (In a conservation easement the landowner still owns their land but give up their development rights to protect the natural landscape.) The Ridges worked with landowners and Terrie Cooper, Land Program Director for the Door County Land Trust, to facilitate the easement.

The acquisition and easement were notable for several reasons. First, they showed that land protection and preservation are important enough for (1) us to devise creating funding avenues and (2) for a local landowner to protect their property from development.

Secondly …you helped! Your donations to the Ridges’ Land Fund provided partial acquisition and easement expenses (additional funding was received from the WI-DNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund and a Federal Coastal Management Grant).

Thanks to all involved – landowners, the Wisconsin DNR, Door County Land Trust and you – for permanently protecting another 59 acres of this special State Natural Area!

Bob Ragotzkie, Trustee

59 Acres Newly Protected!

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Thanks to all involved – landowners, the Wisconsin DNR, Door County Land Trust and you – for permanently protecting another 59 acres of this special State Natural Area!

What’s Up With This Weather? Following the pattern of the past few years, the summer of 2007 was unusually dry. No standing water was visible in the swales in late August. Temperatures were close to normal, however.

Other weather observations from the Ridges:

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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>High Temp</th>
<th>Low Temp</th>
<th>Mean Temp</th>
<th>Normal Temp</th>
<th>Rainfall</th>
<th>Normal Rainfall</th>
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<td>July</td>
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<td>43</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>1.27 in.</td>
<td>3.61 in.</td>
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</table>
Volunteers of the Year

More than 100 volunteers joined us on July 21 for our Annual Volunteer Recognition, a light summer dinner at Bjorklunden. Pictured here are Volunteers of the Year Dave and Sunny Sinnett, honored for contributions ranging over 15 years and in as many capacities: Board of Directors, Ride for Nature coordinator, Nature Store volunteer, Office volunteer, Wednesday Crew/Maintenance & Property committee chairperson. Thanks to musicians Lee Nordgren, Dave Gunderson and Jim Jennings; Bob Brogan and Jean Leavitt; Old Time Portraits; Gills Rock Stoneware; Door Shakespeare – all for special contributions to this fun evening on the Lake. And our hats are off to Dave & Sunny – for their incredible and longtime commitment to the Sanctuary!

Have You Created a Will?

Did you know that eighty percent of Americans make charitable gifts in their lifetimes, but only eight percent leave charitable gifts in their wills?

This is unfortunate, because a will is the simplest, least expensive way to leave a planned, charitable gift to benefit a place or program you care about. A gift whose impact – at The Ridges or anywhere else – could last well beyond your lifetime.

A will allows you to say precisely what you’d like to happen with your assets, create a plan for guardianship of any minor or dependent children, and saves the time and expense of a lengthy probate process. It also allows you to support places you love, like The Ridges, forever – no matter how much you can give.

When you remember The Ridges with a gift of any amount, your unrestricted gift for our “greatest needs” will be invested in the Ridges Endowment Trust (see p.5).

Alternately, you could restrict your gift to a specific purpose: The Ridges Land Fund, Building Fund, or other project of special interest to you – ongoing research, a children’s program, a lecture series, or needed technology.

If you have or are creating a will, and would like to remember The Ridges, you may include in your document bequest language such as the following:

“I give, devise, and bequeath the sum of $__ (or __% of the residue of my estate) to The Ridges Sanctuary, Inc., located in Baileys Harbor, Wisconsin.”

No matter how much you can give, you too can translate your love of The Sanctuary into a gift whose impact lasts beyond your lifetime!

For more information on including The Ridges in your will or estate plans, please contact Linda Shealey at (920) 839-2802, or write Linda@ridgessanctuary.org.

Linda Shealey,
Development Director
Welcome New Members

Life Members
James L. Erlenborn
Rebecca A. Nash

Ridges Sustainers
Edward Augustine
James & Barbara Bunning
Nile & Lois Dusdieker
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Kimbell
Camilla Nielsen
Emily & Robert Rogers
Sheldon & Karen Schooner
Nick Wilson & Marc Demoly

Adult & Family Members
Beth & Donald Bartoli
Sarah Brachman & Steve Saltzgiver
Julie Brown
Travor Bussey
Barbara & Robert Fahrenbach
Gil & Lynn Gerdman
Paul & Wendy Greeney
Shirley Griffin & Michael Heinle
John & Heidi Kapacinsky
Christopher & Mary Kuleczyk
Judith Leonard
Michael Normile
Barbara Sajna
Marguerite Savard-McKenna
Kristi Szrama
Michael Schaitel
Ruth Schiltz
Dwayne & Melanie Swank
Eileen & Dennis Vacaro
Henry Yess
Jerry Willey
John Willertding

Contributions

Ridges Advocate
Irene Kress

Ridges Sustainers
Thomas & Susan Alt
Stefan & Joan Anderson
Terry & Linda Brown
Scott & Dawn Chisholm
Bob & Alice Chrun
James Hoehn & Nancy Goldberg
Norman & Barbara Johnson
Rosemary & Lee Jones
Heidi Luethke & Peter Leeds
Marlyn Oberst
Ed & Erny Pentecost
Paul & Thea Sager
Tim & Carol Smith

Gifts from Members
Ken Boyd (artwork)
Jay Brickman (artwork)
Paul & Fran Burton (books)
Dottie Diggs (artwork)
Heidi Figler
Judy Giessel (artwork)
Dave Gunderson
Susan Hegensbarth (artwork)
Nita Hererman (artwork)
Jo Holdener (cookies)
Jim Jennings
Don Juers (artwork)
Bob & Carolyn Kimbell
Roy & Charlotte Lukes
Marilyn & Paul Mahalborg (artwork)
Maureen & Robert McGrath
Lee Nordgren
Nancy Ralph

Gifts to the Garden Fund
Maureen & Bob McGrath

Gifts to the Education Program
Margery Meglaard

Gifts from Businesses & Organizations
Airfare
Copper Kettle Confections
Econoods
Flanigan Distributing, Inc.
Gills Rock Stoneware
Hickey Brothers Fishery
Main Street Market
Old Time Portraits
Renards Cheese
Sturgeon Bay Methodist Church
Town of Baileys Harbor
Whitefish Bay Farm Gallery

Business Stewards
Baileys Harbor Yacht Club Resort
Sister Bay Bowl

Business Sustainers
Fish Creek Moccasin Works
Flanigan Distributing, Inc.
Glidden Lodge Beach Resort
Health Benefits Management
Inn on Maple
Mr. G’s Logan Creek Grille
Quest Realty
Sail Door County
Thomas/Pfeifer Insurance Agency
White Gull Inn

Gifts to the Endowment Fund
Anonymous
Elizabeth B. & Philip J.
Hendrickson Fdn.
Susan Crawford & Jeffrey Rosemann
Camilla Nielsen

Gifts to the Land Fund
Jeffrey Francik

Gifts to the Operating Fund
Emily Bergmann
Kenneth & Eleanor Brown
Barbara Buckingham
Joe Carpenter
Martha Cherry Fund
Rob & Marguerite Davis
Richard & Sandra Dirks
Susan Eckardt
Doris Ellmann
Emil & Gail Fischer
Janet Frederiksen
Elizabeth Guenzel
Wally & Norma Hammerberg
Marlene Hirsch
George & Carole Kraemer
Agnes Kubez
Robert & Richard Larson
Maurean & Paul Mahalborg
Maureen & Bob McGrath
Greg & Lynn Nelson
Neal & Gertie Nottleson
Patricia Olson
Jim Perry

David Schneider
Gwynne Schultz
George & Jean Slight
Wendy Symonds
Betty Thoms
Arletteen Trettin
Jolene & Michael Van Koevering
Jack & Jane Weiss

In memory of
Olive Bell Daniels
Alice Daniels
Joan Jackson
Joan Przewiecki

In honor of
Virginia Booth
Elizabeth B. & Philip J.
Hendrickson Fdn.
Susan Crawford & Jeffrey Rosemann
Marty & Alice Krebs
Janet McAuliffe
Mary Beckstrand
Betsy Rogers & Gwynne Schultz
Dorothy Beverly
Judy & Michel Roy
Ken & Carol Boyd
Peter & Barbara Classen

James Heidke
Irvn Weinier
Jannette McArdle
Catherine McArdle & family
LaVern Meuelsen
Margaret Schlimanski
Robert Popper
Joan Jacobs
Catherine Summers
Alice Daniels
Lee Tishler
Lee Traven
Philip A. Turner
Ruth Turner

"Fast Forward"
The Ridges Program Campaign

Every year you generously give your membership support. Many of you also make additional, tax-deductible gifts at year’s end. These additional gifts fund our overall, day-to-day operations throughout the winter – helping us plan for the future, write grants, complete land acquisitions, deliver summer programs, and the like.

This year we need the same operational funds. We also need additional funds for a number of special projects needed to “fast forward” work on the Long-Range Plan. To this end we’re running a special “Fast Forward” campaign in conjunction with our year-end Appeal. Donations are needed for infrastructure and programs: everything from a Ridges’ sewer-line extension to new file cabinets.

You’ll hear more as the Plan and our program goals get finalized this fall.

We rely on your generosity, and count on you keeping us moving forward! When your November letter arrives, please be as generous as you’ve been in the past. And please consider making an additional gift to the “Fast Forward” campaign!

Thanks again for all you do –
Linda Shealey,
Development Director
Leeman “Lee” Forrest joined The Ridges Board of Directors in 1997, and was its President until his health required him to step down in 1999.

His life was marked by kindness, compassion and his willingness to help others – especially those less fortunate than himself. At The Ridges, Lee’s heart lay in land acquisition. He went out of his way & used his quiet powers of persuasion to make land acquisition happen... and, as one friend remarked, had “unlimited patience to wait things out”. Lee also helped with the Ride for Nature, with Committee work, and (recently) on our summer visitor’s survey and the campaign for a new office database. A memorial fund has been established at The Ridges to honor this fine man. Donations may be sent to The Ridges, to contribute to a permanently placed plaque, in his name, at The Sanctuary.

Lee was a great asset to wherever he gave of his time and energy, and The Ridges was lucky to be one of those places. Here, his unusual integrity will be missed.