The Ridges Natural Christmas

We’re decorating for Christmas and want to share our joy in this beautiful natural area with you. A crackling fire to toast marshmallows or your soles, hot cocoa to warm your soul, nature crafts to help our flighty friends, a nature hike with roaming in the gloaming, and a trip up to the lantern room to take in the view of luminaries lining the boardwalk. There will be music and heartwarming conversation around the fire.

Please come and enjoy the peace and friendship of The Ridges. We can’t promise snow but we do promise you will enjoy the time spent here.

**Saturday Dec. 13**
3:00 PM—6:00 PM
The Marshall Cabin

Did I mention there’ll be Christmas cookies? There will!

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**Christmas Bird Count**

Watch out for the BIRDS! Flying, sitting, hopping, eating, singing! Just watch at a specific place on December 20 for as long as you want. Note the kind and numbers of birds that visit your spot (Maybe it’s sitting in your chair watching your bird feeder). Sign up with Karen at The Ridges for a form and information.

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**Cutting Expenses at the Range Light.**

These are difficult economic times for all of us, especially non-profit organizations. It is a time for tightening our belts and re-thinking our use of nature’s resources. The Ridges’ office is in the 140 year-old Upper Range Light building. Aside from some creaky noises when it’s dark, it is a rather special place to work. In addition to the creaks, there are a lot of cracks and crannies. Now that it is getting cold, we are noticing them more and trying to come up with ways to conserve energy and show our concern for the environment.

- Plastic on the windows *(Now we have to be careful not to knock on the windows)*
- Straw bales around the foundation *(How much more old-fashioned can we get!)*
- Lower thermostat—dress warmer *(We look like teddy bears!)*
- Down-size freezer in basement *(Do you have one that we could use? You wouldn’t believe what we store in there!)*
- Curtain around stairs to cut off heat loss to upstairs lantern room
- Bubblegum in the keyholes *(I’m kidding—we don’t chew)*

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**Did You Get Your Magnet?**

Please remember The Ridges when you decide on your End-of-Year donations this year. Any amount large or small that you can spare will help us maintain our mission of preservation, education, and outreach and help us to become a gateway to environmental stewardship in Door County. If you didn’t get your appeal letter with The Ridges magnet, please call and we will send you both.

(920) 839-2802

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**Coming Up!**

- **Nov 22-30** • Trails closed for Deer Hunting Season
- **Nov 20** • Annual Appeal
- **Dec 20** • Christmas Bird Count
- **Dec 13** • Special Ridges’ Natural Christmas. Or volunteer to help!
- **Jan-Feb** • Friday Snowshoe Hikes with Karen—1 PM • Think Snow—SNOW!
- **Feb 7, 2009** • Ridges Great Waffle breakfast!
- **April 18, 2009** • Midwest Crane Count
- **May 21-23, 2009** • Door County Festival of Nature
- **June 20, 2009** • Ride for the Ridges!

Call The Ridges (920) 839-2802 for information or to reserve a spot!

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**We Wish …**

Copy machine paper
Help with Christmas decorating before December 13!
Office Supplies
Wood stove for Upper Range Light
Small freezer for basement
Curtain & rod for stairs
Black sunflower seeds
Evergreen garland
Christmas decorators
Christmas cookies
Small refrigerator

**Wishes Do Come True!**

Thank you to the donors of copy paper, straw & of course, the chocolate!
Don’t Forget the Raffle!

There are lots of potential Ridges members just waiting for you to offer them a chance to belong to the oldest nature preserve in Wisconsin! The three prizes of Door County “Natural Choice” outings are a great incentive to go out and get at least one new member. Both yourself and the new member will be entered in the raffle. Drawing will be on February 7th at The Great Waffle Breakfast (to celebrate the February 9th birthday anniversary of Emma Toft!)

We are challenging each current member to talk to one person about The Ridges and encourage them to join the oldest nature preserve in Wisconsin. Pam Gregory our office manager says, “It’s easy! People are very interested in The Ridges when they learn what it is.” (Pam has signed up eight new members since she started in April, 2008.) What a wonderful vision for this most biologically diverse area in Wisconsin, home to 25 native orchids, sanctuary for over 14 threatened and endangered species, a recognized Wisconsin State Natural Area, a designated National Natural Landmark, and a National Audubon Society Important Bird Area.

The perfect Christmas gift! — a membership in The Ridges (We will send a cool card to the recipient.) All of your friends and relatives will find something special about The Ridges Sanctuary. — And you’ll both be entered in the raffle drawing!

Sponsors of the Member Drive prizes are: Harbor Inn, South Nest Retreat, The Blacksmith Inn, Espresso Lane, BayShore Outdoor Store, Nor-Dor Cyclery, Ecology Sports, Third Avenue Playhouse, Harbor Fish Market, Bistro at Liberty Square, and The Ridges Nature Center.

IRA Distribution

If you are 70.5 or older and make a donation directly from your IRA, you can credit the amount toward satisfying any required minimum distribution (RMD) from your IRA. You will receive a form 1099 from your IRA custodian for the gift. Make sure to give the 1099 form to your tax advisor.

Notes from the Range Light

11/6/08 Jane W. & Julie K. found hundreds of little fishes in Riebolts creek. Loosely ID’d as minnows.

11/17/08 Don Juers spotted a beautiful male cardinal outside the Upper Range Light window.

IT’S ABOUT DEDICATION!

Bob Brogan and John Turner cut the ‘duct’ tape to dedicate the new woodshed at The Ridges north of the Upper Range Light. Brogan and Turner were instrumental in bringing the re-built historic shed to reality.

Ridges Sanctuary Membership / Donation Form

Name: ____________________________________________ Send a gift card? ___Date: ____________________________

Address: ____________________________________________________________ Phone ( ) ____________________________

City, State, ZIP: ____________________________________________________________ Email address: ____________________________________________________________

Second Address from _____/____ to _____/____

Address ____________________________________________________________

City, State, ZIP ____________________________________________________________

Basic Membership _____$40 Family Membership _____ $65

Additional Donation:  ___$25 ___$50 ___$100 ___$150 ___ Other $$___________

___Check enclosed ___Credit Card # ____________________ Exp date ___/___

Signature ____________________________________________________________

Sponsor Name (For the Drawing in Feb.) ____________________________

For more information on upcoming events and news visit the website: www.RidgesSanctuary.org

SHOP FOR ‘NATURAL’ CHRISTMAS PRESENTS AT HOME

The Ridges Nature Store, the place for that perfect gift for the nature enthusiast! Check out the books, artwork, and apparel. Shop online by clicking on The Ridges Sanctuary Nature Store at: www.inonline.com/DCstore

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