**Ridges Lites**

A monthly update of Ridges Activities • March 2009

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**BLUE-Bird Days**

If Karen and the Lukes are having a bluebird work-shop, can Spring be far behind?

The return of bluebirds to Door County in March is a sure sign that spring is on its way. In some areas, though, the returning bluebirds are having a hard time finding a home. To help alleviate this housing shortage (no mortgage required), and beat the "blues", Ridges’ Naturalist Karen Newbern is leading a "Building for Bluebirds" program at Girl Scout Camp Cuesta—8026 N. Maple Rd, Baileys Harbor—on March 13th & 14th at 10 AM. Come either day. A donation of $10 is requested to cover the cost of materials.

Charlotte and Roy Lukes will discuss the importance of monitoring the boxes, how to keep records, and how to report your observations to the Door County Bluebird Club. Call The Ridges for more information and to register: (limit 15/day) 839-2802.

Wisconsin’s Bluebird specialist Dr. Kent Hall is presenting a Bluebird program at 7 PM on March 17th at Crossroads Learning Center in Sturgeon Bay. Contact Charlotte Lukes at rnlukes@mwlb.net for information about meeting with Dr. Hall about bluebird trails and increasing your nesting success.

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**EARTH DAY • IDEAS from the RIDGES STAFF**

**Steve:** Let your light shine! Change incandescent bulbs to fluorescent and save energy and money long term.

**Karen:** Plastic or paper? Neither! Kick the habit and buy some interesting canvas tote bags for groceries, books, etc.

**Pam G:** Google “Earth Day” and discover some delightful resources to help our children celebrate our planet. You will find free on line “Earth Day” games, activities, word puzzles, and coloring pages. (http://holidays.kaboose.com/earth-day/)

**Marc:** Ride your bike to work and send us a picture!

**Carol:** Take the kids or grandkids for a walk along your street or road and pick up litter. (Use gloves please—washable ones) If you can, get the neighbors to do this also and then meet for coffee, juice and cookies!

**Pam Z:** Register, donate, and receive flyers online to save paper and postage.

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**RIDGE PAST**

“Emma Toft has, by her own efforts, done what national organizations are now trying to do. She saved a portion of one of the most beautiful parts of America.” —Uncommon Lives of Common Women: The Missing Half of Wisconsin History by Victoria Brown

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**HOLD THIS DATE!**

Another Ridges’ Clean-up day is planned for May 2. Come for the morning or for an hour or two. The staff will provide another great lunch—better than Craig’s or Angie’s—and I’m sure anyone under 4 foot can get a wheelbarrow ride!

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**Get your name on The Ridges’ list!**

**Better than Craig’s or Angie’s**

The volunteer interest surveys have gone out. Please return yours even if you have returned one in the past. And please include your email address as we want to send out eNews bulletins to our volunteers when something new comes up.

Watch for the dates of the volunteer training sessions this Spring (repeated several times over the summer). Lots of changes in the store and we’d like ALL volunteers to get a refresher on the history of The Ridges. The sessions will have two parts: Part One for all volunteers and Part Two will focus on particulars of the Nature Center. You can also sign up to volunteer at www.RidgesSanctuary.org/volunteer.aspx.

To entice you to attend, we will offer some of Pam’s awesome cookies and Marc’s diet-breaking brownies with coffee/ juice to wash it down. Karen will offer personal guided hikes to re-acquaint you with ‘why you volunteer at The Ridges!’ We are looking forward to the warmer weather and seeing all our favorite ‘snow bunnies’.

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**Online at The Ridges**

- Anytime—day or night— you can look up an event at The Ridges on our website calendar.
- Donate online to The Ridges.
- Register for The Ridges Ride for Nature or the Door County Festival of Nature.
- Sign up to be a volunteer at The Ridges.
- Get the Ridges Lites electronically.

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**Coming Up!**

**Mar 13th & 14th • 10 AM “Building for Bluebirds”**

**April 18 • Midwest Crane Count. (Volunteer Counters needed)**

**April 18 • Sustainability Fair at Gibraltar School**

**April 22 • Earth Day • Crew leaders meeting • First Volunteer B-B-Q!**

**May 2 • Ridges’ Clean-up day. It’s always more fun to clean somewhere other than home!**

**May 16 • Celebrate Baileys Harbor**

**May 21-23 • Door County Festival of Nature**

**June 20th • Ridges’ Ride for Nature. Bicycle the back roads of Door County**

**Aug 8 • Annual Meeting and Member Picnic.**

**Aug 23 • Volunteer Recognition at Bjorklunden.**

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

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**We Wish…**

Copy machine paper
Office Supplies
Plastic covered containers in various sizes.
Small freezer for basement
Small refrigerator
Black sunflower seeds
Underwriter for four more pages to the sanctuary.
Ridges’ updated newsletter.
Cedar wood chips (or donations to pay for them) for the trails.

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**Wishes Do Come True!**

Thank you to the donors of copy paper, plastic tubs/containers and the sunflower seeds for the birds!
Notes from the Range Light

1/27/09 A Boreal owl that had been attacked was found in a driveway on County Q and taken to UW-Green Bay. Looking at the feather structure, showed it was a young juvenile and had missed a day of food when it was 10 days old.

2/11/09 The Pine Siskins have been depleting out bird feeders at an amazing rate!

2/13/09 Karen’s snowshoe hike members, appropriately, discovered some large Snowshoe hare tracks in the snow.

2/18/09 Had to fill the feeders twice today! But we enjoy watching the Siskins and chickadees interact!

2/25/09 Pam has a particularly aggressive Pine Siskin at her feeder. It just sits there and chases everyone away. A Pine Siskin in the manger?

3/1/09 A snowshoe hike through Solitude swale to Toft Point revealed that the swales are NOT frozen. The added slush made the snowshoes heavy!

3/1/09 A Great Tit (bird) was spotted near Ellison Bay.

Make your plans to get out and feel the wind in your face and the satisfying ache in your muscles after a good bike hike!

- Enjoy nature hikes with some of the best in the field!
- Visit private properties not usually accessible to the public.
- Take up to four choices from over 30 locations.
- Thursday evening keynote speaker precedes two days of field trips.

Register for either event online in April or call for a brochure: (920) 839-2802. Proceeds are used to support The Ridges’ educational programs for children and adults.

Ridges Sanctuary Membership / Donation Form

Name: _____________________________________________ Send a gift card? ___ Date: ____________________________

Address: __________________________________________ Phone (        ) ___________________

City, State, ZIP: __________________________________________ Phone (        ) ___________________

Email address: _________________________________________

Second Address from _____/_____ to _____/_____

Address: _____________________________________________

City, State, ZIP: _______________________________________

Membership: Individual _____ $40  Family  _____ $65  Family Plus  _____ $95

Additional Donation: ___$25 ___$50 ___$100 ___$150 ___ Other $______________ Exp date ___/___

___Check enclosed ___ Credit Card # _______________ Signature

Sponsor Name (For the Drawing in Feb. or Aug.) ______________________________________________________

Mail to and make checks payable to: The Ridges Sanctuary • PO Box 152 • Baileys Harbor • WI • 54202

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

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