When you mention the words “change” and “Ridges” in the same sentence these days, it’s not surprising that our new building, the Cook-Albert Fuller Center, quickly comes to mind. Construction began in early May, and the appearance of heavy equipment on the site heralded a significant change for our 77-year-old organization. But lots of other new things are springing up all over our campus this season. Here are just a few:

- Our educational programs have expanded to include regular evening hikes, overnight camping adventures and off-site nature activities.

- We have revamped our camp programs from top to bottom. Our Backpack Adventure Camps are designed to provide your child or grandchildren with hands-on outdoor experiences that incorporate natural discoveries, children’s literature and art.

- Part-time naturalists have been hired to help staff our expanded schedule. We welcome newcomers Lydia Doerr, Samantha Phillips, Shannon Pump, Amanda Surfus, and extend a hearty welcome back to Tony Kiszonas and Carol Schuster.

- Our Nature Center is abuzz with activity, and our Nature Store is bursting at the seams with new and exciting merchandise including many items of apparel featuring our new Ridges decal (pictured below).

- The first section of the Family Discovery Trail opens mid-June. The trail features wigwam bird blinds made by Girl Scout Troup 4374 and library stations designed by Ridges member John Newton.

New Marketing Decals
When our friends at Taylor Studios (the company handling our exhibit designs) pointed out to us that The Ridges now encompasses considerably more than the Sanctuary, we began to think of ways to graphically convey that in our print material and on our apparel. After a little mental huffing and puffing, we came up with the two graphics at right – one that incorporates our mission and the other that features all the areas of our learning campus.
Door County Festival of Nature

Among other things, this year’s Festival of Nature will be remembered as the weekend when spring finally arrived in Door County! With perfect weather as the backdrop, over 250 participants enjoyed two full days of field trips that included a birding outing to Washington Island, an afternoon with a fish biologist, a boat trip to Plum Island, rare opportunities to visit outstanding private properties, hay wagon tours of Waseda Farms and many more.

Thanks to our partners Crossroads at Big Creek, the Door County Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy and the Wisconsin DNR for collaborating on this memorable annual event and for the important work they do in Door County all year long. Thanks also to our outstanding field trip leaders and volunteers. You’re the best!

Finally, many thanks to our sponsors for their support: Ministry Door County Medical Center, Waseda Farms, Maxwelton Braes Lodges, Innovative Printing, LLC, Baylake Bank, Blacksmith Inn On the Shore, Bob the Painter, Carlson & Erickson Builders, Inc., Cliff Wall Subaru, Door County Maritime Museum, Door Landscape & Nursery, Door Property Owners, Ecology Sports, Fish Creek Kite Company, Inge Alverson Bacon CPA, Ludwigsen & Tishler DDS, Meissner Landscape, Inc., Mike’s Port Pub & Grill, Pinkert Law Firm LLP and Thomas/Pfeifer Insurance. Agency, Inc.

We Know You Like Us But …

…Have You Liked Us On Facebook?

We do our level best to keep you informed of happenings at The Ridges through various publications like this one and Sanctuary, our newsletter. We also make use of Vertical Response, our broadcast email program. But there’s no question that, more and more, we need to rely on social media like Facebook and Twitter when it comes to immediate distribution of items of interest or important updates. Want the most current information about what’s blooming out on the trails? Wondering whether the threat of severe weather has resulted in a program cancellation or schedule change? Our Facebook page is the most reliable source of up-to-date information. So if you haven’t done so already, consider Liking us on Facebook. You’ll receive our postings and, should you choose to share any of them with your Facebook friends, you’ll be helping us spread the word about what’s happening at The Ridges!

TripAdvisor Added to Ridges Website

If you’ve visited our website lately, you may have noticed that we’ve added a TripAdvisor icon to our web pages. Founded in 2000, TripAdvisor is the world’s largest social travel network, used by millions of travelers to make informed decisions about where to stay, eat and play. Clicking on the TripAdvisor icon takes visitors to our TripAdvisor page where they can read past reviews or post a review of their own.
Naturalist Guided Hikes
JUNE 3 thru AUGUST 30, Tues thru Sat – 9:30 AM & 1:30 PM
SEPTEMBER 3 thru 27, Wed thru Sat – 9:30 AM

A relaxing 90-minute walk through the trails of the Sanctuary. You’ll learn a little about its history and a lot about the wildflowers, insects and other features of Wisconsin’s first land trust preserve. Appropriate for all ages.

Meet at The Ridges Nature Center.
$5 – Members  •  $8 – Public  •  Children under 18 Free

Discovery Bird Hikes
JULY 5, 12, 19 & 26, Saturdays at 6:30 AM

Join fellow birding enthusiasts for a morning excursion into the woods, fields and waters around Baileys Harbor. All members collaborate to identify the birds we see – beginners and experienced birders are welcome!

Bring binoculars if desired. Some loaner binocs are available.
Optional: Join us for breakfast at Cornerstone Pub after the hike!
Meet at The Ridges Nature Center.
Free – Members  •  $5 – Public

Birding 101
JULY 19, Saturday at 9:00 AM

New to birdwatching? Join us for a relaxed bird outing to learn more about the avian residents of The Ridges. We’ll start with a short introduction and then ramble the trails to see and hear warblers, woodpeckers and shorebirds.

Bring binoculars if desired. Some loaner binocs are available.
Meet at The Ridges Nature Center.
Free – Members  •  $5 – Public  •  Children under 18 Free

Edible Mushrooms 101
AUGUST 8, Friday at 10:00 AM • AUGUST 22, Friday at 2:30 PM

Learn the art of handmade paper and work with artist Kirsten Christianson. Create Monarch-themed designs to be displayed at our Monarch Workshop, later this month. Handmade paper can be cast and molded and shaped to take the form of the things found in Nature.

Meet at Woodwalk Gallery. Advance registration required.
$30 – Members  •  $40 – Public  •  (Fee includes field guide and a mesh spore bag.)

The Monarch Butterfly Paper Project
AUGUST 8, Friday at 10:00 AM • AUGUST 22, Friday at 2:30 PM

Learn about the dragonflies that make their home in the Sanctuary with Dr. Paul Burton and spend the morning outdoors capturing and identifying different dragonfly species – maybe even Door County’s federally endangered Hine’s Emerald dragonfly. Great family activity with lots of photo opportunities.

Meet at The Ridges Nature Center.
$10 – Members  •  $13 – Public  •  $5 – Children under 18

Logan Creek in the Evening
AUGUST 12, Tuesday at 9:00 PM

Take an evening hike through the hardwood forest and along the shoreline of this unique 170-acre parcel. The Perseid meteor shower peaks this evening – a fireworks display courtesy of Mother Nature!

Meet at Crossroads at Big Creek.
$10 – Members  •  $13 – Public  •  $5 – Children under 18

Monarch Magic
AUGUST 29, Friday OR AUGUST 30, Saturday at 10:00 AM

During this hands-on program, we’ll look at the different stages in the Monarch’s life cycle and learn how to raise them from egg to adult. We’ll also discuss the amazing fall migration from Wisconsin to Mexico and their multi-generational return in the spring. Followed by tagging.

Meet at Crossroads at Big Creek.
$10 – Members  •  $13 – Public  •  $5 – Children under 18

Programs continued on next page
The Importance of Migratory Bird Stopovers
SEPTEMBER 4, Thursday at 1:00 PM
Spring and fall are busy times for many bird species as they migrate to various locations around the globe. Join us to discuss the importance of migratory bird stopovers and the importance of maintaining places with a high degree of biodiversity, such as The Ridges Sanctuary.
Limit 20. Advance registration required.
$10 – Members • $13 – Public • $5 – Children under 18

The Bizziness of Bees: Pollination, Honey & Wax
SEPTEMBER 5, Friday at 10:00 AM
Bees are among the most important of all plant pollinators. Max Martin, program manager at the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Potato Gene Bank, will share his insight into the fascinating world of bees, an interest he developed as a young child growing up on his family’s dairy farm in central Wisconsin.
$10 – Members • $13 – Public • $5 – Children under 18

Gardens for the Three Bs: How to Make an Oasis for Birds, Butterflies & Bees
SEPTEMBER 6, Saturday at 1:00 PM
Join us in a discussion of backyard bird habitat, dangers to birds, the importance of bees and butterfly gardens. We’ll discuss the important role that they all play in the ecosystem and then move outside to view these habitats in action right here at The Ridges.
Limit 20. Advance registration required.
$10 – Members • $13 – Public • $5 – Children under 18

Family Overnight
SEPTEMBER 12-13, Friday at 6:00 PM to Saturday at 9 AM
Kids ages 6 - 10 with an adult
Spend the night under the stars at The Ridges! Pitch your tent on the grounds next to the Upper Range Light and then take a guided hike along the trails. End the hike around a campfire roasting marshmallows. Start the next morning with a light breakfast (provided) and tag along on an early morning bird hike. Bring your own tent and camping supplies. Marshmallows, cold breakfast and good times provided. Limit 16. Advance registration required.
$30 per family • $10 – Members • $40 per family – Public

The Bird is the Word: The Winding Path to Becoming an Ornithologist
SEPTEMBER 13, Saturday at 1:00 PM
So you love watching birds at your feeder, or heading out on a hike to see how many you can cross off of your list of accomplishments? Have you ever thought about what it takes to make a living doing this? Let an ornithologist tell you what to expect from this career. Afterwards, we’ll hike on our Family Discovery Trail to view a demonstration of the tools and tricks of the trade.
Limit 20. Advance registration required.
$10 – Members • $13 – Public • $5 – Children under 18

The Role of Deer and Deer Hunting in a Biologically Diverse Ecosystem
SEPTEMBER 20, Saturday at 7:00 PM
Deer hunting is not only a tradition for many families; it is an important management tool and a necessity for proper management of the existing herd. Much thought, discussion, and research went into the decision to allow deer hunting in The Ridges to protect the rare plants in the Sanctuary. Join a Wisconsin DNR Conservation Warden in a discussion of control of the white-tailed deer population through ethical hunting practices.
$10 – Members • $13 – Public • $5 – Children under 18
Snakes of Wisconsin
AUGUST 7
Biologist Scott Craven dispels the myths about snakes and shares the unique concepts of snake biology and managing habitat for snakes. He will also give a brief update on important wildlife issues and species in Wisconsin. Snake specimens will be present!

State Natural Areas: Helping to Preserve Wisconsin’s Biodiversity
AUGUST 14
The Ridges is proud to be one of the 673 State Natural Areas that have been preserved for research, educational use and conservation of biodiversity. Mark Martin, Natural Areas Specialist with the WI DNR from 1982 – 2011, will discuss the history and impact of the SNA program and the species that benefit from these preserved landscapes.

Chinook Salmon in the Great Lakes
AUGUST 21
Native to the Pacific Northwest, the Chinook Salmon were introduced into the Great Lakes in 1967 to control the invasive alewife. Nick Legler, Fisheries Biologist with the WI DNR, will present on the history of the Chinook and Steelhead/Rainbow trout management in the Great Lakes and adaptations to recent ecosystem changes.

For complete program info, visit RidgesSanctuary.org
While our new building is under construction, we’ve planned a fun day of activities at The Ridges cabins. Our annual meeting begins at 3 PM, followed by a beverage service and hikes from 4 – 5 PM. Then enjoy a pig roast with all the fixin’s and some scrumptious desserts. This year’s entertainment will be provided by folk musicians Jess Holland and Nick Hoover. Jess plays banjo, Nick plays acoustic guitar and both sing vocals on blues type folk music along with uplifting bright folk songs and current popular music.

During the evening, we’ll also announce our Volunteers of the Year.

**Board Member Election**

This year Vicki Medland and Jane Whitney have been nominated to fill the vacancies on our Board of Directors left by departing board members Jeanne Majeski and Roy Thilly. Lawrie Kull, Jim Jauquet and Ed Miller have been nominated for second terms.

Voting by the membership will take place at the Annual Meeting, August 2, 3 - 4 PM. Please review the biographies below in preparation for voting. This year’s meeting will be held under the big tent behind The Ridges cabins, 8288 Hwy Q, Baileys Harbor.

**VICKI MEDLAND**

Vicki grew up in the Milwaukee area, developing much of her love for the natural world at her grandparents’ lakefront and forest properties. There she enjoyed identifying wildflowers and insects, and also learned to SCUBA dive. She pursued these outdoor interests throughout her college career, obtaining her PhD in Ecology at the University of Georgia. Her research has addressed the impacts of human activity on wetlands ecology.

Currently, Vicki is the Associate Director of the Cofrin Center for Biodiversity at UW-Green Bay. The Cofrin Center manages the Toft Point Natural Area, adjacent to The Ridges Sanctuary. Vicki is a member of The Ridges’ Research and Interpretive Design committees. She is a past board member of The Baird Creek Preservation Foundation and the Master Naturalist Program in Green Bay, WI. She is especially interested in biodiversity and the ethical use of natural areas and publishes articles and gives lectures on environmental ethics and biodiversity related topics. She also teaches courses related to environmental science at UW Green Bay.

**JANE WHITNEY**

Jane grew up in Rockport, Massachusetts and spent her working life in Baraboo, Wisconsin until retiring to Baileys Harbor with her husband John in 2007. In Baraboo, she worked as a librarian at an elementary school and at the public library before working for 16 years at UW Baraboo including 3 years working with UW inmate/students at the men’s Federal Correctional Institution in Oxford WI.

Jane’s interest in natural history started in childhood on the coast of Massachusetts where she was free to roam the woods, scour the Atlantic beaches for detritus, explore the granite quarries, bike far and wide, ride horses, and swim. After moving to Baileys Harbor in 2007 and discovering the diversity of habitats including the boreal-like forest, she set out to learn as much as she could about the plant and animal species that live here and is still learning. In 2014, she completed the UW-Extension Master Naturalist Program. She is an active volunteer for Bjorklunden, Friends of Toft Point, The Clearing and the Door County Land Trust.

Jane has volunteered at The Ridges in various ways--leading hikes, working in the store, helping to plan and lead programs, identifying plants, pollinating orchids and developing the Natural Christmas event. She believes that serving as a Board member of The Ridges Sanctuary represents an extension of her commitment to all that The Ridges does.
New Event!

What’s better than a ramble through the early fall beauty of the Sanctuary trails? How about a ramble that lowers your blood pressure AND raises money for The Ridges?

Join us on Saturday, September 27, for a 2.3 mile walk on our scenic trails. Naturalists and interpretive stations along the trails will add to your enjoyment, and a special appearance by the Bag Monster will add to the fun. After your walk, enjoy refreshments and a special program featuring birds of prey back at the cabins.

Entry fees for the Ramble are $25 for adults and $10 for children under 18. Adult entry fee includes a high quality, reusable shopping bag made by ChicoBag featuring The Ridges logo. Children receive a Ridges patch! Register before September 1st and receive a 20% discount.

Register online or call 920.839.2802

We hope to see you on the trails this fall!
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Please patronize our business members.

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