



SPRING 2024 PROGRAM GUIDE



PRESERVATION • EDUCATION • RESEARCH

DEAR FRIENDS,

If you are like me, you've spent much of the early parts of this winter asking yourself: "Will it ever come? Will it be mild? How much snow are we going to get?" All the best predictions suggested a mild, low precipitation year, and honestly, it makes me think about one thing – what is spring going to look like? Of course, I love our Wisconsin winters, especially on those perfectly crisp sunny days after a snowfall, but I spend most of the winter silently anticipating the first flowers of spring, the arrival of migrating birds and butterflies, and the fresh smell of new growth.

We're excited to present you with another season of exploration. If you peek behind the curtain of The Ridges operation, you'll discover a team that constantly obsesses over orchids, pelicans, bald eagle nests, dwarf lake iris, warblers, spring buds on a dwarf lake iris plant, etc. All winter we patiently wait for the moments of exploration right alongside our community. We are thrilled to share this season's program lineup with you and look forward to seeing you this season, exploring the trails, taking in the sights, and learning more about the spectacular natural world that surrounds us.

I hope you will take time this spring to sit back and take in all that Nature has to offer. We're looking forward to improving habitats for eastern screech owls and eastern bluebirds, we're excited to include Forest School student artists in our Earth Week celebration and inspire the next generation of budding naturalists with a Chick Chats Story Hour and Kids Birding 101 Hike during our Crane Symposium. See you soon!

Happy Trails,



Katie Krouse
Executive Director

Cover Photo By Len Villano



Saw-Whet Owl

FEATURED PROGRAMS: OWL-O-RAMA

The Ridges annual Owl-O-Rama returns this year to The Ridges! Here's your chance to learn all about these mysterious nighttime predators, including what species are found in Door County, their adaptations for hunting, and how we can protect them.

Owl Prowl

Friday, March 1st, 6:00PM-8:30PM

Fee: Public \$15 | Member \$12 | 16 & Under \$7

Join a Ridges Naturalist at The Ridges Nature Center to learn about owl species that call Door County home. Then, head down to Logan Creek and out on the trail to hear them calling to one another!

Meet: Cook-Albert Fuller Nature Center. Travel to Logan Creek is necessary. Carpooling will be available.

Eastern Screech Owl Nest Box Workshop

Saturday, March 2nd, 12:30PM-1:30PM

Fee: Public \$45 | Member \$40

Head over to The Ridges Workshop to build Eastern Screech owl nest boxes, which you can take home and hang in your backyard. A Ridges staff member will provide the materials you need to assemble your nest box.

Location: Workshop at The Ridges Sanctuary, 8288 Cty. Q, Baileys Harbor, WI

Meet and Greet with Open Door Bird Sanctuary

Saturday, March 2nd, 1:00PM-3:00PM

Fee: Free

Stop by The Ridges Nature Center to get up close and personal with live owls and raptors from the Open Door Bird Sanctuary. Staff and birds will be set up around the Nature Center to answer questions and talk about each bird!

Location: Cook-Albert Fuller Nature Center

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

EARTH WEEK

Celebrate Earth Week with The Ridges! Kick off the start of Earth Week on Saturday, April 20th at 11:00AM with an artist show and reception of Ridges Forest School student masterpieces. Come experience impactful works based on their perspective of Earth's systems and cycles that they've studied at The Ridges. On Monday evening, join us for an update on the Range Light Corridor Restoration Project with Director of Research Tony Kiszonas. The presentation will include what to expect when walking through the corridor this year and insights into the important ongoing research on federally threatened Dwarf lake iris in partnership with the USFW Coastal Program. Due to limited space, preregistration is required. On Wednesday, join us at 10:00AM for our annual Tree Transplant, where we remove tree saplings growing in the Range Light corridor and relocate them to other areas of our property. Dress for the weather and wear clothes that can get muddy! We also recommend gloves and shovels for pulling up trees.

Forest School Artist Reception and Celebration

Saturday, April 20th, 11:00AM

Fee: Free

Meet: Cook-Albert Fuller Nature Center

Range Light Corridor Restoration Project Presentation with Director of Research Tony Kiszonas

Monday, April 22nd, 6:00PM

Fee: Free

Location: Cook-Albert Fuller Nature Center

Tree Transplant

Wednesday, April 24th, 10:00AM

Fee: Free

Meet: Workshop at The Ridges Sanctuary, 8288 Cty. Q, Baileys Harbor, WI

***To maximize accessibility,
many Ridges events are offered free of charge.
Donations are appreciated and support
The Ridges mission.***

DOOR COUNTY FESTIVAL OF NATURE

SNEAK PEEK

Join us for the 22nd Annual Festival of Nature, May 23rd-26th! This year's festival theme is *Community*. From the beautiful tapestry of boreal and deciduous forests to diverse wetland habitats to the compassionate and resilient people who call the peninsula home, we are all a community. Explore the natural beauty of the peninsula with The Ridges and our partners in conservation!

Mark your calendars -

Registration begins Monday, March 18th.

Program booklets will be available in early March.

For more information, including field trip information, registration, resources, and sponsors, visit our Festival of Nature website:

www.doorcountyfestivalofnature.org



Forest School, Tree Transplanting

To register for programs, visit RidgesSanctuary.org or call (920) 839-2802

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

BACKPACK ADVENTURE CAMP

Full Week Sessions: Public \$215 | Member \$185

This summer we invite campers ages 4-6 and 7-11 to join us for weeks filled with adventure, exploration, and discovery. Camps are held Monday through Friday, 9:00AM to 12:00PM. Children will engage in thoughtfully planned, supervised outdoor learning activities. On Fridays, campers will enjoy "Friday Fun Day" at the beach! Space is limited per session to 15 campers for ages 4-6 and 16 campers for ages 7-11. Each child receives a Ridges Adventure Pack that they will use throughout the week and take home at the end.

Location: Cabins at The Ridges Sanctuary, 8288 Cty. Q, Baileys Harbor, WI

**Registration for Backpack Adventure Camp
opens on Monday March 4th!**



Summer Camp, Stream Exploration

CAMP SCHEDULE

Week 1: June 24th–June 28th

Critters Club: Ages 4-6: Learn about the variety of critters that live at The Ridges, their adaptations, and the habitats in which they live.

Trail Trekkers: Ages 7-11: Explore and trek through the Family Discovery Trail and the many things it has to offer.

Week 2: July 8th–12th

Nature Detectives: Ages 4-6: Investigate the habitats of The Ridges and use scientific tools to make discoveries.

Boreal Pioneers: Ages 7-11: Learn what makes the boreal forest unique and why rare plants grow in the Sanctuary.

Week 3: July 15th–19th

Happy Hikers: Ages 4-6: The Ridges is home to many different habitats. Learn about the different habitats and explore what plants and animals live in each.

Mucky Ducks: Ages 7-11: It's time to get muddy and muck through the water habitats of The Ridges.

Week 4: July 22nd–26th

Tiny Twigs: Ages 4-6: Discover what types of trees live at The Ridges and how they support the different wildlife that call this place home.

Ridges Rangers: Ages 7-11: Spend the week learning how to explore, navigate and survive the great outdoors.

Week 5: July 29th–August 2nd

Monarch Madness: Ages 4-6: Learn about the importance of Monarch butterflies and what makes them so magical. Study the Monarch's habitat and learn how to raise this beautiful insect at home!

Monarch Madness: Ages 7-11: Become a citizen scientist and discover what it takes to help restore a population.

Week 6: August 5th–9th

Bug Me: Ages 4-6: Make friends with nature's six-legged wonders.

Six-Legged Science: Ages 7-11: Discover the secrets of the six-legged kingdom.

Camp will not be held on the week of July 1st– 5th due to Independence Day celebrations throughout the county and the travel of families.

To register for programs, visit RidgesSanctuary.org or call (920) 839-2802

EXPLORE NATURE

HIKES



Trout Lily, Logan Creek



Blackburnian Warbler

Winter Sanctuary Guided Hikes

Fridays at 1:30PM, Saturdays at 10:30AM and 1:30PM through March 30th

Fee: Public \$10 | Member \$7 | 16 & Under Free

Join a Ridges Naturalist for an exploration of the Sanctuary in the winter. We will head out on the trails to learn all about the Sanctuary, explore some winter adaptations, search for animal tracks, and more! If conditions allow, we will utilize snowshoes for our hike. You can rent snowshoes from our Nature Store for \$5 per pair.

Location: Cook-Albert Fuller Nature Center

Spring Sanctuary Guided Hikes

Mondays - Saturdays 10:00AM, starting in May

Fee: Public \$10 | Member \$7 | 16 & Under Free

Explore the Sanctuary in the spring! Head out on the trails with a Ridges Naturalist to learn about the history of The Ridges, the unique features of the Sanctuary habitats, and what makes it the most biologically diverse area in Wisconsin! This guided hike includes a tour of our Upper Range Light, which has been restored to the period of the last Range Light Keeper. Suitable for all ages.

Location: Cook-Albert Fuller Nature Center

Wildflower Hikes

Friday, May 10th and Saturday, May 18th, 1:00PM-3:00PM

Fee: Public \$15 | Member \$12 | 16 & Under \$7

Enjoy the beauty of the many spring ephemeral blooms on this leisurely two-hour hike. We'll spend time identifying and learning about the flowers and then finish with a hike along the trails to view Clark Lake. Wear appropriate footwear since the trails may be muddy.

Location: Logan Creek, 5724 Loritz Rd., Jacksonport, WI

Early Bird Hikes

Saturdays, May-June, 6:30AM

Fee: Public \$5 | Member Free

Head out with Ridges Naturalists to learn and identify the morning birds at the Sanctuary and surrounding Baileys Harbor habitats. Make sure you bring your binoculars! You won't want to miss our early morning friends!

Meet: Cabins at The Ridges Sanctuary, 8288 Cty. Q, Baileys Harbor, WI



Winter Guided Hikes

SPRING 2024 CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
FEBRUARY				1	2 Guided Hike 1:30PM	3 Guided Hike 10:30AM & 1:30PM
4	5	6	7	8	9 Guided Hike 1:30PM	10 Guided Hike 10:30AM & 1:30PM
11	12	13	14	15	16 Guided Hike 1:30PM	17 Guided Hike 10:30AM & 1:30PM
18	19	20	21	22	23 Guided Hike 1:30PM	24 Guided Hike 10:30AM & 1:30PM
25	26	27	28	29		

MARCH					1 Guided Hike 1:30PM	2 Guided Hike 10:30AM & 1:30PM
*Owl-O-Rama: Friday, March 1: Owl Prowl 6PM Saturday, March 2: Eastern Screech Owl Nest Box Workshop 12:30PM, Meet & Greet with Open Door Bird Sanctuary 1PM					*Owl-O-Rama	
3	4 Backpack Adventure Camp Registration Opens	5	6	7	8 Guided Hike 1:30PM	9 Guided Hike 10:30AM & 1:30PM
10	11	12	13	14	15 Guided Hike 1:30PM	16 Bluebird Nest Box Workshop 10AM Guided Hike 10:30AM & 1:30PM
17	18 DOOR COUNTY FESTIVAL OF NATURE Registration Opens	19	20	21	22 Guided Hike 1:30PM	23 Guided Hike 10:30AM & 1:30PM
24	25	26	27	28	29 Guided Hike 1:30PM	30 Guided Hike 10:30AM & 1:30PM
31						

To register for programs, visit RidgesSanctuary.org or call (920) 839-2802

FEBRUARY / MARCH / APRIL / MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
					*Crane Symposium	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
*Crane Symposium						Forest School Artist Reception & Celebration 11AM
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Range Light Corridor Restoration Project Presentation 6PM		Tree Transplant 10AM		Arbor Day	
Earth Week						
28	29	30	APRIL *Crane Symposium: Friday, April 12: The Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Then And Now Presentation 6PM Saturday, April 13: Midwest Crane Count 5:30AM Crane Count Breakfast Social 8AM Crane Nest Site Hike 10AM Artist Talk With Len Villano 1:30PM Sunday, April 14: Chick Chats Story Hour 9AM Crane Nest Site Hike 10AM Kids Birding 101 Hike 10AM			

MAY Spring Sanctuary Guided Hikes: May 1st-23rd, Mondays-Saturdays, 10AM			1	2	3	4
			Guided Hike 10AM	Guided Hike 10AM	Guided Hike 10AM	Early Bird Hike 6:30AM Guided Hike 10AM
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Guided Hike 10AM	Guided Hike 10AM	Guided Hike 10AM	Guided Hike 10AM	Guided Hike 10AM Wildflower Hike 1PM	Early Bird Hike 6:30AM Spring Workday 9AM Guided Hike 10AM
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Guided Hike 10AM	Barberry Pirates Workday 9AM Guided Hike 10AM	Guided Hike 10AM	Guided Hike 10AM Logan Creek Workday 1PM	Guided Hike 10AM	Early Bird Hike 6:30AM Guided Hike 10AM Wildflower Hike 1PM
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Guided Hike 10AM	Guided Hike 10AM	Guided Hike 10AM	Guided Hike 10AM		
				DOOR COUNTY FESTIVAL OF NATURE Festival of Nature May 23rd-26th		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Festival of Nature						

The Ridges Sanctuary is committed to providing programs and events that are accessible to people regardless of age and ability. For more information, go to RidgesSanctuary.org/visit-us/access/

GET INVOLVED/**CITIZEN SCIENCE**



Stream Monitoring



Plot Monitoring



Orchid Trekking



Dwarf Lake Iris Transplant

CITIZEN SCIENCE

Citizen science, the collection and analysis of scientific data related to the natural world by the general public, is not only interesting - it's a great way to make a difference in your community.

Budburst Plant Phenology

In collaboration with the Chicago Botanic Garden, The Ridges Sanctuary is participating in a citizen science phenology program. Budburst is a collection of researchers, educators, gardeners, and community/citizen scientists working together to illustrate the human impact on the natural world around us. We tell that story through data collection, data sharing, education, and personal connections. The focus is on plant phenology and can be as extensive as a participant chooses. There will be upcoming informational meetings to provide an introduction and training for this exciting and valuable endeavor.

Water Action Volunteers - Stream Monitoring

This University of Wisconsin Extension program involves teams of volunteers who are assigned to local streams to measure several prescribed variables that monitor stream health. Monitors collect data once a month from May through October. This data is then used by anyone interested in longitudinal watershed environmental health and trends. A preseason training meeting will be held in late April or early May, depending on snow melt, runoff, and UW-Extension schedules.

Plant Inventory

The Plant Inventory is a collaborative effort establishing and implementing monitoring protocols for a comprehensive plant inventory based on the many diverse plant communities found in the Sanctuary. This inventory will then be used as a comparison to a Sanctuary study completed in 1983 and a Hidden Brook survey done in 2012-2013. The current work also provides the opportunity for future comparative studies, as well as the documentation of plants in more recently acquired properties. Meetings and workshops will be ongoing.

Orchid Restoration

Orchid restoration research activities include trekking, plot monitoring, tending to the shade house,

To register for programs, visit RidgesSanctuary.org or call (920) 839-2802

GET INVOLVED/VOLUNTEER

and other restoration activities. These activities are ongoing, including trekking in the winter as weather conditions allow.

Dwarf Lake Iris Restoration

The Ridges is partnering with the USFW Coastal Program to determine the best possible conditions for our restoration and translocation of Dwarf Lake Iris. This project will include plot preparation, transplanting Dwarf Lake Iris, long-term monitoring activities, and translocation site determination and activities. Informational meetings will be forthcoming.

For more information on citizen science opportunities, contact Ridges Director of Research, Tony Kiszonas at tony@ridgessanctuary.org or call (920) 839-2802.



Dwarf Lake Iris Transplant



Volunteer Workday

VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS

Spring Workday

Saturday, May 11th, 9:00AM-12:00PM

Spend time outdoors while supporting the Ridges! Our volunteer spring workday is open to volunteers of all abilities, ages, and skill sets. Typical tasks include cleaning up around the Nature Center, reorganizing storage space, preparing the front perennial gardens, and a variety of other tasks. The workday will begin at 9:00AM and end with a lunch at 12PM.

Location: Cook-Albert Fuller Nature Center

Barberry Pirates Workday

Tuesday, May 14th, 9:00AM-12:00PM

Come help with invasive species projects at The Ridges! Work will involve removing and bagging invasive plants. Wear appropriate footwear, pants, long sleeves, and gloves.

Location: Cook-Albert Fuller Nature Center

Logan Creek Workday

Thursday, May 16th, 1:00PM-4:00PM

Join staff and volunteers in helping with various projects at The Ridges' Logan Creek preserve located on the shore of Clark Lake. Activities may include trail and boardwalk work, invasive species control, and general site maintenance. Come dressed appropriately for moderate hiking and for the potential of working in wet conditions.

Location: Meet at The Ridges' Logan Creek preserve parking lot, located at 5724 Loritz Road in Jacksonport

VOLUNTEER

Make an Impact!

Ridges volunteers create a meaningful experience for everyone who visits the Sanctuary. Join our Front Desk team, Wednesday Crew, Range Light Docents, pollinator garden keepers, and more!

For more information on volunteer workday opportunities, contact Ridges Land Manager, Sam Hoffman at sam@ridgessanctuary.org or call (920) 839-2802, ext. 108.

Visit RidgesSanctuary.org for more information

BIRD CONSERVATION/EDUCATION

Bluebird Nest Box Workshop

Saturday, March 16th, 10:00AM-12:00PM

Fee: Public \$20 | Member \$17

Additional Attendee \$5 | Additional Boxes \$15

Eastern bluebird populations are back on the rise thanks to the help of nest box-building enthusiasts! During this workshop, you will continue to help bluebird populations by learning what they need to survive and creating a nest box to take home. Naturalist Charlotte Lukes will discuss why assisting these little bluebirds is so important. Tools and materials for one box will be provided.

Space is limited by the number of nest boxes we have available. Each registration includes materials for one box, however, if you plan to have more than one person build a singular box, and attend the presentation, please pay the additional \$5 for each additional participant.

Please note: The nest box building portion of the workshop will include hammering and the use of power tools in an indoor space.

Location: Cook-Albert Fuller Nature Center



Sandhill Cranes, Photo By Len Villano

CRANE SYMPOSIUM

Join us for a weekend celebration of Wisconsin Cranes! Wisconsin cranes have made a comeback after decades of declining populations. Our Crane Symposium is offered to expand awareness and appreciation of Door County's crane populations.

Keynote Presentation: The Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Then and Now: Is It Still Working?

Friday, April 12th, 6:00PM-7:30PM

Fee: Free

In 2016 we marked the centenary of the "Convention between the United States and Great Britain (for Canada) for the Protection of Migratory Birds" (better known as the Migratory Bird Treaty). The 1916 treaty became the cornerstone of our national commitment to conserve birds. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 implements the landmark 1916 treaty, and together the

treaty and act form one of the oldest and most enduring bird conservation measures in the world. These measures have been responsible for the spectacular recoveries of many species, like the Sandhill Crane. Threats to migratory birds today however, challenge the effectiveness of these milestones. Loss and degradation of habitat, collisions with human-made structures, predation by cats, pesticide poisoning, and oil spills cause the deaths of hundreds of millions of migratory birds each year. Are these century-old actions up to the task of protecting birds against 21st-century threats? Professor Stan Temple will recount the first century of migratory bird protection and speculate about the future.

Location: Virtual Via Zoom

Midwest Crane Count

Saturday, April 13th, 5:30AM-7:30PM

Fee: Free

The International Crane Foundation sponsors the Annual Midwest Crane Count as a part of its mission to conserve the world's 15 species of cranes and the natural communities on which they depend. Sandhill Cranes once nearly disappeared from Wisconsin, but the species has successfully recovered and is slowly expanding into neighboring states. Observations of Sandhill Cranes can lend insight into threatened crane species, including the endangered Whooping Crane. There are now approximately 80 Whooping Cranes in the reintroduced population in central Wisconsin, and crane counters may have a chance of sighting a Whooping Crane during the survey.

For more information, contact Tony Kiszonas at tony@ridgessanctuary.org or call (920) 839-2802.

Crane Count Breakfast Social

Saturday, April 13th, 8:00AM-9:00AM

Fee: Free

Join us for a Breakfast Social after an early morning counting cranes at the Nature Center. Share sightings and connect with other crane count participants over coffee and treats.

Location: Cook-Albert Fuller Nature Center

Crane Nest Site Hikes

Saturday, April 13th and Sunday, April 14th, 10:00AM-11:45AM

Fee: Public \$15 | Member \$12 | 16 & Under \$5

Join Naturalists Jane Whitney and Julie Knox on a hike to a potential crane nesting site to learn more about what makes the wetlands of Door County the perfect crane nesting habitat.

Location: Cook-Albert Fuller Nature Center

To maximize accessibility, many Ridges events are offered free of charge. Donations are appreciated and support The Ridges mission.

BIRD CONSERVATION/EDUCATION

Artist Talk With Len Villano

Saturday, April 13th, 1:30PM-2:30PM

Fee: Free

Join internationally published photographer Len Villano as he reflects on his journey photographing nature in Door County, with an emphasis on birds and sandhill cranes. Villano is a local artist specializing in fine art, nature & wildlife photography of Door County and beyond. After his presentation, Villano will show some of the equipment he uses to capture the stunning visuals we often see gracing the Peninsula Pulse, followed by a Q&A session. Selected works will be on display during the Crane Symposium.

Location: Cook-Albert Fuller Nature Center

Chick Chats Story Hour

Sunday, April 14th, 9:00AM-10:00AM

Fee: Free

Bring your budding birders & naturalists to a Chick Chats Story Hour! Join Ridges staff to read stories and learn about why Sandhill Cranes make the long journey north each spring, and how they do it. This program includes information about cranes and fun activities to excite kids about this special family of birds. At the end of the story, make a fun nature craft to take home or use on the Kids Birding 101 Hike. Suitable for families with young children.

Location: Cook-Albert Fuller Nature Center

Kids Birding 101 Hike

Sunday, April 14th, 10:00AM-11:30AM

Fee: Free

Want to try birding as a family? During this program, kids will have the opportunity to learn the basic skills of

bird watching, including how to identify some common birds of Door County! We'll meet at the Nature Center for a quick introduction then make our way down the Hidden Brook Boardwalk to see what birds we can spot!

Location: Cook-Albert Fuller Nature Center

NATURAL RESOURCES FOUNDATION EVENTS

Woodcock Watch

Sunday, May 11th, 7:00PM-8:30PM

Enjoy a chance to experience firsthand what Aldo Leopold described as the "sky dance." After a short indoor presentation to learn about woodcocks, head into the field to watch them engage in their ethereal courtship display. Appropriate for ages 10 & older. Program will be led by naturalists Jane Whitney and Julie Knox. Register at www.wisconservation.org.

Location: Cook-Albert Fuller Nature Center

Spring Frog Chorus at The Ridges

Friday, May 10th, 7:00PM-9:00PM

Twilight inspires a frog chorus at The Ridges Sanctuary! After a short indoor program to learn about Door County frogs, their life cycles, adaptations and sounds, we will hike into The Ridges to listen for frogs. Appropriate for ages 8 & older. Program will be led by naturalists Jane Whitney and Julie Knox. Register at www.wisconservation.org.

Location: Cook-Albert Fuller Nature Center

Yes! I want to help The Ridges continue its Mission!

Amount Enclosed: ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ Other \$ _____ ☐ Recurring Monthly \$ _____

Please utilize this donation for: ☐ Greatest Need ☐ Preservation ☐ Education ☐ Research

Name _____

Address _____

City / St / Zip _____

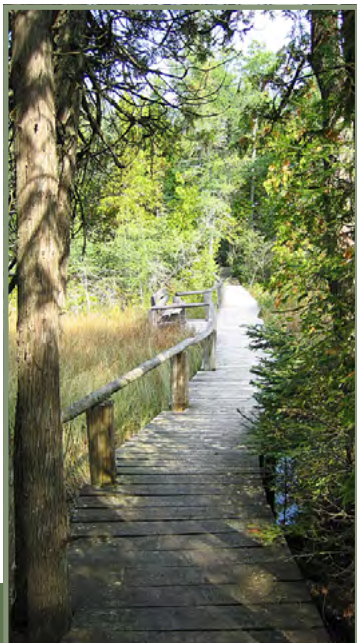
Phone _____ Email _____

To pay with credit card, scan the QR code or donate online at ridgessanctuary.org/donate

To renew your membership, visit ridgessanctuary.org/join/membership

The Ridges Sanctuary: PO Box 152, Baileys Harbor, WI 54202 (920) 839-2802

Your donation is tax deductible as allowed by law. The Ridges Sanctuary is a 501(c)(3) organization.





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