EDUCATION … REARCH … LAND PRESERVATON

PO Box 152, Baileys Harbor, WI 54202 • (920) 839-2802 • www.RidgesSanctuary.org

"What if I had never seen this before? What if I knew I would never see it again?"

– Rachel Carson

Dear Friends of The Ridges,

This powerful quote is part of the Donor exhibit at the Cook-Albert Fuller Center. For the last 5 years, it has served as a daily reminder to visitors, volunteers, staff and board members that we all share in the responsibility to preserve and protect this special place.

Virtual programs to engage children and adults.

Measuring up to that responsibility this year has been challenging. For all of us, life is anything but normal. With the arrival of COVID-19 in March, things changed dramatically. We closed the Center, our staff began working from home, and soon after, we canceled our programs and events for the upcoming season, including - for the first time in 18 years - the Festival of Nature.

Spotted Coral Root - not seen at The Ridges since Albert Fuller identified it 80 years ago.

It has been a time of unprecedented change, but now, as Fall approaches, I'm proud to tell you that it has also been a time of accomplishment and innovation. Our staff quickly turned their attention to the development of online virtual learning experiences to engage adults, children and families, including Nature's Lens and At Home in Nature. In early June, we entered Phase 2 of our three-phased Reestablishment Plan and began adding outdoor in-person experiences to these virtual offerings.

Moved interpretive exhibits to Hidden Brook Boardwalk.

We opened an "outdoor desk," moved our interpretive exhibits to the Hidden Brook Boardwalk, reinstated guided hikes, and added volunteer monitors on the trails. We held our children's camp with smaller groups and shorter sessions. We introduced new programs including Night Hikes, the Kids Exploration Series, and a Family Scavenger Hunt. And this fall, we're offering a full complement of school year programming.

7,000 visitors passed through our outdoor desk this summer, and we were happy to see every single one of you. But there's no escaping the fact that, in a normal year, we would have seen 5,000 to 6,000 people per month.

The effects of COVID-19 are ongoing, and, even with the availability of emergency grants and low-interest loans, ***the loss of revenue is daunting***. Whether you've shopped, hiked, volunteered, are a current member or a new one, you have our sincere gratitude for your contributions. If you are able to make a donation to The Ridges this year, we can assure you that your gift will make a difference. A contribution in any amount will enable us to continue to respond to changing circumstances and support important work in education and research. **Most importantly, it will help us keep our promise to protect and preserve the beauty and wildness of this special place for generations to come. Thank you for your continued support.**

Sincerely,
Linda Brooks, *Board President*

Clip along this line

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

Yes, I want to help The Ridges keep its promise to protect and preserve the beauty of this special place!

Amount Enclosed:

❑ *$100* ❑ *$250* ❑ *$500* ❑ *$1,000* ❑ *Other $* _____

❑ *New Offering! Monthly Giving by Credit Card $* _____

Please utilize this donation for: ❑ *Greatest need* ❑ *Other* _____

Name _____

Address _____ ❑ *Check* ❑ *Credit Card* MasterCard / Visa / Discover

City / St / Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Card # _____ Exp Date ____ / ____ Security code _____

Donate online at: RidgesSanctuary.org/donate

Signature _____

The Ridges Sanctuary • PO Box 152 • Baileys Harbor, WI 54202 • 920.839.2802