

Spring 2020

Sanctuary

A Newsletter of The Ridges

Greetings from The Ridges

Dear Ridges Members

It has been a very difficult 9 weeks, but we want you to know that The Ridges has taken on these challenges that our world is facing and is as resilient as ever. We closed the Nature center on March 17th and anticipate remaining closed until May 25th. At that point we plan on opening the center in a much-reduced capacity and will constantly re-assess our status, keeping the safety of our visitors, staff and volunteers as a #1 priority.

The staff has worked from home since closing the Center, but like most folks around the world we have utilized technology to stay connected and plan for the future. We have utilized tools including Facebook and Instagram to continue to inspire families, provide updates, and post photos from the Sanctuary. Every day we explore new ways technology can keep us connected with others at home.

The Ridges did receive a loan through the CARES Act and will utilize these funds to offset payroll for the next few months, but this is a temporary fix and loan forgiveness is not guaranteed. **Additional donations will be critical to our operations moving forward.**

As members of The Ridges, your commitment to the organization is critical. We are all in this together and we appreciate each and every one of you. Things may be a little different as we adapt but know that our mission is still at the core of everything we do. For the latest information on the happenings at The Ridges, please visit our website or Facebook and Instagram pages. If you would like to receive our emails, please make sure we have your address! You can email Drew Richmond at drew@ridgessanctuary.org.

If you are able to make a donation of any size, please consider doing so today. Either visit our website or fill out the form below. We understand that these are uncertain times for many people. If you can't make a donation at this time, please consider us in the future.

Please stay healthy and we will see you on the trail real soon, Ridges Board & Staff



Virtual Dragonfly Nature Play session



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

Yes, I want to support The Ridges by making a tax-deductible contribution.

Amount Enclosed: \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 Other \$ _____

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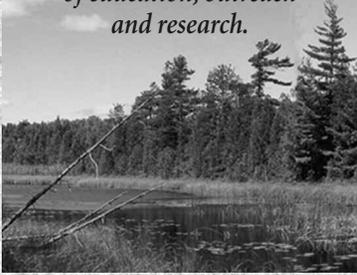
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A Word from Steve Leonard

May, 2020

The mission of the Ridges Sanctuary is to protect the Sanctuary and inspire stewardship of natural areas through programs of education, outreach and research.



Board of Directors

Tony Fiorato, *President*
Linda Brooks, *Vice President*
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Cindy Wolter, *Treasurer*
Cynthia Crock
Rob Davis
Chuck Dull
Vicki Medland
Maury Sullivan
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Executive Director
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Cecily Gray
Front Desk
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Sara Hubner
Front Desk
Sally Hunter
Bookkeeper
Lori Kemmler
Environmental Educator
Katie Krouse
Program Manager
Matt Peter
Land Manager
Drew Richmond
Development & Marketing Director
Linda Sanduski
Front Desk
Sara Semling
Nature Store Coordinator
Lauri Smith
Development Assistant

The Ridges Sanctuary, Inc.

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Dear Ridges Members

After fourteen memorable years at The Ridges Sanctuary, I will be stepping down as the Executive Director in May to pursue a new career in Public Health. I will be with The Ridges in an advisory capacity until Aug 31 to help with this transition and then start classes this fall. It's a time of opportunity, for myself, as well as The Ridges to take the next steps it needs in land protection, education, and research.

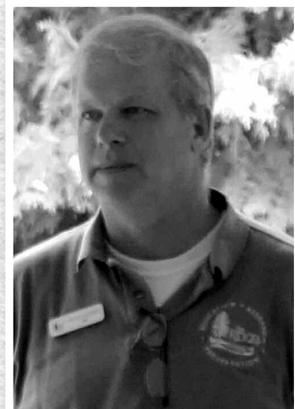
Reflecting, I still can't believe all that we have accomplished over the past fourteen years. We raised the funds and built the new Cook-Albert Fuller Center to make The Ridges a destination for the Midwest. Every step of the way was an educational opportunity from the bioremediation of the kerosene from fish boils, the pervious parking lot, and the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified building. With the help of our volunteers and donors, we were able to restore the Upper and Lower Range Lights plus build the accessible boardwalk. This summer, the Upper Range Light will finally be completed. And the boardwalk, that's a story in itself and what it means to our visitors. It has provided an experience for so many who might not have been able to hike our rustic trails. Our education programs have grown on site as well as outreach programs throughout Door County. We created a focus in research studying our native orchid populations in partnership with the Smithsonian and others. Plus, we purchased eleven parcels, over 200 acres, to continue our efforts in land protection.

The Ridges will continue to grow and protect this unique landscape. There is a sense of pride amongst the board members, staff, volunteers as well as our members to make sure the organization thrives for many more generations to come which is reflected in the new strategic plan. The plan was just approved and will be shared with the membership soon. It is the same spirit of stewardship our founding board members had when they started the organization in 1937. The possibilities are truly endless to continue this sense of stewardship with our members, visitors and local residents.

To help with this transition, the Ridges Board has already formed a search committee to find a new Executive Director. I will act as an advisor with the search process plus administrative needs. Plus, the board and staff will continue to work together to coordinate the many different programs and initiatives. Rest assured, The Ridges board and staff will continue to provide the leadership to maintain the organization as the search committee works through the hiring process.

There are no words to express my gratitude for this opportunity over the past fourteen years. Because of your support, we have been able to continue to share our values in stewardship with many so they might take that next step in protecting Door County or wherever they might live. This, to me, is our ultimate goal in life - to protect these natural landscapes that surround us, no matter where we are, for many generations to come.

Thank you for your dedication and support for the past fourteen years, and for your continued support of The Ridges.



Annual Meeting

As a non-profit 501(C)(3) The Ridges is required to conduct an Annual Meeting. Considering today's circumstances, we cannot commit to a large traditional gathering for this year's August meeting. We will inform all of our plans once we get closer to the fall and can confirm a date, time, and format. Information on board nominees, continuations, and end-of-term members are below.

Board members Sandy Miller and Linda Brooks are both ending their first three-year terms and wish to continue to serve on the board. They have both been nominated by the Board for a second term. We also thank Vicky Medland and Jane Whitney for their service, as they will end their board terms in August.

The Board nominates Jeff Lutsey and Andy Gill to fill the two vacancies. Please review their biographies below in preparation for voting.

Jeff Lutsey

Following graduation from Northwestern University as a mechanical engineer, Jeff worked in the aerospace propulsion program at Honeywell. Throughout the next 12 years, he trained Navy sailors on submarines testing reactor plant safety systems and managed reactor design teams at the Naval Nuclear Laboratory.

At Waseda Farms, Jeff focuses his energy on farm business optimization, education, and outreach. Since then, he brought solar power to the farm, developed and grown partner relationships between the farm and Door County restaurants and grocery stores, and works to connect and communicate the farm mission to partners, schools and farm tour visitors.

In addition to his involvement as an Ephraim Green Tier ad hoc committee and Sturgeon Bay High School Greenhouse Committee member, Jeff serves as a Baileys Harbor Community Association and Destination Door County board member.

As a potential member of The Ridges Sanctuary board, Jeff would aim to contribute his analytical mindset and his networking and communication skills to further the organization's significant environmental stewardship legacy and goals.

Andy Gill

Andy was born and raised in Hartland, WI. Frequent camping trips 'up north' to visit family ingrained an early appreciation for the outdoors. He graduated with two degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison: Political Science and International Studies: Politics and Policy in the Global Economy.

In 2013, Andy moved to Austin, TX. During that time, he was the Executive Director at Pease Park Conservancy (PPC), an 84-acre central city public park. While there, PPC completed an award-winning master plan, administered a successful volunteer program, and was well underway with implementation of the first major capitol improvement project recommended in the master plan.

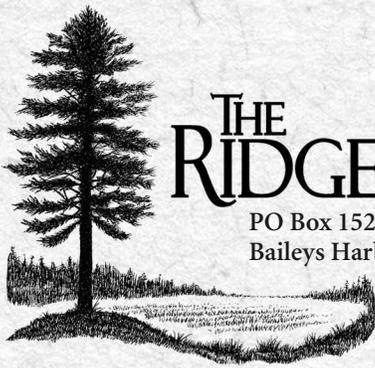
In 2018, Andy and his wife Katie moved to Door County with their dog Jerri and cat Stevie. In August of that year they opened Heirloom Café & Provisions in Baileys Harbor. In addition, Andy serves as Secretary of both the Baileys Harbor Community Association and Horseshoe Bay Farms, Inc.

The Ridges Sanctuary is a cornerstone of the community and Andy is excited to help The Ridges remain an integral part of Baileys Harbor and Door County.

WAYS TO VOTE:

Online at RidgesSanctuary.org/board-and-member-information or Request an absentee ballot 920.839.2802





THE RIDGES

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Baileys Harbor WI 54202-0152

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Large-Flowered Trillium

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Ridges Summer program snapshot - 2020

We intend to bring you the best of The Ridges this summer while making the health of our visitors, volunteers, and staff a priority. We will continue to bring you programs focused on Youth Education, Adult Education, Stewardship, and Environmental Curiosity.

Some of these experiences may be offered in person, as individual experiences, or virtually. We want everyone to have the ability to experience The Ridges one way or another! Please keep in mind, that all programs will be subject to change. If programs cannot be offered in person, we will offer them virtually.

Anticipated Programs: Tiny Trekkers, Monarch Madness, Middle School Adventure Programs, Woodcock Watch, Lake Lessons, Curious Citizen, and More!

How can you hear about upcoming opportunities? You can visit our website www.ridgessanctuary.org, follow us on Facebook or Instagram @RidgesSanctuary, or reach out to us with your email address to catch the most up to date information regarding our programs. We know not everyone has access to our online communications. You are always welcome to call us at 920-839-2802 to get the most up to date information regarding Ridges opportunities.



Mink at The Ridges

www.RidgesSanctuary.org • 920.839.2802