



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

INDEX

Board News	p 2
Annual Meeting	p 3
Camp Highlights	p 4
Ridges Endowment	p 5
Member News	p 6
In Appreciation	p 7
Lee Forrest	p 8

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From the Range Light

Creating a Focus

For the past year, we've been developing The Ridges "Long-Range Plan". To do this, we've been reviewing the members survey, archive files, past research projects, and talking with many of you – and with other organizations. Our committees have been acting as focus groups, reviewing the information gathered to create strategies for the outcome-based Plan.

The **Research Committee**, for example, is comprised of talented individuals (Bob Ragotzkie, Emeritus Biologist, UW-Madison; Ed Pentecost, Retired Biologist, Argonne Natl. Laboratories; Gary Fewless, Botanist, UW-Green Bay; Vicki Medland, Assoc. Dir./ Cofrin Center for Biodiversity, UW-Green Bay; and Roy Lukes, Naturalist, former Ridges Director) who've spent the past several months compiling past Ridges & related county-wide research projects. They are now reviewing these projects, using the information gathered to recommend future research initiatives.

That we've permanently protected 1600 acres of Ridges is a great success story! This success, however requires we take further steps. The Research Committee, after reviewing the information, has divided Ridges lands into **six management zones** – each with its own location and ecology. The Committee will develop a unique management plan for each zone. These plans will require making inventories of flora and fauna, developing an invasives species control plan for each

zone, addressing water quality issues, and considering other potential threats to the land's health.

Management Zones

- 1 - Ridges and Swales
- 2 - Pickerel Pond area
- 3 - Northwest of County Q
- 4 - West of 57
- 5 - Logan Creek Property on Clark Lake
- 6 - Roadsides, Drainage Ditches or other corridors for Invasive Species

We haven't yet begun the work of the Education Committee, but have created a partnership with the **Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (LNRP)** to assess the county's environmental education & research needs. Together we've received a grant to complete a **Community Needs Assessment** over the upcoming year. The assessment will identify gaps in resources, which we'll fill with up-to-date materials. The resulting clearinghouse of educational materials and research documentation will be available through the Door County Library system, and will provide the information needed to explore local environmental issues and address the county's critical environmental needs.

Other Committees hard at work are the Bylaws Committee, addressing administrative issues (outlined in the proposed bylaws changes that were mailed to you). The Development Committee is working on funding, and

Board News

Greetings,

Exciting things have been going on at The Ridges and at recent Board meetings, and I want to share them with you.

- The Research Committee, as Steve mentioned, has been discussing the **role of research** at The Ridges. It's now developing a plan for needed studies within the ridges complex. At a recent Board meeting I was struck by something Bob Ragotzkie, Committee Chair, said: Bob reminded us that one of our primary purposes (and part of our mission) is to "inspire stewardship". Stewardship requires knowledge, and research is a tool to provide that knowledge.

So we're moving forward with our research plans!

- The Board of Directors is discussing ways to **increase revenues** as we undertake these ambitious new plans to accomplish our mission. We appreciate the many gifts and wonderful support you've provided in the past, and look forward to your future support. The Development and Planned Giving Committees have been developing programs and ways for you to help. Donations to The Ridges may be made through designated or undesignated gifts. **Undesignated gifts** are greatly needed, because they go directly to the day-to-day operations of the Sanctuary. These gifts may be made in a number of ways, including but not limited to: cash/checks, remembering us in your will (see p.7), gifts of stock or land. All are helpful to us! Contact Development Director Linda Shealey with any questions or ideas: (Linda@ridgesanctuary.org).

- Recently we acquired **37 additional acres** of adja-

cent land (see p.5)! This was accomplished through an easement on nearby land, with the help of the Door County Land Trust. The easement translated into enough additional matching state funds (Stewardship Fund) to allow us to buy the land. As cash is not always available in the Land Fund, we're working on other ways to make these land acquisitions happen!

The events of our busy summer season are done, and I'd also like to **thank the many volunteers and sponsors** that helped make them successful. The Festival of Nature and Ride for Nature brought many new folks to The Ridges, and helped further our mission of "outreach and education". The Members Showcase at the Nature Center was a wonderful way for members to showcase their art. And the Fourth Members Picnic, a fun kick-off for our 70th Year Celebration. The Volunteer Recognition, at Bjorklunden, showcased all volunteers but especially Volunteers of the Year – **Sunny and Dave Sinnett**. Sunny and Dave have been involved in countless ways over the years: Dave has headed up the Wednesday Crew and been critical to the Bike Ride,



Volunteer, Research and Building Committees. He was also active on the Board for 8 years! We greatly appreciate both their service to The Ridges – THANK YOU to Sunny and Dave, and to you for your continued support.

Cheers,

George Cobb, Board President



Creating a Focus, *continued from page 1*

staff is working on monthly work plans to prioritize projects and achieve yearly program goals.

Please take some time to hear more about the Long Range Plan by attending our next **Planning Session: Sat., Sept. 29 (9-11am)** in the Baileys Harbor Town Hall. If you can't make the meeting, feel free to call me if



you'd like to help with the Plan.

I look forward to talking with you!

Steve Leonard, Executive Director
steve@ridgesanctuary.org

Annual Meeting

You're Invited to
The Ridges Sanctuary 70th Annual Meeting
Saturday, October 6, 2007

8 am

Ridges Members Hike

Enjoy a quiet autumn walk through The Ridges.
Meet at the Nature Center for coffee and donuts before the hike.

10 am

**70th Annual Meeting
Baileys Harbor Town Hall**

Year-end business, election of Officers,
and a discussion of Ridges program goals.

12 noon

Lunch at the Town Hall

After the meeting, enjoy a light lunch catered by neighboring Weisgerber's restaurant.
Cost \$8/pp; reservations are required. Call The Ridges by October 1 to sign up: (920) 839-2802.

9 am - 4 pm

Annual Members-Only Sale

While you're here, why not visit our once-a year sale at the Nature Center? **Save 20% off all purchases of \$30 or more** – fleece, t-shirts, aprons, new children's toys, books, jewelry, cards, and more.

Fall Hikes & Programs

Logan Creek Ramble

Friday, September 28 - 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Saturday, September 29 - 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Explore the trails at Logan Creek with Naturalist Karen Newbern. The fall colors will be near their peak as we hike through upland deciduous forests, cedar swamps and several natural communities in between. Meet at the parking lot, 5724 Loritz Road, just south of Jacksonport.

Families are welcome! \$5/adult, children under 18 free. Please call to preregister for either the Friday or Saturday hike: (920) 839-2802.



Carl Scholz (r) with Logan Creek hikers

Guided Sanctuary TOURS

\$5/adult
Children under 18 free
Free to Ridges members!

September

9:30 am tours
Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday

October

9:30 am tours - Monday, Wednesday, Friday
through October 12

Nature Center & Nature Store

Autumn Hours

Open daily through October 14
Monday thru Saturday
9 am to 4 pm
Sunday - 10 am to 2 pm

Summer Camp Highlights

During my second summer at The Ridges I had the pleasure of leading the summer day camps. It was a wonderful experience to work with pre-schoolers through sixth graders, and a joy to see the world from their eyes: *Every spider web and deer trail a source of wonder and intrigue!* A great deal of planning went into each day of the camp, as I tried to choose just the right story, craft, hike, games, and other activities for the group. However, my favorite moments were those that were unplanned, when something amazing and unexpected awaited us around the trail bend.

One such moment took place on a sticky, sunny day in July. A group of children from the Explorer camp and I were hiking a loop of Labrador and Winter Wren Trail. We'd been talking about birds of prey and were searching for nests and birds at the Ridges, pausing to take a closer look at anything else that caught our interest: insects, moss, trees, and flowers. As we headed back to the Marshall cabin, excitement for snack time was high and discussions momentarily turned to pokemon, movies, and Harry Potter. That is until an odd sound surprised us, causing even the most rambunctious of our group to freeze. We all stood still as stone, peering through the surrounding cedars until we found the noise's source: a black-crowned night heron balancing on a thin slip of wood in the swale before us. Awed whispers ensued as we slowly shuffled to find the best vantage point. We waited and watched as the heron preened and stretched, the high energy



Jenni and the Explorers

of just a few moments ago completely refocused on observing this single creature. I held my breath as six and then seven minutes slipped by without so much as a shoe scuffle breaking the silence. My ultimate favorite moment of the day was when the group gently tiptoed past the heron to return to the cabin. The group so quiet that the heron never moved, simply kept one eye in our direction as we forged on.

It is these moments, unplanned and perfect, that stick with us. They create strands of memory that connect us to wild places, like The Ridges, and remind us throughout our lives of the wonder they can contain. It has been a delight to share such moments with the children in the summer day camps. I hope that they in turn will share their excitement for nature with others. Judging by their enthusiasm on the trail, this shouldn't be too tall an order!

Jenni Webster, *Summer Naturalist*

Quick Takes

- Spring was obviously underway on April 19: **Wood Frogs** quacking, **Spring Peepers** peeping, **Garter Snakes** slithering, and **Antlions** digging.

- **Green Darner** dragonflies and **Question Mark** and **Red Admiral** butterflies were all spotted on April 30.

- The first **Monarch** butterflies of the season in Baileys Harbor were spotted May 23. Numbers of adults and caterpillars seemed to be higher than usual this summer.

- On June 5, we had a "five orchid" hike: **Striped Coralroot**, **Heartleaf Twayblade**, **Ram's-head Lady's Slipper**, **Pink Moccasin Lady's Slipper**, and **Yellow Lady's Slipper** were all seen in bloom!

- **Hines Emerald** dragonflies were first seen on June 8. Lower numbers of Hines adults this year are likely the result of dry conditions of the past several summers.

- On July 22, Summer Naturalist Jenni Webster watched a **Porcupine** nursing her prickly baby along one of the Ridges trails.

- Five **Great Blue Herons** were seen on the observation deck in Winter Wren Swale in late July. The shallow water around the deck seems to be a good hunting spot.

- Participants in the Discovery Bird Hikes this summer have recorded a total of 89 species. Some of the more interesting sightings included **Northern Waterthrush** & **White Pelican**.

The Ridges Endowment – How it Came to Be

Note: *We don't talk enough about the Ridges Endowment Trust – what it is, when it started, how it benefits us – so we asked Bob Ragotzkie, Board Secretary at the time of its inception, to tell its history. – S. Leonard, E.D.*

The Ridges Sanctuary Endowment Trust was created in 1997 under the leadership of board member Fran Burton and the Endowment Committee. The Trust was approved by the Board of Directors on May 5, 1997 and signed by the late Lee Forrest, Board President, on May 23, 1997. The purpose of the Trust was “to provide income to support the purpose and business of The Ridges Sanctuary, Inc.”

The Trust provided for a **five person Board of Trustees**, two appointed from the Ridges Board and three from the membership at large. The Trust permitted the distribution of income and realized gains to the Ridges but prohibited distribution of any part of its principal, including unrealized capital gains. In the event that The Ridges is dissolved for any reason, the assets of the Trust are to go to the Wisconsin Nature Conservancy (or a similar organization) for activities within Door County. Initially the management of the Trust was assigned to the Associated Trust Company.

In June of 1997 the Board approved the transfer of the assets of a modest, existing endowment fund to the Trust. Under the continued leadership of Fran Burton and the Endowment Committee, a capital campaign was then

undertaken to raise \$1 million. By the end of the year 2000, and thanks to your generosity, that goal was reached.

In October 2003, the Endowment Trustees, under the leadership of chairman Jeff Rosemann, proposed an amendment to the Trust to permit the distribution of capital gains from the Trust – up to a maximum of 5% per year. No part of the contributed assets as determined at that time may be distributed. This amendment was subsequently approved by The Ridges Board. At the same time the Trustees decided to terminate their relationship with Associated Trust and assume management of the Trust's assets. This was accomplished the following year. Trust assets were then, and are still, invested in Vanguard bond and equity index funds.

Since these changes, the Trust has been managed more for growth than for income. By May 31, 2007 its assets had grown to over \$1.6 million, mostly from investment gains. Due to its gains, Endowment trustees were able to approve the distribution of \$80,000 to the Ridges' operating budget for the coming fiscal year.

The Ridges Endowment... what a success story!

Thanks to our members who contributed so generously to establish the Trust and to the leadership of Fran Burton, Board members, the Endowment Committee and its Trustees over the years.

Bob Ragotzkie, *Trustee*

59 Acres Newly Protected!

This May we permanently protected another 59 acres in our project area! The Ridges bought a 37-acre parcel between Hwy. 57 and Moonlight Bay, and protected another 22 acres through a conservation easement that helped ensure the purchase. (In a conservation easement the landowner still owns their land but give up their development rights to protect the natural landscape.) The Ridges worked with landowners and Terrie Cooper, Land Program Director for the Door County Land Trust, to facilitate the easement.

The acquisition and easement were notable for several

reasons. First, they showed that land protection and preservation are important enough for (1) us to devise creating funding avenues and (2) for a local landowner to protect their property from development.

Secondly ...you helped! Your donations to the Ridges' Land Fund provided partial acquisition and easement expenses (additional funding was received from the WI-DNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund and a Federal Coastal Management Grant).

Thanks to all involved – landowners, the Wisconsin DNR, Door County Land Trust and *you* – for permanently protecting another 59 acres of this special State Natural Area!

What's Up With This Weather?

Following the pattern of the past few years, the summer of 2007 was unusually dry. No standing water was visible in the swales in late August. Temperatures were close to normal, however. Other weather observations from the Ridges:

Month	High Temp	Low Temp	Mean Temp	Normal Temp	Rainfall	Normal Rainfall
June	(due to technical difficulties with the weather station, June data was not recorded)					
July	95	44	67	69	.90 in.	3.41 in.
August	93	43	68	67	1.27 in.	3.61 in.

Member News

Volunteers of the Year



Volunteers of the Year - David and Sunny Sinnett

More than 100 volunteers joined us on July 21 for our **Annual Volunteer Recognition**, a light summer dinner at Bjorklunden. Pictured here are **Volunteers of the Year** Dave and Sunny Sinnett, honored for contributions ranging over 15 years and in as many capacities: Board of Directors, Ride for Nature coordinator, Nature Store volunteer, Office volunteer, Wednesday Crew/Maintenance & Property committee chairperson. **Thanks** to musicians Lee Nordgren, Dave Gunderson and Jim Jennings; Bob Brogan and Jean Leavitt; Old Time Portraits; Gills Rock Stoneware; Door Shakespeare – all for special contributions to this fun evening on the Lake. **And our hats are off to Dave & Sunny** – for their incredible and longtime commitment to the Sanctuary!

4th Members Picnic

Thank you for attending this year's members picnic – our 70th Anniversary! 200 members & family members joined Board and staff at the Kimbell barn for a pig-roast, kid's games, anniversary cake and the kick-off of our five year Oral History project.

Please join us in thanking Committee chairs Marilyn Mahlberg and Gwynne Schultz; Oral History moderator & panelists Maureen McGrath, Laura Mueller, Carl & Ruth Scholz, Lee Traven (Jim Hale – we missed you). Thanks also to the Picnic, 70th and Oral History committees, Wednesday Crew, Heidi Figler, Roy Lukes, Paul Mahlberg, Nancy Rafal, Paul Regnier, Flanigan Distributing, Copper Kettle Confections – for work and donations. Special thanks to those of *you* who made additional contributions to the picnic and our 70th Anniversary week!



Jenny Leonard and her cousin, Saylor, ready for the Sack Race

Have You Created a Will?

Did you know that eighty percent of Americans make charitable gifts in their lifetimes, but only eight percent leave charitable gifts in their wills?

This is unfortunate, because a will is the **simplest, least expensive** way to leave a planned, charitable gift to benefit a place or program you care about. A gift whose impact – at The Ridges or anyplace else – could last well beyond your lifetime.

A **will** allows you to say precisely what you'd like to happen with your assets, create a plan for guardianship of any minor or dependent children, and saves the time and expense of a lengthy probate process. It also allows you to support places you love, like The Ridges, forever – **no matter how much you can give.**

When you remember The Ridges with a gift of *any amount*, your unrestricted gift for our "greatest needs" will be invested in the Ridges Endowment Trust (see p.5).

Alternately, you could restrict your gift to a specific purpose: The Ridges Land Fund, Building Fund, or other project of special interest to you – ongoing research, a children's program, a lecture series, or needed technology.

If you have or are creating a will, and would like to remember The Ridges, you may include in your document **bequest language** such as the following:

"I give, devise, and bequeath the sum of \$__ (or __% of the residue of my estate) to The Ridges Sanctuary, Inc., located in Baileys Harbor, Wisconsin."

No matter how much you can give, you too can translate your love of The Sanctuary into a gift whose impact lasts beyond your lifetime!

For more information on including The Ridges in your will or estate plans, please contact Linda Shealey at (920) 839-2802, or write Linda@ridgesanctuary.org.

Linda Shealey,
Development Director

Thanks for Your Generous Support

Welcome New Members

Life Members

James L. Erlenborn
Rebecca A. Nash

Ridges Sustainers

Edward Augustine
James & Barbara Bunning
Nile & Lois Dusdieker
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Kimbell
Camilla Nielsen
Emily & Robert Rogers
Sheldon & Karen Schooler
Nick Wilson & Marc Demoly

Adult & Family Members

Beth & Donald Bartoli
Sarah Brachman & Steve Saltzgeber
Julie Brown
Travor Bussey
Barbara & Robert Fahrenheit
Gil & Lynn Gerdman
Paul & Wendy Greeney
Shirley Griffin & Michael Heinle
John & Heidi Kapacinsky
Christopher & Mary Kulczyk
Judith Leonard
Michael Normile
Barbara Sajna
Marguerite Savard-McKenna
Kristi Sazama
Michael Schaitel
Ruth Schiltz
Dwayne & Melanie Swank
Eileen & Dennis Vaccaro
Henry Vess
Jerry Willey
John Wilterding

Contributions

Ridges Advocate

Irene Kress

Ridges Sustainers

Thomas & Susan Alt
Stefan & Joan Anderson
Terry & Linda Brown
Scott & Dawn Chisholm
Bob & Alice Chrismer
James Hoehn & Nancy Goldberg
Norman & Barbara Johnson
Rosemary & Lee Jones
Heidi Luebke & Peter Leeds
Marilyn Oberst
Ed & Erny Pentecost
Paul & Thea Sager
Tim & Carol Smith

Gifts from Members

Ken Boyd (artwork)
Jay Brickman (artwork)
Paul & Fran Burton (books)
Dottie Diggs (artwork)
Heidi Figler
Judy Giessel (artwork)
Dave Gunderson
Susan Hegenbarth (artwork)
Nita Herreman (artwork)
Jo Holderman (cookies)
Jim Jennings
Don Juers (artwork)
Bob & Carolyn Kimbell
Roy & Charlotte Lukes
Marilyn & Paul Mahlberg (artwork)
Maureen & Robert McGrath
Lee Nordgren
Nancy Rafal

Ruth Sandor (artwork)
Michael Schaitel & Lynn Grimm
Gwynne Schultz
Mrs. Mildred Sutton

Gifts to the Garden Fund

Maureen & Bob McGrath

Gifts to the Education Program

Margery Melgaard

Gifts from Businesses & Organizations

Airfare
Copper Kettle Confections
Econofoods
Flanigan Distributing, Inc.
Gills Rock Stoneware
Hickey Brothers Fishery
Main Street Market
Old Time Portraits
Renards Cheese
Sturgeon Bay Methodist Church
Town of Baileys Harbor
Whitefish Bay Farm Gallery

Business Stewards

Baileys Harbor Yacht Club Resort
Sister Bay Bowl

Business Sustainers

Fish Creek Moccasin Works
Flanigan Distributing, Inc.
Glidden Lodge Beach Resort
Health Benefits Management
Inn on Maple
Mr. G's Logan Creek Grille
Quest Realty
Sail Door County
Thomas/Pfeifer Insurance Agency
White Gull Inn

Gifts to the Endowment Fund

Anonymous
Elizabeth B. & Philip J.
Hendrickson Fdn.
Susan Crawford & Jeffrey Rosemann
Camilla Nielsen

Gifts to the Land Fund

Jeffrey Francik

Gifts to the Operating Fund

Emily Bergmann
Kenneth & Eleanor Brown
Barbara Buckingham
Joe Carpenter
Martha Cherry Fund
Rob & Marguerite Davis
Richard & Sandra Dirks
Susan Eckardt
Doris Ellmann
Emil & Gail Fischer
Janet Frederiksen
Elizabeth Guenzel
Wally & Norma Hammerberg
Marlene Hinsch
George & Carole Kraemer
Agnes Kubicz
Roberta & Richard Larson
Marilyn & Paul Mahlberg
Maureen & Bob McGrath
Greg & Lynn Nelson
Neal & Gerry Nottleson
Patricia Olson
Jim Perry

David Schneider
Gwynne Schultz
George & Jean Slight
Wendy Symonds
Betty Thoms
Arlene Trettin
Jolene & Michael Van Koevering
Jack & Jane Weis

In memory of

Olive Bell Daniels
Alice Daniels

Joan Jackson
Edward Przedwiecki

Ingrid Jonsson
Kathleen Brickley
CFO Solutions LLC
Angela Clark
Elizabeth Hodges
Lynne Humphries
Norma Kapacinskas
Ira Kaye
Andrea Kunkel
K. Matthews
Roberto Montoya
Hiren Patel
Kathleen Renquist
Gertrude Schmidt
Wendi Ware
Alan Westheimer

Samuel Kruty
Terrence Aniolowski
Mary Conrad
Gary & Doris Ferguson
Bernard Fine

James Heidke
Irving Weiner

Jannette McArdle
Catherine McArdle & family

LaVern Meeusen
Margaret Schimanski

Robert Poppert
Joan Jacobs

Catherine Summers
Alice Daniels

Lee Tishler
Lee Traven

Philip A. Turner
Ruth Turner

In honor of

Virginia Booth
Elizabeth B. & Philip J.
Hendrickson Fdn.

Susan Crawford & Jeffrey Rosemann
Marty & Alice Krebs

Janet McAuliffe
Mary Beckstrand

Betsy Rogers & Gwynne Schultz
Dorothy Beverly

Judy & Michel Roy
Ken & Carol Boyd
Pete & Barbara Classen

"Fast Forward" The Ridges Program Campaign

Every year you generously give your membership support. Many of you also make **additional, tax-deductible gifts at year's end**. These additional gifts fund our overall, day-to-day operations throughout the winter – helping us plan for the future, write grants, complete land acquisitions, deliver summer programs, and the like.

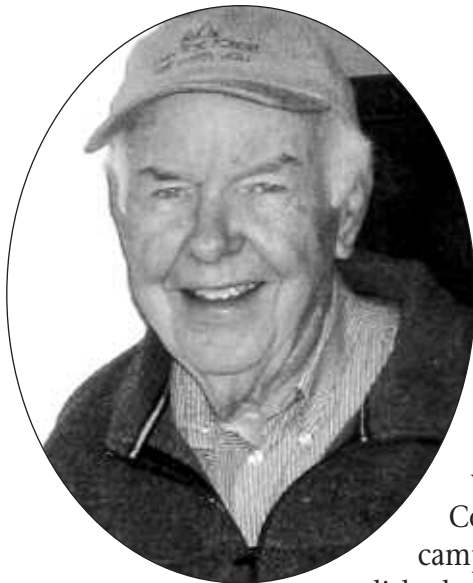
This year we need the same operational funds. *We also need additional funds for a number of special projects needed to "fast forward" work on the Long-Range Plan.* To this end we're running a special "Fast Forward" campaign in conjunction with our year-end Appeal. Donations are needed for infrastructure and programs: everything from a Ridges' sewer-line extension to new file cabinets.

You'll hear more as the Plan and our program goals get finalized this fall.

We rely on your generosity, and count on you keeping us moving forward! When your November letter arrives, please be as generous as you've been in the past. And please consider making an additional gift to the "Fast Forward" campaign!

Thanks again for all you do –

Linda Shealey,
Development Director



In Memory of Lee Forrest

Leeman “Lee” Forrest joined The Ridges Board of Directors in 1997, and was its President until his health required him to step down in 1999.

His life was marked by kindness, compassion and his willingness to help others – especially those less fortunate than himself. At The Ridges, Lee’s heart lay in land acquisition. He went out of his way & used his quiet powers of persuasion to make land acquisition happen... and, as one friend remarked, had “unlimited patience to wait things out”. Lee also helped with the Ride for Nature, with Committee work, and (recently) on our summer visitor’s survey and the campaign for a new office database. A **memorial fund** has been established at The Ridges to honor this fine man. Donations may be sent to The Ridges, to contribute to a permanently placed plaque, in his name, at The Sanctuary. Lee was a great asset to wherever he gave of his time and energy, and The Ridges was lucky to be one of those places. Here, his unusual integrity will be missed.