



THE RIDGES SANCTUARY

2010 ANNUAL REPORT



THE RIDGES SANCTUARY

TO THE RIDGES SANCTUARY MEMBERSHIP,

Our success has been because of you – our volunteers, members, donors and partners all working together to protect the Sanctuary for many generations to come. It's very humbling when you realize how much we've been able to accomplish.

Thank you to our. . .

Volunteers

Monday Mornings - Lighthouse Keepers maintaining the gardens around the Upper Range Light.

Tuesday Mornings – Barberry Pirates help with the ever increasing need to control invasive species.

Wednesday Mornings - The Wednesday Crew tackles whatever is on the “to do” list. This winter they disassembled and then recycled as much material as possible from two old cabins that were part of a recent land purchase.

Every Day - Nature Center volunteers greet our visitors to provide a welcoming orientation to the Sanctuary and support the Nature Store.

And others who help catalog our archives; participate on committees to coordinate events; help with administrative needs; lead bird hikes or other education programs; write articles; and perform the variety of other tasks needed to help run and protect The Ridges.

Members and Donors

Individuals & Families continue to support The Ridges through their membership fees, donations and the Albert Fuller Planned Giving program.

Business Owners support The ridges through memberships, event sponsorships, and/or in-kind donations to our silent auction, raffles, or Volunteer of the Year Awards.

Community Partners

Many community partners have stepped forward to create collaborative programs to support our mission and community initiatives:

Baileys Harbor McArdle Library & Door County YMCA for supporting *No Family Left Inside* family programming.

Door County Invasive Species Team

Sevastopol and Gibraltar Students helping on workdays.

Town of Baileys Harbor for use of the Town Hall.

And others assisting with research, education and land protection.

The Ridges has always been, and will continue to be, a place for children, families, and adults who truly believe in protecting the Sanctuary and nurturing conservation values for many generations to come.

Thanks to all for such a successful year,

The Ridges Sanctuary's Board and Staff



Back left: Pam Gregory, Sally Hunter, Steve Leonard Front left: Carol Schuster, Karen Newbern, Marne Kaeske

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Steve Leonard

Ass't Director/Naturalist

Karen Newbern

Office Manager

Pam Gregory

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Stewardship/DCIST

Marne Kaeske

Bookkeeper

Sally Hunter

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The Ridges Sanctuary, Inc.

PO Box 152 Baileys Harbor WI 54202-0152

• (920) 839-2802 • <http://RidgesSanctuary.org> • info@RidgesSanctuary.org



THE RIDGES SANCTUARY

The Ridges Sanctuary, Inc. 2010 Financial Statements*

Assets

Current Assets

Cash \$ 140,907

Grants Receivable \$ 166,710

Inventories \$5,293

Total Current Assets \$312,910

Land & Fixed Assets \$ 4,030,755

Other Assets \$ 1,628,047

Total Assets **\$ 5,971,712**

Liabilities & Net Assets

Liabilities

Land Purchase Note \$ 149,593

Accounts Payable \$14,135

Long-Term Debt \$4,206

Total Liabilities \$167,934

Net Assets \$ 5,803,778

Total Liabilities & Net Assets **\$ 5,971,712**

Statement of Activities

Revenues

Contributions \$ 323,699

Memberships \$ 36,580

Grants \$ 340,745

Other Support & Revenue \$ 261,713

Total Revenue **\$ 962,737**

Expenses

Program Services \$ 196,097

Administration \$ 159,151

Fundraising \$ 54,409

Total Expense **\$ 409,657**

Increase in Net Assets **\$ 553,080**

*Condensed excerpt from audited Financial Statements as of 12/31/10.



Don Juers, Treasurer

THE RIDGES SANCTUARY

THE YEAR 2010 AT THE RIDGES

LAND PROTECTION & RESEARCH

- Purchased three properties: 35 acres from Chris and Robin Warecki; 16 acres from Mary Hadeen; 1+ acres from Blue Sky Harbor.
- Received \$430,000 from WI-DNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant Program and US Fish & Wildlife Coastal Grant Program to support land acquisitions.
- Removed 3 acres of invasive species *Phragmites australis* from Pickerel Pond ecosystem. Project was supported through an \$8,000 WI-DNR Landowner Incentive Program grant.
- Received a \$10,000 US Fish & Wildlife grant to continue the removal of *Phragmites australis* from the Pickerel Pond ecosystem.
- Designated The Ridges Sanctuary as a biological field station through the Organizations for Biological Field Stations (www.obfs.org) to support research initiatives.
- Volunteers expanded the Upper Range Light gardens. Plants were donated by Door Landscape.
- Volunteers dedicated over 700 hours maintaining trails, buildings, gardens and controlling invasive species in 2009.
- Stream monitoring volunteers logged over 280 hours to check for water quality in the County.

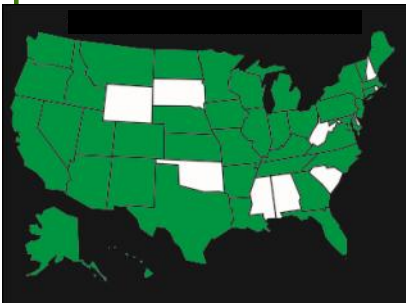


EDUCATION & OUTREACH

- Received \$35,000 grant from Door County Soil & Water Department to expand Door County Invasive Species Team.
- Volunteer Cathleen Haskins started the "TRS Memories Project" to collect and preserve memories and stories from Ridges' members.
- Coordinated the 3rd WI Naturalist program providing an opportunity for adults to learn more about Door County's natural history and become informed volunteers.
- Started a county-wide stream monitoring program in partnership with the WI DNR's Water Action Volunteer program.
- Festival of Nature brought in over 200 participants and raised \$10,000 through program fees and sponsorships to support The Ridges' programs.
- Partnered with the McArdle Library and the Door County YMCA on a new program called *No Family Left Inside* to connect children and adults to the outdoors.
- Received a \$1,500 grant from the Door County Community Foundation's Green Fund to partially fund the *No Family Left Inside* program
- Coordinated 12 monthly *No Family Left Inside* programs with help from a Door County Community Foundation—Green Fund Grant.
- *Reading the Ridges Art Exhibit* from March 1 – April 12, 2010 inspired 46 artists to tell The Ridges story through different art media.
- Volunteers dedicated over 1800 hours staffing the Nature Center, reaching out to well over 5,000 members and visitors and raised over \$8,000 from Nature Store sales.
- Started the Landowner Stewardship program, site visits to individual landowners helping them develop management plans to protect native flora and fauna and remove invasive species from their lands.
- In December, hosted the 2nd annual "Ridges Natural Christmas" as a community event.

DEVELOPMENT

- Members matched a \$10,000 gift and raised an additional \$16,000 to support The Ridges' programs.
- The Annual Ride for Nature supports over 300 bikers and raised over \$8,000.
- Volunteers coordinated the first Golf Outing and Silent Auction in 2009 & the second in 2010.
- Hosted the 2nd Annual Great Waffle Breakfast for Ridges members, Baileys Harbor residents and Door County visitors in February 2010.
- The Third Annual Ridges Flea Market added to the Baileys Harbor Fall Festival experience.
- Our members come from 40 states, Washington DC, and Canada.



Our membership comes from 40 states and Canada!

FACILITIES & ADMINISTRATION

- Volunteers dedicated over 4,000 hours in 2009 (an equivalent of two fulltime staff) to help maintain and protect The Ridges Sanctuary.
- Partnered with the Wisconsin Historic Society and the National Trust for Historic Preservation to start the historic preservation process for the Range Lights.
- Started the design/build process and site analysis for new facility.

THE RIDGES SANCTUARY

The Ridges Sanctuary Programs



NO FAMILY LEFT INSIDE

In order to promote the nationwide effort to get kids outdoors and exploring nature, The Ridges Sanctuary started the No Family Left Inside initiative. Its purpose is to get children and families to connect with the natural world. Helping parents and grandparents feel more at ease while exploring the outdoors is one of the main goals of “**No Family Left Inside**,” (a cooperative program through the Baileys Harbor McArdle Library and the Northern Door Y) program which has been underway at The Ridges for about a year. We have been offering activities designed to help families forge a connection to nature by exploring, investigating, and learning together. Families have searched for geocaches hidden in the Sanctuary, listened to frog songs and other signs of spring, and captured and

tagged monarch butterflies. They’ve wandered through the woods by moonlight, and taken digital photographs to complete a scavenger hunt. This program is partially funded by a grant from the Door Community Foundation’s Green Fund Grant.

SUMMER KIDS PROGRAMS

The Ridges Sanctuary is an ideal location for a child’s outdoor learning. Here, children (and adults!) can search for dragonfly larvae in a sedge meadow, examine animal tracks along the beach, and learn about the appetites of insect-eating pitcher plants and sundews. They can become animals in an active game of predators and prey, help build a tree model, or dress up as a bat. All these activities and many more, are a part of The Ridges’ popular Summer Youth Programs.

WISCONSIN NATURALISTS

The third year of offering the Wisconsin Naturalists program resulting in the educating of 20 volunteers in the areas of geology, communities & habitats, invasive species, and more. The Wisconsin Naturalist class members then go out and volunteer in natural areas in the county so the outreach of the program has been growing each year since its inception in 2008. The 2011 class will meet for 10 weeks in the Fall.

BARBERRY PIRATES

With all of the invasive plants that are threatening the natural beauty and variety of species in the Sanctuary, the Barberry Pirates were formed to attack the invaders! This group of fearless volunteers has battled muck, rain, heat, mosquitos, and thistles to clear aggressive species that would reduce the biodiversity of The Ridges Sanctuary from sensitive areas.

DOOR COUNTY INVASIVE SPECIES TEAM (DCIST)

During the first year of The Ridges’ management of the *Door County Invasive Species Team* (DCIST) program, over 1200 hours were logged in the County battling invasive species both terrestrial and aquatic. Educating citizens on terrestrial and aquatic exotic species threats was a natural fit for the The Ridges Sanctuary’s mission of preservation, education and research. The Ridges is proud of its role in the protection of the biodiversity of the Door peninsula.

STREAM MONITORS

The number of stream monitors has grown from a small core to over 40 people keeping an account of the quality of the streams in Door County. In 2010 we “graduated” nine stream monitoring participants to *Level 2* data collection. In June, state coordinators came to TRS to train our volunteers on a more intensive system of surface water quality inventory. With this new level of expertise and more interested individuals we were able to expand our surveys to two new streams within the county.

LAKE LESSONS

From the *Family Discovery Night* with its emphasis on family related explorations of bugs of land and water to the presentation by Michael Draney on *Mosquitos: The Good, the Bad, & the Ugly*, the Thursday evening “Lake Lessons” of The Ridges Sanctuary are well received by the community. These programs are meant to be scientific enough to be enlightening and educational while offering relevant, easy-listening, visual presentations from people knowledgeable in the topics.

PARTNERS

Baileys Harbor McArdle
Library
The Clearing Folk School
Door County Land Trust
Door County Nature
Conservancy
Door County Soil & Water Conservation
Department
Door County Y
Gibraltar Schools
Sevastopol Schools
Crossroads at Big Creek
Town of Baileys Harbor
US Fish & Wildlife
University of South Dakota-
Department of Aquatic Ecology
WI Department of Natural
Resources

THE RIDGES SANCTUARY



Gifts to The Ridges Sanctuary are deeply appreciated and are a major source of funding to preserve this beautiful place, continue our efforts at preservation, and support our nature education programs. Each year our members reaffirm their commitment to The Ridges Sanctuary by renewing their memberships, giving generously to the Annual Appeal, and contributing In-Kind gifts and volunteer time to keep the Sanctuary moving toward the next 75 years of being a place for History, Reflection and Discovery.

In Memory of

Howard & Darlene Bailey

Moonlight Bay Property Owners Association

Naomi Beardsley

David & Sunny Sinnett
Dee Sinnett

Margaret (Betty) Cook

Mr & Mrs William Hebal

Ray Cordon

Lee Traven

Gertrude Dietz

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Margery Melgaard

Kris Schorer

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Alpine Golf Course & Resort

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Paul Burton

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Holly Cole

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Cynthia Crock

Door County Coffee & Tea

Door County Ice Cream

Factory & Ice Cream

Shop

EconoFoods

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Tad Greene

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Club

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page 9—Barberry Pirates attack phragmites at Pickerel Pond



page 9—Young adventurers show off their Survival shelter (A No Family Left Inside program)



page 9—One of the many extraordinary pieces of art at the Reading the Ridges exhibit at the Link Gallery in March 2010



page 8—On a hunt for dragonflies at the July dragonfly workshop



page 8—Enjoying waffles in celebration of Emma Toft's birthday at the Great Waffle Breakfast in February



page 7—Learning from the experts is the order of the day for the Wisconsin Naturalist classes held each Fall



page 7 & front cover—The Barberry Pirates checking out the palatability of Phragmites shoots



page 6—Checking out the bargains at The Ridges' Flea Market in September



page 5—Looking for Signs of Spring (a No Family Left Inside program)



page 4—summer campers stare back into the eyes of a dragonfly



front cover—The Showy Lady's Slipper has been the icon of The Ridges since Jens Jensen designed our first seal



front cover—A young summer camper watches intently for elusive water bugs



front cover—The Family Discovery Night in late June is a time to explore owl pellets, water critters, land bugs, and step into the Giant Bubble!



front cover—Karen and some campers looking at small insects.



front cover—Getting kids outdoors exploring nature is the purpose of our No Family Left Inside program