



Securing
a Legacy

Winter 2011/2012

sanctuary

A Newsletter of The Ridges Sanctuary

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

President - Roy Thilly
Vice-President - Lawrie Kull
Secretary - Sue Hegenbarth
Treasurer - Jim Jauquet

Directors

Carl Giessel
Bill Hebal
Jean Majeski
Vicki Medland
Ed Miller
Ed Pentecost
Bob Ryan

Staff

Executive Director
Steve Leonard
Assistant Director/Naturalist
Karen Newbern
Development Director
Judy M. Drew
Volunteer/Membership Coordinator
Carol Schuster
Stewardship Coordinator
Marne Kaeske
Office Manager
Pam Gregory
Bookkeeper
Sally Hunter
Nature Store
Pam Zeller

CONTACT US

The Ridges Sanctuary, Inc.

PO Box 152 8270 Hwy. 57
Baileys Harbor, WI 54202

Office: (920) 839-2802
Nature Center: (920) 839-1101
Fax: (920) 839-2234
info@ridgessanctuary.org
www.RidgesSanctuary.org

Cover photo of Hidden Brook by:
Schmeekle Preserve

Winter 2011/12 - Vol. 38, Issue 2



Recycled paper - using 30%
post-consumer waste

From the Rangelight

Living Proof

"To whom much is given, much is required." We've all heard that quote. Typically it's interpreted to mean that the obligation to give back applies to those with abundant financial resources. I prefer a broader interpretation than that, but actually it's the lesser known second half of the saying that resonates with me as we come to the end of this year and contemplate the year ahead:

"...to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded."

Almost 75 years ago, a group of people gathered to hear Albert Fuller give a talk entitled "Preserving the Ridges at Baileys Harbor." Not long after Fuller's presentation, the Door County Park Commission decided to designate the area as a wildflower sanctuary rather than follow through with plans to use the site as a park and campgrounds. A few short months later, our founders incorporated under the name The Ridges Sanctuary and provided permanent protection for The Range Light Forty.

What inspired Albert Fuller, Jens Jensen, Emma Toft, Olivia Traven and others to preserve this natural botanical garden for future generations? Simply this – they numbered themselves among those to whom much had been given – not in material wealth, but in natural beauty and diversity. And, once they recognized that gift, they embraced their responsibility to ensure its preservation for all of us.



Don Valenti, Jim Jauquet, Lee Traven, Lawrie Kull & Steve Leonard
at the closing of the sale for the Sandpiper property.

In October of 1937, the Milwaukee Journal published an editorial about The Ridges. "Forty Acres in Door County" described our founders in these words:

"Not wealthy, not 'influential,' but lovers of the beautiful, wanting those who come after them to find such beauty to enrich their lives, these 'people who care' have not waited for wealth to make their start. And others who care will help them ... And some who have the means and would like to give something intelligently must be attracted. We spend hundreds of millions trying to 'restore' what could have been saved for very little, as this Door County park can be saved, if it is done now."

Today The Ridges encompasses 1600 acres – 40 times the size of the original parcel. Like the preserve itself, our educational programs, our outreach and our research efforts have grown. The care of the Sanctuary, begun by our founders and entrusted to generation after generation, now rests with us.

This year, we completed a fundraising campaign to purchase the Sandpiper property. Thanks to the support of our membership and our community, we closed on the property at the end of October. Now we are poised to embark on the next phase of the campaign which includes not only an Interpretive Center, but also the development of programs, media, trail systems, and other site improvements to enhance our visitors' experience and help to tell The Ridges' story.

We've taken an important first step toward advancing the vision of our founders and securing its legacy for future generations. We still have much work to do in the months ahead, but with your help we are confident that we can achieve our goal.

The Sanctuary and its generations of caretakers stand as living proof of what the Milwaukee Journal so aptly noted all those years ago: **"There isn't much limit to what people can do if they have enthusiasm and care enough."**

Steve Leonard
Executive Director
steve@ridgessanctuary.org

Quick Notes

Save the dates!

a'Round for The Ridges will be on Sunday, July 8th in 2012. For its 4th year, this fundraiser will again be at the Alpine Golf Course in Egg Harbor. Everyone loves that blue course overlooking Green bay!

The **Great Waffle Breakfast** to celebrate Emma Toff's 121st birthday will be Sat., Feb. 4 from 9 – 11 AM.

The **Door County Festival of Nature** will be one week earlier next year. May 18th & 19th.

The **Ridges Ride for Nature** will be on Sat., June 16.

Reading the Ridges II, our invitational art show at The Link Gallery in Fish Creek will be from July 1-July 31.

Memories Book

The memories book is being formatted. If you have any last minute pictures that we could use – send them to Carol at The Ridges Sanctuary – PO Box 152 – Baileys Harbor WI 54202. We are especially looking for images of skating on the swales. The books will be published in the Spring of 2012 but you can reserve a copy now and get it when it is hot off the press! Just send us \$8 plus \$3 for shipping (members only). They will sell for \$10 next Spring. Ninety-six pages of reminiscences of The Ridges Sanctuary.

No Family Left Inside

The Ridges' staff and volunteers are doing their best to get kids and their families outside exploring nature. Based on the numbers of people who came to our monthly **No Family Left Inside** programs and to our **Funday Mondays** in the summer, the love of outdoor activities is being rekindled. Funded in part by the Door County Community Foundations Green Fund Grant.

Cellcom gives a "Green Gift" to The Ridges

In October, The Ridges received a donation through Cellcom's "Green Gifts" program. "The \$1,500 gift will help support **No Family Left Inside**", said Steve Leonard, executive director.

"This is a series of programs designed to reconnect parents to their childhood experiences with nature and to help them introduce their children to those same types of experiences – exploring creeks, catching frogs or fireflies or just lying on your back in the grass watching the clouds," Leonard said. "Perhaps one parent described our programming goals best when she said, 'We will need to look for more events like this – after all, part of a "natural living" is investing in the sanity that communing with your family outdoors provides.'"

Since 2004 Cellcom has offered a cell phone recycling program where customers can bring in their phones to be reused and recycled. Cellcom sends the phones to recyclers who send money to Cellcom for the materials that were retrieved. Cellcom gives the money collected to local non-profits in their "Green Gifts" program.



Monarch tagging

Natural Christmas

Volunteers are gathering boughs, clearing out the log cabins, planning decorations, designing crafts all to make sure you have a good time at our old-fashioned Christmas celebration. The luminarias will again light the boardwalk and there will be hot chocolate, homemade cookies and a bonfire to warm the cockles of your heart. Let's hope for snow but not as much as last year! (*What are cockles anyway?*) **Dec. 10 from 3 – 6 PM.**

Building Bridges at The Ridges!

Watch for dates in the spring for volunteers to help build the new trail between the Sandpiper property and the boardwalk. Once the plans are finalized and materials are organized, we will plan several 'work days' so everyone who wants to be a part of the vision gets a chance to hammer some nails and set some posts.

Lake Lessons

On Thursday evenings in the summer, The Ridges presents programs on environmental topics to the community at the Baileys Harbor Town Hall. Look for presentations on wild life, dragonflies, native landscaping, etc. Featured this year is a look at the natural & cultural history of The Ridges Sanctuary by Roy Lukes on July 19th.

Restore the Range Light

Range Light Trivia*: What color was the original roof of the Lower Range Light? So far over \$12,000 has been raised to preserve the historic aspect of the Lower Range Light. The major problem is the condition of the foundation. Work on that will begin next spring and hopefully the entire restoration can be completed in 2012. This building has been an icon for The Ridges and a much photographed landmark for visitors and residents. Any donation \$50 and over entitles you to a Phil Austin Range Lights print.

*According to Restoric, LLC, which did the Historic Structures report, the roof of the Lower Range Light was most probably red.

Around the Thumb Door County Invasive Species Team

Here in Door County, we are fortunate to have a group of natural resource professionals and interested public members who are concerned with preserving our natural environment. DCIST (Door County Invasive Species Team) enlists the help of volunteers to halt the invasion of exotic non-native plants through programs which educate them on control efforts and ultimately train them as stewards of the land.

Hosting workshops, community meetings, coordinating with special interest groups and friends groups, and communicating through a variety of media has allowed us to reach every community on the peninsula. As DCIST coordinator this year, The Ridges has had the opportunity to provide land owners with valuable information to help them manage their property. We have also been able to play a vital role in phragmites control and education. Volunteer mapping projects have become a major tool

identifying ecological needs and assessing available resources. Over 500 hours of volunteer time in mapping phragmites have assisted with the Department of Natural Resource's (DNR) Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) phragmites and lyme grass control program, as well as with individual private lands and Homeowners Association phragmites control projects.

Additionally, a grant from the US Forest Service helped Southern Door treat almost seven acres of wild parsnip on private lands and 47 right-of-way miles along state and county roadways. Educating the town boards regarding these areas was crucial, but outreach to adjacent landowners and citizens through workshops drove the community awareness and support.

Thank you to all of our staff, members, volunteers, and project partners for supporting invasive species and biodiversity awareness county wide!

The Past...



The area was saved from development by the presence of the Bailey's Harbor Range Lights.

I am new to the staff of The Ridges Sanctuary, but not to the allure, beauty and comfort of its 1600 acres. My husband and I first walked the trails of the Sanctuary in the early 80s when we began visiting Door County and walked them many times in the years that followed. Like others, I had heard the story of the founders and had absorbed it along with other Door County history and lore. I thought I understood what The Ridges represented. I thought I had a full appreciation of the foresight of Albert Fuller, Emma Toft, Jens Jensen and Olivia Traven. And I suppose, at a certain level, I did. But what I see now – some 30 years later – is that something was lacking – something that only time and experience can provide. Perspective.

On Their Shoulders

It is one thing to experience conservation as it exists today. It is quite another to find value in the preservation of a 30 acre pocket of rare boreal forest in the dark days which would lead to World War II. Still in the grips of the Great Depression, Americans had lost sight of the American Dream and, along with it their sense of hope and optimism. Economics dominated politics. Sound familiar?

Yet, in 1937, our founders understood that it was important to protect environmentally significant areas for future generations. In the face of economic disaster and looming war, they became pioneers of Wisconsin's conservation movement and The Ridges Sanctuary became their lasting legacy to Door County, to Wisconsin and, ultimately, to the nation.

We have all heard the phrase, "standing on the shoulders of those who came before us" and this has a special resonance as The Ridges approaches its 75th anniversary. As milestones do, this event has caused us to reflect and refocus on the vision of our founders. The challenges we face today in the wake of the Great Recession provide some insight into the obstacles they faced and give even more meaning to their journey.

And In Their Footsteps

This year, we have begun our own journey. In late October, we purchased the Sandpiper property which will serve as the site of our new Interpretive Center. Once completed, the Center will provide us with a unique opportunity to sustain our founders' commitment to conservation for many generations to come.



The bridges have always been a place for quiet reflection. Ann Markin in 1960.



Inez Telfer, Emma Toft, & Fred Traven clearing the Range Light trail in the 1950s or 60s.

Informs the Future

Located at the corner of Hwy 57 and Ridges Road, the Center will provide a visible public entrance and a focal point for the various areas of our campus. Through both signage and video displays, it will help us tell our story. It will become a place for people of all ages – volunteers, members, residents, businesses, visitors and community leaders alike – to gather in support of our efforts in land protection, education, outreach and research.

I can't help but believe that our founders would be proud. Proud of all that has been accomplished in the past 75 years and pleased that we have continued to find ways to communicate and expand their vision. We stand at this threshold as beneficiaries of their struggles, hard work and ethics. And we commit, as they did, to leave behind a set of solidly built shoulders for those who will someday follow in our footsteps.

by Judy Drew



Summer Campers butterfly hunting



Hidden Brook Trail system

Hidden Brook Trail

A new trail loop from the site of the new Interpretive Center.

When completed, this new boardwalk will provide a sensory experience which focuses on the mystery, variety and beauty of the site. The use of interpretive media along the trail will maximize the interpretive experience and connect everyone to the area that naturalist, author and artist Virginia Eifert called the “Canadian Carpet.” Its sunny swales with long views and its dark, cool cedar woods will capture the imagination and be fully accessible to everyone, regardless of age or ability.

Connecting the Next Generation



Early Birders

Growing up on a farm, I spent most of my childhood outdoors. Sometimes my five brothers and I played games like football or tag, but most of our time was spent in unstructured exploration – catching frogs or fireflies, trying to identify shapes in the clouds, building snow forts – outdoor experiences which helped shape my attitudes about nature and the preservation of natural areas. Today, only a generation later, it's unusual for most children to spend significant time outdoors “at play.” In his book *Last Child in the Woods*, Richard Louv wrote

about this disconnection from nature and coined the term “nature deficit disorder” to describe the separation between children and the natural world.

Over the past two years, The Ridges has developed several programs to counteract the effects of “nature deficit disorder” by helping parents feel more comfortable taking their kids outdoors to explore and learn.

Our No Family Left Inside programs are held monthly during the school year and weekly from mid-June through mid-August.



Conversing with coyote - Creatures of the Night

Hands-on activities involve both parents and children in learning about topics like “Signs of Spring,” “Monarch Magic” and “Survival.” Activities like Geocaching and Winter Games are more recreation-oriented. This program is a co-



Inside the giant bubble - Family Discovery Night

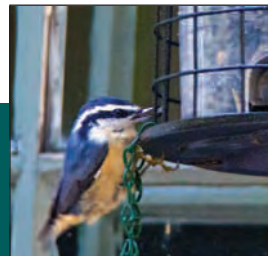
operative effort with the Door County YMCA and the McArdle Library in Baileys Harbor, and is supported by grants from Cellcom's ‘Green Gifts’ and the Green Fund of the Door County Community Foundation. The Early Birders Club, another successful family program, attracted almost 20 families when it started this spring. Similar in format to No Family Left Inside, it focuses on birds – raptors, beak adaptations, migration, and bird feeding – and meets the second Saturday of each month at different locations around the county. Most programs include time for bird observation and identification. The Early Birders Club is supported by grants from the Hartman Family Foundation and Raibrook Foundation.

Through programs like these, parents (and grandparents) reconnect to their own early experiences with nature and, in turn, will encourage their kids to head outside to explore, learn and dream. A closer connection with wild things and wild places benefits all of us. As one parent observed, “Part of ‘natural living’ is investing in the sanity that communing with your family outdoors provides.”

by Karen Newbern



Sneaking up on those “Skittering Critters”



Nuthatch on feeder, captured by an Early Birder during a meeting on “Photographing Birds” by professional photographer Len Villano

Nature Notes

For the second year, a pair of Sandhill Cranes nested in Sandy Swale. This year the nest was better hidden, but still visible from the trails. The eggs hatched in mid-May, but unfortunately one of the chicks was found dead a few days later.

During the last week of April, with ice still on some of the swales, the Wood Frogs were abundant and “singing” with great gusto.

It was not a good summer for Monarchs. Migrating adults returned to the County quite

late. Cool, rainy weather in May and June slowed the growth of both milkweed plants and monarch caterpillars, while nectar producing plants were hurt by dry weather from July – mid-September. Lower numbers of monarchs were seen during the fall migration. Poor weather conditions in Mexico could be disastrous for the wintering population.

On September 29 and 30, high winds toppled trees at The Ridges, many on the Logan Creek property. Our volunteers cleared

trails quickly and many hikers who found state parks closed due to wind damage were able to experience The Ridges’ trails. Our intrepid Wednesday Crew plans to use a huge downed sugar maple for our new building.

A Monarch butterfly was seen on October 12, several weeks later than they would typically be seen. A single Dwarf Lake Iris blossom was found the same day.

Tamarack trees were in full fall color the first week of November. Aldo Leopold referred to the color of these deciduous conifers as “smoky gold.”

Icy Creations! by Marge Trocki

Turn your yard into an Icy Art Museum! With just a few simple tools, and a lot of help from the frigid winter temperatures, you can transform your landscape into an eye-catching, splendor of color!

You will need:

- Molds – Jello molds, cake molds, balloons, buckets, muffin tins, plastic egg cartons, and just about any size and shape container that will hold water!
- Food coloring
- String
- Small items – plastic toys, colorful recyclables, pine cones, leaves...
- Freezing temperatures

Here's what you do:

1. Fill your container of choice with water.
2. If a color is desired, mix in food coloring before it freezes.
3. Add any other items that you may want suspended in the ice sculpture.
4. If you want your sculpture to hang on something after it freezes, dip the two ends of a string or rope into the top of your icy creation and leave there to freeze in place.
5. Put your sculpture in a safe place outside to turn to ice.
6. After it freezes, strategically place your icy creation in your yard to add to your Icy Museum collection.

Here are some ideas on making your icy creations unique:

- Give your frozen items the layered look. Fill the container partially with water and food coloring, let it freeze, and add another layer with a different color.
- Pile your icy items on top of each other and place a stick or broom handle between layers. Now, smaller icy creations can be hung on them.

- Place smaller items in the water before it freezes for a different look. Pine cones, leaves, plastic insects, colorful toys and just about anything can be used.
- Make your creations edible for the wildlife. Place fruit or seeds in them before freezing. Watch as the birds and squirrels nibble on them throughout the winter!

There are no boundaries for your creativity. Make totem poles, animals, furniture, flowers and any kind of abstract art! Fill your yard with these icy creations and hang them all over the trees. Soon enough you will have a crowd of people slowing down to admire your "Icy Museum" that will eventually diminish one day before your eyes. So enjoy it while you can!



PO Box 152
Baileys Harbor WI 54202-0152

Forwarding Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BAILEYS HARBOR, WI
PERMIT NO. 1

Sanctuary - Winter 2011/12; Volumn 38, No. 2

Setting the Stage

Thanks to strong support from our board, membership, donors and volunteers, we were successful in acquiring the Sandpiper Restaurant property as the future site of our new Interpretive Center.

Completing this first critical phase of fundraising sets the stage for the creation of a new model of environmental stewardship and sustainability. As we approach our 75th anniversary, we have an unprecedented opportunity to advance the vision of our founders. That vision includes not only the Interpretive Center, but also addresses the development of programs, media, trail systems, and other site improvements which will enhance the visitor experience and help to tell The Ridges' story for generations to come.

As we embark upon the next phase of the campaign, our day-to-day operations become even more vital. Your membership and your response to our annual appeal help fund our land stewardship efforts, our educational programming and outreach and our ongoing research. **As you consider your year-end giving, please remember that our vision for the future is made possible by the quality of the work we do today.**

