



Fall/Winter, 2018

Rushes Wilderness Foundation Inc.

Mission

"To maintain, improve, and provide access to The Rushes Wilderness Area while preserving its natural beauty."

Board of Directors

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President's Message

It is that time of year where we have already seen beautiful fall colors, snow, and unseasonably cooler temperature at The Rushes.

As we reflect on 2018, we can say it has been a very rewarding and challenging year for the RWF Board, volunteers, and owners who explore our Wilderness Preserve. I continue to be thankful for the commitment and dedication of our volunteers who worked so hard to preserve our natural beauty.



We continue to rely on your gifts of time, treasure, and talent to carry our mission forward. Your donation today makes a significant impact far into the future of the Wilderness Preserve. Our goal is to enrich the lives of our Rushes' families through natural beauty.

We look forward to seeing you on the trail and thank you for considering a gift this coming year.

Ray Osinski
President, RWF

Board Member Opening

We are looking for an interested person to fill one of our volunteer RWF board member positions for 2019. If interested, please contact Ray Osinski, RWF President and he will explain the position responsibilities and qualifications. This position will be for only one year since one of our board members could not finish their 3rd year commitment. You can also send a letter of intent to Ray Osinski via email (rcosinski@gmail.com) stating your interest and qualifications.



Gift Giving Opportunities

Since 100% of our operational funds are generated by donors and not through annual maintenance fees, please consider one or more of the following gift giving opportunities. **Our goal for 2019 is to raise over \$18,000.**



- Rustic Aldo Leopold Bench (\$750) w/3x5 stainless steel plaque w/name & message
- Gazebo Plaque (\$250) 3x5 plaque with name & message
- Trail Map Guide Post (\$450) 3x3 plaque w/ name & message- **2 Remaining**
- Observation Deck/Board Walk Project – Phase 2 - (\$100 min. donation)
- Rustic Walking Bridge Project – Donations of any amount welcomed
- Butterfly Habitat Project – Donations of any amount welcomed
- Wood Duck & Blue Bird House Project (\$75/house/year) - 10 houses each
- Trail Maintenance & Signage Project – Donations of any amount welcomed

If you wish to contribute to one or more of the above projects, simply send your check (payable to "The Rushes Wilderness Foundation") to:

The Rushes Wilderness Foundation
3014 Rushes Road
Baileys Harbor, WI 54202

Please indicate the project of your choice on your check. If purchasing a plaque, include your brief message on a 3X5 card.

All donations to The Rushes Wilderness Foundation are tax deductible.

RWF Wisconsin Managed Forest Law Update



Chris Plzak, Tax Law Forestry Specialist, visited the Rushes Wilderness Preserve in late July and evaluated 41 acres for possible harvesting. Ray Osinski also toured the property with Chris. They discussed the past management of the property and the current state of the forest, including forest health, concerns of invasive plants, insects and diseases. In order to comply with the Wisconsin Managed Forest Law, it was decided to extend the current schedule to 2020. This plan will include single tree selection, thinning and invasive plant control

Blue Spruce Tree Removal Update



In late October during our last RWF workweek, 17 Blue Spruce trees were removed that exhibited the Rhizosphrara Needle Cast infection. Several volunteers armed with chain saws brought down the trees safely and were able to chip the branches. Tree stumps have been marked for possible trunk removal and replacement trees may be planted as early next spring. Logs have been split and will be used for our outdoor fire pit. We anticipate that more trees may be taken down next year.

RWF General Management Plan



In April of 2018 the RWF Board completed a retreat to develop 5-year and objectives for the Wilderness Preserve. The retreat was facilitated by Paul Regnier, owner of the Door County Nature and Travel Company. Areas of focus included projects, activities, and land management. Maintenance issues, as well as internal and external concerns that the foundation elects to focus on for the next 5 years were also discussed. Some of the goals include eradication of invasive species, new trail guides and improved wildlife enrichment. The RWF has already implemented some of the objectives in the 2018 plan.

goals
by Paul



2019 Work Dates

Mark your calendars for the following 2019 RWF work dates. You can pick 1, 2, 3 of the days to help.

Wk #	Dates
17	April 30, May 1, 2 2019
21	May 28, 29, 30 2019
42	October 22, 23, 24 2019

Special arrangements have been made with **Julie's Park Café & Motel** in **Fish Creek** for a direct corporate billing. The hours are about 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. the first two days, and 9:00 A.M. to noon on the third day. If interested and can help please contact: Margaret@therushes.com

October Work Week

Tree Removal



*Invasive Species
Control*



Observation Deck Repair



Trail Maintenance

Great job!
Thank you

