



*Fall/Winter, 2019*

## President's Message

Without a doubt this has been one of the most diverse and wet seasons at the Rushes wilderness preserve. High water and winds made it challenging for our volunteers. Just when we started to enjoy the fall season we were "blessed" with over 8 inches of snow and ice. The woods looked like a winter wonderland but we stand to lose a number of trees in our Memorial Woods.



With all that challenging weather our volunteers continue to improve our preserve for our owners for years to come. Check out a couple of articles written by Carl And Darcy Wallace and Tom and Ginny Olson explaining their volunteer experience at the Rushes.

Donations continue to exceed our expenses during the first ten months of 2019. We had a total income of \$7,748 and expenses were \$6,562. Bob Dries, Treasure, continues to do an excellent job with our 2019 financial statements. Volunteers for 2019 logged in over 1,232 hours by 50 individuals. For comparison, 2018 had 1,283 hours by 45 individuals and 2017 had 1,185 hours by 54 individuals. During our winter season I will be conducting a snow shoeing workshop and winter interpretive hikes to enhance the exposure of our wilderness preserve.

Please continue to remember the RWF with your donations of time, treasure and talent.

See you on the trails and have a wonderful Holiday Season.

Ray Osinski  
President, RWF

### **Rushes Wilderness Foundation Inc. Mission**

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

## Meet Our Neighbors. . .

Carl and Darcy Wallace

We have vacationed in Door County since 1988, and became Rushes owners in 2007. Visiting mostly in the early fall, we've also really enjoyed our weeks in the winter and spring. After making so many wonderful memories here, we decided that when the time came to look for a new home we would like to find one in our favorite part of Wisconsin.

We had always been curious about the white Cape Cod located in front of the Rushes and across from the Logerquist farmhouse. So when we came up in January of 2018 and saw the "For Sale" sign, we scheduled a visit with the agent, and learned that it was built in 1942 by one of the Logerquist brothers and his wife.



After seeing the house and considering our options, it didn't take long to realize that if we didn't make an offer we would always wonder what we'd passed up. To make a really long story short, we took a leap of faith, and here we are. We left our long-time jobs at Avidity Science (Carl) and the Lake Geneva Public Library (Darcy) and moved up from Elkhorn, Wisconsin last November. Last winter was our official "welcome to Door County!"

The past year has been both interesting and rewarding—not least of all because we have such wonderful next-door neighbors (human and otherwise!)—as well as offering many opportunities to get involved in our new community, including time spent volunteering with the Rushes Wilderness Foundation. Darcy has also worked part-time at the Waseda Farms store, just up the road. We hope to spend many more years here, getting better acquainted with all of our new neighbors.



### *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:

- ***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 3 - (\$100 min. donation)
- ***Rustic Walking Bridge Project*** – Donations of any amount welcomed
- ***Wood Duck & Blue Bird House Project*** (\$75/house/year) - 10 houses each
- ***Routine 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.





## **October Work Week**



**A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL  
OUR VOLUNTEERS**





## *Why Volunteer?*

We have been going to The Rushes for about 10 years. We traded in on an RCI exchange and loved it – especially the trails in the wilderness preserve. When we traded in a second time, we decided to purchase a flex week. The wilderness preserve was a big factor in that decision.

Each time we came for our week we heard Ray talk about the Rushes Wilderness Foundation and the work the volunteers do to maintain the area for everyone to enjoy. We could see the value of what the group was doing and wanted to help with it. We had a little more free time after retirement, so with more than a little anxiety, we decided to volunteer for one of the work weeks.

We found a warm, welcoming group who from the first treated us as members of the team. Each person is able to work according to his/her capabilities and there is no pressure to do more than you are comfortable with. While there, we are fed and housed so our only expense was our time and travel. In our case we drive about 3 hours up and back. We have raked trails, worked on the boardwalk and lookout, cleared invasive species, cut down diseased trees and planted new saplings, and marked rocks and roots for removal on the trails among other things. We have also made new friends and enjoyed the “good tired” at the end of a day’s work. An unexpected benefit has been the new sense of ownership and appreciation when we come for our week and wander on the trails.

*Tom & Ginny Olson*



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## *2020 Volunteer Work Dates*

Mark your calendars for the following 2020 RWF work dates. You can pick one, two or three of the days to help.

April 28, 29, & 30 (Week 17)  
May 26, 27, & 28 (Week 21)  
October 20, 21, & 22 (Week 42)

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. Special arrangements have been made with Julie’s Park Café & Motel in Fish Creek for a direct corporate billing. If interested please contact The Rushes at: [frontdesk@therushes.com](mailto:frontdesk@therushes.com) (920-839-2730).

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