

*Spring/Summer 2020*

*“ Ethical behavior is doing the right thing when no one else is watching – even when doing the wrong thing is legal “ Aldo Leopold*

## **President's Message**

### **Welcome to Spring!**



Signs of spring are starting to appear, but those of us who live here in Door County are skeptical to announce its official arrival. We never know when an early spring snowstorm may dampen our hopes. It is a time of reawakening of nature in the wilderness preserve for our volunteers, owners and guests. For now the birds are making their way back to the area including blue birds, sandhill cranes, and robins. Pileated woodpeckers mark their presence with large oval shaped holes in a variety of hemlock and cedar trees seeking bugs from those “Woodpecker Food Pantries”.

Even though nature is coming alive, our Wilderness Preserve and The RUSHES resort lack activity due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Our RWF volunteer workweek in April has been cancelled for the health and safety of all. ” Social Distancing” and the” Safer at Home Order” has now become the new normal. We appreciate the leadership that Linda Roberts provides during this challenging time. For now, the May workweek is tentative and we hope to be able to keep the October week as planned.

Keep the spirit and continue to provide the RUSHES Wilderness Foundation with your time, treasure, and talent.

Ray Osinski, President  
RUSHES Wilderness Foundation

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## **How Covid 19 Has Affected The RUSHES**

The past few weeks and months have been very challenging for our nation. With the Covid 19 pandemic, our day-to-day lives have certainly changed. Life at The RUSHES has changed as well. We always want The RUSHES to be our owners’ and guests’ home away from home, but in these unpredictable times we have not been able to do that. Since Wisconsin’s Governor, Tony Evers, put into place the “Safer at Home Order” that started on March 25<sup>th</sup>, we have had to shut our doors and turn away owners and guests.

This has been difficult for us because we have come to know all of you over the years and you are like a second family. Every week we have 48 happy families arrive at the resort, eager to start their week, and we look forward to making that time enjoyable and memorable again. From our front desk staff that checks you in, activities staff eager to assist with arts and craft projects, to the housekeepers who hope they have cleaned your unit to your liking, and the maintenance staff that maintains the pool. We all are here for you to make your time with us the best it can be.



During this time, we are making every effort to make sure that when you return, you can take comfort in the fact that we have sanitized every unit using an EPA registered cleaner and that all linens have been rewashed. Additionally, our maintenance staff is using this time to perform preventative maintenance on all units.

When we reopen our doors, know that we have taken this time to ensure that you will feel safe the next time you stay with us. We will all get through this together and trust that soon it will be a great day at The Rushes.

Linda Roberts  
General Manager

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## ***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.



## Management Forest Law Order Update

In early March the Ruses Condominium Association approved a contract with Rolefson Forestry Services. John Rolefson will provide the services to mark and harvest timber (61 acres) as outlined in the Managed Forest Law Plan. His first responsibility is to mark the desired trees and provide a required DNR Cutting Notice. Our hope is that this activity will begin in late April. Owners and guests hiking the trails should use caution during this process while some trails will be closed for safety.

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## Aldo Leopold Bench Buy Back Program

Need a used Aldo Leopold bench for your deck or garden? Consider donating \$50 to the RWF and select a used/refurbished bench from the supply while they last. These benches no longer have a sponsor and will be removed from the trails and replaced with a new Rustic Aldo Leopold Bench. Contact Ray Osinski and he will show you which benches are available.



## Bee Buzz

If you are wondering why bees are disappearing in Door County you may want to join Ray's class, Bee Buzz. This class will be held during The Ruses weekly, spring/summer activity schedule. Owners and guests are invited to attend this free class and learn about the benefits of bees for our environment, ecology and local economy.

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## Wilderness Preserve Trail Guide Project

We are looking for a project leader that would be able to put together a NEW Trail Guide for our 100 acre five mile trail system. This person should have some experience with brochure development and an interest in nature. A stipend may be awarded for your efforts. If interested please give Ray a call at the Ruses or email him at rcosinski@gmail.com. Thank You



## **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) (Cancelled)**

**May 26, 27, & 28 (Week 21) (Tentative)**

**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 and can help please contact The Rushes at: [frontdesk@therushes.com](mailto:frontdesk@therushes.com) (920-839-2730).

**Rushes Wilderness Foundation Inc.**

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### **Mission**

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

Ray Osinski  
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Leonard Lapacz  
*First Vice President*

JC Pfeiffer  
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