

Rushes Wilderness Foundation Outpost



Spring/Summer, 2022

President's Bits & Pieces

Spring has finally sprung and presented a number of opportunities and accomplishments for 2022. It goes without saying that our dedicated volunteers have maintained, improved and provided access to the Rushes Wilderness area for our owners and guests. The following reflects some of those accomplishments:



- Held two spring volunteer Work Weeks with a total of approximately 50 volunteers.
- Completed the Management Forest Law Salvage Cut.
- Started cleanup and re-graveling of our trail system after the salvage cut.
- Began the process of reducing the size of brush piles along the yellow trail.
- Repositioned and inventoried all of our memorial benches.
- Constructed a recognition sign board for donors of the "Planker" and "Beamer" bridge project.
- Created new trail sign maps and a new 20 page trail guide.
- Produced a 28 minute promotional video of the RWF.
- Received a life subscription (a \$300 value) to the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin quarterly newsletter, *Wisconsin Bluebird*, for our efforts in bluebird restoration.
- Repaired boards on marsh board walk.
- Started design and layout for the board walk to the observation deck.
- Reattached all tree trail tags on the yellow, green and red trails.

Ray Osinski, President
Rushes Wilderness Foundation

Meet Our New Board Members

Darcy Brewster Wallace



My husband Carl and I have been coming up to the Rushes for several years, deciding to become owners soon after our first visit. We have always loved the beauty of the trails, woods and meadows and the opportunity to experience the endless changes of the seasons throughout the year. After becoming full-time Door County residents in 2018 we started to participate in the RWF Work Weeks and enjoyed getting to know many other enthusiastic volunteers.

In May of 2021, I assisted in locating and installing five new Bluebird boxes which were received when the Foundation became a member of the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin (BRAW), and have continued to monitor the Rushes' fifteen Bluebird boxes and report the results to BRAW. I look forward to serving on the board and assisting in the restoration of the trails this spring.

Mike Ortscheid

My wife, Cathy, and I have been owners at The Rushes for 10 years. Whenever we come to The Rushes we enjoy hiking through the 100 acre woods. We have 3 adult children and 4 grandchildren who routinely join us for our time at The Rushes. I am a retired carpenter and have always enjoyed building things. I work for Menards, post retirement. My hobbies include kayaking, camping, ice fishing and carpentry. We live in Wausau, Wi.

I have participated in several Rushes Wilderness Work Weeks in the past. I love spending time in the woods and taking care of the trails. It is fun making new friends and reuniting with old friends!



Job Opening: Rushes Wilderness Volunteer

By Marjie Malizio



If anyone was out on the trails that are adjacent to The Rushes during the month of May, you may have seen a crew of workers who looked just like me and you doing various tasks out in the woods. This mighty group of workers are Rushes Wilderness Foundation VOLUNTEERS. They head out 3 times a year with the purpose of performing maintenance to preserve and enhance the 100 acre parcel adjacent to The Rushes to provide a more enjoyable outdoor/hiking experience for all who visit.

So, just who are these volunteers and what skills do you need to join them? They consist of Rushes owners, friends, and guests who appreciate the many benefits of sharing their time and energy for a common goal with other like-minded individuals. They come from many different backgrounds and professions which collectively makes for a strong community of different skill sets. They share their knowledge and skills with one another doing group projects. I know you're thinking, *my health isn't quite up to it for this kind of work*, but please come join us. There is a task suitable for everyone. *Hint*: culinary skills are also greatly appreciated when feeding a group of hungry volunteers.

So, I invite you to come join us (with whatever time you can spare) and you'll leave with new friends and wonderful memories. It's one of those win-win activities that might have you a little sore but oh so fulfilled at the end of each session. And we aren't just all work and no play; we celebrate with food, laughter and good fellowship.

Please take a minute and look at the photos taken during the two spring 2022 Work Weeks which gives a nice overview of some of the many jobs we do.



"Happiness is in the doing, the striving,
the building and the serving! "

Harry Marsh



Are you a "Plunker" or a "Beamer"?



The rustic walking bridge located in a small ravine on the access trail to the south meadow loop is our newest fundraising project. It was completed during our 2021 fall Work Week. People can donate \$100 to sponsor a plank or \$500 to sponsor a beam. The bridge has thirty planks and two beams. Currently, 13 planks and one beam have been sponsored. Names of sponsors will be displayed on a recognition sign next to the bridge. Ginny and Tom Olson created the recognition sign using reclaimed barn wood from the Logerquist barn that was raised a few years ago.

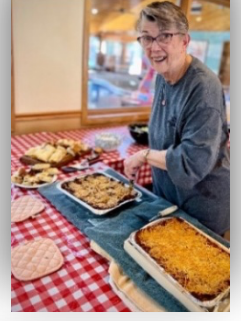
Next time you are at The Rushes, take a hike to the south meadow and check out our rustic walking bridge. It's not too late. You can still become a "Plunker" or a "Beamer".

Bluebird Brief

Since March, Carl and Darcy Wallace have been monitoring our 15 bluebird houses on a weekly basis. At the present time we have 10 bluebird chicks and 5 bluebird eggs. Other boxes contain swallow chicks and eggs as well as wren eggs.

Bluebird monitors in Door county are seeing better conditions with their trails this year compared to last summer's disastrous breeding season. So it appears, even with this colder than normal spring, our bluebirds are catching up with their breeding numbers, closer to normal.

Snapshots From Our Two Spring Work Weeks



Photos by Marjie Malizio



Mark your calendar for the following 2022 RWF work dates. You can choose one, two or three of the days to help.

October 25, 26, 27 (Week 42)

The hours are 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 for a direct corporate billing for up to a two-night stay. If interested please call Julie's at (920) 868-2999 for your reservation and/or cancellation for one or more of the above dates.

After making your motel reservations, please confirm your work dates by contacting The Rushes at: frontdesk@therushes.com or call (920-839-2730).

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 Walking Bridge Project** – See featured article
- **Rustic White Cedar Bench** (\$950) w/3x5 stainless steel plaque w/name & message
- **Rustic Aldo Leopold Bench** (\$825) w/3x5 stainless steel plaque w/name & message
- **Gazebo Plaque** (\$250) 3x5 plaque with name & message
- **Observation Deck/Board Walk Project** – Phase 3 - (\$100 min. donation)
- **Routine Trail Maintenance & Signage Project** – Donations of any amount welcomed
- **New Trail Guide Project** - Donations of any amount welcomed
- **Bluebird Trail Sponsor** (15 houses) \$100/house/year
- **Wood Duck House Sponsor** (12 houses) \$100/house/year

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
Attn: Ray Osinski
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.

Rushes Wilderness Foundation Inc.

Mission

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

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