



**Fall/Winter 2017**



**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:**

Fall is such a beautiful time of the year with the brilliant color it brings to The Rushes. It won't be long and snow and cooler temperatures will challenge our desire to be outdoors.

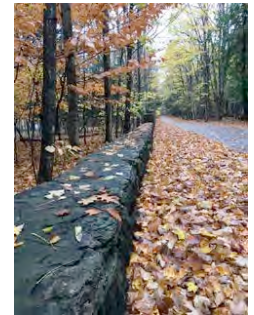
As we reflect on 2017, we can say it has been a very rewarding year for the RWF Board and the owners who explore our Wilderness Preserve. I continue to be amazed by the commitment of our volunteers who have worked so hard to preserve our trails.

The highlight of this year was our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the Rushes Wilderness Foundation. Many shared fun and fond memories while continuing to contribute monetarily via a silent auction. We will continue to celebrate this event throughout 2018.

Please take a moment during this season of giving to consider a tax-deductible gift toward one of our new or existing projects. Your gift of time, treasure and talent are gratefully appreciated.

Nature is our guiding light and mission.

Raymond Osinski,  
President RWF



**Gift Giving Opportunities**



- \$25 for 25th - **\$25** for every week that you own
- Observation Deck & Board Walk Renovation - Donations of any amount welcome
- Gazebo Plaque (**\$250**) - 3x5 plaque with name & message
- Trail Map Guide Post (**\$450**) - post with 3x3 plaque with name & message - 2 remaining
- Wood Duck House Annual Sponsorship (**\$75** per year)
- Blue Bird House Annual Sponsorship (**\$75** per year)
- Butterfly Habitat Project - Donations of any amount welcomed
- Boardwalk and Trail Maintenance/Improvements - 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 separate sheet of paper. All donations to The Rushes Wilderness Foundation are tax deductible.

# Celebrating 25 years!

Volunteers, board members and Ruses owners celebrated The Ruses Wilderness Foundation's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at The Ruses on October 28th. Nearly 60 people enjoyed an afternoon of sharing memories and good times spent together enhancing and preserving our wilderness area over the years.



Attendees vied for top bid at a silent auction that was held to raise money for the Wilderness Foundation. Several area businesses and board members donated items including such things as gift certificates for time at The Ruses, bountiful gift baskets, and lovely framed photos. Nearly \$3000 was raised.

The highlight of the event was a surprise tribute to JC Pfeiffer with the presentation of a memorial bench with commemorative plaque. JC and his son, Allen, were the very first volunteers to work on the wilderness paths. JC is also the founder of the Wilderness Foundation and charter board member. A very big "thank you" to all who helped plan this wonderful event.



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## A Note of Thanks



Thank you all for recognizing me with the bench, and the gift for Arlene. We really appreciated them. It was quite an honor to be recognized as the "Founder".

Arlene, our son, Allen, and I only planted a small seed. A lot of people have been involved in growing the Ruses

Wilderness Foundation to what it is now. You as current board members, as well as all who have served in the past as board members and volunteers, deserve a lot of credit for the work you have been doing.

Isn't it great to be part of something that people really enjoy and that can connect them closer to nature?

Thanks to all!!!

JC and Arlene



## Fall Work Week . . . *just the facts!*

*It was wet and cold on Tuesday. . .*



*. . . but there were a few brave souls who didn't let that bother them!*

*There was wonderful food to nourish and warm those souls.*



*Wednesday was sunny - a perfect day for removing invasives.*

### **Work Week Totals & Tasks**

- 32 volunteers
- 426 work hours
- Replaced 4 maples
- Inspected, fertilized and pruned trees
- Worked on invasives
- Maintained trail
- Stained benches, installed plaques
- Installed mesh on boardwalk



**Great Job!**

## Meet Our Newest Board Member, Bob Dries



My wife Jeanne and I have been married for 43 years. We have four children and five grandchildren. Our home is in Cedarburg, Wisconsin.

We first came to the Rushes in 1987 after our youngest son was born. Now we are enjoying seeing our grandchildren playing at the beach during our summer week.

I am a CPA and retired in 2013 after working for over 35 years as the Treasurer and CFO at Carlson Tool & Manufacturing Corp in Cedarburg, Wisconsin. Since retiring, I have enjoyed coming to the Rushes for the work weeks. It is a great group of people and I have made many friends while volunteering and it is rewarding to see all the work that has been accomplished. Since retiring I have also volunteered with the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust doing similar projects especially dealing with invasives.

In the past I have been the Treasurer at our Church and have served on the Cedarburg Public Works and Sewerage Commission for many years.

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## Rustic Walking Bridge Project

The RWF has decided to build a rustic walking bridge across a small ravine where the red and orange trails intersect.

Watch for details as we launch this exciting fund raising opportunity. If you are interested in being part of this project, please contact Ray Osinski at The Rushes.



## Mark Your Calendar

### 2018 Work Dates



- May 1, 2, 3 (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) Week 17
- May 29, 30, 31 (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) Week 21
- October 23, 24, 25 (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) Week 42

The hours will be 9 to 5 the first and second days, and 9 to noon on the third day. We'll provide lunch at noon and wine, beer, soda, cheese, etc. after work on the first and second days. We will also provide lodging for those who wish to participate. If you can help, please contact Margaret Pagels ([margaret@therushes.com](mailto:margaret@therushes.com), [920-839-2730](tel:920-839-2730)) at the Rushes Front Desk. Lodging details to be determined.

We are also looking for someone to provide and serve lunch on Tuesday and/or Wednesday. We will reimburse the cost of the food. Please contact Margaret Pagels, ([margaret@therushes.com](mailto:margaret@therushes.com)) [920-839-2730](tel:920-839-2730) if you are willing to do this.

*(Photos by Terry Goettelman, Carrol Fibich, and Ray Osinski)*