



**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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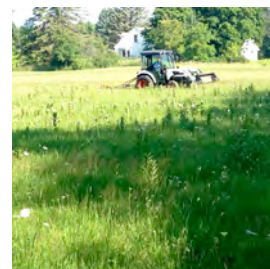


**President's Message:**

Fall is such a beautiful time at The Rushes and the color this year did not disappoint. We just completed our final volunteer work week and were blessed with good weather. Volunteers added gravel to the trail system, installed six butterfly habitat prairie benches, monitored and maintained our bluebird trail, and wood duck houses. Removal of invasive species and maintenance of over 700 trees in our Heritage Woods is an ongoing task. New to this year's projects is the inventory and repairing of over 70 Aldo Leopold Benches. We are grateful for the many hours of work that our volunteers give to enhance our wilderness preserve.



Our butterfly habitat/prairie is now one year old. It has been cut periodically in an effort to reinforce the root system of the plants. This will be done again next year. The process is slow, but we hope to see some flowers the following year.



Finally, I am pleased to announce that in 2017 the Rushes Wilderness Foundation will be celebrating 25 years of service maintaining, improving, and providing access to The Rushes Wilderness area while preserving its natural beauty. Come join us with your support of time, treasure and talent.

Ray Osinski  
President, RWF



## Gift Giving Opportunities

- Gazebo Plaque (\$250) - 3x5 plaque with name & message
- Trail Map Guide Post (\$450) - post with 3x3 plaque with name & message
- Interpretive Trail Posts (\$100) - 3x4 plaque
- Wood Duck House Annual Sponsorship (\$75)
- Blue Bird House Annual Sponsorship (\$75)
- Aldo Leopold Trail Bench (\$750) - wood engraved
- 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 message on a separate sheet of paper. All donations to The Rushes Wilderness Foundation are tax deductible.

## The Story Behind the Wood Duck Houses

### This is how it happened....



When my wife Marci and I were at the Rushes for our annual Week-52 stay in 2013, we attended the wine and cheese gathering. Ray Osinski was there as usual to appeal for donations to and volunteers for the Rushes Wilderness Foundation. He discussed an article he read in a Wisconsin Conservation magazine about wood ducks and how to build their nesting houses. Thinking this would be a good idea for the wilderness area, Ray bought a house made by a local craftsman. Because of the expense of the nesting house, Ray was looking for people to sponsor a house for \$75. And the rest is history.

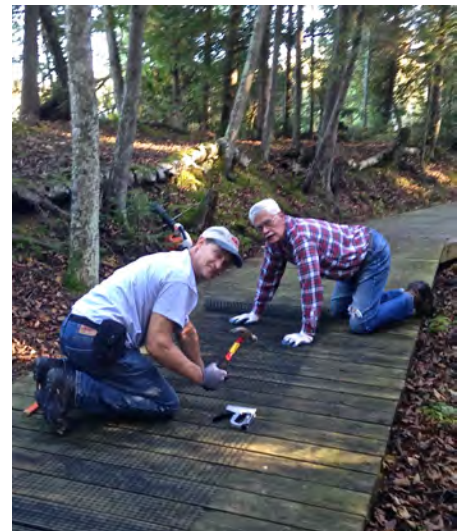
I have always liked working with wood, and I volunteered to construct 10 houses. Jump to my 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. We were fortunate to be able to rent three units the week of July 4, 2014 and invited our girls and their families to celebrate with us in Door County. I enlisted the help of my son-in-law, Scott Frietsch, to help me construct the bird houses. Ray transported the locally sourced redwood from his house to the Ruses' maintenance building and arranged for us to use their tools. We started early one morning, taking the purchased duck house apart so we could create our own prototype. Then we got to work cutting 70 pieces (each house required seven pieces) to size and shape. We finished cutting that day and began assembling. We finished assembling the next day. Having access to the Ruses' tools and work space was awesome.



Ray arranged to have the houses installed around the pond and on the lake in 2015. During the work days in this last May, we installed critter guards on the supporting poles and inspected them for occupants. To everyone's great surprise the first box we inspected had an occupant and eight eggs. We found two more being nested and had to clean out several more that were being used by wrens. We are looking forward to many more years of hatchlings from the houses.

*Dave Albrecht*

## October Work Days







A very heartfelt **thanks** to all who participated in the October Work Days this year. They are: Arlene & JC Pfeiffer, Dave & Marci Albrecht, Leonard Lapacz, Ray & Carol Ann Osinski, Mark Sprague, Larry Erickson, Kay Newell, Megan Coyne, Bob Dries, Debbie & Dean Diesser, Marian & Gerald Hawley, Tom Littleman, Mary Kay Marzano, Peggy Sue Mason, Bob & Carolyn Minor, Margaret Pagels, John Pszczola, Linda Roehrig, John Udovich, John & Dianne Zywicke.

## 2017 Work Dates

Following are the work dates for 2017:

- May 2, 3, 4 (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) Week 17
- May 30, 31, June 1 (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) Week 21
- October 24, 25, 26 (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) Week 42

