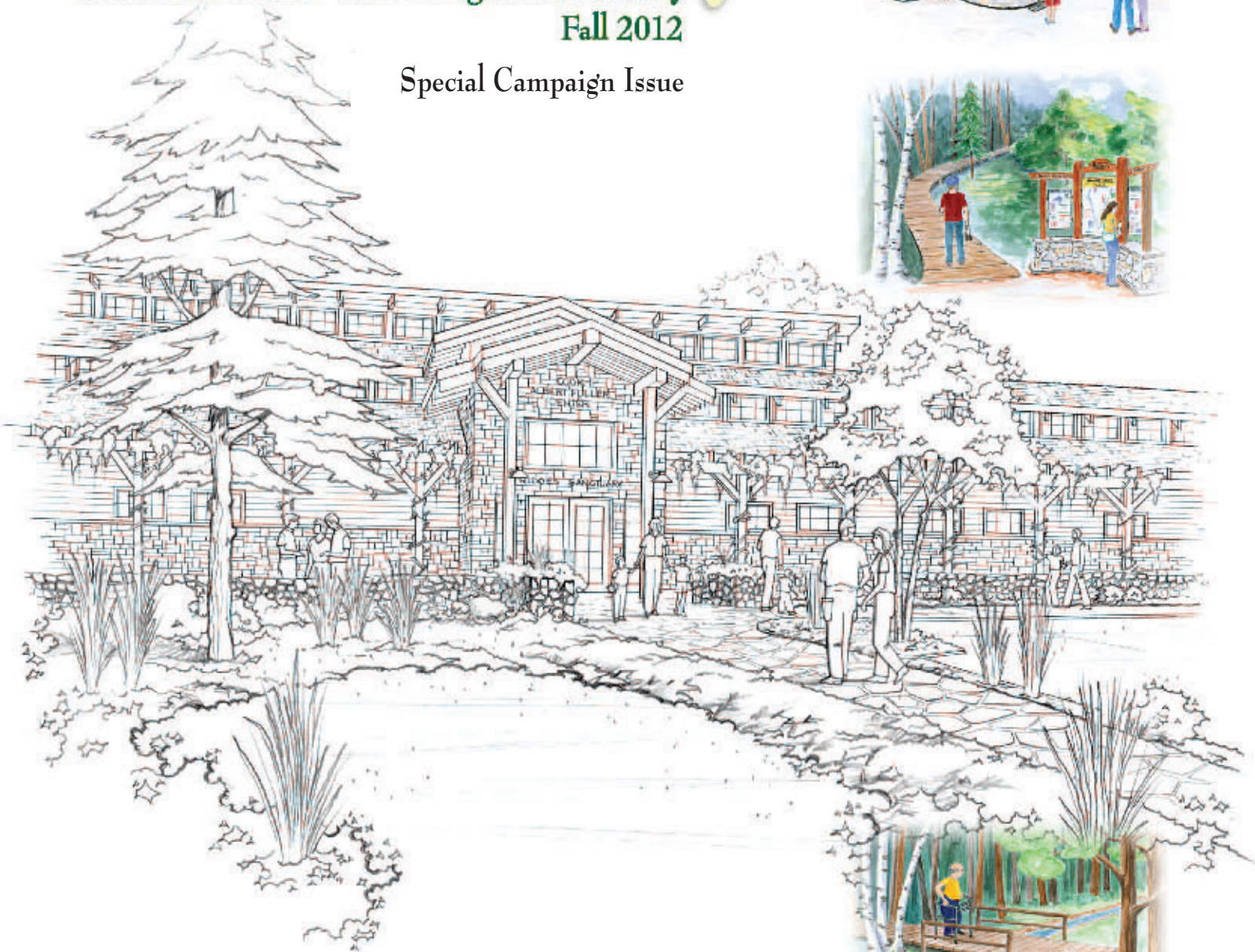


# sanctuary

A Newsletter of The Ridges Sanctuary  
Fall 2012

Special Campaign Issue



Possibilities...





*The mission of the Ridges Sanctuary is to protect the Sanctuary and inspire stewardship of natural areas through programs of education, outreach and research.*



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Cover images:  
Black & white rendering of the  
Cook-Albert Fuller Interpretive Center  
Color drawings by Marilyn Mahlberg

Fall 2012 - Vol. 39, Issue 2



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# From the Rangelight

## The Power of Possibility.

In the fall of 2011, overwhelming support from our membership funded the purchase of the property that will serve as the site for our new Interpretive Center. A remarkable story in itself, that effort proved to be the catalyst for another extraordinary story, one that stands as a testament to the power of individual commitment and illuminates the true spirit of The Ridges.

One month after the purchase of the Sandpiper property, I received a call from Lifetime Member Chester Cook. I had spoken with Mr. Cook once or twice a year for several years, but this call was different. Now that we had acquired the land, Mr. Cook wanted to support our vision by honoring Albert Fuller – our founding father and good friend to Chester. He owed a debt of gratitude to Fuller, he said.



Then he told me this story...

*Chester Cook was 16 years old and living in poverty in Milwaukee when he first met Albert Fuller in 1935. In those days, Fuller, Curator of Botany at the Milwaukee Public Museum, was spending a great deal of time traveling to Door County, studying the rare flora which flourished on a parcel of land in Baileys Harbor. Poor eyesight prevented Fuller from driving, so he hired Chester to take him on these trips. They spent many hours together, Chester carrying Fuller's equipment as the botanist photographed and inventoried the wildflowers.*

*When Fuller discovered that this wondrous piece of land was leased to the county which had plans to develop a trailer park there, research quickly gave way to a year of education and advocacy. Accompanied by Chester, he gave countless presenta-*

*tions – often with his friend and fellow conservationist, Jens Jensen – to residents of Baileys Harbor and the surrounding area, including Emma Toft, Olivia Traven, William Sieker and George Sieker. Finally, in 1937, these citizens and others formed The Ridges Sanctuary to protect the original 40 acres.*

The founding of The Ridges had a profound effect on both mentor and student. Buoyed by his success in preserving the Sanctuary, Fuller used it as a model for many other conservation efforts throughout his 60-year career, including the formation of the Wisconsin State Natural Areas program. His accomplishments, too numerous and far-reaching to list here, are highlighted in a special insert accompanying this brochure.

After serving in the Navy during World War II, Chester married, moved to California and became a successful businessman. He never forgot the opportunity Fuller gave him and the lessons he learned at his side. Fuller's example taught him that it is possible to change one's circumstances, to make a difference and to leave the world a better place. To honor his friend and mentor, Chester ended that November phone call by making a lead gift of \$1,000,000 for the construction of the new building. In honor of their relationship and the spirit of possibility it represents, the building will be named after Albert Fuller and Chester Cook.

Fuller's principles of conservation through research and education have formed the three pillars of our mission and guided The Ridges for 75 years. **The new Cook - Albert Fuller Interpretive Center will allow us to expand the reach of our education and research initiatives and to continue to share the power of possibility – one family, one child, one landowner at a time – for generations to come.**

I talked to Chester every week until he passed away in the spring of 2012 - an incredible personal experience in itself. It is my privilege to share his story with you. I hope you will be inspired to join us and all those who have gone before us in continuing the work begun by Albert Fuller and our founding members - *to protect the Sanctuary and provide meaningful learning experiences to all who enter it.*

Steve Leonard  
Executive Director  
[steve@ridgessanctuary.org](mailto:steve@ridgessanctuary.org)



*"Look deep into nature, and then you will  
understand everything better."*

– Albert Einstein

Dear Friends,

This year, we have a chance to make a difference. The exciting project described in these pages will have a tremendous impact on Door County and occupy an important place in Wisconsin's ongoing conservation history.

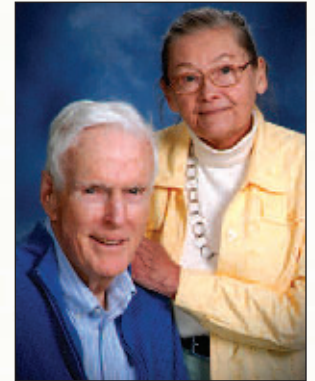
The Ridges Sanctuary is preparing to construct a fine new entrance to the Sanctuary – an Interpretive Center in a prominent location on Hwy 57 in Baileys Harbor. This building will be the first of its kind in Door County and will use green technology in its design. It will honor the founders of this, the state's oldest and most biologically diverse nature preserve, and serve as a focal point for environmental education on Door County's unique natural heritage.

As longstanding members of The Ridges and the Door County community, we are pleased to be part of this visionary project.

Thanks to outstanding support from our membership, property was purchased in October of 2011. The complex preparation of the site is complete. ***Now, it is time to build!***

In the 75 years since it was founded, The Ridges Sanctuary has touched the lives of thousands of adults and children. Like so many others, we found our own personal connection to it. Never was that connection more deeply felt than upon hearing the story of Chester Cook and founder Albert Fuller. It was meaningful to us because we, too, have witnessed the influence one person can bring to bear on the life of another.

In the summer of 1985, Roy Lukes, Chief Naturalist and Manager of the Sanctuary, met a UW-Stevens Point student named John Wilterding, Jr. during a class at Bjorklund, Lawrence University's northern campus. John's interest in moths and butterflies so impressed Roy that, in 1986, he obtained funding from the R.D. and Linda Peters Foundation and hired the young Algoma native to conduct a research study for The Ridges under his guidance.



Today, that student holds a PhD in Entomology and is the Chair of the Natural and Physical Sciences Department at Olivet College. We know this because John is our nephew. His story is another example of the profound impact The Ridges has had on young lives. John's Insect Collection is currently in storage at The Ridges and is one of the many valuable exhibits which will finally have a permanent home in our new building.

**We hope you will join our efforts to ensure that young people for generations to come will be able to add their stories to those of Chester Cook, John Wilterding and so many others.**

Your thoughtful consideration of our request for support of this important project is sincerely appreciated.

Robert Davis  
Campaign Cabinet Co-Chair

Nancy Davis  
Campaign Cabinet Co-Chair



## Will You Join Us?

The exciting project described in the pages of this special issue of Sanctuary has been designed to better meet today's needs and anticipate tomorrow's. But it is more than a campaign to construct a building. The Ridges is, and has always been, about people – their stories and their connections to this amazing place. **At this printing, we have raised \$1,865,900 of the \$3,500,000 needed – almost 55% of our goal.**

Please use the donation form on page 7 to add your story and your support to the Cook-Albert Fuller Center.



– Albert Fuller, 1937

When The Ridges undertook the challenge of building a new interpretive center, we realized we had an opportunity to use the project as an educational tool in the community. In 2012, we implemented the best land use and water quality management practices (BMP's) at the new site to protect the same natural processes and habitats that have made The Ridges such a unique and important destination. The measures described below will ensure good filtration, protect these natural processes and aesthetic qualities and stand as a model of responsible, environmentally sensitive development.

During construction, top soil is moved. If heavy rains fall, erosion can carry away soil and pollution. As part of our site design, The Ridges will implement a storm water management plan to address threats to contamination of the surrounding surface waters. A Land Disturbance permit will be submitted for review and approval, as required by the Wisconsin DNR for all projects over one acre. The County of Door will also review Storm Water and Erosion Control plans. Post-construction, we will submit annual storm water maintenance updates for all the following site features:

The parking lot around the new center is designed as permeable pavement. The sand base under brick and gravel will trap suspended solids as water percolates back to groundwater sources.

Bioswales are landscaped drainage courses designed to remove silt and pollution from surface water runoff. They act as above-ground retention ponds or holding areas sourced from rain water draining off the rooftop. Bioswales are designed to infiltrate storm water during small rain events and transport water during larger rain events. Storm water infiltration through the bottom of the bioswale will allow for removal of silt and pollution prior to entering the groundwater system.

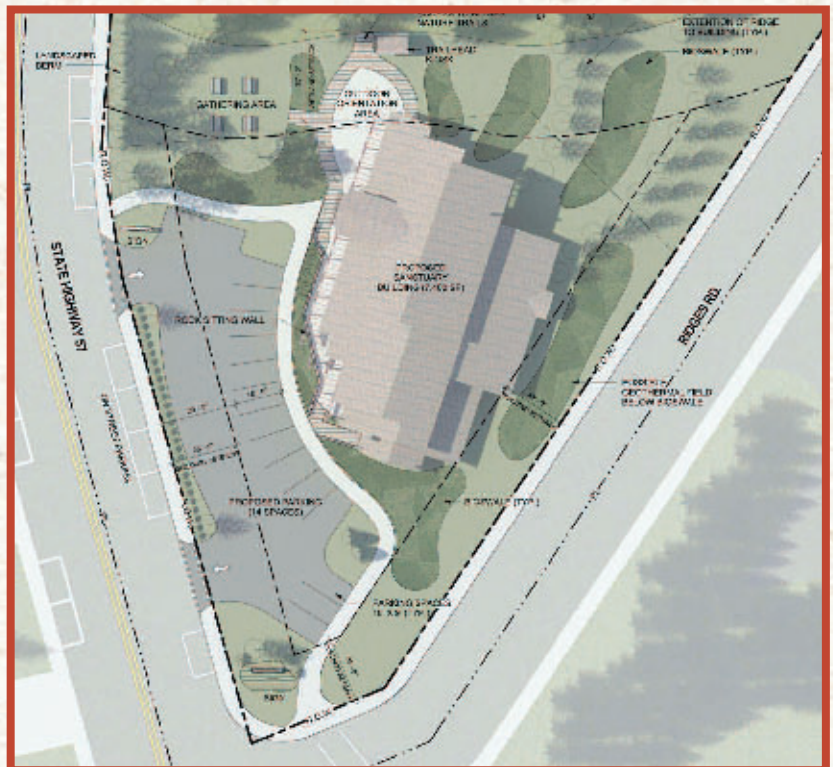
The restored wetlands are extensions of the naturally occurring swales and connect to the ridge-swale complex. Native vegetation, which is well-adapted to local environmental conditions, will be used to support wildlife, prevent exotics from taking hold and maintain soil fertility and will require little maintenance. The wetlands will filter water from non-paved areas on site and accept the spill-over from the bioswales in large rain events.



*Erosion on Moonlight Bay resulting from a storm water event in early September 2012 could easily occur in a man-made landscape without a plan to address storm runoff.*

Reserving areas from development, whether for ecological or cultural significance, is an important tool in land protection. Both The Ridges Sanctuary and the Door County Land Trust strive to reduce our local footprint. While The Ridges expands the ecological corridors by preserving adjacent properties within its watershed, the Door County Land Trust helps landowners by erecting easements on their own property.

Marne Kaeske, *Land Stewardship Coordinator*  
marne@ridgessanctuary.org





## Memories Book is Complete

The Ridges Memories book is now available! Published earlier this summer, the book features essays, poems and other memories of the Sanctuary. It's filled with personal experiences of members, friends and staff, from early spring searches for Trailing Arbutus to ice skating on the frozen swales. Copies are available at the Nature Center through October 14, or at the Ridges office. Cost is just \$10.00 (\$9.00 for Ridges members) and the book would make a great Christmas gift for anyone who loves the Sanctuary.

## An Unusual Summer

It's an understatement to say the summer of 2012 brought unusual weather. Warm temperatures in March and April brought plants into bloom almost 2 weeks ahead of schedule, and this remained true through most of the flowering season. Dry conditions limited the mosquito populations (much appreciated by hikers) but also shortened flowering times for some plants. Many trees were starting to drop their leaves in early September. What will the winter bring?

## 75th Anniversary Celebrations

Activities were held throughout the summer to celebrate The Ridges' 75th anniversary. About 50 people joined Roy Lukes, Paul Regnier, Carl Scholz and Steve Leonard on "history hikes" through The Ridges, and the keynote presentation by Dr. George Archibald, co-founder of the International Crane Foundation, was exciting and inspiring. Our art show, "Reading the Ridges II," featured an amazing variety of works, in many different media, from over 60 artists. We finished

the celebration with a rollicking family concert by Tom Pease, presented in conjunction with Baileys Harbor Autumn Fest. Thanks to all who helped make these activities a success.

## Summer Program Recap

This summer, kids from preschool on up and their families were able to take part in programs and workshops. Children in Kit Camp, our preschool / kindergarten program, learned about "Birds, Beasts & Bugs" while exploring the ridges and swales. Fox Campers studied animal adaptations, how different creatures build their homes, and the "evidence" that animals leave behind. During Explorers Camp, we learned about wildlife in the water, in the air, and on the ground, and even spent a morning learning about fungus. Monday afternoons were dedicated to family workshops, including geocaching, nature art, and aquatic wildlife. We also held our popular Dragonfly workshop in July, followed by Monarch Tagging in August. Through all of these programs, we hope kids and adults will develop a greater appreciation for the wonderful diversity of plant and animal life in the Sanctuary and make a deep and lasting connection to nature.

## Ride for Nature

The Ride for Nature was bigger and better than ever! Over 700 riders participated this year – an increase of almost 40% from the 2011 Ride. An added attraction for riders – and the general public – was the first annual Baileys Harbor Beer Festival, held on the same day. These two events generated over \$13,000 in support of Ridges programs. Next year the Ride will be Saturday, June 15, so mark your calendar, and plan to join us!

## Christmas is Coming...

...and that means we are planning for our popular Natural Christmas event. The log cabins will be decorated for the season, luminarias will light the boardwalk, and hot chocolate and cookies will fill your tummy and warm your heart. This old-fashioned celebration is great fun for the whole family. All we need is the snow! Saturday, December 8, 3:00 – 6:00 PM.

## Work on New Trail Progressing

In August, our intrepid Wednesday Crew began work on the boardwalk which will connect the new interpretive center to our existing trail network. Brush and small trees were cleared from the edge of the woods, then trees were selectively removed along the route of the trail. A temporary bridge was also constructed over Hidden Brook. Trail work will continue this fall and winter, as weather allows, and it is hoped that the new trail will be open sometime next summer.

## Save the Dates!

### Snowshoe Hikes

Fri & Sat afternoons in January & February.

### Great Waffle Breakfast

Sat, Feb. 9, 2013 – Emma Toft's 122nd birthday!

### Door County Festival of Nature

May 24 - 25, 2013

## Range Light Restoration Project

We've received final approval to begin restoration work on the Lower Range Light. Work will begin with construction of a new foundation for the building, and will continue into the winter as weather allows.



## Campaign Pledge

# A Vision for the Future

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City / St / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

To support the construction of the Cook-Albert Fuller Center;  
I (we) hereby agree to pay the Ridges Sanctuary the sum of:

\_\_\_\_\_ Dollars (\$ \_\_\_\_\_)

To be paid either in cash, securities or other property of equivalent value.

(I / we understand that a portion of this contribution will be used to underwrite the administrative costs of running the campaign.)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Signature (joint gift) \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Paid Herewith \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Balance Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Balance Paid as Follows:

Month	Year	Amount
_____	2012	_____
_____	2013	_____
_____	2014	_____

### Payment schedules other than the annual

Date	Amount
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Please make checks payable to The Ridges Sanctuary. Your gift is tax deductible.





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Experience, Explore...  
*Exhale.*

*Sanctuary* - Fall 2012; Volume 39, No. 2

## Ridges Sanctuary Receives Land Trust Pioneer Award

We are proud to announce that The Ridges has been selected by Gathering Waters Conservancy to receive the *Harold "Bud" Jordahl Land Trust Pioneer Award*.

Established in 1994, the Conservancy was created by a core of land trust leaders to serve as an educational and technical assistance service center for Wisconsin land trusts. The award, named for Harold Jordahl, founder of Gathering Waters and a Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame inductee, is given each year to an individual or organization of distinction in the area of land conservation projects, accomplishments or pursuits. The Land Trust Pioneer Award is in recognition of the Sanctuary's inspiring stewardship of natural areas through educational programs, outreach and research, its impact on the history of land conservation throughout the state and its role in laying the groundwork for future conservation efforts throughout the Door Peninsula and beyond.

Steve Leonard will accept the award at the 2012 Land Conservation Leadership Celebration hosted by Gathering Waters in Madison on October 4th. Also receiving awards this year are the River Revitalization Foundation (Land Trust of the Year), John Koepke (Policymaker of the Year), Ellen Kwiatkowski (Conservationist of the Year) and Dale Katsma (Rod Nilsestuen Award for Working Lands Preservation). We congratulate our fellow honorees.

