

sanctuary

Spring 2012

A Newsletter of The Ridges Sanctuary



Remembering...



From the Rangelight

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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Diamonds in the Rough

It was a Ridges board member who first pointed out to me that, with the purchase of the Sandpiper property, The Ridges campus has taken on the shape of a diamond.

Although it took almost 75 years for the physical dimensions of the Sanctuary to mirror that most precious of gems, the intrinsic value of The Ridges was recognized almost immediately by Albert Fuller in 1935 when he began his first plant inventory here.

Albert Fuller worked alongside Aldo Leopold, botanist Norman Fassett and plant ecologist John Curtis to advocate for the conservation of wildflowers as a natural resource.

At that time, Fuller was the Curator of Botany at the Milwaukee Public Museum. While conducting his research up in Baileys Harbor, he learned that the parcel of land which contained so many natural wonders was leased to the county by the U.S. Lighthouse Service and that the county had plans to develop a trailer park there. In fact, county workers had already begun to fill in some of the swales on the property. The threat of losing such a unique natural area prompted Fuller to begin a two-year period of education and

advocacy. Through countless presentations to residents of Baileys Harbor and the surrounding area, he raised awareness about the need to protect the natural habitat of the many plant and animal species which thrived there. We all know how that chapter of the story ends. In 1937, our founders formed The Ridges Sanctuary to protect the original 40-acre parcel.

But that chapter is far from the end of the story; it is, in fact, just the beginning installment. The founding of the Ridges created a ripple effect in Door County and set the stage for important future conservation efforts on the Peninsula – by the Nature Conservancy beginning in 1962, the Door County Environmental Council beginning in 1969 and the Door County Land Trust beginning in 1986. The impact of The Ridges was felt at the state level, as well. Recognizing the importance of natural areas and the consequences of

their loss and buoyed by the early success of The Ridges and its founding mission, Albert Fuller worked alongside Aldo Leopold, botanist Norman Fassett and plant ecologist John Curtis to advocate for the conservation of wildflowers as a natural resource.

Ultimately, these scientists were instrumental in the creation of the State Board for the Preservation of Scientific Areas, the first state-sponsored natural area protection program in the nation. That first board, formed in 1951, evolved into the State Natural Areas Program which today encompasses 653 sites and more than 358,000 acres of land and water. More than 90% of the plants and 75% of the animals on Wisconsin's list of endangered and threatened species are protected in State Natural Areas.

We owe much to Albert Fuller for his foresight, his passion for nature and his quiet determination in advocating for the preservation of these diamonds in the rough – diamonds which now sparkle across the landscape of our county and our state.

Steve Leonard
Executive Director
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Cover photo:
Hepatica photo taken at Logan Creek by:
Len Villano - www.LenVillanoPhoto.com

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Kids for Earth Day

20 energetic Sevastopol Middle School & High School kids and advisors spent the day at The Ridges hauling wood chips, cleaning up roadsides, raking leaves, and planting trees with the help of the Wednesday Crew. Thanks to the Kids and the Crew!

It is May...

...and The Ridges Nature Center opened May 16. Pop in to say hi to the volunteers and see all the great new items.

Pickin' and Ginnin'

It takes a lot of juniper berries to distill a batch of gin! The Ridges is sponsoring a Door County Juniper Pick on September 22 to help supply the Door County Distillery with juniper berries for a special 75th Anniversary release of Door County gin (Look for the Upper Range Light door on the label!).

Mad Dog & Merrill

Nationally recognized and self-proclaimed Grillologists, Mad Dog & Merrill, grilled up a storm at the Upper Range Light. Using the Door County Distillery's new gin, they started with martinis and proceeded to WOW us with a diversity of grilled dishes.

Winter Trees Down

Lots of trees went down this winter, but the Wednesday Crew has been out keeping the trails clear. Enjoy your hike, and give a tip of the hat to the intrepid Wednesday Crew.

Need a Ridges & Door County Fix?

Visit the photo galleries of Tina Gohr from the Advocate or Len Villano from the Peninsula Pulse.

DoorCountyAdvocate.com/section/DV&template=gallerycategory

LenVillanoPhoto.com

DoorCountyPhotos.zenfolio.com/spring2012

Baileys Birders

It's official! Baileys Harbor is a Bird City Wisconsin. (BirdCityWisconsin.org/BirdCities/BaileysHarbor.htm) with a new birders group – Baileys Birders. Check them out on Facebook ([Facebook.com/BaileysBirders](https://www.facebook.com/BaileysBirders)). The Ridges offers Discovery Bird Hikes each Sat., May 26 through July 28, 6:30 AM. ('Not So Early' bird hikes on May 12, June 9, & July 14 at 9 AM.)

Giving Them the Business!

If you are looking for lodging, a place to eat, or services in Door County, check out our business members and thank them for their support. (RidgesSanctuary.org/support-us/business-members/)

Ride for Nature/Door County Beer Fest

The Ride for Nature on June 16th will be extra special this year. In addition to great routes, rest stops and scenery, and a lunch served by the Cornerstone, the Door County Beer Fest will start at 2 PM that afternoon. The Fest features beer tastings, a local brewer competition, food stands, musical entertainment and fun by the waterfront in Baileys Harbor. Come even if you don't bike. Tickets on sale now! (DoorCountyBeer.com)

The Ridges Recycles

The vast majority of the old Sandpiper building materials have been recycled, repurposed or re-used since The Ridges Sanctuary purchased the property in October, 2011. Some of the material will be used in a new restaurant in Sister Bay; the stoves, freezers, coke machine, etc. have all found homes in businesses around the county; and, the old Fish Boil shack was moved on April 26 to be re-purposed as a garage out on County F. Even the scrap lumber will be used as filler to help remediate the site and to rebuild the extension of a ridge/swale.

A Year of Milestones in Conservation

This year, as we celebrate the founding mothers and fathers of The Ridges, we also mark the 40th anniversaries of both the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act.

It is especially fitting that, as we celebrate our 75th anniversary, we have the opportunity to participate in a project which supports our mission as well as the goals and objectives of these two groundbreaking conservation bills – to recognize our resources and be proactive in their protection. Partnering with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with funding by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, The Ridges will be involved in the development of best management practices within the 12 groundwater recharge areas contributing to Hine's Emerald dragonfly habitats existing in Door County. Our goal is to integrate one or more of these practices into the site design for our new interpretive center.

The Hine's Emerald dragonfly is just one of the many rare and unique species found on the Peninsula and the only dragonfly to be listed as federally endangered. The largest population of Hine's exists here because of the amount of wetland habitat underlain by dolomite bedrock and fed by calcium-rich springs. Consistent water quality and quantity must be sustained in these local wetlands for four to five years during Hine's larvae development to ensure its survival.

In cooperation with Fish & Wildlife, we will lay the framework for long-term watershed planning by promoting awareness on surface and groundwater protection to municipal and private landowners. Given the combination of Door County's thin soil and fractured karst bedrock, any pollutants can quickly be carried to the lake. We will identify the zoning and type of land use interest and encourage alternatives to activities that have the potential to negatively impact our drinking water and upper Lake Michigan basin.

We are all connected by the largest freshwater source on the planet. Help us celebrate these important conservation milestones. Know where your water comes from, where it goes, and what's in your (half full) glass. Participate in the Festival of Nature, enroll in The Ridges Wisconsin Naturalist program or become a volunteer stream monitor and track our surface water quality. Lend your support to a brighter future!

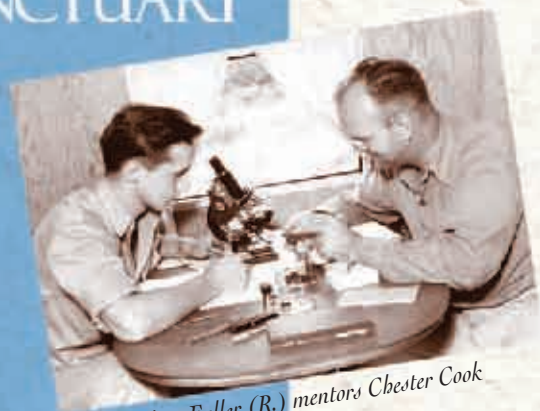
Marne Kaeske
Land Stewardship Coordinator
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THE RIDGES SANCTUARY

People of the Ridges:



Albert Fuller (R.) mentors Chester Cook



On the boardwalk



Roy Lukes with Olivia Traven



Baileys Harbor Women's Club, June 1934



Emma Toft instructing children



Mike Madden building the boardwalk



Archie Reinhard at the Marshall Cabin

Founders: Emma Toft, Olivia Traven, Jens Jensen, William Sieker, Arthur Goehenour, Anna McArdle, George Sieker, Mertha Fulkerson, Beverly Anclam



Then...And Now



Touring The Ridges



Paul and Marilyn Mabberg



Volunteering for Spring Clean-up



*Jim Jauquet and
Paul Regnier*



George Cobb



*L to R: Ed Miller, Frank Pammer, Jim Tynndall,
Tony DeNardo, and Pete Classen*



*L. to R., Donn Valenti, Jim Jauquet, Lee Traven, Lawrie Kull
and Steve Leonard at the closing on the Sandpiper property*



*Judy Brown at the
Nature Center*

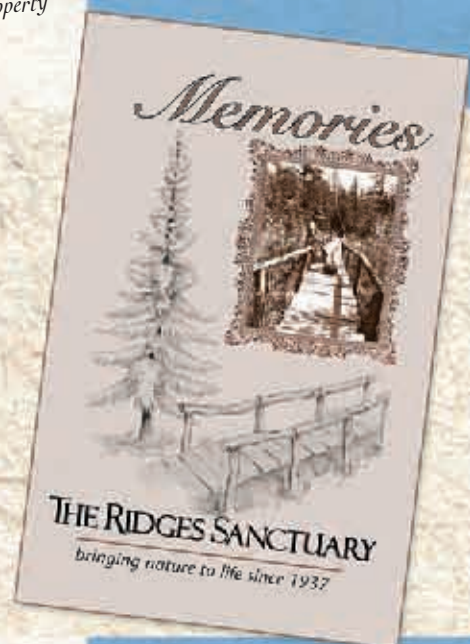
Remembering The Ridges

The story of The Ridges was first written by Nature, her words carved into the land itself. Wrought over centuries by the constant movement of Lake Michigan, the alternating ridges and swales of the Sanctuary are like the annual rings of an ancient tree, each representing a chapter of our shoreline's past.

That story has been preserved and passed on -- word by word, memory by memory, year after year -- by the people who have experienced the Sanctuary's special gifts. Now those stories have been collected in a book which will be published in late Spring.

One of our contributing essayists said it beautifully: "In natural spaces, it is the stories that tie everything together -- not just knowing the names of birds and vegetation."

You can reserve your copy now for \$8 plus \$3 shipping & handling. Contact Carol at 920.839.2802 or carol@ridgessanctuary.org





Honoring Our Past, Celebrating Our Future

A Shared Culture of Conservation



Dr. George Archibald

For 27 years Dr. Archibald served as the President of ICF. He continues to be employed full time by the ICF and works on programs in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Cuba, China, India, Iran, North Korea, Pakistan, South Korea, and Russia. He was awarded the World Wildlife Fund Gold Medal for his work, and Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands appointed him to the Order of the Golden Arc. His worldwide travels have given him unique experiences that make his presentations both informative and enjoyable.

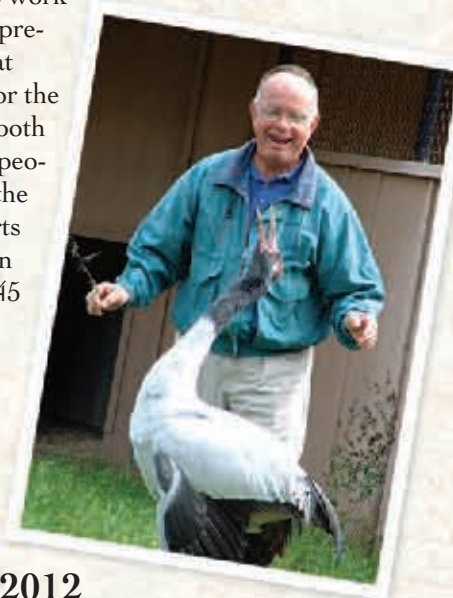
As far back as the early 1900s, noted ornithologist Edward Howe Forbush predicted that the whooping crane was doomed to extinction. Self-proclaimed optimist Dr. George Archibald didn't accept the gloomy forecast.

In the 1970s, Dr. Archibald was a PhD student at Cornell. It was there that he began working with cranes, many species of which were close to extinction. Along with Cornell colleague Ronald Sauey, he co-founded the International Crane Foundation (ICF) in 1973 and is now acknowledged worldwide as the leading scientific authority on cranes.

Although our areas of concentration differ, striking similarities can be seen in the histories of The Ridges and the Foundation. Like The Ridges, the ICF was the result of a grassroots movement led by a few passionate visionaries. In fact, Dr. Archibald and his co-founder started the Foundation in a horse barn owned by Sauey's parents. It was a perilous time for cranes, with many of the 15 remaining species on the brink of extinction. Little was known about the breeding biology of cranes and some species had never been

hatched in captivity. Like our founder, Albert Fuller, Sauey and Archibald employed a creative combination of field research and public education to advance their cause. And like Fuller, they were quick to perceive habitat preservation as a way to protect threatened and endangered species.

Just as the founding of The Ridges paved the way for future efforts in the county and the state, the Crane Foundation had far-reaching effects in conservation. Dr. Archibald used the charisma of cranes to help unite people from diverse cultures and countries to work together to preserve habitat necessary for the survival of both cranes and people. Today the ICF supports conservation projects in 45 nations.



A Diamond in the Rough

***Celebrating 75 Years of
Preservation, Education and Research***



Saturday, July 28, 2012

5 – 7 PM Reception

Baileys Harbor Town Hall
Enjoy delicious food and beverages (including beer & wine)
under the tent on the Town Hall grounds

Silent Auction

of original Ridges-themed art and handcrafted items

7:30 PM Keynote Presentation

Baileys Harbor Town Hall

Dr. George Archibald

Co-founder & Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors,
International Crane Foundation

\$25/person – Reception & Keynote Program

\$15/person – Reception Only

\$10/person – Keynote Program Only

Space is Limited ■ Call for Reservations

Downstream Adventures! by Marge Trocki

What could be more adventurous than to set sail downstream! From early times people would use rafts to travel down a river. You can do the same. Design your very own raft to launch down a stream, creek, or even a puddle!

Here's what to do:

Prepare your raft:

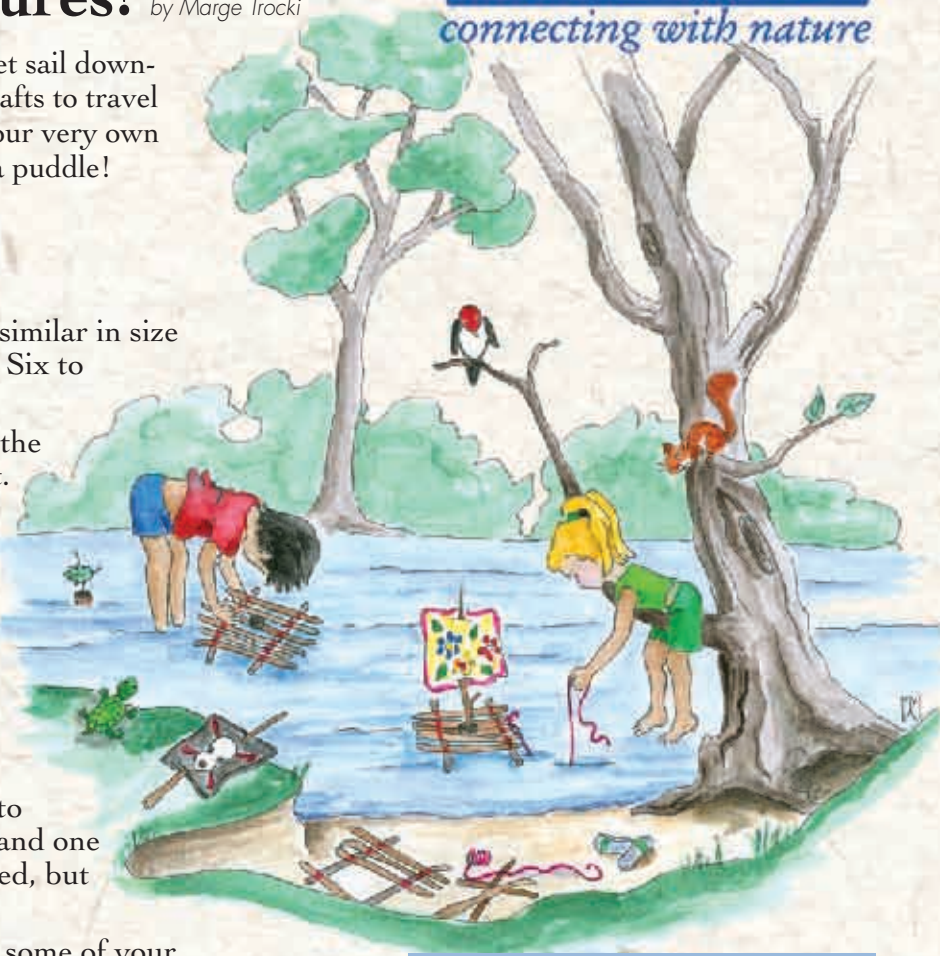
- Gather a bunch of straight twigs that are similar in size and length. Break or cut them if need be. Six to twelve inches is a good size.
- Lay enough of them side by side to make the size platform you would like for your raft.
- Take a piece of twine, and tie it near the top of one of the side twigs. Tie that to the next twig and continue on until all the needed twig pieces are tied together on one end.
- Take another piece of twine and do the same on the other end, tying all the twig pieces together.
- To reinforce the raft, tie two more pieces to the underside of the raft – one at the top and one at the bottom. (A hot glue gun may be used, but have an adult help with this!)
- Now you have a simple raft that can hold some of your miniature possessions as you launch it downstream.

Hoist a sail on your raft:

- Take a wad of clay and press it into the middle of the raft.
- Choose a twig to stick in the center of the clay, making your mast. Be sure there is enough clay to hold the twig securely up.
- Cut a sail out of a piece of thick paper or cloth. Personalize it and draw your own emblem on.
- Make two horizontal slits on the sail, one near the top and one near the bottom.
- Slip the sail onto the mast through the slits.
- Now your raft can go even faster using the power of the wind.

Try your hand at these other watercraft variations using recycled or natural materials!

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Milk carton sailboat | <input type="checkbox"/> Walnut boat with a leaf sail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water bottle catamaran | <input type="checkbox"/> Birch bark canoe |



The Cranes Returned!

By the time most visitors get here, the Sandhill cranes will have moved on, but we're delighted they chose to nest in Winter Wren swale again this year. Although we're trying to give them privacy, we have been able to confirm that there are two eggs being incubated.



Once you and your friends have perfected your watercrafts, have a race to see whose can make it downstream the fastest, or see which can carry the biggest load of cargo!



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BAILEYS HARBOR, WI
PERMIT NO. 1

Experience, Explore...

Exhale.

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June 16, 2012



Bike to Benefit the Lower Range Light



**BIKE TO
BENEFIT**
the ridges sanctuary



The 2012 Ride for Nature will mark the 24th annual bike ride to benefit The Ridges Sanctuary. Proceeds from the Ride will help us continue educational programming, outreach and research efforts as we celebrate our 75th anniversary and proceed with plans for our new interpretive center.

New for 2012, the Ride for Nature is offering the **Bike to Benefit** program, a way for participants to **raise additional funds in support of the restoration of the Lower Range Light**. Cyclists participating in any distance of the ride are eligible to participate. After raising at least \$250, participants will receive a Ride for Nature jersey. Participants can raise more than the \$250 and, in fact, are encouraged to do so. The top three fundraisers in the Bike to Benefit program will receive bike racks from Saris.

For more information, go to RideForNature.com and click on Bike to Benefit to download a sponsorship form. If you'd prefer to donate to the Ride online, click on the CrowdRise link on the Bike to Benefit page.

Questions? Call 920.839.2802.