

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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# History of the Baileys



The Range Lights were built in 1869, at a cost of \$6,000. Today the buildings in Baileys Harbor are the only ones of their style and class still standing in their original positions. The Range Lights, along with the Cana Island Light, replaced the first beacon of safety, the Baileys Harbor Light, which was built in 1852.

At the time they were built, the Range Lights were considered a more effective way to keep ships off the treacherous reefs and shallows at the entrance to Baileys Harbor.

In this issue of the Sanctuary, we will explore the history of the Baileys Harbor Range Lights, the status of the current capital campaign to help preserve them, and what the vision is for their future.

On **Friday, June 7th, 2019**, we will celebrate the 150th Anniversary of

these historic structures. We hope you are able to join us this summer as the celebration will last throughout the summer months. If you are interested in making a donation to the "Restore the Range Light" campaign, please see the donation card on the back cover.

Steve Leonard, Executive Director steve@ridgessanctuary.org

At the time the lights were constructed, the town of Baileys Harbor was the county seat and a busy logging center, shipping cordwood, cedar posts, poles, and hemlock bark (for tanning leather) to other Great Lakes ports. A safe harbor also was essential to the peninsula, especially on the Lake Michigan side, because the road between Baileys Harbor and Sturgeon Bay – today's State Highway 57 – wasn't built until 1870.

Fabien Truedell was the first keeper of the Range Lights. He took his post on December 1, 1869, about a month before the lights actually went into operation.

Over the next 25 years, six different Lighthouse Keepers would live in and tend to the Range Lights. In 1896 the 8th and final Lighthouse Keeper, Henry Gattie, took his station at the Range Lights.

He was keeper when the lights were converted to an unmanned acetylene gas system in 1923. The Lighthouse Service transferred Gattie to Cana Island, but he periodically checked on the now locked and silent Range Lights.

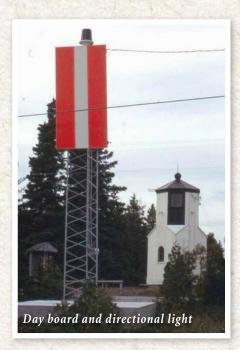
The buildings remained empty for several years before a new use for them was found. In 1930 the Range Light buildings were converted to electricity, and the town's Lutheran minister and his family moved into the Upper Range Light, which gained new life as a parsonage.

A new threat to the Range Lights emerged in 1934, when the Bureau of Lighthouses deeded the land, which comprised about 30 acres, and the buildings on it to the Door County Park Commission (DCPC). The DCPC considered the area a fine place for a trailer



Henry & Eve Gattie

# Harbor Range Lights



park and began hauling in rock to fill the swales along the trail between the Range Light structures. This was a pivotal act in the history of the Range Lights, one that changed the course of their future.

Many people were outraged at the DCPC's decision, especially those who had come to know the fragrant arbutus and beautiful and rare orchids growing there. The "Baileys

Harbor Bog," with its more than 25 orchid species, was too precious to be turned into a trailer park. Action was needed.

Since the land was county property, these residents could take steps to prevent the development. The course they chose was to form The Ridges Sanctuary which, in 1937, secured a lease of the land from the county. The plans for a trailer park went no further and the Range Lights land was protected.

The town's Lutheran ministers continued to live in the Range Light residence through the 1950s. In 1964 the Sanctuary hired its first full-time employee, Roy Lukes, and the Upper Range Light was offered as summer housing. It later became Roy and his wife Charlotte's home for many years.

In 1969, 100 years after the Range Lights were built, the lanterns were removed from both buildings and a directional light and day board were installed near the beach.

By 1990, the two Range Lights, the oil house and the two-hole privy were on the National Register of Historic Places. A new 99-year lease between the county and The Ridges Sanctuary included those buildings and the original 30 acres of land.

Although The Ridges Sanctuary did not own the buildings outright, it began a fund-raising campaign to repair the Upper Range Light in 1992. More than \$70,000 was raised, almost all of it private money, and the restoration and repair work was completed.

In 1996 the Upper Range Light was rewired and a new line was brought in underground to the Lower Range Light. Both lantern rooms were now ready to act as beacons again. Two replacement lights, on loan from the U.S. Coast Guard, were placed in the lantern rooms and were lighted occasionally.

With a full restoration of the Lower Range Light completed in 2012, it was time to remove the directional light and day board. In late April 2015, The Ridges received approval to "relight the ranges as private aids to navigation." The Ridges then worked to obtain a replacement red lens lantern for the Lower Range Light. Upon its installation, the Lights sprang to life on June 11, 2015 and will remain lit permanently.

In 2016, The Ridges retained Isthmus Architecture in Madison to prepare a Historic Structures Report for the Upper Range Light. This report defined the structural scope of the restoration and help to establish the expense of full restoration of the Upper Range Light.

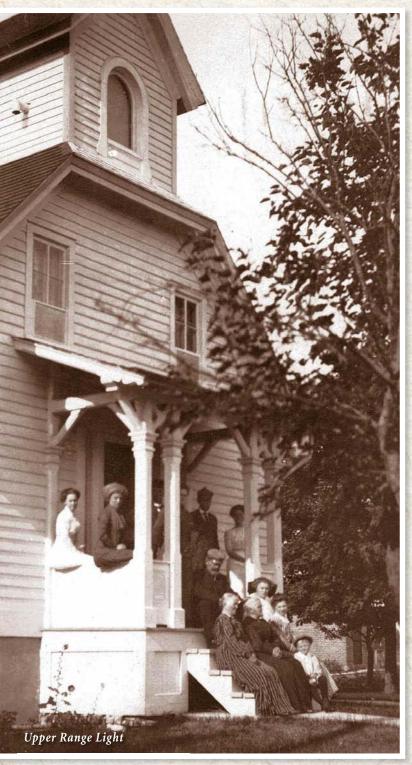
With the Historical Structures Report now written it was time to kick off the "Restore The Range Light" campaign.

Source: Ridges Archives





# Restoration Project



In 2016 the "Restore the Range Light" campaign kicked off. After the Lower Range Light (LRL) was fully restored for the second time in 2013, it was time to focus on its counterpart. Much of 2016 and 2017 was spent educating Ridges members and visitors that the Upper Range Light (URL) was now open for public tours.

In the spring of 2016 dedicated Ridges volunteers began to ready the URL for tours. Carpet was removed, walls were stripped, closets were cleaned out, and grounds were prepped.

That summer, tours of the inside of the URL were incorporated into The Ridges guided hikes. This brought much attention to the historic buildings, which furthered the need for docents to assist the staff. The remaining office supplies, desks, and files made their way to the Cook-Albert Fuller Nature Center and historical photos started to decorate the walls.

As the number of visitors grew, so did the need for additional volunteers. The 2017 summer season saw nearly 5,000 visitors touring the URL, most tours were lead by volunteers.

By mid-summer, \$80,000 had been raised to replace the roof and to restore the upper half of the outside of the URL. Guided by the Historical Structures Report, the old roof was removed and a new bright red metal roof was installed. The exterior of the Lantern room was stripped, repaired, and painted. The upper half of the building was also repaired and painted, along with the windows. By the fall of 2017 the work had been completed and the momentum of the campaign was well underway.

In the spring of 2018, a dedicated group of volunteers once again started working on the inside of the building. Stripping wallpaper, and light infrastructure work was completed in anticipation of more visitors in the upcoming summer months.

The URL saw over 8,000 visitors between June 1 and October 31, 2018. Not only did they learn about the history of the Range Lights, but also the need for funds to complete the project. This includes the remaining exterior work on the foundation, siding, and doors, but also the remaining interior work.

With funds raised to complete electrical, structural, and insulation work, it's time to focus on the next steps. This spring we hope to complete the exterior work then focus our energy on the interior. As of April 1st, an additional \$110,000 is needed to complete the work by June 1st, 2020.



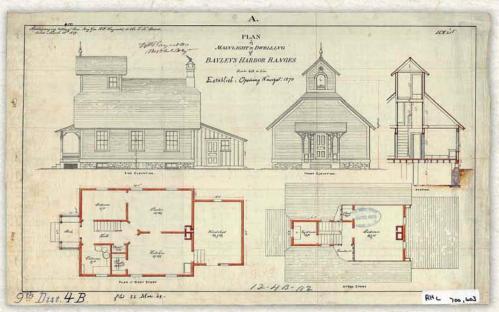
# Future of the Range Lights

The Ridges took responsibility for The Range Lights in the 1950's. We have taken this responsibility seriously and are very excited about the future.

Once the renovation is complete, the goal is to utilize the Range Lights to teach others of the origins of The Ridges Sanctuary and the maritime history of Baileys Harbor. The Range Lights have been a staple of Baileys Harbor since 1869 and it is our goal to create permanent interpretative panels on the interior and exterior of the building so people can learn about these historic structures year-round. And like any other historic structure, we must maintain the building on a continuous basis.

The buildings will continue to be visited by trolley tours, bus tours, and daily visitors to The Ridges. The number of visitors grows every year, with over 8,000 visitors to the Upper Range Light in 2018. The Range Light docents ensure that all who visit the Range Lights gain an understanding of their cultural history, appreciate their maritime importance, and commit to their preservation.

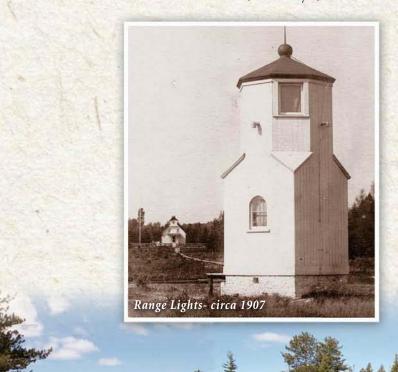
In addition to the work on the URL, the nearly 1,000-foot

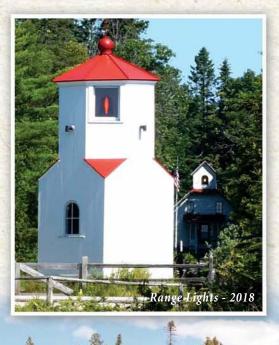


Upper Range Light plans - 1870

Range Light boardwalk is approaching 15 years of use. Soon it will need to be replaced and with this our goal is to incorporate interpretive panels throughout the boardwalk leading folks to the Upper Range Light.

At 150 years old, these historic structures have a story to tell. It is the responsibility of The Ridges volunteers and staff to tell this story to all who visit for the next 150 years.





# Baileys Harbor Range

1868 - 1875 1876 - 1896 1897 - 1937 1938 - 1969

#### 1868

Congress appropriates \$6,000 for the Baileys Harbor Range Lights.

#### 1869

Baileys Harbor Range Lights are built.

#### 1869

Lights lit for the first time utilizing lard.

### 1869

Fabien Truedell begins as 1st Lighthouse Keeper.

#### 1872

Marcus Shaler becomes the 2nd Lighthouse Keeper.

# 1875

Joseph Harris, Jr. becomes the 3rd Lighthouse Keeper.

### 1880

Lights converted to kerosene.

#### 1881

Hans Hanson becomes the 4th Lighthouse Keeper.

#### 1882

Burr Caswell becomes the 5th Lighthouse Keeper.

# 1882

George Larson becomes the 6th Lighthouse Keeper.

# 1888

John Millidge becomes the 7th Lighthouse Keeper.

# 1895

Oil House is built.

#### 1896

Henry Gattie becomes the 8th and last Lighthouse Keeper.

# 1923

Lights were converted to an unmanned acetylene gas system.

# 1930

Range Light buildings were converted to electricity.

#### 1930

Lutheran minister and his family move into the Upper Range Light.

#### 1934

Bureau of Lighthouses deeded the land, which comprised about 30 acres, and the buildings on it to the DC Park Commission.

# 1935

DC Park Commission grants permission to use the lighthouse acreage, except for the land immediately surrounding the two range lights, as a park.

# 1937

The Ridges Sanctuary is established.

#### 1940s

Upper Range Light continues use as a Lutheran parsonage.

#### 1950

Upper Range Light suffers a chimney fire and survives with minimal damage.

#### 1950s

Upper Range Light continues use as a Lutheran Parsonage.

#### 1964

Upper Range Light was offered as summer housing.

# 1966

Upper Range Light becomes permanent housing for Roy Lukes, The Ridges' first naturalist.

#### 1969

Upper Range Light struck by lightning and survives.

#### 1969

Fresnel lenses (lanterns) were removed from both buildings and a directional light and board was installed near the beach.





# Lights Historic Timeline

1970 - 1996 1997 - 2016 2017 - 2019

Home of Roy and Charlotte Lukes.

# 1973

Lower Range Light remodeled.

#### 1982

**Upper Range Light becomes** summer residence for Ridges researchers and staff.

# 1989

Range Lights added to National Registry of Historic Places.

# 1990

Paul Regnier, The Ridges' first **Executive Director, and family** move into Upper Range Light.

# 1992

\$70,000 raised to repair the Upper Range Light.

# 1993

Full boardwalk between Upper Range Light and Lower Range Light built.

**Upper Range Light becomes** The Ridges' staff offices.

# 1996

Upper Range Light was rewired and a new line was brought in underground to the Lower Range Light.

#### 2004

Boardwalk replaced with current structure.

# 2013

**Lower Range Light** renovation completed.

#### 2015

The Ridges Sanctuary staff move offices to the newly constructed Cook-Albert Fuller Nature Center.

# 2015

Light and day board were removed. Range Lights are relit as private aids to navigation.

# 2016

**Historic Structures Report** written.

# 2016

Public tours of the Upper Range Light begin.

#### 2016

"Restore The Range Light" campaign kicks off.

# 2017

Roof replaced on Upper Range Light.

#### 2018 LYGES

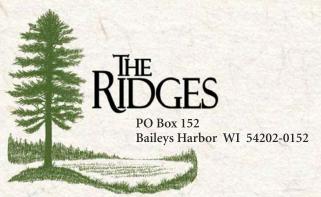
Over 8,000 visitors tour Range Lights between June 1st and October 31st.

#### 2019

150th Anniversary of the Baileys Harbor Range Lights.







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