



Spring 2017

sanctuary

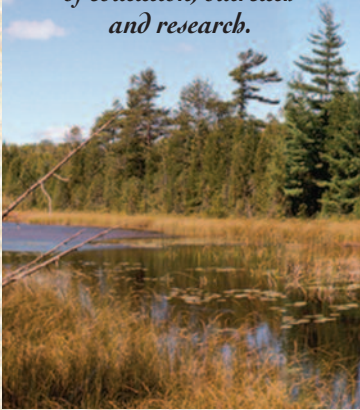
A Newsletter of The Ridges

*Happiness
held is the seed;
Happiness shared
is the flower*

— John Harrigan

From the Nature Center

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 photo by Douglas Sherman



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80th Anniversary

This year we celebrate our 80th anniversary. On October 4, 1937 in the small Seiker cabin on Kangaroo Lake, the articles of incorporation were signed, forming The Ridges Sanctuary. Since then, members have told stories about their connections to people, the special places along the trails, and what this place has meant to those who have visited.

In this Sanctuary, Ed and Sandy Miller of Baileys Harbor share a story of time spent with Roy and Charlotte Lukes. A story of their friendship and a visit to Roy's childhood home. Local resident Jon Jarosh shares his family story, four generations experiencing The Ridges. It's one of our hidden strengths - one generation sharing

their love of the outdoors with the next as they walk our trails. A simple yet powerful way to carry on our values from one generation to the next.

We have to remember, even after 80 years,

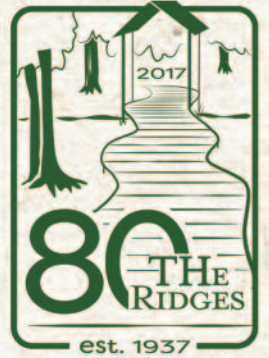
there is still much more conservation work that needs to be done. We must continue to inspire others and embrace the importance of conservation, not only at The Ridges, but also in backyards and communities. We need to educate the younger

generation to carry on our values. We need to invest in research initiatives to understand how our ecosystems work so we can implement best management practices to protect them from pollution, climate change and other threats outside of our boundaries.

In 2017, we will celebrate our accomplishments and share our stories. We will also lay the groundwork to continue our mission over the next several years in land protection, education and research.

Please stop by and share your story, volunteer your time, or donate to help carry on our mission. It's because of our membership that The Ridges has been able to accomplish so much. Thank you for your timeless dedication!

Steve Leonard, *Executive Director*
steve@ridgessanctuary.org



New Exhibits

This past February, the exhibits were installed in the Cook-Albert Fuller Center.

Funded in part by the Federal Highway Administration and supported by the town of Baileys Harbor, the exhibits showcase the cultural and natural history of The Ridges.



Join us for the 80th Anniversary of The Ridges

Saturday August 5th, 2017

Schedule of Events

9:00 am – The Cook-Albert Fuller Center opens

10:00 am – Naturalist-led hikes

11:30 am – Building Dedication Ceremony

12:00 - 2:00 pm – Cook Out & Social

2:00 pm – Naturalist-led hikes

5:00 pm – Annual Meeting (RSVP required)

6:30 pm – Dinner (RSVP required)

4 Generations at The Ridges



Jon, Camden, Joe, Maddi and Sue Jarosh

As The Ridges celebrates 80 years, thousands of people have walked the trails, listened to the birds and stood in awe of the wildflowers. What we are now beginning to realize is children are walking the same trails their great-grandparents did. Fourth-generation families are starting to share their stories with us.

One family has come forward to share their story. The following piece is told through the 3rd generation member Jon Jarosh (pronounced *Jaroh*), sharing his memories of The Ridges with his grandparents, parents, and now his children.

Jon's grandparents, Robert and Marguerite Steckart were life members of The Ridges and owned Steckarts Fine Furniture in De Pere, Wisconsin. They would visit Door County and The Ridges when their daughter Sue and son-in-law Joe purchased the Jacksonport Craft Cottage in 1984. Robert and Marguerite spent summers in Jacksonport to help with their grandchildren.

Running a summer business consumed most of Sue and Joe's time so they relied on help from their parents to watch the boys. This is when Jon and his brother, JR, were introduced to The Ridges Sanctuary.

I sat down with Jon as he shared his story about The Ridges and the impact it has had on him and his family.

What memories do you have of your grandparents and your time spent with them at The Ridges?

"I remember going through some of the swales, looking at dragonflies, and my grandfather would tell stories about trying to catch the different insects. My grandparents were environmentalists; as lifetime members they believed in that philosophy and in protecting the Sanctuary. They got to know Roy and Charlotte Lukes well and they believed in what they had to teach, and their philosophy in protecting that place. So growing up, they wanted me, my brother and our cousins to buy into this too. They wanted to showcase their love for nature and Door County to us."



Marguerite & Robert Steckart



Why do you think it was important for your grandparents to take you to The Ridges?

"They wanted to carry that philosophy on with us. Then when you throw in the different opportunities The Ridges provided, the classes for kids and different activities, it was a natural fit."

What do you remember doing with your parents?

"My parents were typically pretty busy with running the shop, but we would walk the trails together when they could get out. I know they would drop me and my brother off to the classes." In the mid and late '80s, Jon's parents enrolled him and his brother in summer classes at The Ridges. "I remember Jon Wilterding, he was the bug guy! He had bugs and moths; I remember it being so cool. I also took a really cool astronomy class there. That was one of my favorite things I ever did. We would hang out in the cabins and look through the telescopes. I remember being outside, a lot. I remember learning about stuff that you just wouldn't learn about in Dubuque, Iowa."

How have you introduced your family to The Ridges?

"Well, my wife Natalie (Sitte) Jarosh and I have started bringing our kids Maddi (5) & Camden (3) to some of The Ridges programs over the last 4-5 years. Natural Christmas and Story hours are their favorite. We were there in January, we walked the Boardwalk. It was pretty cold that day if I remember right, but a cool place to check things out and

walk with the family. With the winter hikes you realize that the forest doesn't just sleep in the winter, there's a lot happening out there."

What programs are you thinking about down the road for your kids?

"There is no doubt in my mind that my kids will be a part of the summer camp program. It's the opportunity to instill the values that The Ridges teaches. The Ridges helps me out as a parent, as it did my parents. They give a great opportunity for my kids to learn about it and hopefully create those fond memories like I have."

What influence, if any, will you have on your kids to bring their children someday?

"The things they learn will have an impact on their life and on how they view the world, and in turn, pass that along to their kids. I'll carry that on with my kids and teach them those philosophies. I think their memories will be similar to what mine are, because of the programming and opportunities that The Ridges offers."

So, why The Ridges?

"The Ridges is that story of what happens to a piece of property over 1,100 years, and you can see it first-hand. Its living history and they make it accessible so folks can learn about it and do it in a fun way. From flowers, to insects, to astronomy, to the general outdoors...it's a main reason why we choose to live here."



↑ Jon & JR with Ray Stonecipher (1987)

by Drew Richmond,
Ridges staff

A Day With Roy



I would like to share a special day Sandy and I were fortunate to have spent with Roy and Charlotte Lukes. I first met Roy and his wife Charlotte in the early 1980's and for those who didn't know Roy, he was hired as The Ridges first staff member in

1964. Roy was the resident naturalist and manager until 1990. Roy passed away in June of 2016 and has been missed by many.

Below is a favorite memory of Roy. It all began with an e-mail I received on Christmas Day 2014:

"My dad grew up on a small 80 acre farm about a mile west of Slovan in central Kewaunee County. On weekends my two older brothers and I nearly always managed to help my dad on the farm, to fix fences, once we shingled the granary roof, shocked grain, picked stones in the fields in spring, etc. Every one of the original farm buildings, dating back to around 1860 or so is gone, but we have a few photographs.



Roy leading a nature hike

I still like to go there, not to see the farm but to be thrilled by viewing the gorgeous Opicka Valley, far below the building site on top of the steep river valley hill and bordering the Kewaunee River. Sometime we must take a tour of that Bohemian region! You name the time." He goes on to say "I've always felt that their view of the Opicka Valley and Kewaunee River is a real gem. I never tire of visiting the area."

The chosen day finally arrived on July 14, 2015. We spent the day seeing the places that were memorable to Roy and his first cousin Carroll (Buzz) Besadny. Roy and Buzz were born four days apart and spent a lot of time growing up together as best friends. Roy talked about how Buzz graduated from UW-Madison and went on to a career at the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for 42 years where he gained an international reputation as an environmentalist. He was head of DNR from 1980 to 1993.

After showing us their childhood homes in Kewaunee, Roy took us to the farm with the before stated picturesque view of the Opicka Valley. We then visited the Door-Kewaunee Normal School Roy attended before setting off for his degree at UW-Oshkosh. He told us how he went on to a career in teaching and later became the first full time naturalist and manager of The Ridges.

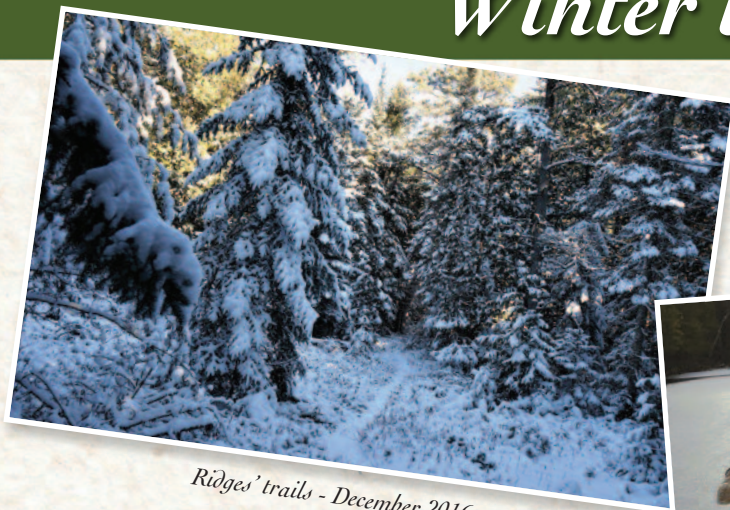
It was a great visit and memorable day for me and Sandy, not only because of what we saw, but more so from what we learned from Roy and Charlotte. The Opicka Valley is as beautiful as Roy said it would be; he never stopped being a teacher.

We were fortunate to have known Roy and Buzz; two first cousins from Kewaunee who had such notable careers and impacts as naturalists and environmentalists. They both had a large impact on how we view nature and the environment today.



by Ed Miller,
Ridges board member,
volunteer, and
Lighthouse enthusiast

Winter in Review



Ridges' trails - December 2016



Noelle on a frozen swale



Chestnuts over the open fire



Natural Christmas



Showsboe hike - January 2017



Hidden Brook bridge

Save the Dates

May 25 – 28, Festival of Nature

May 26, Range Lights open for the season

June 1, Lake Lessons Series Begins

June 10, Nature Play Day & Family Discovery Trail opens

July 5 – 7, 1st Annual Family Camp

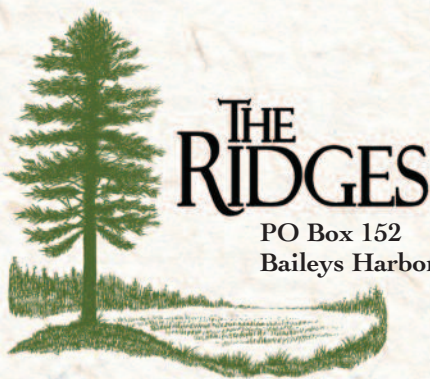
July 10 – August 4, Backpack Adventure Camp

August 5, 80th Anniversary, Building Dedication Ceremony, Annual Meeting

August 26, Monarch Madness

August 27, Volunteer Appreciation Event

Visit www.ridgessanctuary.org for a detailed list of all upcoming programs



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How Can You Get Involved?

DONATE

- **Orchids Restoration Project** – This is the largest orchid restoration project in the history of The Ridges. We have found 16 of the 26 orchids originally found on our property: we need your support to conduct research and reintroduce the remaining 10.

- **Upper Range Light** – Fundraising has begun to restore this Baileys Harbor landmark. We have secured funds for Phase 1: replacement of the roof and renovation of the exterior Light room. Phase 2: A full renovation of the building is under way.

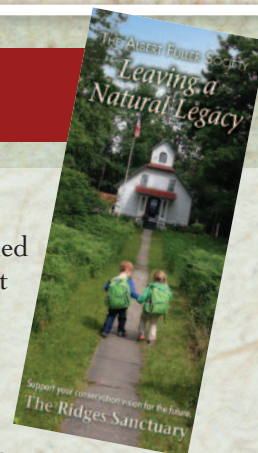


- **Planned Giving** – You may wish to consider the lasting impact of a Planned Gift. If you'd like to know more about including The Ridges in your estate, call us to request a copy of our brochure The Albert Fuller Society: Leaving a Natural Legacy.

- **Endowment** – Funds contributed to The Ridges Endowment ensure long lasting, regular contributions to help offset operational expenses.

VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are the backbone of The Ridges and the core of many of our important programs. Over 200 dedicated individuals assist our staff in a number of different areas. Visit our website or call to find out how you can be a part of the team.



Visit our website or call for more info on getting involved or making a donation.