



# The ALMANAC

A newsletter of Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center

October 2016 Volume 45 Number 3

## CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY!

by Lori Walewski, Wolf Ridge Naturalist



If you happened to glance to the ridge top as you traveled up the Wolf Ridge driveway in September you may have caught a glimpse of what appeared to be a rectangular cell tower with a lean like the Tower of Pisa. This was the arm of the 70-ton construction crane lifting re-usable forms for the poured concrete walls of the new Naturalist House. And so, it's begun, the biggest set of improvements to happen to Wolf Ridge since the move from Isabella in 1988. We're excited to have the first phase of our Making Waves construction projects underway. This year's projects lead toward the goal of remodeling the West Dorm to the highest international standard of sustainability, the Living Building Challenge (LBC). Using reusable concrete forms is just one way of how we are meeting this challenge.

Wolf Ridge and our construction partners have committed to constructing these 2016 projects to LBC standards. This first phase is helping us discover obstacles and find solutions before starting the LBC registered West Dorm project in 2017. For example, one component that is on the LBC Red List (a do not use list of the worst in class chemicals for human and environmental health) is common in the weather stripping on windows. So as part of the LBC, we are advocating with four different window manufacturers to see if they will change their materials to meet this requirement.

Another example involves pipe cement. As with any construction job the subcontractors submit paperwork and product samples to be approved by

the contractor and architect. However, with the LBC, the level to which each item is reviewed is much greater. In a typical construction project the plumbing pipes and cement would quickly be given approval and hardly given a second thought because they use common prevailing components. In a LBC project, every item is closely scrutinized down to the chemicals in every piece of every part. In our LBC story of the pipe cement, the plumbers are responsible for finding and providing the documentation on the approved pipe cement. While this level of detail seems extreme, it is the level of commitment being made for environmental sustainability and human health. The documentation was found and the cement was approved. If the cement had not been found acceptable, mechanical fit-

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ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER

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# VIEW FROM THE RIDGE

by Peter Smerud, Executive Director



## The Time is Now

You've seen the front cover. I hope it makes you feel the same pride and excitement I do as Wolf Ridge begins construction of phase 1 of our Making Waves project. The first ever facility designed specifically for our graduate naturalist training program and camp staff is underway. Also, our maintenance staff will soon have a building that brings them all together and meets the needs for caring for our beautiful and unique facility. This is only happening because of people like you – people who deeply care about Wolf Ridge, kids, and our environment.

Once these two new buildings are completed (now scheduled for mid-winter), and our naturalists and maintenance staff move out of the current West Dorm, we will be ready for phase 2, next spring. This phase will include a complete renovation of the West Dorm, turning it into an international model of sustainability, and construction of a new Wolf Ridge learning facility on Lake Superior.

I feel profound gratitude toward the dozens of people and organizations that have, over several years, worked to get us this far. But while we are over halfway in meeting our financial goal, we need to raise an additional \$4 million to complete phase 2. In June, we announced the public phase of our Making Waves fundraising campaign with a fun event in Minneapolis. The event, at our architect's (HGA) stunning facility drew over 150 people, including the MN Commissioner of Education, Brenda Cassellius. We are now pushing hard to get to the fundraising finish line.

Wolf Ridge hasn't asked the broad Wolf

Ridge community yet for funds, but we're asking now. To see these badly needed projects become reality we need the entire Wolf Ridge community to step up and help with financial support. This includes our naturalist alumni, schoolteachers, parents of students and campers, and camp staff. Here are some ways of donating to consider: Have multiple people from your family come together for a family gift, make a donation in the name of your school that has attended (some have been attending for decades), and parents can donate in the name of a child that was impacted by a learning experience at Wolf Ridge. You might also host a breakfast or party for friends to inform them about Wolf Ridge. If you know someone who owns a manufacturing company, say furniture, paint or sheetrock, talk to them about an in-kind donation. Such in-kind gifts have already helped significantly. In short, please be creative. Wolf Ridge will be happy to assist on the form and timing of donations.

All donors will be recognized by name in the buildings. A plaque will hang in the lobby entrance. Naming opportunities of buildings or spaces exist for larger gifts.

Gifts can be made through the mail, online at [wolf-ridge.org/donate](http://wolf-ridge.org/donate), or as simple as a phone call, or email for more information. Specify that your gift be for Making Waves. Together we can make this happen.

Please contact me with any questions: [pete.smerud@wolf-ridge.org](mailto:pete.smerud@wolf-ridge.org) 218-353-7414. And thank you for your continued support. ♦

## Now is the time to give to Wolf Ridge's **MAKING WAVES** capital campaign!

*"A great combination of top-notch builders, sustainable construction methods, and land on Lake Superior make this the perfect time to help Wolf Ridge get to the finish line on this vital project."*

- John & Marla Ordway, Wolf Ridge Wave Makers.



### Some key leadership gifts that got Making Waves off to a fabulous start:

#### **\$1,000,000+**

Margaret A. Cargill Foundation

Nancy Schultz & John Eckfeldt

#### **\$10,000-\$24,999**

Anonymous  
Barr Engineering  
Nancy Quattlebaum Burke  
Doug Connell & Gail Murton  
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Kirk & Kelly Geadelmann  
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John Ordway  
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Dale & Ruth Bachman  
Mike Dickson  
Leuthold Family Foundation  
Gloria Plautz  
George & Sylvia Roman

#### **\$500,000-\$999,999**

Donald Weesner Charitable Trust  
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#### **\$25,000-\$99,999**

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#### **\$100,000-\$499,999**

Tom & Margit Berg  
Russ & Becky Bierbaum  
Harpreet Kaur

\*In-kind donors

*These Wave Makers, plus many others in varying amounts, have put the total raised as of mid-September at \$5,066,000!  
Thank you for the outstanding commitment to kids and the future of our environment.*

## KEY FEDERAL & STATE LEGISLATORS VISIT

Wolf Ridge was pleased to host several prominent legislators this spring and summer. U.S. Congressman Rick Nolan visited Wolf Ridge in July. While touring the campus and talking with staff, Congressman Nolan even found time to conduct a short lesson with some young summer camp students on the back deck of the West Dorm. Nolan has been a strong supporter of Wolf Ridge and helped secure a USDA Farm to School Grant that was a major part of funding for a new deer enclosure fence around the 3.5-acre Wolf Ridge organic farm.

Earlier in the year, both State Senator Tom Bakk and State Representative Rob Ecklund toured Wolf Ridge and visited with staff and students. The two legislators have played a key role this year in Wolf Ridge's efforts to improve environmental education in Minnesota

and our campus facilities. These legislators successfully authored legislation in the difficult 2016 legislative session which provides \$750,000 to Wolf Ridge for new facilities. Other legislators who worked with Senator Bakk included State Senators Richard Cohen, Leroy Stumpf, Bill Ingbrigtsen, and Tom Saxhaug. In the House, Representative Ecklund was joined by Representative Denny McNamara with support on a key conference committee from Representative Jim Knoblach.

These bipartisan efforts are an excellent example of the broad base of support Wolf Ridge has

received from individuals, businesses, foundations and governmental units in furtherance of the Making Waves campaign. Thank you to all. ♦



# PROFILE: BOB GARDNER



**B**ob Gardner had been a chaperone twice in the past 3 years with the Prior Lake/Savage School district. He had amazing weeks spent with each of his two oldest boys. Also Gardner Builders, a commercial construction company that Bob founded 6 years ago is currently at Wolf Ridge building a seasonal staff house and maintenance building as phase 1 of our Making Waves capital campaign.

**What is your current occupation?** I am in charge of business strategy and development at Gardner Builders.

**Tell our readers about something that you have learned as the result of your association with Wolf Ridge.** I have learned many things from Wolf Ridge including the transformative nature of the environment and staff on the children and chaperones.

The sound bite answer from Winter Survival class: The number one thing essential to survival...PMA (positive mental attitude).

**Please share a Wolf Ridge ELC memory.** The staff at Wolf Ridge is amazing at bringing the best out in all of us. My first year up at the ELC we had a student who was in a wheelchair and while this may appear to be a challenge in the outdoors it was never a second thought at Wolf Ridge. The staff went out of their way to include him in every activity possible. The experience culminated in one of the most moving experiences of my life when this student and his Dad completed the ropes course together after I clipped them into the zip line. The entire group of kids cheered wildly for them from the ground. It was hard to beat!

**What are your hobbies?** With four active children my current hobby is chauffeur. We have a 2-year old Betta Fish named Felix and we have a Miniature Australian Shepherd puppy who will join our family in December.

**Tell us an item of interest about yourself.** I lived in Colorado in elementary school and we spent a week at an outdoor ELC called High Trails. It was an amazing experience.

**What book and/or movie would you recommend others read.** For the 5<sup>th</sup> graders in the audience I highly recommend the Charlie Bone series of books by Jenny Nimmo. I read all of them almost nightly with one of my sons last year.

**Please share a travel tip?** I would recommend living as the locals live. Anywhere you go you should get to know the place by getting to know the people who call it home. Your experience will be that much more enriching.

**What is your favorite place at Wolf Ridge and why?** I personally love Sawmill Creek valley and the trail that takes you over the water. I also love the hike to Wolf Lake on the night hike!

**If you could visit with any conservationist/naturalist/environmentalist, living or dead, who would it be and what would you say.** I would love to meet John Muir! I would let him know how grateful that many others and I are for his love of the outdoors and the transformation that this country continues to experience because of his passion.

**If you were a tree or animal what kind of tree or animal would you be?** I would be an aspen tree...tall and proud but deeply connected to my community at the roots.

**Anything else you would like to share with our readers?** I am thrilled to be contributing to my passion for Wolf Ridge by having the privilege to have our team at Gardner Builders be the builder of this amazing project to expand the current facilities. ♦



# ■ A LIFELONG DANCE IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS ■

by Sally Williams

**B**ecky Bierbaum (nee Teas) grew up in Pipestone, Minnesota, where she and her pals made the National Monument their personal playground, exploring every inch of the hills, rock formations, trails and streams. Her father, a biology teacher, learned to carve pipes from the stone that was gifted to him by Native Americans with quarry rights.

Russ Bierbaum grew up in Eyota, Minnesota, where his hard-working farm family sought relief from their labors in nearby Whitewater State Park. Russ appreciated beauty on the farm, with its fields and pheasants, but the park's rocky river bluffs and woodsy hiking trails were especially intoxicating. For fun, he planted pine trees with his grandfather.

Becky and Russ lived directly across from one another on the map, about three hours apart. They remained in parallel outdoor play, you could say, until finally meeting in a social dance class at Minnesota State University - Mankato.

"He was really good," she said.

"You had to take something," he said.

And so the two began their lifelong dance together, growing to become teachers, parents, grandparents, business entrepreneurs in the field of reproductive medicine, and supporters and lovers of the natural world.

The young couple settled in Roseville for a time, where Becky tutored and Russ taught high school science. During those years, they did whatever they could to ex-

pose their two sons to the biological and geographical wonders of the world. The family took camping trips to Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks, far away from the distractions and the stressors of daily city life.

Becky treasures the intimate family time the trips provided. "It was a good thing to do," she said, "to get away and just be together as a family. I remember loving waking up in the morning, in our tent. It was really kind of chilly there, about 30 degrees. So it was just such a cozy feeling. You could hear nature outside."

Russ worked hard to make sure other kids, not just his own, had the same exposure. He helped pioneer an outdoor curriculum for Roseville Area Schools, one that eventually took students to Wolf Ridge. As a teacher, he loved watching the transformation, the a-ha moments, of kids in the outdoors.

"We'd start hiking along the river," he said. "The kids would all have clean clothes, and some of them were in brand new hiking boots. At first, they could find rocks to walk along and enough of a shoreline. Then pretty soon they'd run out of shoreline and they'd have to get their feet wet to move ahead. And pretty soon they'd be falling down and getting muddy. And pretty soon they wouldn't care."

It was at that point, he said, that you could start talking about geography and habitat.

Now in their 70's, Becky and Russ, of Mahtomedi, are giving thoughtful consideration to how to pass these gifts on to the next generation and the next. Russ



serves as chairman of the Wolf Ridge board. And the couple has established a legacy gift for Wolf Ridge. A thoughtful attorney helped them set up the gift and, most important, helped them engage their children in the process so that there would be no surprises.

Said Becky: "The idea of philanthropy is very important to teach our kids. They endorse that, and they're proud of that. I can see they feel the same way about giving when they're able."

Becky and Russ will be celebrating 50 years of marriage next summer, in Glacier, of course, with their children and grandchildren. The glacier they loved climbing, Grinnell, is rapidly disappearing. There are other environmental threats looming closer to home: clear-cutting for potato farms, invasive species and mining.

Their gift is important. And so is the love for and commitment to the natural world that they have passed down from their grandparents and parents, to their children and grandchildren and generations of students. ♦



**LEAVE A LEGACY.** *Include Wolf Ridge as a beneficiary of your will, trust, retirement account plan, or life insurance policy. Your planned gift sustains Wolf Ridge's excellence by supporting our endowment and ensures we can educate future generations about the importance of the natural world. Become part of the Wolf Ridge Heritage Circle.*

# BULL-S-S-SNAKE AT WOLF RIDGE

by Sarah Bransford, Rachel Enwright, and Danielle Tikalsky, Wolf Ridge Naturalists

**W**e have a new team member here at Wolf Ridge, a bullsnake (*Pituophis catenifer sayi*) affectionately named Tigger. Now think for a moment, what went through your mind when you read the word bullsnake? We imagine for most a range of emotions could go through your mind from fear to curiosity, disgust to excitement. Snakes naturally elicit a strong emotional response and for that reason a bullsnake is a great new instructor here at Wolf Ridge.

Originally from a hobbyist in California, Tigger was shipped cross-country to Wolf Ridge ELC in May of 2016, when the temperatures were warm enough for him to be safely transported. His appearance is lighter and more orange than most wild bullsnakes with brown blotches along his entire length. Tigger earned his name by resembling the lovable Winnie the Pooh character that is also orange with dark spots and a yellow belly. With a friendly and recognizable name, we hope that students and visitors will feel more at ease when meeting Tigger. Already about 5.5 feet long, Tigger still has nearly a foot to go until he is fully grown.

Bullsnakes, the subspecies of gopher snakes found in Minnesota, inhabit areas along the Minnesota, Mississippi, and St. Croix rivers. They prefer rocky and sandy prairie habitats and will often hibernate in rock outcrops and old mammal burrows. Bullsnakes lose habitat due to agriculture, urban sprawl, and lack of fire. Fire is actually beneficial to their habitat, because it clears shrubs and trees that grow in undisturbed prairies and allows grasses to grow in their place.

Bullsnake diets vary bases on availability, but tend towards small mammals, frogs, and ground nesting birds, which they kill first by constriction. We feed Tigger dead rats (no need for constriction) which he swallows whole. Snakes play an important role in the food web by keeping these small animal populations from growing too large. They also provide food for their primary predators, hawks and owls.

Tigger will serve a few purposes in his role on the Wolf Ridge staff. Tigger will be used as a resource to educate students about native snake species. He will also provide an opportunity for graduate naturalists to handle education animals. Reptiles and amphibians are commonly used in nature centers and require less training than handling other animals such as raptors. We also hope that Tigger will help to reduce some of the fears and stereotypes surrounding snakes. Finally, Tigger may also be featured in a new evening program about reptiles and amphibians. We are excited for Tigger to become a larger part of the Wolf Ridge staff and we look forward to seeing his impact on the visitors and staff. ♦

## Fun Facts about Bullsnakes

- Bullsnakes are the largest snakes found in Minnesota.
- Farmers rejoice! Bullsnakes are key in eliminating agricultural pests such as rodents.
- The longest Bullsnake on record was 100 inches long (that's 8 feet, 4 inches!)
- Bullsnakes are sometimes confused with rattlesnakes. This is because if they feel threatened they will hiss, vibrate their tail, and even strike. The sound made by vibrating their tail is similar to the rattle of a rattlesnake.
- They are not venomous.
- Bullsnakes are often kept as pets because they are relatively easy to care for.
- Their scales are dry and smooth therefore they are not slimy!



**Annie Johnson, our summer animal care intern and Tigger work on being comfortable together.**

# 2016-17 SEASONAL NATURALISTS



**Rory Anderson**

**Hometown:** Morris, MN  
BA Biology  
St Olaf College

**Michaela Brevig**

**Hometown:** Minneapolis, MN  
BS Earth Sciences  
U of MN - Twin Cities

**Delaney Crawford**

**Hometown:** Robbinsdale, MN  
BA Integrated El. Ed. with Special Ed.  
U of MN - Duluth

**Nathan Cross**

**Hometown:** Maple Grove, MN  
BS Zoology  
ND State University

**Hannah Edstrom**

**Hometown:** Red Wing, MN  
BA Env. & Asian Studies  
St. Olaf College

**Rosie Hesla**

**Hometown:** Minneapolis, MN  
BA Education & Biology  
St. Catherine University

**Maria Keeler**

**Hometown:** Shoreview, MN  
BA Biology & Psychology  
U of MN - Morris

**Lauren Kitrell**

**Hometown:** Orono, MN  
BA History  
U of MN - Twin Cities

**Jarrod Klopp**

**Hometown:** Champlin, MN  
BA Biology & Psychology  
Luther College

**Erika LeMay**

**Hometown:** Superior, WI  
BS Psychology  
U of WI - Superior

**Makaila Miller**

**Hometown:** White Bear Lake, MN  
BA Secondary Ed. Life Sciences  
U of MN - Duluth

**Jack Minich**

**Hometown:** Washington D.C.  
BA Political Science & German Lit.  
U of VT

**Brooke Piepenburg**

**Hometown:** Willmar, MN  
BA Biology  
College of St. Benedict

**Linnea Pierson**

**Hometown:** San Jose, CA  
BA Math & Music  
St. Olaf College

**Emma Rohleder**

**Hometown:** Calgary, Canada  
BS Ecology, Evolution & Behavior  
U of MN - Twin Cities

**Emily Shosh**

**Hometown:** Coudersport, PA  
BS Environmental Science  
Mansfield U of PA

**Tyler Stoltzman**

**Hometown:** Farmington, MN  
BA Psychological Science  
Gustavus Adolphus College



**Erin Manning (05)** got married to Scott Waldorf on Sept 3rd in a grand event. **Hallie Wunsch (07)** had a baby boy. **Robyn Char (13)** received her teaching license for K-6. She is working on her masters and teaching 3rd grade at New City Charter School in Mpls. **Tessa Olson (13)** just landed a full time job at Voyageur Outward Bound. **Jenna Pollard (13)** has a job building a timberframe on Sonju Lake. **Haley Marks (15)** was a director of summer programming at WR and is now nannying for a 2 month old baby. **Luciana Ranelli (15)** was a WR academic nat and continues here for a 3rd yr as a mentor nat and curriculum specialist. **Shane Steele (15)** was our summer nat supervisor and is working this fall as a rock climbing guide with Stone Harbor in Grand Marais, MN. **Sarah Waddle (15)** was the craft and traditional skills nat at WR and starts her 3rd yr here as a mentor nat and curriculum specialist. **Class of 2016:** **Sarah Bransford** was a trail guide at YMCA Camp Menogyn and is back at WR as a mentor naturalist. **Colleen Bumford** led trips for Farm & Wilderness Camp and will continue there part time this fall as she starts working on her MS in E Studies and a science teaching certification at Antioch. **Caitlyn Coghlan** was a WR trip leader and is now a Food-corps service member in Kalispell, MT. **Rachel Enwright** was a canoe guide and chaplain at Wilderness Canoe Base. This fall she starts as a mentor naturalist at WR. **Elizabeth Gerrits** was interpretive park ranger at Glacier Natl. Park and is currently working there as an education tech. **Megan Gibbs** worked as a naturalist for Dakota Cty as a naturalist and can now be found at Pok-O-MacCready OE Ctr., NY. **Serena Hixson** is in Washington D.C. working as a fulltime dog walker and volunteering at the National Zoo. **Julia Luger** was a naturalist at the Wynn Nature Ctr in Homer, AK and returns to us as a mentor nat. **Kalina Paulisich** was a wilderness trip leader for Birch Trails Camp for Girls in Minong, WI. She is now at the Mount Rainier Institute, WA as an EE instructor. **Emily Richey** is the program director for the Duluth Community Garden Program and part of the field crew at the Food Farm. **Sonja Smerud** was at WR as a naturalist for our academic programs. This fall she is babysitting and skiing. **Morgan Soulantikas** was a summer camp counselor at the Environmental Discovery Ctr at Lynchs River Cty Park in Coward, SC. Now Morgan is an interpretive assistant at EDC and an after school program teacher at Sneed Middle School in Florence, SC. **Danielle Tikalsky** spent the summer at WR working as academic nat and she is staying here as a mentor naturalist. ♦

# WOLF RIDGE NEWS BRIEFS

Our **summer programs** continue to thrive. Numbers were strong in our youth programs with our wilderness trips having record numbers of participants. Families tried their hand at fly fishing. Road Scholars enjoyed making pizzas at the wood fired brick oven on our farm. The academic programs filled themselves with hands-on, in-the field educational experiences. The bird banding classes filled with students from all over the U.S. who sharpened their skills handling birds and using Pyle for identification.

- Some new **traditional skills and crafts** were added to the curriculum. All enjoyed hiking stick carving, knot tying and rope making, band weaving, fish lure making, spinning and dyeing, and porcupine quill art.

- The new **Wildlife Camp** got their hands on all sorts of animals while learning to care for the education animals at WR and participating in some wildlife research. Looking for moose and finding their gigantic tracks and being surprised by a least weasel in a live trap set for a survey were highlights.

- The fledgling farmers in our new **Farm Camp** had a great time exploring the wonders of agriculture and food. Two nights and three days were spent entirely at the farm where they picked, processed, and cooked all their own meals. They also made kale and apple cakes for all the participants at Wolf Ridge.

- Tom Berg, **dedicated Wolf Ridge board member** of 12 years and longstanding board chair retired from our board this summer. He was instrumental with securing the lease for the Lake Superior land, obtaining funding from the



Kate Young



Kate Young



Kate Young



Kate Young

Minnesota legislature for our Making Waves capital campaign, and promoting and organizing the board's efficiency. Tom was voted as a trustee emeritus meaning he has made significant contributions above and beyond expectations. Tom will continue as co-chair of the capital campaign.

- A **scholarship fund** for local schools was established with the memorials from the passing of Audrey Kohlstedt. Audrey is the mother of long time Wolf Ridge Naturalist John Kohlstedt. She fought long and hard for environmental causes in the city of Bloomington for many years. Audrey would be pleased to know that her memorial will help students attend Wolf Ridge.

- The **farm** is growing, growing, growing. An 8'4" tall modified Jack Fence and gate was completed to keep the deer out. Soil research amendments have been applied. MN Dept. of Agriculture commissioner Dave Frederickson visited WR and recognized us and Farm Manager, David Abazs, for water quality measures. This year's crops are currently exceeding expectations. Over 1000 pounds of tomatoes have been frozen with approximately 2000 more to harvest. Fortunately, Arlene Coco Buscombe, Culinary Specialist, came to train about farm scale food processing. Her help was made possible by a grant from the Victory fund.

- Wolf Ridge **partnered** with the youth program run by Friends of the Finland Community at the Clair Nelson Community Center. They have been operating their camp for several years and this year Wolf Ridge helped provide staff. It went really well and the partnership will likely continue.



- On July 7 a **bioblitz event** was held at Wolf Ridge and Tettegouche State Park. Superior National Forest, Tettegouche State Park, the North Shore Stewardship Association and North Unit Lake Superior Watershed Plan sponsored this event. One hundred and fourteen people, including 35 experts spent the day surveying the biodiversity of all living creatures and plants at Wolf Ridge and Tettegouche. Some unusual and exciting species identified include, Red-throated Loon, bobcat, wolves, White-winged Crossbill, and Hudson Bay Eyebright. Participants learned how to identify many things, monitor biodiversity using scientific methods, and about various careers in biological science. The primary goal of the event was to build awareness and enthusiasm for biodiversity.

- While visiting Wolf Ridge during the fall of 2015, Shawn Beaudette (5th grade teacher with Prior Lake's Five Hawks Elementary) read about the Spiral Learning Model in *The Almanac* and was inspired. He and a few other

teachers arranged for Joe Walewski (Director of Naturalist Training) to provide a day of **teacher in-service training** in December and again in March. Then in July, these teachers attended Wolf Ridge for a weekend of further inspiration and learning about the Spiral Learning Model and how to infuse environmental education in their school curriculum. Shawn shared, "My first thought when planning something for my students is shifting from the standard or the objective to what the experience is actually going to be. If we are able to plan a meaningful, hands-on and engaging experience for our students, that will lead to higher levels of learning. Starting with this in mind has opened up some flexibility in planning lessons and has opened up my eyes to integrating multiple subjects into more of these lessons."

- Wolf Ridge has some **new staff** members. A bullsnake (see article page 6) and a kestrel are the most recent additions to our animal educator staff. The kestrel was found injured in the Twin

Cities. He has recovered from a wing injury but is blind in one eye. In the human department John Chandler has joined the WR team as the development director and Danielle Hefferan has been hired for a new position as naturalist training and curriculum coordinator. There has also been some in-house movement. Erin (Manning) Waldorf is now the director of wildlife and group programs. Colby Abazs is now our food service director and Zach Bates moved from our grounds/building crew to the kitchen.

- Wolf Ridge mourns the passing of **Jim Kustritz**. He died peacefully and unexpectedly in his sleep. Jim worked in the kitchen at Wolf Ridge for five years. He was a dedicated worker with a gentle demeanor and well liked by all that knew him. He enjoyed sharing his hobby of carving spoons with many of the graduate and summer naturalists, teaching them this traditional craft on numerous afternoons and evenings in his garage workshop. We miss him. ♦

## ■ CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY! continued from page 1

things could have been used to join the pipes together.

By intentionally looking into such details, Gardner Builders, HGA Architects, and Wolf Ridge are learning and creating better alternatives for human health and the environment. Part of Curtis Martinson's job, as Wolf Ridge project superintendent for Gardner Builders, is educating sub-contractors about the LBC requirements for sustainability. Every Tuesday Curtis meets with the foreman of each company. One of the agenda items is always the LBC and what needs to be done to comply with the standards. The contracting team is stepping up to the challenge of being at the cutting edge of sustainable building practices. It is great for their company's resume and good for the environment.

The LBC certification is more than a checklist. It is a restorative vision for how the building process can go

beyond Net Zero and strives to have the buildings give more than they take, and prove it. LBC certification is based on being net positive and only achieved after 12 consecutive months of proven performance. As of September 15, 2016 there have been 282 projects in the United States that pursued the LBC as their standard of sustainability. Wolf Ridge is the third such project in Minnesota, but the only one going for full certification.

So how is the LBC affecting our construction projects? It is challenging us to find materials that are healthier and have less impact, to advocate to manufacturers to create products that are environmentally friendly, and to educate the construction industry about better methods and materials.



The Living Building Challenge is first a philosophy and second a process that is holding Wolf Ridge to its mission statement in every aspect, every material and every person of our construction project. It has opened up an entire new audience of learners to the Wolf Ridge experience and they're quite excited about joining us in this adventure. ♦

- Summer Sampler:** (2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> gr) Aug 16-19: \$370
- Discoverers:** (4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>gr) July 9-15, July 16-22, July 23-29, July 30-Aug 5, Aug 6-12, Aug 13-19: \$580
- Voyagers:** (6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>gr) July 9-15, July 16-22, July 23-29, July 30-Aug 5, Aug 6-12, Aug 13-19: \$580
- Adventurers:** (8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>gr) July 23-29, July 30-Aug 5, Aug 6-12: \$595
- Day Camp:** (1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>gr) June 26-30: \$186
- Sprouts Day Camp:** (2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>gr) June 26-30: \$186 NEW
- Voyagers 2-wk Ultimate Survival:** (6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>gr) Aug 6-19: \$1260
- Angling to Archery:** (6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>gr) July 30-Aug 5: \$632
- Wildlife Camp:** (6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>gr) Aug 6-12: \$580
- Farm, Feast, Fire Camp:** (8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>gr) Aug 6-12: \$580
- Camp Rock Climbing:** (8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>gr) Aug 13-19: \$650
- Counselor-in-Training:** (10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>gr) July 16-29: \$1260
- Credit Camp-Freshwater Ecology:** (10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>gr) July 9-29: \$2100
- Credit Camp-Wilderness Ethnics:** (10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>gr) July 30-Aug 12: \$1590
- BWCAW Canoe 5-day:** (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>gr) Aug 13-19: \$600
- Adventurers 2-wk BWCAW Canoe:** (8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>gr) July 9-22: \$1350
- Adventurers 2-wk Isle Royale Backpack:** (8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>gr) July 16-29: \$1375
- Adventurers Northwoods Kayak:** (8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>gr) Aug 13-19: \$700 NEW
- Jr Naturalists 2-wk Quetico Canoe:** (10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>gr) July 23-Aug 5: \$1420
- Jr Naturalists 2-wk Apostle Islands Kayak:** (10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>gr) July 30-Aug 12: \$1420
- Isle Royale Kayak Expedition:** (10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>gr) July 2-15: \$1485
- BWCAW Traverse Canoe Expedition:** (10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>gr) July 2-22: \$2000
- Summer Family Camps:** (all ages) July 2-8, July 30-Aug 5, Aug 6-12: Starting at \$850
- Family & Group Wilderness Trips:** Call for ages, dates, and prices
- Road Scholar Intergenerational:** (grandparents & 8-12yrs) June 25-30: Starting at \$579



Visit our website at: **WOLF-RIDGE.ORG**

to learn more about these and other Wolf Ridge programs.

**WOLF RIDGE** ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP CENTER **CALENDAR 2017**



**Jim Brandenburg**

The 2017 Wolf Ridge calendar features the photography of Jim Brandenburg. A Minnesota native, Jim traveled the globe as a photographer with National Geographic Magazine for over 3 decades. Brandenburg was the recipient of the World Achievement Award from the United Nations Environmental Programme, in recognition of his using nature photography to raise public awareness for the environment. He was presented with an honorary degree from the U of MN, which recognizes individuals who have achieved acknowledged eminence in cultural affairs, in public service, or in a field of knowledge and scholarship. Nature365.tv is Brandenburg's daily mini-video now seen by millions on the Internet. More of Brandenburg's work can be seen at jimbrandenburg.com. Calendars are available for \$14.00 for donor members and \$18.95 for non-donor members, including shipping. They are also available at special prices, in lots of 50 for school fundraising and retail resale. Proceeds of all calendar sales directly support children attending Wolf Ridge school programs. Call Wolf Ridge at (218) 353-7414 for more information and to order. ♦

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You enjoy reading the *Wolf Ridge Almanac* but would like to reduce your paper consumption? Problem solved! Contact us at 218-353-7414 and let us know that you would like an electronic copy.

**YOUR PAPER CONSUMPTION**

**A moose observed on Adventurers 2-wk Isle Royale backpacking trip.**



Demelle Tikatsky

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**W**olf Ridge is an accredited residential environmental school for persons of all ages. We offer immersion programs which involve direct observation and participation in outdoor experiences. Wolf Ridge programs focus on environmental sciences, human culture and history, personal growth, team building, and outdoor recreation.

Our mission is to develop a citizenry that has the knowledge, skills, motivation, and commitment to act together for a quality environment.

We meet our mission by:

- Fostering awareness, curiosity, and sensitivity to the natural world.
- Providing lifelong learning experiences in nature.
- Developing social understanding, respect, and cooperation.
- Modeling values, behaviors, and technologies which lead to a sustainable lifestyle.
- Promoting the concepts of conservation and stewardship.