



**WOLF
RIDGE**SM
ENVIRONMENTAL
LEARNING CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT

September 1, 2020 - August 31, 2021

AND

The **ALMANAC**
A newsletter of Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center





ADVENTURES

IN LEARNING

ANNUAL REPORT MEMORANDUM



Wolf Ridge is a place where people come together in a learning community. This continued in new and unique ways over the last fiscal year. Maybe the most unique in our 50 years. We began the fiscal year with fear and uncertainty, scared for the future and wondering if Wolf Ridge would survive with a 99% loss of income as when we temporarily closed campus in March of 2020.

People stepped in to make sure Wolf Ridge would survive. The Board and staff were committed to a thoughtful process as they managed difficult decisions. Staff adapted and worked together to maintain facilities and programming. Education staff reached new audiences, increasing impact with the creation of Virtual Field Trips. Government support was critical from both the federal and state governments in the form of the Shuttered Venue Operator Grant and Paycheck Protection Programs. And of course donors. Donors stepped up like never before. New and returning donors gave all of us hope that Wolf Ridge would make it through this and provided a sense of calm for our community.

As Wolf Ridge opened back up for the 2021 summer, the local community was our priority. We worked with local schools to provide outdoor learning opportunities and hosted overnights in June. We started cautiously and thoughtfully to slowly build a fully open campus. What began with families and adults grew to groups of children. The joy in hearing voices on campus this summer after months of silence was truly wonderful.

People's well-being is interconnected with the well-being of natural systems. We face increasingly complex challenges, from climate change to loss of species to decreased access to nature. Through all of this, we've learned we need the Wolf Ridge community more than ever. Together we will continue to equip people, communities, and organizations with the knowledge, skills, and motivation to make informed decisions to address those challenges. This experience has taught us that Wolf Ridge is resilient, secure, and ready for the next 50 years to continue this critically important work.

Peter Smerud

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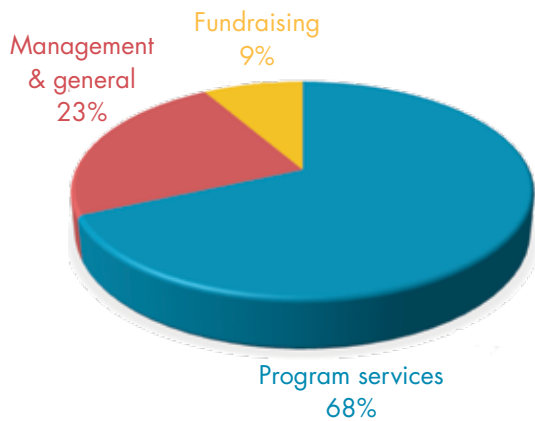
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FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Fiscal year: September 1, 2020 - August 31, 2021

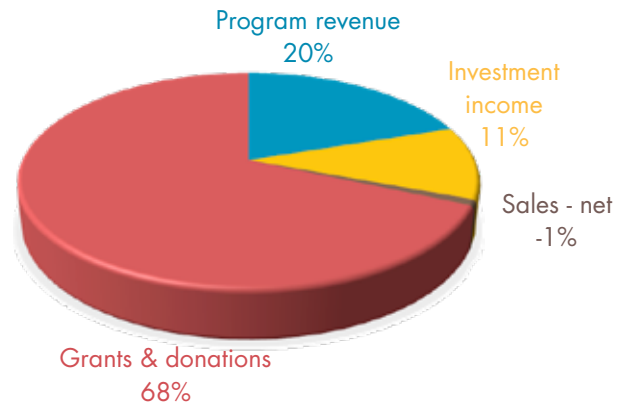
Expenses

Program services.....	\$905,789
Management & general.....	308,321
Fundraising.....	110,992
Total Expenses before Depreciation*	<u>\$1,325,102</u>



Revenue and Other Support

Program revenue.....	\$326,502
Investment income.....	179,863
Sales (net of expenses).....	(13,999)
Grants & donations.....	1,124,441
Total Revenue.....	<u>\$1,616,777</u>



Statement of Financial Position

Current assets/cash equivalents.....	\$1,069,106
Fixed assets.....	13,000,052
Investments & supporting funds	
Endowment.....	457,844
Board restricted reserve.....	584,551
Total Assets.....	<u>\$15,111,553</u>

Current liabilities.....	\$1,419,153
Restricted net assets.....	545,189
Unrestricted net assets.....	13,147,211
Total liabilities & equity.....	<u>\$15,111,553</u>

*Depreciation expense = \$609,501

Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center is a nonprofit, tax exempt organization under 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. This financial information is drawn from the audited financial statements by the accounting firm Esterbrooks, Scott, Signorelli, Peterson, Smithson, Ltd.

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Reflect for a moment on your values. What legacy do you and your family want to see in perpetuity? Thoreau said, *"To have made even one person's life a little better, that is to succeed."* By making a planned gift, you are ensuring the Wolf Ridge experience is enhancing lives for generations to come. Join these *Leaders of the Pack* who have named Wolf Ridge in their estate plans.

With tremendous gratitude Wolf Ridge ELC gratefully acknowledges:

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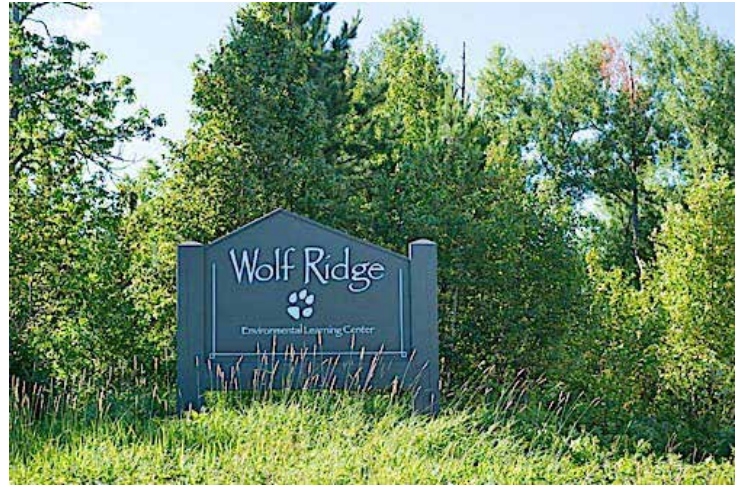
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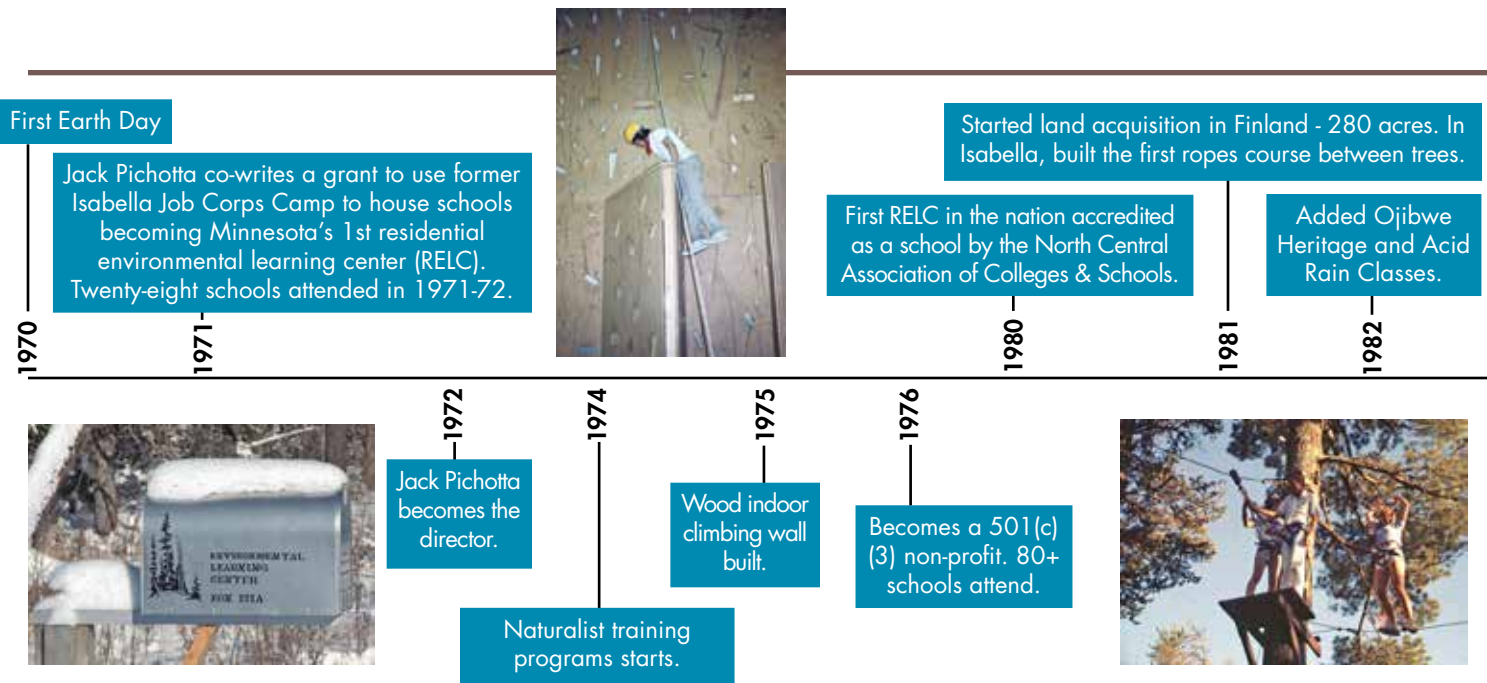
Please consider gifting part of your estate to Wolf Ridge and become a member of *The Leaders Of The Pack*. More detailed information is available on our website at wolf-ridge.org/donate. If you have already named Wolf Ridge as a beneficiary of your estate or are considering such, please contact: Meredith St. Pierre at 218-353-7414 or meredith.stpierre@wolf-ridge.org.

HIGHLIGHTS

WOLF RIDGE CELEBRATES 50 YEARS!



The vision of one passionate and dedicated former High School social studies teacher, Jack Pichotta, has achieved 50 years of developing a citizenry that has the knowledge, skills, motivation, and commitment to act together for a quality environment! Located for its first 17 years in Isabella, MN, the program moved its home to Finland, MN in 1988. During its 50 years, Wolf Ridge has overcome many obstacles to arrive where we are today. With the entirety of the past fiscal year occurring during the COVID 19 outbreak, challenges abounded, one of which was celebrating 50 years of programming. Not to be stymied, Wolf Ridge virtually hosted the 50th Anniversary Speaker Series. Topics ranged from how Wolf Ridge is coping with the pandemic to various program highlights such as the organic farm, bird research at Wolf Ridge, the Lake Superior Field Station, to a conversation with R.T. Rybak, President and CEO of the Minneapolis Foundation. Several presenters were graduate naturalist alumnae. Dr. Elena Bennett, professor at McGill University in Canada told a research-based story of hope for our future. Keri Powell shared her story from Macon, GA, through Wolf Ridge to New York City to earn her doctorate in law. Now back in Georgia, Keri practices law and leads a group to get families outdoors for Wolf Ridge inspired learning. These may be viewed on our website or YouTube channel. The execution of Jack's vision has literally touched the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. Wolf Ridge is proud of 50 years of getting people outside to learn and love the natural world.



HIGHLIGHTS

VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS

Necessity is the mother of invention. With school field trips cancelled because of the pandemic, Wolf Ridge reached out to students of all ages in a new way through virtual field trips (VFTs). Not wanting to lose contact with our schools, Wolf Ridge brainstormed ideas that would allow us to serve our clientele in the same creative and passionate manner that we do when face-to-face. A format was developed for VFTs based on teaching practices used in direct experiences. While on camera the Wolf Ridge naturalist is always outside. They used the landscape as a co-teacher, welcoming the unexpected, like a curious mink loping through the live-stream. Nature journaling activities aided in growing observation as a practice of science. From recorded observations, students formed questions and directed the naturalist to explore for the answer in the actual setting. Like, how large is the beaver lodge? Personal connections, made by asking the distant learners to compare and contrast their natural outdoor landscape with that of the Wolf Ridge naturalist, brought the lesson home. With the VFTs endeavor, new skills of teaching through and with technology expanded exponentially. We taught students as far away as Arizona. Based on the enthusiastic responses of participants we have concluded that VFTs have found a lasting place in Wolf Ridge's educational offerings.

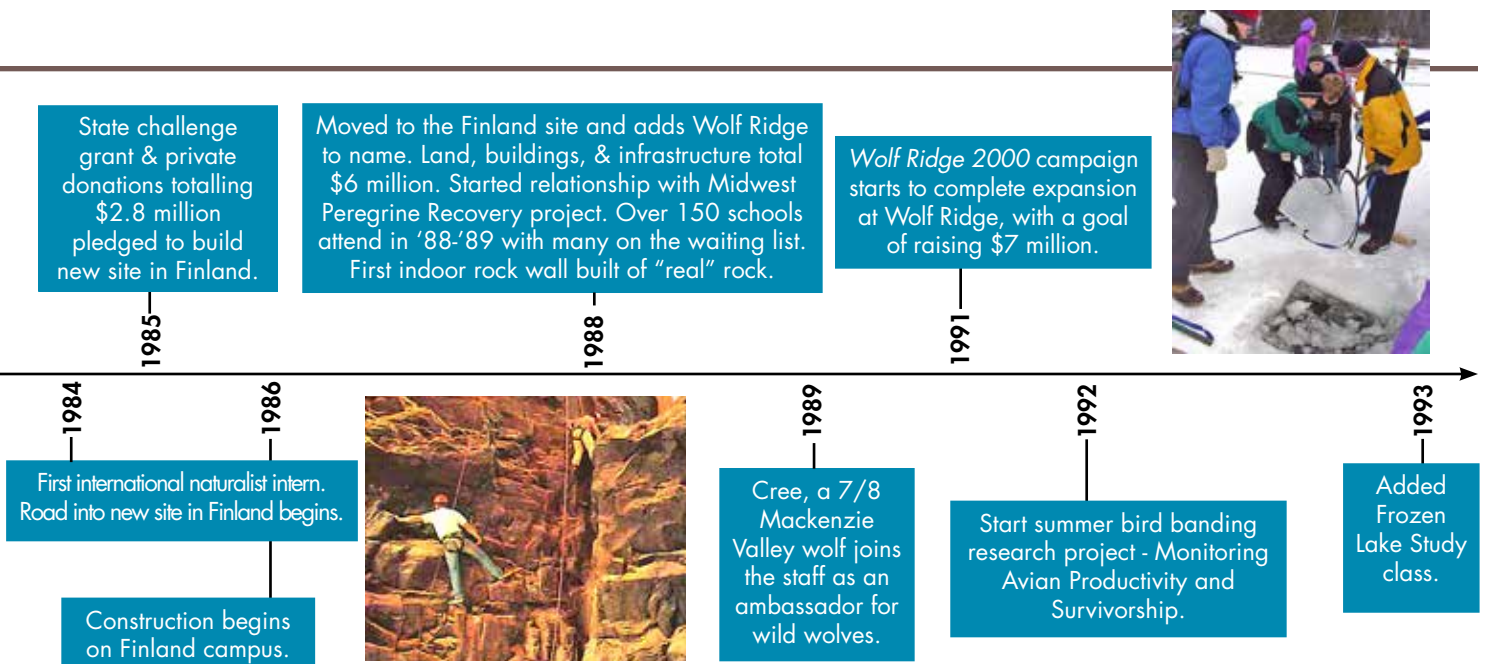


WOLF RIDGE RE-OPENS



After being closed to schools and groups (with a few exceptions) for the September 2020-June 2021 school year, Wolf Ridge was thrilled to return to some programming during the past summer. COVID guidelines provided the framework for what types of programs could be offered. Sadly, our typical summer youth repertoire did not make the safety cut. However, other regular programs and a few new ones helped make summer successful. Family vacations hosted at Wolf Ridge, family backcountry trips and Split Rock kayak tours led by Wolf Ridge naturalists, Institute for Bird Populations bird banding courses, SEAK, Leave No Trace (LNT) and Wolf Ridge naturalist at Bluefin were old favorites that continued with some modifications. New programs included being the headquarters for Northwaters & Langskib Canoe Camp, BWCAW day trips, and on-site programming for guests of Odyssey

Resort properties and summer school for our local Silver Bay school students. Wolf Ridge naturalists and guests were all happy campers with this return to in-person learning.



HIGHLIGHTS



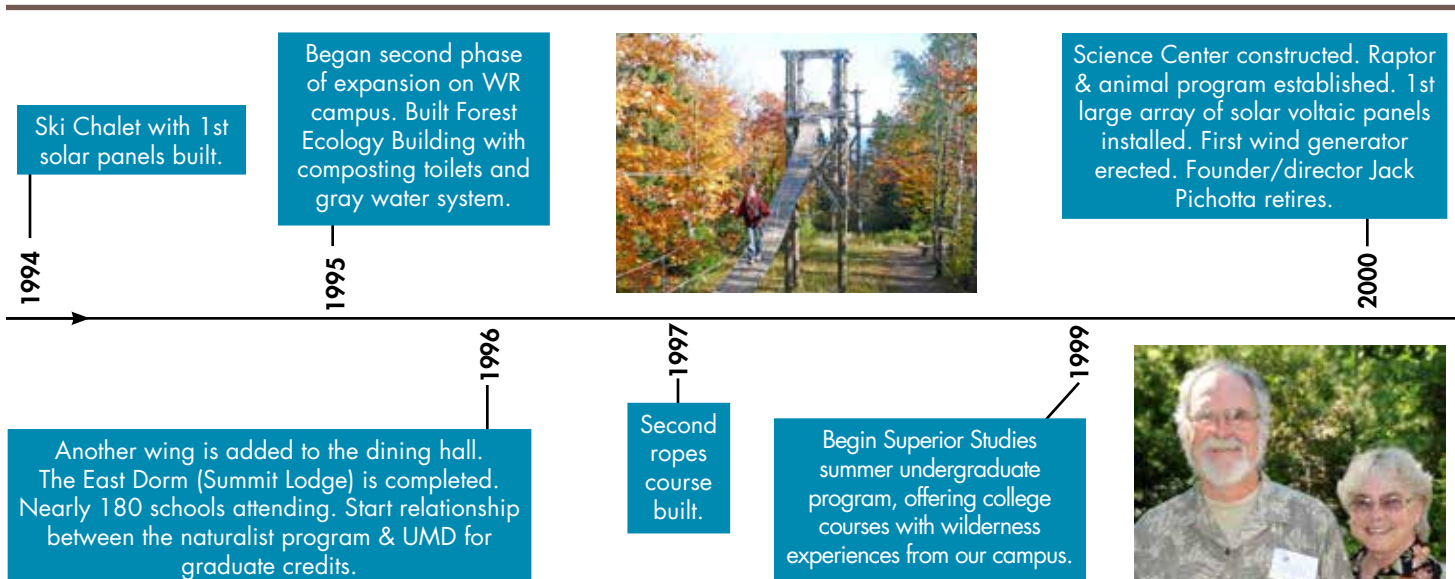
FARM PRODUCTION

Our farm signed on for a pilot year to grow 11,000 climate adaptive seedlings of red oak, white pine, and yellow birch for the Nature Conservancy. This project will help create a future forest more able to adapt to the changing climate. Germination was good, however, two hard frosts at the end of May severely damaged the seedlings. Valuable growing information was gathered from this pilot year that will help with next year's success. With low and unpredictable numbers in residence, farm produce was sold in weekly shares to local residents, at the local farmer's market and grocery store, and again distributed to support local food shelves. Two groups of AmeriCorps NCCC and other volunteers helped with the farm throughout the season.



FIRE INCIDENT COMMAND BASE

Our fiscal year ended with a unique experience. A lightning strike resulted in the Wolf Ridge's facilities becoming headquarters for the fire incident command. The Greenwood Lake fire, which started August 15th, was 22 miles from Wolf Ridge. A Superior National Forest fire team assessed the feasibility of Wolf Ridge to host fire personnel and we proved to be an ideal location. Over 100 people made up the command team at peak. Fortunately, the fire occurred between summer and fall programs. Three local schools, William Kelley, Two Harbors, and North Shore Community School, agreed to reschedule to accommodate the final week of fire command at Wolf Ridge. All the rooms in the Science Center and the public part of the office held groups of the fire team. Eventually every room in both dorms housed fire staff. Wolf Ridge is pleased to have played a major role in supporting the community through this crisis.



HIGHLIGHTS



FARM PRODUCE*

- 1,400 pounds of vegetables to Mesabi East School
- 1,500 pounds of vegetables to Ely Food Shelf
- 8,400 pounds of vegetables to the greater Finland community through CSA, market, the community co-op, cooking demonstrations, and community gathering events such as harvest festival, trainings, and wood-fired pizza celebrations

4 LOGOS created



1006 people attended the naturalist training programs. Of these 34 joined the Wolf Ridge staff

GRANTS AWARDED*
\$1,109,373

12,253 birds banded



Students reached through virtual field trips*
2,354



6,260 Attempts at building fires in Winter Survival since Wolf Ridge's 40th anniversary. Unknown number of successful attempts.



WOLF RIDGE
50 years of educating!



Species of animal educators
31

*this fiscal year



Start offering credit camps for high school students. SEAK program established.

2008



MAC Lodge (previously the West Dorm) becomes first in world to achieve full Living Building Challenge certification.

2021

THE FUTURE

2001

Partners with North Shore residents to open North Shore Community School as an environmental education charter school.

Organic farm breaks ground and first high tunnel constructed.

2012

Making Waves campaign kicks off to raise money for the Lakeview House - graduate naturalist housing and renovation of the West Dorm to Living Building Challenge (LBC). Sixty-eight acres on Lake Superior shoreline is acquired.

2016



SCHOOLS & GROUPS

FISCAL YEAR SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 TO AUGUST 31, 2021

These schools and groups participated in Wolf Ridge programs either virtually or in person.

Amerigo Education
Arthur Morgan School
Badger School
Breck Middle School
Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Schools
Glacier Hills School of Arts and Science
Grand Portage Trust Lands Dept
Land Stewardship Project
Latimer Family
Los Ninos Elementary
LSS One Program
Metropolitan State University - TRIO Upward Bound
Midwest Lichen Foray
Minnehaha Elementary
Monticello School District
National Outdoor Leadership School
North Cedar Academy
North House Folk School
North Shore Adventures Park
North Shore Community School
North Shore Mental Health Group



Northland College
Northwaters & Langskib Wilderness Programs Ltd.
Prior Lake-Savage School District
Resource Training & Solutions
Riverview Intermediate School
Sacred Heart-Robbinsdale
Saint John's University
SCSC Science & Nature Conference
Shirley Hills Elementary
Sierra Club
Solon Springs School
St John the Baptist
St Pascal Baylon School
St Thomas More Catholic School
St. Paul School of Northern Lights
Student Conservation Association
Tatanka Elementary STEM School
University of Minnesota Extension
William Kelley Elementary Summer School

ADVENTURES IN LEARNING



The ALMANAC

A newsletter of Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center

February 2022 Volume 61 Number 1

1ST IN WORLD! Wolf Ridge Receives Full Living Building Challenge Certification for MAC Lodge.

by Lori Walewski, Wolf Ridge Naturalist

The title says it all. Wolf Ridge's Margaret A. Cargill (MAC) Lodge Living Building Challenge (LBC) project was first in the world to receive full LBC certification for a renovation project by the International Living Future Institute (ILFI). This is the highest environmental certification in the world. It has been a long and successful journey.

The West Dorm (renovated and renamed the MAC Lodge) was built in 1988 when the ELC relocated to Finland. As time progressed, it became apparent that the West Dorm needed to be updated to meet the changing standards and needs of participants from school children to seniors. With the board's encouragement and support, on May 18, 2014 Wolf Ridge registered the project with ILFI for a renovated building at level 2.1. This certification is more than a checklist of environmentally friendly features. It requires the building to perform to standards for 12 consecutive months prior to certification.

With computer screens in each bedroom, occupants can track their allotted energy usage of water, heat, and elec-



photo courtesy of HGA, photo credit: Chad Holder

tricity. In the lobby, they can check the main monitor to compare their usage with other rooms making it a learning as well as living space. One Friday, when students tried using their water, they discovered that nothing came out! The students sheepishly approached their teachers and apologized for using more than their allotted amount of water. Could their water be turned back on? The response of the students wasn't frustration but an inspired attitude of learning. It seemed the teachers had the same issue. Turns out that the lack of water was throughout the lodge. The school hadn't exhausted their water share but the problem was a malfunctioning pump. The "living" building monitoring screens (and, in this case, a faulty pump) helped educate and make occupants conscientious about their water usage.

To receive full certification for a renovation project Wolf Ridge needed to fulfill 15 of 20 imperatives (standards) in 7 petals (performance areas). Never one to shy away from a challenge Wolf Ridge met all 20 imperatives! That is just one of the things that impressed ILFI. Another was building Lakeview House (new housing for our graduate natu-



photo courtesy of HGA, photo credit: Chad Holder

continued on page 15

VIEW FROM THE RIDGE



by Pete Smerud, Executive Director

Wolf Ridge's mission is to equip people, communities, and organizations with knowledge, skills, and motivation to make informed decisions about how we address challenges we're collectively facing. I am privileged to hear (often in hindsight) from schoolteachers, parents, children, and adults who experienced Wolf Ridge, that indeed, a citizenry is being born out of lived and learned experiences at Wolf Ridge and that Wolf Ridge is modeling for them how to act responsibly with each other and the environment.

Fortunately, because of the support of so many who care quite deeply about what I've described above, Wolf Ridge has survived the past two years. Our school program is now back in operation. The fall season was successful, with approximately 50% average occupancy due to COVID cancellations. A very uncharacteristic 8 weeks of no schools on campus occurred from mid-November through mid-January. Thus far, weather wise, it has been an absolutely gorgeous winter with plenty of snow. COVID continues to impact school attendance. We've had a handful of schools in January. The spring season has a strong projected attendance. My heartfelt

thanks goes out to all those who have stepped up to support Wolf Ridge during this continuing era of uncertainty.

A very exciting outlook for the months ahead may also buoy you. Summer camp for youth is back. Family programs are quickly filling. Thus far, it's clear that many want and need these experiences for their children or their entire family.

While challenges continue, please know that Wolf Ridge remains strong, secure, and steadfast in our vision for the future. Nothing can be more evident of that than the cover story. My thanks and congratulations go out to the nearly 400 donors who supported our Making Waves campaign and the staff of Wolf Ridge for this monumental achievement. It's not often an organization's mission is taken to the level of achieving the highest environmental certification in the world, let alone being the first to do so.

We are thrilled and grateful for this recognition but even more we are passionately focused on bringing this model into the lives of youth and adults who live and learn at Wolf Ridge. When you read this issue's cover article, I hope you're struck by

something that really hit me. The success of both the Living Building Challenge certification and Wolf Ridge mission rely on a simple premise, both the head and the heart must embrace them. When knowledge gain is joined by acts that instill inspiration, change is created. At Wolf Ridge we desire and work to create lasting change, knowing that the well-being of people are undubitably linked to the well-being of natural systems. We need to build better buildings but more importantly we need to build better people. Please tell Wolf Ridge's story to your friends, and invite them to help us do just that, one child at a time and in turn entire communities.

Wolf Ridge is looking to the future with optimism and excitement. We're also taking time this year to reflect. It was just over 50 years ago that we first opened and hosted children in Isabella, MN. Please consider joining us for more 50th anniversary speakers and other celebratory events later this year as we commemorate the nearly 1 million children and adults that have participated in our programs. This is what Wolf Ridge is about, transformational experiences that prepare our future generations for global citizenship. Please join us in celebration. ♦

Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center and the USDA are equal opportunity providers and employers.

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photo courtesy of HGA, photo credit Chad Holder

ralists) to LBC standards as a practice run before renovating the West Dorm. Lakeview House was built first to assist in building the team and training everyone in best practices so the MAC Lodge renovation could proceed with the greatest chance of success.

Our project advanced industry standards for various products within the Materials petal. For example, Manion's Truss Company of Superior, WI fabricated the first Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified trusses in the Midwest. Louisiana Pacific (LP) manufactured siding to FSC standards with wood, haulers, and processing all occurring in Lake County. Many of the LP employees attended Wolf Ridge while students in Two Harbors. Their good memories of their time at Wolf Ridge inspired them as they adjusted to meet the LBC standards for Wolf Ridge. Duxton Windows built the first LBC compliant and Declare labeled windows in the Midwest and Benjamin Moore created the first LBC compliant and Declare labeled paint in the Midwest. When you see Declare label/VOC free Benjamin Moore paint, know that Wolf Ridge enabled that option.

The biggest challenge and greatest success, which was compulsory to receiving full certification, was promoting our 100% waste-stream fiber sourced biofuel district heating system as an acceptable method to execute the Net

Zero Energy imperative of the Energy petal to ILFI itself! By providing data, we were able to demonstrate that our energy system was another carbon neutral way to produce heat at our northern latitude. Often people fail to consider the differences of heating at -20°F versus a warmer climate. The 2.1 standard called for solar panels to provide that heat, which would have required us to cut a large swath of forest to accommodate the numbers of panels to keep us warm on -20° days. With our data and gentle advocating ILFI revised the standards!

The materials petal required that each and every component was scrutinized



photo courtesy of HGA, photo credit Chad Holder



photo courtesy of HGA, photo credit Chad Holder

and needed documentation proving that none of its ingredients appeared on the Red List. For some building materials, chain of custody from, say, logger to manufacturer to Wolf Ridge, needed to include documentation confirming no chemicals on the Red List were used in its creation.

Accomplishing full certification called for multiple layers of well-organized teams. HGA architect designed the project. Gardner Builders constructed the building. Together they guided 34

different trade partners and their employees through the renovation. None of the trade partners had previous experience with LBC methods so all of them were trained. They now can take this new knowledge and skills into future contracts. Without these fantastic leaders and the hard work and dedication of every person involved, receiving full certification would not have been possible.

Wolf Ridge hopes that our LBC certification inspires others to build and remodel in environmentally friendly ways. We know that it already has. The first in the world to pursue the Living Community Challenge is modeling their project after Wolf Ridge's. One alumna completely renovated her kitchen using LBC standards and other families choose to use Benjamin Moore Declare label paints when redecorating. Although it may cost a little more (Wolf Ridge had a 10% increase in construction costs) it pays for itself in the long-term health of the planet and its occupants and return on investment for 100% renewable energy.

On October 26, 2021 it was publicly announced that Wolf Ridge had been awarded full LBC certification in renovation. It took seven years from registering to certification. The journey didn't really end with receiving LBC certification. It is a living and ongoing challenge. Wolf Ridge will continue to model innovative environmental education and stewardship. Join us as the journey continues. ♦



photo courtesy of HGA, photo credit Chad Holder

SEED LORE

by Lori Walewski, Wolf Ridge Naturalist

The first two arrived in my mailbox the week before Christmas. More followed and all were guaranteed to provide hours of entertainment. The colorful pages were scrutinized with each description carefully read. Corners were bent in marking promising items. What is it? Why it's the ubiquitous seed catalog, the remedy that sees gardeners through the dark, cold days of winter to the growing season. Although readers are focused on the plant that emerges from the seed, the seed in and of itself is beautiful and has a fascinating natural history.

The texture, size, shape, and color of seeds are bewitching and appealing. Ask anyone who has observed the seed art at the MN State Fair or run a handful of cool, smooth bean seeds through their fingers before planting them. Seeds, however, are more than a pulchritudinous object. They are packed potential and form follows function. Seeds have three main parts. The seed coat, protecting the internal parts from damage, keeping out parasites and water in as well as thwarting physical assaults and blocking germination during unsuitable times. The endosperm is the stored food supply and contributes to the protection of the embryo. And, centermost is the embryo, the part that develops in the plant. The embryo contains the embryonic root (radical), which grows down as a result of gravity, the embryonic stem that is made up of the shoot (epicotyl) and the area from which the root and stem grow (hypocotyl), and the leaves (monocots or dicots).

When seeds are just being seeds they are considered to be dormant. The start of growth of a plant from a seed is germination. Understanding the science of germination is important to gardeners and farmers so they can maximize yield using fewer seeds. To germinate a seed needs it to be neither too hot nor too cold just like Goldilocks' porridge. It needs moisture and, surprisingly, oxygen. We know that plants need carbon dioxide to photosynthesize and pro-

duce sugars. Seeds need oxygen to break down the stored food (endosperm) to supply the energy required for germination. A viable seed can be exposed to the needed elements but still not germinate. As mentioned before, the seed coat is programmed to hold the seed in dormancy until the proper time. Imagine a seed falling to the ground from a plant in late



summer. It might have the correct temperature, moisture, and oxygen however it would not have adequate time to grow into an adult seed bearing plant before the temperatures dropped and moisture froze up.

Some seeds require extra "magic" to break dormancy. Fires play a role in germination by exposing seeds deep in the duff or allowing pine cones to open and drop their seeds like Jack Pine. Other seeds like Whispering Bells of the California chaparral need certain chemicals that are products of the combustion to germinate. The seed of the Snottygooble *Persoonias nutans* of Australia is dependent on passing through the gut of emus. This endangered plant is an important food source for both emus and possums. Although, exactly why ingestion by emus aids snottygooble germination, three factors are possible: it causes scarification and breaks down protective chemical coatings while in the gut and fertilization when deposited.

Animals not only play a role in some seed germination they also are key in dispersing seeds for many plants. Birds, mammals, fish, and insects aid in spreading seeds by eating the seeds and scattering

them by pooping them out elsewhere, the seeds attaching their fur with barbs, or being carried to nests and food caches. One ant was recorded transporting a seed 590 feet. Wind and water also disperse seeds utilizing specialized seed appendages like the wings on maple seeds and the parachutes of dandelions seeds, which have been tracked spreading up to 6 miles! Ballistics is a form of seed dispersal whereby plants forcibly eject their seeds in what is called explosive dehiscence, powered by pressure created through dehydration. Dwarf mistletoe of the western U.S. blast seeds up to 49 feet and 60 miles per hour. Many species of violets found in our gardens use explosive dehiscence. First they split open into three pieces and those segments continue to dry compressing and subsequently propelling the seeds up to 16 feet from the parent plant. Seed dispersal is important for plants because it allows plants to spread out avoiding competition for the same resources, increase their range, and reach favorable habitat.

A seed is a vessel of life. As a seed itself it provides food: grains, rice, corn, peas, beans, oil for cooking such as sunflower and coconut, essential oils like juniper, spices such as mustard, pepper, nutmeg, vanilla, and stimulates like coffee. Once germinated the seed's plant supplies food and shelter for more creatures. Currently 40% of plants are susceptible to extinction due to climate change, pollution, pests, diseases, and habitat loss. Seed banks, storage facilities designed to be flood, bomb, and radiation proof, have been established in worldwide locations with the intention of preserving plant genetic diversity. Seeds' lifespan varies greatly. Some willow seeds only survive a week. In 1967, 10,000-year-old seeds of the arctic lupine were discovered that germinated in 2 days!

Seeds are the quintessential package of potential life. Next time you are thumbing through a seed catalog or viewing the seed art a fair take a few moments and reflect on these enchanting entities. ♦

NEWS BRIEFS

Wolf Ridge's own **Peter Harris** was awarded the **2021 Lifetime Achievement in Environmental Education** award from the Minnesota Association for Environmental Education (MAEE). According to the MAEE website, "This award is presented for the long term, outstanding service and contribution to the field of environmental education in Minnesota. It is intended to recognize the efforts of those people who have had a large-scale, long-term impact in the environmental education field." For thirty-eight years, Peter has been sharing his knowledge, concern, and love for the environment. By our conservative estimates, he has engaged over 134,062 students. His creative energy laid the foundation for many of the keystone activities at Wolf Ridge including recycling, bird banding for our classes, chickadee landing, 30 years of Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) banding, air and water quality monitoring, weather data collection, phenology, climate change curriculum, animal educators program, and various adult programming to name a few. Peter's dedication and efforts exemplify this award. MAEE also recognized Joe Walewski, co-founder and co-leader of Teach Outdoors MN!, with the Organizational Partner of the Year award, and awarded Andrea Lorek Strauss (Student Naturalist, 1992-93) with this year's Non-Formal Educator of the Year award.

• **Sandy Timmerman** is the most recent addition to the **Wolf Ridge board of trustees**. Recently retired from teaching at Prior Lake/Savage area schools, she has been attending Wolf Ridge as a teacher since 1986. In 1989, Sandy became the coordinator for the Wolf Ridge trip for all seven elementary schools in the district. Most recently she spearheaded Wolf Ridge naturalists coming to Prior Lake/Savage. Her perspective from being a lead teacher for decades is an asset for the board. Her hobbies include camping, hiking, rock collecting, flower gardening, bik-



ing, reading, and taking care of her granddaughter.

• Wolf Ridge's programs took a **field trip** to the Prior Lake/Savage area schools this December. Because of COVID, conditions were such that the Wolf Ridge program could take to the road, bringing Wolf Ridge style of outdoor teaching to the 7 schools of Prior Lake/Savage. Over 3 days, Wolf Ridge naturalists instructed 630+ students in becoming good observers, gathering data, and asking questions from the information that they recorded in their nature journals. McColl Pond Environmental Learning Center provided plenty of birds, animal signs, trees, and lichens to investigate. Three evening activities - block printing, owl pellets, and paper making were also boxed up and transported to Prior Lake/Savage. The classroom teachers taught these activities using the provided supplies and curriculum. With a lot of well-executed logistical work on both ends, this unique visit was a successful and amazing experience for all involved.

• For many years Wolf Ridge has been **color banding chickadees**. Each year a different colored band is applied so that students can observe the different colors and get an idea of how long a chickadee might live depending on the color of band they are observing. Chickadees have a home range of about 40 acres. Young will sometimes disperse further depending on available resources. A Wolf Ridge neighbor about a mile away has been observing chickadees with blue bands (2019) at her feeders. ♦



PROGRAMS 2022

Register for programs at wolf-ridge.org

ADULTS

LEAVE NO TRACE MASTER EDUCATOR COURSE

May 18-22 (adults)

This is the highest level of education training in NOLS/LNT training. One of the only courses offered in the mid-west, coursework focuses on how to teach others about ethical camping and outdoor recreation practices. Graduates are certified to offer and teach LNT Awareness Workshops and Trainer Courses. A great opportunity for outdoor professionals, scout leaders and anyone interested in teaching outdoor ethics. Register at <https://www.nols.edu/en/coursefinder/courses/leave-no-trace-master-educator-base-camp-LNTE/>



BIRD BANDING COURSES

Bird Banding IBP Beginning: (adults) June 24-July 1

Bird Banding IBP Advanced: (adults) July 3-7

Wolf Ridge hosts the Institute for Bird Population's beginning and advanced workshops for new and seasoned banders. The seven-day introductory class provides both amateur birders and professional biologists with the skills necessary to participate in monitoring and research programs. The four-day advanced class is designed for experienced banders who wish to improve their sexing and ageing skills.

YOUTH

Our youth camp programs offer unparalleled opportunities to explore clear lakes and streams, develop life-long connections to the natural world, make friends, create memories, and grow in self-confidence. With a wonderfully diverse campus and variety of activities, campers can return year after year for new experiences.

TRADITIONAL CAMPS

Summer Sampler: (2nd-5th gr) Aug 17-20: \$429

Discoverers: (4th-5thgr) July 10-16, July 17-23, July 24-30, July 31-Aug 6, Aug 7-13: \$688

Voyagers: (6th-7thgr) July 10-16, July 17-23, July 24-30, July 31-Aug 6, Aug 7-13 \$688

Adventurers: (8th-9thgr) July 10-16, July 17-23, July 24-30, Aug 7-13: \$702

SPECIALTY CAMPS

Day Camp: (K-5thgr) July 5-8: \$220

Eco-Artists: (4th-5thgr) July 24-30: \$688

Angling to Archery: (6th-7thgr) July 10-16: \$748

Girls Rock the Ridge Leadership: (6th-7th) July 31-Aug 6: \$702

Boys Rock the Ridge Leadership: (6th-7th) July 31-Aug 6: \$702

Farm Camp: (8th-9thgr) August 7-13: \$688

Camp Rock Climbing: (8th-9thgr) July 17-23: \$768

Ornithology Field Camp (10th-12thgr) July 10-16: \$937

WILDERNESS TRIPS

BWCAW Canoe 5-day: (7th-8thgr) Aug 14-20: \$715

Adventurers 2-wk BWCAW Canoe: (8th-9thgr) July 17-30: \$1,562

Adventurers 2-wk Isle Royale Backpack: (8th-9thgr) July 10-23: \$1,595

Jr Naturalists 2-wk Quetico Canoe: (10th-12thgr) July 31-Aug 13: \$1,677

Jr Naturalists 2-wk Apostle Island: (10th-12thgr) Aug 7-20: \$1,652

Superior Service Learning: (10th-12thgr) Aug 7-13: \$702



Camp Shuttle:

Ride from the Twin Cities or Duluth to camp and back. Twin Cities, one way \$100, round trip \$175.
Duluth, one way \$50, round trip \$100.
Reservations required.

Bird Banding Drop-in days: June 1, 15, 29, July 6, 13, 27, Aug 3 7:00-11:00am **Free**

Family Camps Half-week: (all ages) July 6-10, Aug 17-21 starting at \$770 for 2 people

Family Camps Full-week: (all ages) July 17-23, July 31-Aug 6 starting at \$1154 for 2 people

Family Wilderness Trips: (all ages) June-August, see our website for details



PHOTO © Travis Novitsky

TRAVIS NOVITSKY

2023

Travis Novitsky is the photographer for the 2023 Wolf Ridge calendar. A lifelong resident of the north shore of Lake Superior, he resides in Grand Portage, MN and is a proud citizen of the Grand Portage Anishinaabe Nation. A self-taught nature and wildlife photographer Travis's favorite subject to photograph is the night sky. His photography primarily focuses on his home area of northeast Minnesota but also includes an ever-expanding collection of images from other locations. Travis's interests encompasses almost anything to do with the outdoors, however favorite activities are bicycling, hiking, snowshoeing, skiing, canoeing and kayaking, etc. View more of his photographs at www.travisnovitsky.com. Calendars are available to individuals and in lots of 25 for school fundraising. Email mail@wolf-ridge.org or call Wolf Ridge at (218)353-7414 for more information and to order. ♦

Support Wolf Ridge and Stay in Touch

Your gift enables Wolf Ridge programs to occur.

- Consider monthly donations with automatic payments.
- Contribute an annual donation.
- Become a planned giver with our *Leaders of the Pack*.
- Make an in-kind donation.

Call to set-up your gift.



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mail@wolf-ridge.org

call

800-523-2733
MN, WI, ND

218-353-7414

Complimentary Issue

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SAVE these DATES!

50th Anniversary Speaker Series

Feb. 23, 6:00: *Climate Change in the North* - Peter Boulay, Minnesota DNR Climatologist via Zoom

Mar. 23, 6:00: *Greenwood Fire* - Ellen Bogardus-Szymaniak, Superior National Forest, Tofte Distric Ranger via Zoom

50th Reunion Weekend

Aug. 26-28: Staff Reunion

Watch your email, the Wolf Ridge website, and the Almanac for more 50th anniversary events in the Twin Cities and the North Shore throughout the spring and summer.



Wolf 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.