



The ALMANAC

A newsletter of Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center

May 2022 Volume 62 Number 2

FIFTY YEARS OF STORIES

By Emily Delfosse, Wolf Ridge Naturalist

With a title like *Fifty Years of Wolf Ridge Stories*, one would think that this article goes on for this whole Almanac and about 10 more issues. Wolf Ridge has affected everyone that has passed through - whether student, camper, chaperone, naturalist, lead teacher, support staff or volunteer, Wolf Ridge has a way of sticking with folks. The people Wolf Ridge has impacted spans the globe, so sitting down to try and think what stories could be told and by whom was no easy task. Because, let's face it, we all leave Wolf Ridge with stories.

My name is Emily Delfosse and I am currently a mentor naturalist here at Wolf Ridge. I first heard about Wolf Ridge when my brother came with Cumberland Middle School in 6th grade. He returned filled with stories and memories. I could not wait to go the next year. In the spring of 2008, I got my turn to make my own memories. Fast-forward 10 years. I am at the



Emily teaching.

University of Minnesota - Duluth deciding where to do my student teaching when Wolf Ridge was mentioned. As an aspiring science teacher, I have always wanted to find ways to bring the natural world and real experiences into my classroom, so I thought, what better place to learn than Wolf Ridge. I came as a student teacher naturalist in the fall of 2018 and I have never had an experience change my life as much as that year.



John & BJ Kohlstedt.

I wanted to interview a few people to share some different perspectives on Wolf Ridge stories. So, I spent a lovely evening with John and BJ Kohlstedt talking over snacks, drinks, and cats. John and BJ are some of the people whom I would consider Wolf Ridge legends. They came to the ELC in Isabella as interns and continued on staff for 20 and 36 years respectively, back when the schoolteachers taught the environmental education curriculum and scavenger hunts dominated the scene. Initially, John and BJ thought



Dissolved oxygen testing.

that schools brought students up here because they shared the same dream of wanting to save the planet. However, they came to realize that schools were also very interested in the socialization and bonding experience for students as well as the experiential environmental learning. I asked them, "Why Wolf Ridge when there are so many other options, many of which are closer?" Kohlstedts replied, "They can experience a unique biome here and the wonders of Lake Superior. And for some students, Wolf Ridge is trip of a lifetime that they would never be able to take outside of this school trip." John believes that the student naturalists are what keep schools coming here. Their fresh perspectives and enthusiasm are something teachers appreciate. While talking with BJ, it's amazing that after 22 years being 'gone' from the Ridge, she still uses the term 'we' when describing the place. Because, as she puts it, this place directs your

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VIEW FROM THE RIDGE

by Peter Smerud, Executive Director



Fifty years! We are so excited to reflect with you, celebrate together, and look ahead to what can be for Wolf Ridge.

Our mission begins with the phrase, “to develop a citizenry.” Wolf Ridge aims to strengthen the human interaction, communication, trust, and collaboration components in all our classes, whether they focus on ecology, wildlife, or other subjects.

Wolf Ridge formed, as did many environmental education endeavors throughout the nation, in the late 1960’s and early 70’s. In the beginning, it was about nature study. Soon, Wolf Ridge stepped out from conventional environmental education by incorporating the development of people to work cooperatively. This manifested in the addition of various classes focused on individual and group personal growth skills. During 1975 construction of a rock climbing wall took place. In 1981, we built our first adventure ropes course. We established a summer camp program with a strong following. Wolf Ridge became the first in the nation to be accredited as a school.

By the early 90’s, Wolf Ridge expanded curriculum with subjects such as energy conservation, renewable energy, and recycling also action-oriented ecology classes such as Wildlife Management and Forest Management. These moves reinforced our commitment to the human relationship with the planet. Experiential learning became a focus for our programs. Those who preceded me knew that environmental education needed to include individual action as well as collective community behaviors.

Wolf Ridge supported an initiative in which Minnesota created three state statutes committed to the critical importance of environmental education. The primary statute is 115A.073, Environmental Education Goals and

Plan. Solidly anchored in this commitment, Minnesota took the national spotlight and remains a model in the nation.

Climate Change entered our educational subject matter in 2000, long before many other environmental education centers. Wolf Ridge created entire classes focused on energy conservation, renewable energy, and food systems. This era culminated in the early work that would enable the creation of our organic farm.

The roots of our most recent commitments began in the 2010’s. The Living Building Challenge (LBC), a philosophy cloaked in a certification, is a good example of how we’re moving forward. In the last Almanac you read about the LBC certification of the MAC Lodge – the first renovation project at this level in the world. Our focus upon the linked subjects of human and environmental health, equity, happiness, and overall environmental learning extends learning from the outdoor classroom into places we eat and sleep.

I see Wolf Ridge continuing its progressive path as we continue to “develop a citizenry.” Focusing on sense of place and attending to the new MN Science Standards, our Lake Superior Field Station will play a significant role.

The combined challenges of clean energy, food security, human health, transportation, and climate change are solvable by a citizenry that is well informed AND can work well together. Change for a better world starts with personal connection, understanding of ecological systems, and a bias for action.

If the last 50 years have been any indication of things to come for Wolf Ridge, the next 50 years will be filled with more inspirational stories. ♦

life somehow, and how can that not stick with you?

While chatting with the Kohlstedts, they reflected on how it's amazing that after people come to Wolf Ridge, so many of them tend to stick around the area. There are Wolf Ridge naturalist alumni on the North Shore in classrooms, graduate programs, hospitals, nature settings or working on farms. Wolf Ridge alum, Danielle Tikalsky, says that she's found the North Shore to be unparalleled in regards to the amount of outdoor activities, active communities, and beautiful landscapes. She has fueled her love for the unsalted sea by staying in the area, currently working at the Great Lakes Aquarium. During college, Danielle found herself uninspired in research labs, but she had

a passion for "talking science" and helping others understand it. This led her to spend multiple summers and school years here at Wolf Ridge, where, she says, some of the most important things we do here are using teaching techniques that can adapt to every learner. Through her time at Wolf Ridge, she was able to grow, as an educator in ways she didn't know were possible. But, my favorite thing that she mentioned was that one of the best things she gained from being here was some of the best friends she will ever have, and the opportunity to create memories that will stay with her for a very long time. I know the feeling. It's exactly how I feel.

Wolf Ridge can have such an amazing impact on students that come here. Take Kirk Gadelmann for example,

who came here (well, the Isabella site) as a 5th grade student in 1978. Kirk has since come back to Wolf Ridge as a parent chaperone three times for his sons and by serving on the Board of Trustees for five years. While Kirk has been to Wolf Ridge many times, he says that each time he visits he learns



Kirk & son Ben skiing at Wolf Ridge.

something new. There are so many things that Wolf Ridge does, but one of the biggest impacts Kirk believes that we have made is in the support, development, and training of hundreds of student naturalists over the years, for each of them has positively impacted hundreds of others.

But that's not all. Kirk goes on to say "We live at an incredible time. The building of the MAC Lodge shows us what is possible and how everyone in Minnesota, across the U.S. and the entire world can live in a way that is good for us, our families, and for the planet. Just ten years ago we didn't have the solutions to fight climate change. There were some ideas, but nothing proven, no game plan. Today those solutions are known, they now have been proven and there is a clear road-map for change. Wolf Ridge can be a leader in showing us all what is possible and inspiring each of us to change."

I hope that this starts your search for more Wolf Ridge stories because believe me, there are countless more out there waiting to be told. You'll hear different tales from naturalists than you will from lead teachers, or 6th graders, or camp counselors, but one theme will always be there; Wolf Ridge changes you. ♦

50TH EVENTS

50th Speaker Series

June 8, 6:00 pm: *The Founder's Story with Jack Pichotta*

Be inspired as Wolf Ridge's founder, Jack Pichotta shares stories of the beginnings of what is now a nationally and internationally recognized residential environmental learning center.

Reunion & 50th Banquet

Calling all Wolf Riders. Whether you were a student naturalist, intern, camp staff, custodial, maintenance, office, food service, farm worker, or board member, you are part of the community that helped Wolf Ridge deliver transformative learning experiences for 50 years. Come celebrate with the Wolf Ridge community.

August 26-28, Friday 3:00 - Sunday 2:30

Cost for the weekend - activities, meals, and lodging is \$160/person

Tour the MAC Lodge, Lakeview House, and farm. Visit Isabella. Enjoy rock climbing, adventure ropes, canoeing, hiking, lake study, voyageur canoe, Ojibwa heritage, and campfires on Friday and Saturday nights. Saturday night will feature live music. Sunday will include with a presentation followed by a banquet lunch and Lake Superior Field Station tours.

August 28, Sunday 8:30-2:30

Cost for just Sunday is \$20/person

Farm and MAC Lodge tours, presentation, banquet lunch, Lake Superior Field Campus tours.

Visit wolf-ridge.org/50th
for more information and to register
for the above events.



NEWS BRIEFS

In January, Wolf Ridge friend and emeritus trustee, Peter Heegaard passed away. He served on the Wolf Ridge board in the 90's, playing a major role in Project EarthSense, which was a campaign to raise funds for residential environmental learning centers in Minnesota. The campaign raised funds needed to build Wolf Ridge's second dormitory, education building, and expansion of the dining hall. "Peter was the most connected person," says Bill Burns, board chair during Heegaard's tenure and attorney at Hanft Fride Law Firm, "and used his connections for good." Peter connected Wolf Ridge with Blandin, which was an important organization in backing Project EarthSense. Burns shared that Peter connected Wolf Ridge to Governor Carlson, who in 30 days, had Project EarthSense in the state budget. Heegaard also recruited other Wolf Ridge board members. Wolf Ridge is honored to recognize the significant role Peter Heegaard played in Wolf Ridge's history. He will be remembered as a warm, caring individual who really cared about people.



Anne and Peter Heegaard



Einstein the European Starling



Tari Rayala

Wolf Ridge launched a brand new website in April! Among many exciting changes, the new website includes improved navigation and search, a calendar showcasing events like our summer camp programs and upcoming 50th reunion events, and more ways to discover how different learning spaces and buildings on campus contribute to the curriculum used by all

of our students. While we're still working out all of the bugs, if you find any issues, let us know at marketing@wolf-ridge.org.

Wolf Ridge welcomes Einstein, an European Starling as our the newest ambassador animal. After being admitted to a wildlife rehabilitation center in 2014 as an orphan, he was unable to be released back into the wild. Since his arrival, Einstein has visited multiple Birds classes, both in person and virtually. When asked about sharing Einstein with their students, one naturalist stated, "I love bringing Einstein out in Birds class! Seeing his beak, legs, feathers, and other adaptations up close really seems to help students understand and appreciate birds more. Plus, Einstein can talk – how cool is that?!"

Our board of trustees has added a new member. Tari Rayala joins our board bringing her expertise as an architect to the table. She is excited to support all the environmental respect embodied in our buildings. Although Tari was aware of Wolf Ridge it wasn't until her employer and board member Nancy Schultz suggested she consider applying that she toured and fell in love with Wolf Ridge. A Duluthian of 30 years, Rayala enjoys exploring the water and pathways of the region by canoe, kayak, bike, boots, or skis with her husband and two sons. They like to mark seasonal changes by harvesting honey and making maple syrup. ♦

Kristi (Achor) Pursell (06) is running for a seat in the MN House of Representatives (district 58A). She is hoping to be a voice for environmental education and justice. **Laura (Prasek) Hamel (10)** married, has a new baby, and is working as an electrician in the Duluth area. **John Smith (10)** made Two Harbors his home and general contracting his livelihood. **Liz Doane (11)** is the new education specialist at the San Juan Preservation Trust, Friday Harbor, WA. **MJ Bach (12)** is the proud mama of Greta Jane. **Sarah Engstrom (13)** is teaching 7th grade in Anchorage, AK. She hopes to take her students to the Galapagos in June 2022. **Tessa Olson (13)** got married and continues working at Voyageur Outward Bound as director of student services. **Dan Hnilicka (13)** is in CA working at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park in the behavior department training ambassador animals. **Ryan Pennesi (14)** has a new position with the Superior National Forest as a wildlife technician. **Meredith Lorig (14)** started a job in the ER at Methodist Hospital in the Twin Cities. **Mike Krussow (14)** and **Sarah Waddle (15)** had a baby boy, Arthur and Sarah is now working with Cook County Extension as the extension educator. **Dylan Kelly (15)** landed a job working with AMPACT as their director of climate programs. **Nova West (16)** won an Emmy Award as part of the production team for the National Geographic documentary *Secrets of the Whales*. **Caroline Urban (19)** is the outdoor educator at North Shore Community School. **Sam Guida (19)** completed his masters at Antioch University New England and is currently working at Many Rivers Montessori in Duluth, MN. ♦



SPRUCE BUDWORM

By Celia Carr, Wolf Ridge Naturalist

Partway along the trail to Marshall Mountain lies a magical corridor, an alley thick with balsam fir. Fragrant green branches lean in close overhead, blistery silver trunks packed tight beneath them to form a tunnel where the light is noticeably dimmer. It doesn't take much to imagine elves behind every tree! Other animals linger here, too. The dense cover provides shelter for snowshoe hares, and last fall I watched the tightly-packed fir branches become a red squirrel's larder, festooned with drying mushrooms.

Right now the woods feel still and quiet. A flurry of change and activity is about to resume. With the return of spring-time temperatures, the spruce budworm larvae who have lain dormant all winter will wake up and they'll be hungry!



Signs of defoliation in a thick stand of balsam fir surrounding a trail at Wolf Ridge.

This pathway of balsam firs provides a feast for the human senses, but these trees are also the favorite food of an insect with an insatiable appetite. Despite their name, balsam fir is actually the favorite food of the spruce budworm. Adult budworm moths do not eat at all, too busy mating and laying eggs, but before their metamorphosis, the hungry larvae will eat the needles off thousands of fir.

Spruce budworms are native to Minnesota. Scientists have recorded budworm activity in Minnesota each year since

at least 1954, and the insect is known to be endemic, a regular part of the forest community. Every 25-40 years, however, the budworm population erupts into an outbreak which can last up to a decade and leave thousands of acres of damage in its wake. The DNR reports that northeastern Minnesota is currently in the middle of an outbreak which started in 2018 and has left about 300,000 acres of balsam fir and white spruce forests defoliated. Last year's Greenwood Fire took place near the heart of the outbreak in Isabella, MN, where budworm feasting left stands of dead and dying trees that made excellent fuel for the flames. Despite its small size, this insect can shape huge swaths of the landscape.

Larvae prefer the tender, nutritious needles of new growth, but during outbreaks larvae will chow down on any old needles and even cones, leaving trees almost completely bare! Damage usually shows up first in the top of an infested tree. Budworm larvae use a fine line of silk to dangle from defoliated branches so that the wind can give them a ride to fresh feeding area. A fir usually won't die after one year of defoliation, but three to four years of outbreak feeding can take out entire stands of fir as budworms eat their way through the balsam buffet.

Eventually, the system naturally moves back toward balance. Dying firs provide dwindling food for the larvae and the budworm population shrinks to match the food supply bringing the outbreak to an end. These dramatic booms and busts have been part of Minnesota's forests for countless generations, and despite high mortality for both budworm and fir, the two species tend to do okay. In fact, other forest dwellers tune in to these cycles. Certain warbler populations increase when food is plentiful during outbreaks, but some may lose nesting habitat as defoliated trees die off.

Humans have been changing some of the variables that keep this system in balance. Shade-tolerant balsam fir proliferate in forests where humans have

prevented routine disturbance by fire, creating thick, self-replicating stands for the budworm to eat. Climate change also plays a role. Warmer winters do not eliminate dormant budworm larvae, who can survive temperatures down to about -40F by creating their own anti-freeze, and drought conditions appear to protect larvae from disease.

Walking this trail, I can't help but wonder what this place will look like for the learners who explore it in the years to come. Will they, too, be looking for elves?♦



Stripey bronze pupae and clusters of dead needles are a common sight in budworm infested forests. Larvae are active in May and June. Moths emerge in late July.

NEW WOLF RIDGE TEAM MEMBERS

As they wheels of time turn, retirement, spouses with new jobs, and circumstances related to COVID have led to us wishing colleagues well as they engage in adventures in new places. New people, in turn, have joined the Wolf Ridge team. We are excited to introduce these fine folks to the you. ✦



Carter Acker

If Carter Acker could have a super power, he would like to control the weather in spot specific ways like raining on negative people or not snowing on sidewalks. Previous to Wolf Ridge, Carter worked as a groundskeeper at golf courses in both Florida and Minnesota. He likes the fact that his job at Wolf Ridge is not seasonal. Carter works with both the maintenance and custodial departments. He is the oldest of three boys. Boot hockey in winter, biking in summer, and *Fast and Furious* anytime occupies Carter's free hours.

In you have visited the updated Wolf Ridge website you have seen some of the work of Jolene Brink. She is our marketing and communications manager. This translates into being the bridge that brings our programs to the public through our website or other media and telling our story. Jolene and her husband John (a graduate naturalist alumnus) recently settled on the North Shore to be near 'big water' after pursuing higher education in Montana. Jolene received a MFA from the U of MT in poetry. Her hobbies include writing, a small donut making business, running, and raising a son. Life advice from Jolene, treat others the way you want to be treated.



Jolene Brink



Taylor Buus

Taylor Buus has been living in Finland just one year. She has a daughter and two dogs. She is the only girl out of five siblings. Taylor has a scar near her eye caused by sitting up in bed, the unfortunately circumstance of the top bunk being located in the wrong spot. Before joining our custodial department, Taylor worked as a corrections officer at a prison and attended diesel mechanic school. Cleaning the Forest Ecology building is her favorite because of the plants. She likes the Wolf Ridge community.

Most commonly found in the office habitat, administration assistant Kathy Chumley will additionally appear in the dining hall or in the lodges lending a hand wherever needed. Kathy says the best things about her job are the friendly people including both the staff and participants and being part of the place with a great culture and mission. Just three years transplanted from AZ, she enjoys learning more about Minnesota like ice fishing, tapping trees, and new bird species. If Kathy could join any fictional family, it would be the Swiss Family Robinson because getting lost and living in a tree house (if its heated) sounds really appealing at the moment.



Kathy Chumley



Bob Geatz

Bob Geatz joined Wolf Ridge just at the start of the pandemic. He is head of our maintenance department. Watching his teenage daughter play hockey and run cross-country and track is a top priority. He hunts, fishes, golfs, and creates wood projects from diamond willow. Bob is always game to have a good time and makes the best of bad situations. He believes if you are going to do something, give it 100%.

For Vicki Hanson, mother of three and grandmother of seven, a dream vacation would take her to Australia. With all the snow we have been having at Wolf Ridge, Vicki thinks that snow blowing the driveway and scraping ice off her car must be her hobbies. When the weather allows, camping, fishing, and gardening are favorite activities. A degree in water pollution control and waste water management are part of Vicki's story which, currently has her located in our food service where locating the hot mitts makes her the kitchen hero.



Vicki Hanson



Rachel Giemza

Rachel Giemza can imagine having two super powers. On the useful side she would like to speak and understand any language. On the mischievous side, Rachel can visualize some laughs with the ability to be able to re-fill anything. She is a naturalist and our summer and special programs director and is looking forward to making sure kids have a great experience while at Wolf Ridge. Her background of a BS in Zoology from North Dakota State and working at numerous Twin Cities nature centers make her good fit for her position. Family of note includes a leopard gecko, corn snake, and a *younger* twin brother. Rachel would be interested in traveling forward in time to see how family is doing and the state of the world in regards to climate change. It is a little known fact that Rachel always carries a bug net in her car.



Brandy Heilman

Our food service manager is Brandy Heilman. She is from a large family and grew up in Silver Bay. Her home is now McDougal Lake, which was in the heart of the Greenwood Lake fire. Fortunately, sprinklers protected her house. Brandy enjoys most outdoor activities with fishing and kayaking being high on the list. Shooting pool and craft projects are favored indoor pursuits. Her favorite food is potatoes with so many yummy ways to eat them. A good piece of advice she heard and shares is, don't borrow worry.

Alyssa Klinker can be found in dining hall as part of the food service team. Food prep, supervising KP, and clean up keep her hopping. A high school sophomore, Alyssa plays basketball and relishes photography as a hobby. When she dies, she would like to be remembered for her photos which focus on landscapes and nature. The Harry Potter movies are her favorite.



Alyssa Klinker



Dave Nyquist

Philosopher and reticent man of our maintenance crew, Dave Nyquist is identified by the snow shovel or paintbrush in his hand. With the endless snow he continues to keep doorways and paths clear, making for safe inter-building travel. During milder fall weather, Dave was responsible for the fresh paint on the office. One of nine kids, Dave especially digs reading screenplays. If Dave could change one thing about the universe it would be reducing people's energy consumption. Dave's employment at Wolf Ridge offers us a connection to the past. In 1971, as a 6th grader, he was one of the first groups to visit the ELC in Isabella! Dave attended with Minnehaha Elementary School from Two Harbors.

Robin Revier is a mother of three and is expecting her first grandchild this summer. She and her husband recently "retired" to the area. Robin works part time in our food service department. When asked, "If you were a potato, how would you like to be cooked?" Robin responded, "Either baked or deep fried," because of her love of soaking up the sun's warmth. She has opportunity to do this while digging in her flower and vegetable gardens. A dream vacation would be to travel to Ireland because of the lushness, ocean, and to imbibe in a pint at the pubs to meet locals.



Robin Revier



Shelby Roback

Meet Shelby Roback. She joins our team as the program coordinator. Her main duties include being the school contact and scheduling. Eight chickens named for the days of the week plus Helga are her 'productive' pets. She has degrees in Studio Art and Sustainability Studies and just completed her master's in Environmental Education. In her free time, Shelby might be found reading the poetry of Mary Oliver or hanging out with her partner Lang, who is immersed in his PhD in ecosystem ecology. Shelby would be interested in traveling back in time to meet her Scottish ancestors.

Meredith St. Pierre's family consists of a husband and two German Short-haired pointers, Escanaba and Gitche Gume. They enjoy hunting, paddling, hiking, and pontooning together. Meredith has veered somewhat from her Environmental Studies degree from Gustavus Adolphus College. She is our development director charged with the task of fundraising and helping people make positive impacts with gifts to Wolf Ridge. Her favorite holiday is St. Patrick's Day. A famous person that Meredith had the pleasure of meeting and introducing is Katie Couric at a Ronald McDonald House fundraiser where she was the event planner.



Meredith St. Pierre



Bob Wolke

Bob Wolke is a man of many skills. He has a graphic arts AA, boiler license, and class A driver's license and brings much to our maintenance department. Snowmobiling, 4-wheeling, camping, downhill skiing, hunting, and fishing are favorite pastimes. If Bob was a piece of furniture he would be a swing because it is outside and youthful. He recently returned from a dream vacation which involved seeing an active volcano.

Two cats and a European Starling named Einstein are Courtney Wright's pet family. She is our new animal care and wildlife program coordinator. Courtney has two degrees from U of WI - Madison, one in Zoology and another in Environmental Studies. If she could play any Olympic sport, Courtney would like to be a forward on the soccer team. Hobbies of photography and wildlife watching enriched her travels with Iceland and New Zealand being top adventures. Courtney is proud of pursuing the Wolf Ridge graduate naturalist program, overcoming obstacles like having to delay for a year because of COVID. She is excited to work with our education animals and share the wonder with students.



Courtney Wright

PROFILE: PEQUOT LAKES MIDDLE SCHOOL

Location: Pequot Lakes, MN population 2,179

Brought: 130 - 6th grade students, 10 teachers, and 8 additional adults.

Serves: Grades 5-8, Pequot Lakes, Breezy Point, Crosslake, and Jenkins. There are about 130 students per grade level.



We admire Pequot Lakes for their first Wolf Ridge visit occurring during COVID. Why did your school choose to come to Wolf Ridge, especially now? Why did you pick to come at the time of year that you chose? We chose to come because we wanted our students to experience hands on activities that tie into our Minnesota Standards. Wolf Ridge is a highly respected ELC and some of our staff have attended as teachers while others have attended as students. We saw the value of team building, especially after distance learning. Winter was a great time to come because we could expose many students to fun and enriching outdoor activities.

How did your school share the Wolf Ridge experience pre and post trip with students/parents/community? We had a large parent meeting prior to the trip where we talked in depth about what the experience would be like for the kids. Post trip we have provided "thank you's" to groups that helped make the trip possible.

How does your school raise money for this trip? This was our first year going and the kids did not have to raise any money. It was funded though the generosity of community organizations and individuals. We will have to raise funds for next year.



What is the biggest challenge for your school in coming to Wolf Ridge? It took a lot of planning on the part of staff, much more than we had anticipated. It was also difficult convincing some kids and parents that they could get past the anxiety of being away from home for two nights.

Please give a tip to other schools about attending Wolf Ridge. Put in the time to plan everything out in advance. The classes are all physically demanding so make sure everyone is capable.

Tell our readers about a favorite memory from a student and/or adult about the Wolf Ridge experience pre or post trip. Students commented on the beauty of nature. Excitement over catching a fish through the ice.

Something that surprise(s)(d) you/your school's time at Wolf Ridge. We were surprised how much the kids liked kitchen patrol!

Tell us about a class that is important for your students to take and why. Winter survival was great, the kids really learned problem solving skills.

What is a favorite meal of your school's at Wolf Ridge? They were so hungry from all of the physical activity that they loved all of the food.

Please inform our readers some of things your students learned as a result of their Wolf Ridge trip. Problem solving skills, self confidence, feeling of accomplishment for overcoming challenges and anxiety. ♦



WELCOME SUMMER STAFF



Farm

James House - WWOOFer*
Anna Novalany - WWOOFer*
*World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms



Summer Program Managers

Kate Folkman
Olivia Jascor



Wilderness Trip Leaders

Leo Plewa
Moss Schumacher
Noah Shea
Claire Sponheim

Academic Program Coordinator

Kim Swanson

Asst. Trip Leaders and/or Counselors

Dante Badalich
Helen Clanaugh
Magda French
Ben Harmsworth
Jack Holmes
Samantha Jugasek
Jesse Lentz
Oliver Macdonald
Emily Pagel
Cassandra Poston
Lucia Richardson

Naturalists

Celia Carr
Clare Condon
Anna Edmunds
Rebecca Hucker
Chloe McKinley
Adrianna Meirgerd
Spencer Skaggs
Evan Unruh-Friesen
Nathan Wagner



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 encompass almost anything to do with the outdoors, however favorite activities are bicycling, hiking, snowshoeing, skiing, canoeing and kayaking. 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. ♦

PROGRAMS 2022

Register for your Wolf Ridge adventure at:

<https://wolf-ridge.org/programs/>

For more information or programs without specific dates, a conversation is the best way to organize your Wolf Ridge experience. Call 218-353-7414 between 8 and 4:30, M-F or email us at mail@wolf-ridge.org.

ALL AGES



- 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 24-30, Aug 6 starting at \$1154 for 2 people
- Family Wilderness Trips:** (all ages) June-August, see our website for details

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) July 17-20: \$429
- Discoverers:** (4th-5th gr) July 10-16, July 17-23, July 24-30, July 31-Aug 6: \$688
- Voyageurs:** (6th-7th gr) July 10-16, July 17-23, July 24-30, July 31-Aug 6, Aug 7-13: \$688
- Adventurers:** (8th-9th gr) July 10-16, July 17-23, July 24-30, 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.

SPECIALTY CAMPS

- Day Camp:** (K-5th gr) July 5-8: \$220
- Girls Rock the Ridge Leadership:** (6th-7th gr) July 10-16: \$702
- Farm Camp:** (8th-9th gr) August 7-13: \$688
- Camp Rock Climbing:** (8th-9th gr) July 17-23: \$768
- Ornithology Field Camp** (10th-12th gr) July 17-23: \$937

WILDERNESS TRIPS

- BWCAW Canoe 5-day:** (7th-8th gr) Aug 14-20: \$715
- Adventurers 2-wk BWCAW Canoe:** (8th-9th gr) July 17-30: \$1,562
- Adventurers 2-wk Isle Royale Backpack:** (8th-9th gr) July 10-23: \$1,595
- Jr Naturalists 2-wk Quetico Canoe:** (10th-12th gr) July 31-Aug 13: \$1,677
- Jr Naturalists 2-wk Apostle Island:** (10th-12th gr) Aug 7-20: \$1,652

ADULT



BIRD BANDING COURSES

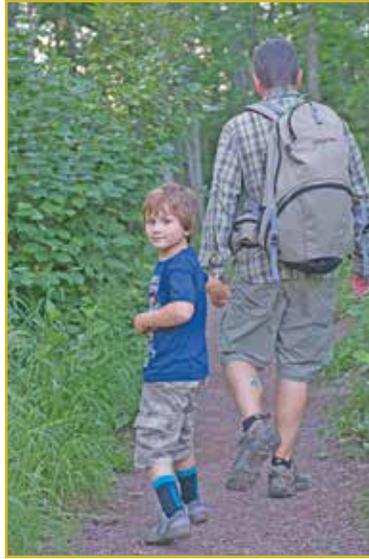
- Bird Banding IBP Beginning:** (adults) July 1: \$2,245
- Bird Banding IBP Advanced:** (adults) July 7: \$1,225

Wolf Ridge hosts the Institute for Bird Population's (IBP) 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 aging skills.

THE LEADERS OF THE PACK

Wolf Ridge recently received an estate gift from Jacqueline Mithun, her first gift to our organization. We're honored she included Wolf Ridge in the list of great organizations doing the work she wants to see perpetuated. If, like Jacqueline, you've included Wolf Ridge in your estate plans, let us know, so we can say thank you and recognize you as a member of the *Leaders of the Pack*.

Please consider gifting part of your estate to Wolf Ridge. For more info visit wolf-ridge.org/support or contact: Meredith St. Pierre at 218-353-7414 or meredith.stpierre@wolf-ridge.org.



With tremendous gratitude Wolf Ridge ELC gratefully acknowledges:

Anonymous - 4x
Sandy & Tom Ahlstrom
Tom & Margit Berg
Russ & Becky Bierbaum
John & Laura Crosby
Andy Datko & Lisa Hesse
Marty & Kathy Duchscher
Donna Hill
Harpreet Kaur
Terry McLaughlin & Vern Gersh
William A. & Eloise E. Nelson -
Revocable Living Trust
Robert O'Hara
Gregory & Donnette Wheelock

Support Wolf Ridge and Stay in Touch

Your gift enables Wolf Ridge programs:

- Consider monthly donations with automatic payments.
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- Make an in-kind donation.

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Complimentary Issue

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Common Goldeneyes on Sawmill Creek checking out the stream study sites.

Wolf Ridge thanks these \$1,000+ donors*

Katherine Bovee
Margaret A. Cargill Foundation
Madeleine Denis
Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation
Erik Larson

John & Nancy Strom
Nancy Schultz & John Eckfeldt
Mike Steffes
Thrivent Financial

*1/1/22 – 3/31/22



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.