

**Guidebook for  
Baileys Harbor Range Light  
Resident Docents**



8270 State Hwy 57 in Baileys Harbor, Wisconsin

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## **Section 1. Resident Docent Information**

### **A. Introduction**

The Door County peninsula is located in northeast Wisconsin between Lake Michigan and the Bay of Green Bay. It is one of the top tourist destinations in the Midwest, steeped in maritime history and natural beauty due to its unique geology and miles of rocky shoreline. While Door County is home to about 30,000 residents, its population swells to several hundred thousand during its peak tourist season of June through October. Over two million visitors come to Door County annually.

The Baileys Harbor Upper Range Light is open to the public from the end of May through mid-October. Your job as a resident docent is to explain how the range lights work, their rich history of more than 150 years, and how the range lights are linked to the history of The Ridges Sanctuary.

The information included in this document will help you understand your duties as a resident docent at the Baileys Harbor Upper Range Light.

#### The Town of Baileys Harbor

Baileys Harbor is on the Lake Michigan side of the Door Peninsula and has been historically known as “the quiet side” since lake breezes keep Baileys Harbor cooler during the summer months. The Green Bay side of the peninsula can be 10 to 15 degrees warmer than the lake side, making it more favorable for summer activities such as swimming and paddle boarding. However, the recent addition of new restaurants, shops and breweries has transformed Baileys Harbor into a bustling community.

That being said, other than the Baileys 57 gas station and convenience store, you will need to travel 10 to 30 minutes by car for essentials such as groceries.

#### The Ridges Sanctuary, Inc.

Founded in 1937 to preserve the original 30 acre parcel of land surrounding the Baileys Harbor Range Lights, The Ridges Sanctuary has grown thoughtfully and strategically to ensure the protection of one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems in Wisconsin. It is a member supported organization with a mission of land preservation, research, education and outreach. Today, The Ridges Sanctuary protects more than 1,700 acres of land; continues to conduct orchid research and other citizen science projects; and, offers youth and adult environmental education programs.

The Ridges Sanctuary is named for its distinctive topography – a series of 30 ridges and swales formed by Lake Michigan over the past 1,400 years. This ridge and swale complex provides a wide range of environmental conditions, from open beach to densely shaded conifer forest.

Nearly 500 different species of plants, including 29 species of native orchids, populate these varied habitats which are also home to over 60 species of breeding birds and 12 threatened or endangered plant species. Each year, The Ridges welcomes thousands of visitors to hike our trails, and learn about, and enjoy, Nature.

### The Baileys Harbor Range Lights

The range lights were built in 1869 to guide ships safely into Baileys Harbor and are still used today as an aid to navigation. The U.S. Coast Guard classifies the range lights as a private aid to navigation since they are operated by The Ridges Sanctuary. The range lights are located on The Ridges property about 1 mile north of the Town of Baileys Harbor. The Upper Range Light is easily accessible from State Highway 57.

The Lower (or Front) Range Light is closest to Lake Michigan and is not open to the public as it is a wooden tower housing only steep wooden stairs and the light. The Upper (or Rear) Range Light is a 2-story house with a lantern room containing the second light. Restoration of the Lower Range Light was completed in 2013 and restoration of the Upper Range Light was completed in early 2023. Although the range lights have been restored to the period of about 1910, the Upper Range Light has the modern conveniences of heat, electricity and plumbing.

The Range Light Boardwalk located between the two range lights was re-constructed in 2022 as a six foot wide ADA compliant wooden boardwalk. People who visit The Ridges Sanctuary usually stop at The Ridges Nature Center first and walk to the Upper Range Light via the Hidden Brook Boardwalk and the Range Light Boardwalk. Docents are stationed at the Upper Range Light to greet visitors as they approach the Upper Range Light.

### Accommodations at the Upper Range Light

Originally built as the lighthouse keeper's residence, the Upper Range Light has a parlor, dining room, kitchen, bathroom and small "keepers" bedroom on the first floor. A roll-away twin bed is stored in the first floor closet. The bathroom has a toilet, shower and sink. The kitchen has a sink, refrigerator, microwave and electric stove, and is well equipped. Refer to the Kitchen Inventory list for other kitchen items available for your use.

The second floor bedroom has a double bed and locking closet available for your use. Visitors can view a side room to the second floor bedroom, but are not allowed to enter. An extension of the side room accommodates a roll-away twin bed and a small closet which are not visible to the public. The lantern room, upstairs bedroom and all of the rooms on the first floor, except the bathroom, are open to visitors during tours.

Fiber optic internet service is scheduled to be installed in the Town of Baileys Harbor in 2026. Until service is installed, a hot spot is available for your use. Internet service is also available at the Ridges Nature Center and all Door County libraries, including the Baileys Harbor Library.

## **B. Lighthouse Rules**

- The schedule for range light docents is as follows:
  - The Upper Range Light will be closed on Sundays to allow for the transition of docents.
    - Resident docents are to arrive at the Upper Range Light on Sunday at noon and leave the following Sunday around 1 pm. This will give the departing docents an hour to introduce the arriving docents to the range light and review the rules.
  - Resident docents are expected to welcome visitors at the Upper Range Light while it is open to the public from 10 am to 3 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.
    - A local volunteer docent will be at the range light when you open Monday morning to answer any questions and take the lead on the trolley tour.
    - Resident docents will have Wednesday off to explore Door County. Local volunteer docents will have the Upper Range Light open on Wednesday from 11 am to 2 pm.
- No personal items are to be in public view while the Upper Range Light is open to the public.
- Visitors are not to have access to the bathroom or basement areas. Keep the doors closed and the basement door locked while the range light is open to the public.
- Resident docent groups are limited to a maximum of 3 people.
- No Smoking is permitted in the range light.
- No open flames such as candles, kerosene lamps or gas lanterns are permitted in the range light.
- No pets are permitted on The Ridges Sanctuary grounds or in the Upper Range Light, except for service animals.

## **C. What to Bring**

- Bath towels, a towel or rug for stepping out of the shower, pillows, sleeping bags, or appropriate bed linens for a twin roll-away bed and/or double bed. If you are coming early or late in the season bring an extra blanket or two.
- You do not need to bring kitchen towels as the kitchen is fully stocked. Review the Kitchen Inventory list and bring anything else you may need.
- Food and beverages for your stay. All items that you bring but do not use must go with you when you leave. Do not leave food or any other items in the kitchen, bathroom or other areas of the range light.
- Soap, toilet articles and other personal items including bug repellent.
- Adequate clothes for a change in weather. When the wind shifts from inland to coming off Lake Michigan, the temperature can drop more than 10 degrees in a matter of minutes. Bring long sleeve shirts, pants and a light jacket even in August.

- Entertainment for the evenings (books, games and such). Various books on Door County are located in the kitchen and are available for your use.

#### **D. Arriving at the Range Light**

- If you realize you forgot something on the drive up, the last best place to stop is Sturgeon Bay where you will find various stores, including a Target, Super Wal-Mart, and several grocery stores. **The Ridges Sanctuary is not responsible for supplying items you may have forgotten.** There are several grocery stores and hardware stores in the towns north of Sturgeon Bay, but they tend to be more expensive than stores in Sturgeon Bay and may not carry as much variety.
- Stop by The Ridges Nature Center located at 8166 State Hwy 57 in Baileys Harbor to pick up the zippered pouch containing your name tags, keys, the Docent Summary Sheet and laundry bag.
- Arrive at the Upper Range Light by noon on Sunday. Drive into the circular driveway in front of the Upper Range Light at 8270 State Hwy 57 in Baileys Harbor. The departing docents will meet you when you arrive.

#### **E. A Typical Day as a Range Light Docent**

- You are expected to have the Upper Range Light open for tours from 10 am to 3 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. You may open earlier and stay open later to accommodate visitors as you wish.
- All personal needs, including breakfast, should be taken care of before opening to the public. All personal items must be out of sight and stowed in the upstairs closets, dressers or kitchen before you open. Be aware that visitors, especially children, have a tendency to open closed closet and cupboard doors if they aren't locked.
- On Wednesday, the local docents will arrive at about 10:45 and open by 11 am. All personal items are to be stowed away and out of sight before they arrive. The local docents have keys to the range light, so lock the kitchen door if you leave before they arrive and be sure to take your range light keys with you.
- All visitors are to enter and exit via the front door. The entry or screen door to the kitchen should be locked at all times unless someone from your party is in the kitchen or outside. There is a hook and latch on the screen door and a deadbolt lock on the entry door. The front screen or entry door should be locked at the end of the daily tours. The front and kitchen entry doors should be closed and securely locked before you retire for the evening.
- Before opening, knock down any spiders and webs that may be on the front porch or inside of the lantern room. A broom is located outside the kitchen door and in the first floor hallway closet.

- By 10 am each morning, open and unlock the front doors, turn on the room lights and put the open signs out. Turning on the porch light also lets visitors know that the lighthouse is open. Use the hand-held counter to keep track of how many people enter the house.
- The tours are casual, being either self-guided or led by the docent, depending on the preference of the visitor. All encounters should be less than 30 minutes. Information panels are located throughout the house to facilitate tours. You can usually gauge the type of tour the visitors prefer. You will find that some visitors are truly lighthouse enthusiasts while others are only interested in taking pictures from the lantern room window. Some visitors are at The Ridges Sanctuary solely to enjoy Nature and may not be interested in the range lights at all. As a docent, be courteous to all visitors and respect the amount of time and interest they have regarding the range lights.
- A docent led tour is always given to the Door County Trolley Tours which operate weekly on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The trolley arrives around 11:45 am and departs around 12:30 pm. Because the trolley is on a set schedule, trolley guests should be given preference in the house, especially going up to the lantern room.
- You will be notified prior to any other trolleys or tour buses scheduled to tour the range light. On occasion, you may also be asked to assist staff or hike leaders with tours of the range light.
- If two people are in your party, it works well to have one person outside greeting visitors and the other person inside answering questions or guiding persons through the house. A third person could help outside or be on the second floor.
- Close the Upper Range Light after 3 pm by bringing in the open signs, locking the front door, and turning off the lights.
- Vacuum all of the floors and rugs daily, and dust as necessary. Glass cleaner is located under the kitchen sink and can be used to clean the front door and side panel glass where finger or hand prints, especially from children, have a tendency to occur. Alcohol wipes are stored under the kitchen sink and can be used for wiping down contact surfaces such as the stair railings.
- Record daily the number of walk-in visitors, people on the 11:45 am trolley and people on other scheduled trolleys or buses in the logbook and on the Docent Summary Sheet. Include any other comments worth noting.
- Notify your contact person of any needed repairs or supplies. Make a note of your contact on the Docent Summary Sheet.

## **F. Leaving on Sunday**

The Upper Range Light is not open to the public on Sundays. This will give you plenty of time to pack up all of your belongings, finish cleaning and give the arriving docents an introduction to the range light before leaving by 1 pm. The second page of The Docent Summary Sheet includes a list of things to do before you leave on Sunday, including the following:

- Clean and organize the refrigerator, stove, microwave, cupboards, and counters.
- Clean the bathroom sink, shower, toilet and floor. Cleaning supplies are in the bathroom.
- Mop the wooden floors using the Bona supplies in the kitchen closet.
- Place the dirty mop head, used kitchen towels and used towels from cleaning the bathroom in the laundry bag.
- Make one last check to be sure you are taking everything that you brought with you.
- Fill out the Docent Summary Sheet.
- Place the keys and the Docent Summary Sheet in the zippered pouch.
- Securely close all garbage and recycling bags and set outside along with the laundry bag to take to the Nature Center.
- Put new bags in the kitchen garbage and recycling containers, and the bathroom trash container.
- At The Ridges Nature Center, leave the pouch with a person at the Front Desk. In the outside storage area on the south side of the Nature Center, deposit the garbage and recycling bags in the appropriate containers and leave the laundry bag in the container hanging on the fence near the gate.

### **G. Emergencies and First Aid**

Contact information in case of an emergency or accident is posted on the inside door of the kitchen closet and in the white 3-ring binder kept in the ice box. A first aid kit is located in the ice box in the kitchen.

The Door County Hospital and an Urgent Care Center are located in Sturgeon Bay, and a medical clinic is located in Sister Bay. Pharmacies are located in Sturgeon Bay and Sister Bay.

## **Section 2. Conducting Tours of the Baileys Harbor Upper Range Light**

### **A. Giving Tours to Visitors of The Ridges Sanctuary**

Keep in mind that the general public usually visits The Ridges to hike the trails and enjoy Nature, so they may only stop by the range light for a few minutes or they may decide not to stop at all. People are most interested in learning how the range lights work, seeing the rooms, and of course, climbing the stairs to the lantern room.

While each docent will add their own personal style to their tour, it is important to give consistent and factual information. Whether you are giving a tour to the trolley group or to persons hiking the trails at The Ridges, your conversations should center around 4 main topics:

1. How the range lights work to allow ships to safely enter Baileys Harbor.
2. History, including how the keepers of the Baileys Harbor Range Lights lived and worked.
3. Why these range lights are worth preserving.
4. The relationship between the Ridges Sanctuary and the Range Lights.

The docent who is outside has the opportunity to talk with everyone who walks past the Upper Range Light. Use this opportunity to give a brief introduction to the range lights.

- The Upper Range Light is open if they care to walk through.
- How the range lights work
  - The range lights were built in 1869 to replace the Old Baileys Light and are still operating today.
  - Their purpose is to safely guide ships into Baileys Harbor which was a very busy port in the 1800's.
  - The red light in the lower range light is 17 feet lower than the white light in the upper range light and the two lights are visible 4 miles out into Lake Michigan.
  - Ships coming into Baileys Harbor align the two lights vertically, one light above the other, to stay in deep water and avoid the rocky shoals.
- History of occupants
  - Eight different lighthouse keepers and their families lived in the range light from 1869 until the lights were automated in 1923.
  - The Lutheran church in Baileys Harbor leased the Upper Range Light to use as a parsonage from 1930 when electricity was installed until the early 1960's.
  - After sitting vacant for a few years, the Upper Range Light was leased by The Ridges to use as a residence for their naturalists and later as staff offices until the Nature Center was built in 2015.
- Additional information is in the house as well as another docent who has additional information and will answer questions.

## **B. Trolley Tours**

The Door County Trolley operates on a tight schedule and the number of people on the trolley can vary from just a few to 29 or more. If enough people do not sign up for the tour, Door County Trolley will cancel that day's tour. You will be notified in the morning regarding the number of people on the trolley or if the trolley tour has been cancelled.

The trolley comes to the Baileys Harbor Range Lights after stopping at the fully furnished Eagle Bluff lighthouse in Peninsula State Park. People on the trolley have heard the rich history of lighthouse keeper William Duclon, who with his wife raised 7 boys during his time at the Eagle Bluff Lighthouse. After leaving the Baileys Harbor Range Lights, the trolley will tour the iconic Cana Island lighthouse. People on the trolley want to know what is so special about the Baileys Harbor Range Lights that it's worth the stop. That is where you come in!

The trolley will be at the Upper Range Light around 11:45 am for about 30 to 45 minutes. Greet the trolley in the circular drive and lead people to the sidewalk in front of the Upper Range Light so they have a clear view of the Lower Range Light. You should limit your time outside to no more than 10 minutes, introducing the group to the rich history of The Ridges and the Range Lights. After you start your introduction, the driver will leave to pick up box lunches at the gas

station in Baileys Harbor. By the time the driver returns, people should be entering the range light.

After your introduction, people on the trolley will tour the Upper Range Light and then have the option of boarding the trolley or walking down the boardwalk to the Lower Range Light. People who walk down the boardwalk will be picked up by the trolley on Ridges Road and they will then leave for their next destination. You will stay at the Upper Range Light to greet other visitors.

During inclement weather, you can either give your introduction on the trolley or go directly into the range light. You can explain how the range lights work using the aerial photo in the parlor. The tour will end based on weather conditions; the trolley driver usually decides if everyone should board the trolley at the range light or have the option to walk down the boardwalk.

The introduction given outside to trolley tour visitors is more detailed than the brief description given to Ridges visitors and includes the relationship between the range lights and the incorporation of The Ridges Sanctuary. Since people are anxious to get inside of the range light, the introduction should take no longer than 10 minutes.

If there are less than 12 to 15 people on the trolley tour, the docent inside the house may be comfortable leading the group through the house on their own. If so, the docent giving the introduction can stay outside to greet other visitors. If the group is larger, you should discuss prior to the trolley arriving how you will manage the group. Options include allowing the docent inside to handle the whole group, splitting the group among the docents, or allowing people to be on their own in the house with docents stationed on the main floor and upstairs bedroom to answer questions or point out items of interest.

#### Points to Cover During the Trolley Tour Introduction

- Explain how the range lights work, pointing out the two range lights
  - The white light in the Upper Range Light is 17 feet higher than the red light in the Lower Range Light.
  - When the lights are lined up vertically, the ships are “on range” to safely enter the harbor.
  - The two distinct lights can be seen about 4 miles into Lake Michigan.
  - The lights are still used today as navigational aids and are listed on the U.S. Coast Guard charts.
- History of Baileys Harbor
  - A safe and important shipping harbor.
  - Main items shipped were lumber, stone and fish.
- Range lights were built in 1869
  - Replaced the Old Baileys Light which caused shipwrecks due to its location.
  - Range Lights were built the same year as the Cana Island Lighthouse.

- Eight light keepers served at the range lights from 1869 until 1923
  - Focus on the last light keeper, Henry Gattie who served 27 years from 1896 to 1923 when the lights were automated.
  - The house has been restored to his time period.
- In 1930, the Upper and Lower Range Lights were electrified and the Lutheran Church in Baileys Harbor rented the house from the Lighthouse Service to use as a parsonage until the mid-1950's.
- In the mid-1960's, The Ridges Sanctuary leased the Upper Range Light and their first naturalist, Roy Lukes, lived in the range light until the 1980's. The Upper Range Light continued to be used by Ridges staff until 2015 when they moved into the newly built Nature Center.
- Restoration of the Upper Range Light began after staff moved out and was completed in 2023.
- The Ridges Sanctuary
  - A nonprofit, member-supported organization whose mission is environmental education, research and land preservation.
  - In 1935, the Lighthouse Service deeded 30 acres around the range lights to Door County.
    - A condition of the deed was that the land had to be used for public good.
  - Door County begins constructing a RV trailer park.
  - People who were familiar with the biological richness of the property convinced Door County to abandon the project.
    - Half of Wisconsin's 48 orchids had already been found on the 30 acres.
    - It is a unique ecosystem due to cool moist breezes off Lake Michigan and is similar to the boreal forest found in Canada.
  - Door County keeps ownership of the land but allows the conservationists to establish a wildflower park.
  - The group organizes and incorporates as The Ridges Sanctuary in 1937. Today The Ridges protects over 1,700 acres of land and continues to research orchids on its properties.
- Explain how the tour will be conducted
  - If you are going in with the group, ask them to join you inside the house.
  - If you are staying outside, explain there is another docent waiting for them in the house.
  - If the trolley group is large, explain how you and the other docents intend to handle the group.
- When done, people can exit the house via the front door and ride the trolley or walk down the boardwalk to the Lower Range Light as instructed by the trolley driver.
- Stay at the Upper Range Light to answer questions.
- Thank people for visiting as they leave.

### **C. Example Narrative for the Door County Trolley Tour**

*Note: This is a typical script for a trolley tour. Information in italics is provided for your use in case there are questions or you need additional talking points. Exact dates are not always important, but people do want to know the general timeframe you are talking about. If people are interested in specific dates, a timeline is hanging on the wall in the first floor hallway and also behind the door in the keeper's bedroom. A microphone and speaker are kept in the hutch in the dining room and can be used for larger groups or to talk over Highway 57 traffic noise. People have come to learn about Door County Lighthouses so everyone needs to hear you. This is a lot of information to share, so be conscious of the time and how interested people are in what you say.*

*Walk up to the trolley and welcome people when the trolley arrives. Ask the people to follow you to the front of the Upper Range Light. Walk with them to the sidewalk and once the group has gathered, you can start the tour.*

Welcome everyone to the Baileys Harbor Range Lights and The Ridges Sanctuary. I will be talking about the range lights and The Ridges Sanctuary since they have a long, intertwined history.

We are standing in front of the Upper (or Rear) Range Light. If you look down the boardwalk you will see the Lower (or Front) Range Light. You are also looking south towards Lake Michigan.

The Upper and Lower Range Lights are about 950 feet apart and were built in 1869. Unlike a lighthouse which warns ships of treacherous water, range lights work together to guide ships safely through dangerous waters, in this case, into Baileys Harbor which is difficult to navigate due to the rocky shoals. The white light in the lantern room of the Upper Range Light is 17 feet higher than the red light in the Lower Range Light. Ships coming into Baileys Harbor will look for the lights which are visible 4 miles out into Lake Michigan, and line them up vertically as they approach the harbor. Keeping the lights vertically aligned is called being "on range". (*Use your hands to demonstrate keeping the lights vertically aligned.*) Ships that stay "on range" safely enter Baileys Harbor and sail past the rocky shoals.

Range lights themselves are not unique. There are other range lights in Door County, including those on Plum Island in Death's Door passage at the tip of the peninsula. What is unique about these range lights is that only 6 of this design were built on the western Great Lakes (*Lakes Huron, Superior and Michigan*). Usually range lights are two towers containing the navigational lights, and the keeper's residence is a separate building nearby. This design is unique because the Upper Range Light is the lighthouse keeper's residence. Also, of the 6 that were built on the western Great Lakes, this is the only set of range lights of this design that are still on range and used as navigational aids. These range lights are classified as private aids to navigation since they are maintained and operated by The Ridges Sanctuary instead of the US Coast Guard. *The*

*LED lights (16 watts equivalent to 100 watts) in the Upper and Lower Range Lights are lit 24/7. The LED light in the Upper Range Light burned out in April 2021 just short of 6 years of continuous operation. The Ridges is required to maintain a 50 foot wide corridor between the buildings with an unobstructed view so the lights are always visible from the water.*

These range lights were built in 1869 to replace the old Baileys Harbor Lighthouse that was built on the east side of the harbor in the 1850's. The old Baileys Harbor Lighthouse was located in the wrong place and actually caused ship wrecks because it failed to warn ships of the shallow waters. Baileys Harbor was getting a reputation of being a dangerous port to approach, so when the old Baileys Harbor Lighthouse was in disrepair, the Lighthouse Service decommissioned the lighthouse and replace it with the Baileys Harbor Range Lights and the Cana Island Lighthouse. After the range lights were built, Baileys Harbor became one of the busiest ports on the western shores of Lake Michigan. *The ships brought immigrants to Door County and then returned to Milwaukee and Chicago loaded with timber logged in the Baileys Harbor area, stone mined from local quarries and fish harvested from Lake Michigan. The timber and stone were construction materials for the growing cities.*

Eight lighthouse keepers and their families lived in the Upper Range Light from 1869 until 1923 when the lights were automated. The early lighthouse keepers burned lard and then switched to kerosene, known as mineral oil, before the range lights were automated with acetylene gas. *The progression of fuels from lard to mineral oil to acetylene gas is the same for Eagle Bluff Lighthouse and many of the lighthouses in Door County, so the trolley visitors may already know this. The first lighthouse keeper was Fabian Trudell who was 74 years old when he arrived here with his wife. Only one light keeper was assigned to the range lights at any time so one light keeper serviced both lights, walking 950 feet one way to keep both lights burning. Besides having to service both lights through the night, Mr. Trudell also had to walk down to the lake to fetch water since the well wasn't installed until 1884. Fabian Trudell stayed for a little more than two years before he resigned at age 76.*

Our last lighthouse keeper was Henry Gattie who was here for 27 years or half the time that lighthouse keepers serviced the lights. Henry Gattie came to the range lights as a bachelor and married a local gal named Eve Hendrick. The Duclon boys came from Eagle Bluff Lighthouse to play at their wedding. The local newspaper reported that guests had such a grand time that they wished Henry and Eve got married every week. *Henry's family emigrated from Belgium to Kewaunee County when he was 7 years old. Henry worked at the Pierhead lighthouse in Sturgeon Bay before he was assigned to the Baileys Harbor Range Lights. Eve's family emigrated from Germany and her parents ran a hotel in Baileys Harbor. She was one of 14 children, 4 of which died in infancy. Henry was temporarily assigned to Cana Island in 1923 when the range lights were automated and then served at a lighthouse in Two Rivers. They moved back to the Town of Baileys Harbor (not the range light) when he retired with 45 years of lighthouse service.*

After the range lights were automated in 1923, the Upper Range Light sat empty until 1930 when the Upper and Lower Range Lights were electrified. Once electricity came to the Upper Range Light, ministers of the Baileys Harbor Lutheran Church and their families lived here until the mid-1950's. It was then rented to a parishioner of the Lutheran church until the early 60's. The Upper Range Light sat empty until the mid-60's when it was leased to The Ridges Sanctuary and used as the residence for their first naturalist and eventually used as staff offices. *The first naturalist was Roy Lukes. Like Henry Gattie, Roy also came to the range light as a bachelor and married while living here.*

After Ridges staff moved into the newly built Nature Center in 2015, restoration of the Upper Range Light began. It has been restored to about 1910, when Henry Gattie was the lighthouse keeper.

*The Lower Range Light was restored in 2013 and was moved an additional 15 feet away from the road to keep the snow and salt from being thrown against it during snow plowing operations. The snow was causing the lower portions of the wood siding to rot. A survey was done when the Lower Range Light was moved so the range lights can still be used as navigational aids.*

A word about The Ridges Sanctuary: In 1935, the Lighthouse Service deeded 30 acres of government land around the range lights to Door County but kept ownership of the range lights and range line. The deed stipulated that the County was to use the 30 acres for public good, so they decided to build a trailer park. Local citizens who recognized the biological importance of this area heard the chainsaws as trees were chopped down and the bulldozers as the ridges and swales were leveled. The ridges and swales are old shorelines that formed over several thousand years as Lake Michigan slowly receded. The concerned citizens convinced the County to abandon their plans for development and instead establish a wildflower park to protect the biodiversity of the area. This area had already been studied and half of the 48 orchids found in Wisconsin were here on these 30 acres. *The unique biodiversity of the sanctuary is due to the cool, humid southerly breezes off Lake Michigan which create a boreal forest environment similar to that in Canada. Concerned citizens included Olivia Traven, Emma Toft and Albert Fuller who worked for the Milwaukee Public Museum. Albert Fuller had already conducted research on the property and identified the orchids.*

In 1937, The Ridges Sanctuary was incorporated with the mission to protect the land, provide environmental education and conduct research. Today the Ridges protects more than 1,700 acres of land in Door County, including the original 30 acres still owned by Door County. *Encourage people to come back and learn more about the Ridges and walk some of the trails to experience this unique place. The range lights and range line were deeded to Door County in 1998.*

*Ask if there are any questions. Point out the privy and oil house. The nonfunctioning hand pump marks the location of the well when the light keepers lived in the range light. The posts and attached strings in the garden are for hops which have been growing on the property for years.*

*We believe that at least one of the light keepers brewed beer. The hops have been tested and are from Germany. They are still harvested today by a home brewer who makes wonderful beer.*

*Before entering the house, explain how the tour will be conducted. Let the group know if you are going in the house with them or if another docent is waiting for them in the house. Ask people to be careful on the stairs. After touring the house, people can either board the trolley or walk down to the Lower Range Light. The trolley will drive down to the Lower Range Light and pick up those folks who walked the boardwalk. The trolley will then leave for their next destination.*

### Talking Points for the Keepers Bedroom

- *If you have a small group you can stop to point out information on the panels. If you have a large group, you may need to walk through the bedroom and into the parlor due to the small size of the room. If you walk through the bedroom, invite people to check out the information in the bedroom before they leave the house.*
- *Yes, people can take pictures in the range light.*
- *The log book: Point out the notation Henry made regarding his wedding day. Light keepers were required to make an entry every day the lighthouse was operating. Lighthouses on the Great Lakes extinguished the light when shipping stopped due to the lakes freezing up. The shipping season would start in April or May, depending on the weather. Henry lived in the range light year round and made entries throughout the year.*
- *Point out the newspaper article about Henry and Eve's wedding. For the trolley, point out the Duclon orchestra being mentioned as they just came from Eagle Bluff Lighthouse.*
- *The floor plans for the Upper and Lower Range Lights were important information for restoration purposes. The floor plan for the Upper Range Light identifies each of the rooms as they could have been used by the light keepers.*
- *At your discretion, point out information on the other panels regarding life in Baileys Harbor during the time of the lighthouse keepers.*
- *This room has been sparsely furnished as the light keeper's office due to its small space and because Henry and Eve did not have any children. A bed in this room would have severely limited space for visitors.*

### Talking Points for the Parlor

- *Tell people they are entering the parlor or what we would call the living room today.*
- *Use the aerial photo to explain how ships came into the harbor. Point out the range lights, the approach into Baileys Harbor, the old Baileys light, the shallow waters around the old lighthouse, the Cana Island Light and the ridge and swale complex of the Ridges property. The aerial photo also shows some of the coastal wetlands that are protected along the Lake Michigan shoreline, including The Ridges Sanctuary, Toft Point owned by UW-Green Bay, and DNR lands including the Baileys Harbor Boreal Forest and the Mud Lake State Natural Area. These properties are some of the 12,000 plus acres of coastal*

wetlands along the shore of Lake Michigan that have been internationally recognized for their ecological importance as critical migratory bird habitat and fish spawning areas.

- The picture to the left of the settee is of Henry and his hunting buddies. We know the picture was taken in late 1900 or early 1901 and suspect it may be a bachelor party before Henry's wedding. *Henry and Eve's great niece still lives in Baileys Harbor and provided the pictures and information.*
- The newspapers in the collages were found on the parlor floor after the carpeting was removed. Newspapers were commonly used to insulate rooms; this house wasn't insulated until 2019. *Roy Luke's wife, Charlotte, who lived in the house in the 1970's and 80's still talks about being wrapped in a quilt in front of the wood stove to keep warm during cold winter nights.*
- *The original Fresnel lenses were removed in 1969 by the US Coast Guard. Upon returning to the Upper Range Light one night in early November, Roy Lukes could smell cigarette smoke in the house. Roy was not a smoker so he knew someone had been in the house. When he went upstairs to the lantern room, he found the Fresnel lens had been removed. The Lower Range Light lens was also removed. The original Fresnel lens for the Lower Range Light is at the Maritime Museum in Manitowoc but the Upper Range Light lens has not been located. The directional light and panel served as the navigational aid from 1969 until 2015 when the range lights were re-lit.*
- *Varying degrees of a boardwalk existed between the range lights over the years, making the keeper's job of servicing both range lights more difficult than it would be today. The current range light boardwalk was constructed in 2022 to replace the one built in the early 1990's. The new boardwalk is ADA compliant and was constructed by The Ridges volunteers. Trees along the boardwalk were taken down in 2023 to maintain the required 50 foot wide range line.*
- While of interest to the general public, the use of the library box is explained at Eagle Bluff Lighthouse and does not need to be explained during a trolley tour. *The library box was delivered by the Lighthouse Service supply ship, known as the lighthouse tender. The tender delivered supplies such as fuel for the lights, paint for the building and a ration of food for the light keeper several times a year. The next supply ship that came to the range lights would take away this library box and deliver another box with all new books. This library box would then be delivered to the next lighthouse on the tender's route. The serial number on the library box allowed it to be tracked as it was transported from lighthouse to lighthouse. For remote lighthouses, the delivery of the library box was much anticipated as it was one of the few links with civilization. The library box contained recently published literature and school books, such as readers and math books, as many of the light keeper's children were home schooled. Wives of the lighthouse keepers were known to slip recipes in the library box to share with others.*
- *There is a trap door in the floor in front of the sofa which is mostly covered by the area rug. It was used to inspect the cistern in the basement. Water was collected from the roof*

*and directed to the cistern so it could be used for chores such as washing and laundry, but not drinking. The cistern was inspected occasionally to see how much water it contained, but the light keepers likely also found floating debris and possibly animal carcasses. Drinking water would have been hauled up from Lake Michigan before the well was installed in 1884. One of the cistern walls was partially removed when central heating was installed in the 1970's. Roy Lukes was still burning wood in the stoves when he lived in the range light. Charlotte agreed to marry Roy in 1972 on the condition that central heating be installed in the house. It was necessary to knock down a wall of the cistern when the boiler and associated piping were installed.*

### Talking Points for the Dining Room and Kitchen

- According to the original floor plan, this room was supposed to be a kitchen as evidenced by the pantry in the corner.
- The original floor plan identifies today's modern kitchen as a wood shed which would have provided a ready supply of firewood for the four woodstoves in the parlor, dining room, upstairs bedroom and modern kitchen. A modern kitchen with running water and appliances was put in by the ministers of the Lutheran church after electricity was installed in the house. *We do not know if the room was ever used as a wood shed or when lighthouse keepers converted the room to a kitchen.*
- Point out the metal plate on the chimney wall indicating where the wood stove would have been. The register in the ceiling above the wood stove allowed heat to rise to the upstairs bedroom. You will see the register in the bedroom floor when you go upstairs.
- Use the wooden relief map hanging on the wall next to the hutch to explain the Niagara Escarpment and why the tip of the peninsula is known as *Porte des Morts* or 'Door of Death' from which Door County got its name.
- *Both of the range light buildings, which are over 150 years old, are structurally in good condition. The floor plans tell us there has been no major remodeling over the years. The rooms have not been divided, and there have been no additions built onto the house. The only major change was removal of the cistern wall in the basement. The glass in the window panes, wood trim and floors are original.*
- *All of the floors in the house, except for the kitchen floor, were refinished in May 2021. The kitchen floor was re-finished in the spring of 2023. The narrow floor boards in the house are maple and the wide boards are pine.*
- *All of the furniture in the house was donated and is not original to the light keepers.*

### Going Upstairs

- Ask people to be careful on the steps as they are steep.
- Remind tall people to watch their head due to low clearance. People may need to remove back packs or baby carriers.
- *The stair case is original to the house.*

### Talking Points for the Upstairs Bedroom

- This bedroom could have been used by the light keeper's children, guests or lighthouse employees, such as workers sent to do major repairs or maintenance, or the inspector who came at least once a year.
- The Fresnel lenses on display are on loan from the U.S. Coast Guard. The wide center lens magnifies most of the light while the prisms bend the remaining stray light that is not captured by the center lens. These 6<sup>th</sup> order lenses send out light about 4 miles and were commonly used as harbor lights. *A fifth order lens was used in the Upper Range Light. The lens in the Lower Range Light was originally a steamer lens that was later changed to a sixth order lens. Modern pressed lenses, such as the one in the lantern room, function in the same manner as the original lenses on display.*
- The floor register allows heat to rise from the wood stove on the first floor.
- Pictures on the wall by the door show that windows in the side room and attic (front of the house) were added sometime after the 1880's. We have not been able to find documentation regarding this modification. *The records may have been destroyed in a fire at the National Archives. The windows may have been added to provide light and ventilation for additional living space, such as allowing the side room to be used as a bedroom.*
- *A number of stick pins were found between the floor boards of the side room during restoration. Hence the sewing machine in the side room.*
- *Visitors are not allowed in the side room or attic. The bedroom closet door should be locked if used by resident docents.*

### Talking Points for the Lantern Room

- Because the lantern room is small, suggest that only 2 or 3 persons at a time climb the stairs to the room.
- The vents on the walls provided air to support the flame when lard or kerosene was burned. The exhaust air was vented through the chimney above the light.
- *You will see a small window above the red triangle on the back side of the Lower Range Light. This allowed the light keeper to check that the lower light was burning without walking down to the building.*
- *There has been conflicting information regarding how often lighthouse keepers added fuel to the light. It is often said that the fuel needed to be replenished every 2-4 hours, depending on the type of fuel burned. Recent information suggests that the fuel canister was sized so the fuel lasted most, if not all, of the night. The main job of the lighthouse keeper was to adjust the air flowing into the lantern room to achieve the maximum flame possible and to trim the wicks. This led to lighthouse keepers being called "wickies".*

## Exit

- Thank people for stopping by the range light.
- Answer any questions they may have.
- Have people exit through the front door.

## **D. Information on the Range Light Exterior and the Range Light Station**

The following information relates to the buildings that comprise the lighthouse station and includes information regarding restoration of the Upper Range Light exterior. This information normally isn't covered during a tour; however, you may find it useful in answering questions, especially from lighthouse enthusiasts.

- The red metal roof was put on in 2017 when the asphalt roof was torn off. The original roof was cedar shake stained red. Due to maintenance concerns, the Ridges decided to put on a metal roof rather than cedar shake. Permission to install the metal roof was obtained from the Wisconsin Historical Society as the Upper Range Light is on the Register of Historic Places. The color is strikingly bright which makes the range lights visible from the water. Remember that when the range lights were built, trees in Door County were being clear cut so the buildings would have been much more visible from the water.
- The exterior colors were selected based on historic photos and a description of the colors found in period inspection reports. The exterior characteristics of a lighthouse are known as its "day mark". The building design and exterior colors identify these specific structures as the Baileys Harbor Range Lights.
- At night the red and white lights are used to guide ships into Baileys Harbor. During the day the ships line up the red roof on the Lower Range Light with the red roof and red triangle above the lantern room of the Upper Range Light to stay on range.
- People often ask if the kitchen was built onto the house at a later date. It was not.
- People often comment on how well the Upper Range Light was constructed. Early lighthouses, such as the original Pottawatomie Lighthouse on Rock Island built in 1837, often fell in disrepair because the mortar failed. The Lighthouse Service eventually hired construction crews whose sole purpose was to build lighthouses, privies and oil houses on the Great Lakes. The quality of their work was exceptional as evidenced by their craftsmanship and how well the buildings have held up over the years.
- The shed behind the range light was built in the early 2000's on the site of a shed that was once part of the range light station. Due to a traffic accident in 2025, two of the four walls were re-built and the metal roof originally installed in 2017 was saved.
- The 2 hole privy is original to the range light station. The privy door should be open during tour hours but keep a rope across the doorway so no one attempts to use it.
- The oil house is original to the range light station and was built in 1896. Before the oil house was built, the lard and kerosene fuel were stored in the small room to the right of the front door of the range light - today the bathroom. The lard was replaced with

kerosene in 1880 and so kerosene was stored in the house for 16 years before the oil house was built. The door of the oil house is made of steel and is a reproduction manufactured in 2022 to replace the original steel door that was warped and rusted. While the door is new, the door hardware is original. Please keep the door closed because it partially blocks the trail when open, creating a hazard for visitors walking the trail.

- The two survey markers located near the vegetable garden and near the picnic table by the boardwalk were used in the 1940's to determine the Wisconsin/Michigan state lines in Lake Michigan. Information on the markers is in the white 3-ring binder kept in the ice box in the kitchen.