

REPORTER



Bay Lake Lodge

The Ridgeway Tradition Continues



Virginia and Ridge—1954

“It's just always been one of my favorite places to be with my family and friends. When you're with the same group of friends every year over a span of 50-plus years, they become family too. Now, my kids and grandkids are continuing that tradition.”

Virginia Ridgeway
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

When Virginia and Dr. Elmer “Ridge” Ridgeway vacationed together at Ruttger's for the first time in 1954, little did they know the tradition they were starting. The Ridgeways and their two children, Ginger and Linda, were one of several families who would venture north to escape the Oklahoma heat for a couple of weeks every summer. In fact, there were so many families from Oklahoma that they commandeered their own dock and aptly named it “The Oklahoma Dock.” The men in the group created the “cocktail circle” where after coming off the beach and getting cleaned up for the evening, everyone would gather for cocktails in front of their cabins before dinner in the lodge. (Alcohol was not served at the resort until the late 1970s.)

After the Ridgeway daughters went off to college in the late 1960s, Virginia and Ridge continued their annual trip to Ruttger's with their own friends. Beginning in 1979, daughters Linda and Ginger had families of their own, and the Ridgeway tradition now included the Felton and McCombs families.

The Feltons and McCombs weren't able to come every year, but Virginia and Ridge still did, making new friends along the way—the Johnsons, McDaniels, Marshes, Tyras, Perrines, Brewsters, Reuters, and Perrys, just to name a few. With these newfound friends, the old tradition of the cocktail circle was carried on, and a new tradition emerged—a huge gin rummy game after dinner involving upwards of 20 people including long-time dining room hostess, Ruby.

In later years, the Ridgeways continued their summer tradition at Ruttger's missing only a few summers when they vacationed internationally or were unable to travel due to illness. In 2001, Linda and daughter Beth and her family, son Richard and his wife, and daughter Ginny returned after a long hiatus. With them, they brought a bench given and dedicated to Virginia and Ridge in honor of their 58th wedding anniversary that year. That bench sits in front of Cabin 630, the Ridgeways' cabin. Unfortunately, Virginia and Ridge were unable to make the trip that year due to illness, but thereafter,



Virginia Ridgeway with the Felton and Harkins Families—2010

they continued their annual two-week, late summer trip when good health allowed.



Virginia—2010

“I just love sitting on the beach and reading my book. There's just nothing like it—it's so peaceful.”

In 2006, Ridge passed away, but the Ridgeway tradition continues. Grandchildren Beth and Richard started bringing their families to Ruttger's in 2004 (the Harkins and the Feltons). Since 2007, Virginia has joined them along with daughter Linda and granddaughter Ginny—a total of 15 in all. Virginia still stays in Cabin 630, a cabin she shared beginning over 30 years ago with Ridge. The bench continues to be updated with family names, and the family still gathers for the cocktail circle after a day of golf, fishing, swimming, and fun at the beach.

“While Ruttger's has changed from the early 1950s (cabins, lodge, grounds, new buildings, etc.), some things have always remained the same—the traditions, friends, family, and the atmosphere of Ruttger's. That's what makes this place so special. When we return, we just settle right in and pick up where we left off from our last trip. We always feel right at home at Ruttger's.”

The Ridgeway, Felton, and Harkins Families

For more on the story, visit ruttgers.com.

IN THIS ISSUE...



GOLF



SCRAPBOOK



DISC GOLF



Power Golf Package

Ruttger's 2011 Power Golf Package includes unlimited golf on Alec's Nine and The Lakes 18-hole championship course. Package also includes cart, lodging, breakfast and dinner daily, range balls, and a complimentary drink coupon.

Rates are per adult (18 years of age and older), per night, double occupancy, plus tax. Single occupancy rates are available. Rates vary by season. Call 800.450.4545 or visit ruttgers.com for rate information. 10% discount for weekday stays and seniors age 55+!

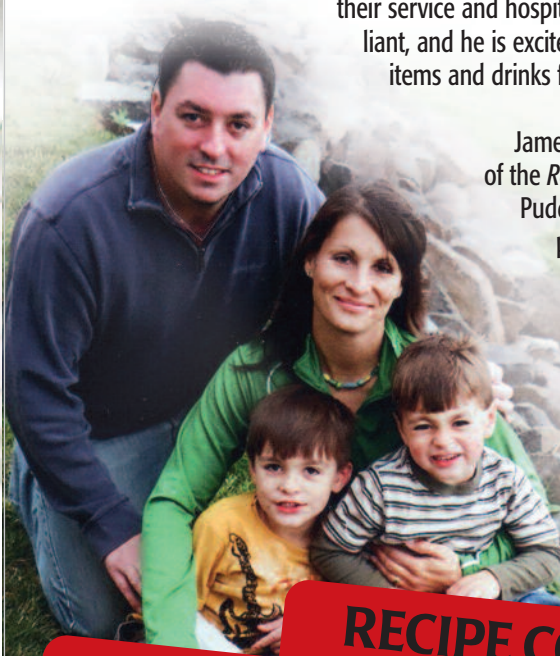
OWN A BAY LAKE VILLA

Own an income-producing, 2100-square-foot villa at Ruttger's that provides three weeks of vacation time annually. Call us or email chris@ruttgers.com for more information.

New Food and Beverage Director

James Taylor joined our staff last June as food and beverage director. Born and raised in Southampton, England, James is our resident Brit here at Ruttger's. While attending Highbury College in Portsmouth, England, he completed a hospitality management internship at Grand View Lodge in Nisswa, Minnesota. He enjoyed his internship so much that he returned after graduation and was employed by Grand View Lodge from 1999 until 2005. James has since worked as a general manager of two restaurants and most recently was the food and beverage director at Chase On The Lake Resort in Walker, Minnesota. James and his wife, Sara, have two sons, Haddon and Finnley.

James was recently quoted, "I have had a smashing experience, and all is tickety-boo so far. Guests always have a jolly good time at Ruttger's, and Ruttger's really takes the biscuit for service and hospitality. The nosh is ace, and I am excited to gen up more items and pub offerings." Translation: James has had a great time so far. He knows guests always have a wonderful time at Ruttger's because of their service and hospitality that cannot be matched. The food is brilliant, and he is excited to keep introducing more amazing menu items and drinks for guests to enjoy.



James has submitted two simple recipes in this issue of the *Reporter* that remind him of home. The Yorkshire Puddings remind him of Sunday roasts where lamb, potatoes, parsnips, carrots, Brussels sprouts and Yorkshire puddings were all served with a wonderful gravy poured over the top.

The Sherry Trifle reminds James of his grandmother and afternoon tea in her garden.

RECIPE CORNER

SHERRY TRIFLE

Recipe from Food and Beverage Director James Taylor

- 1 large package vanilla pudding mix (regular or instant)
- Sponge cake or pound cake (from mix or ready-made)
- ¼ to ½ cup sherry

- 2 10-ounce packages frozen strawberries in syrup
- 2 pints fresh raspberries
- 2 cups whipped cream or Cool Whip
- Mint sprigs (optional)

Prepare pudding according to package directions. Chill 1 hour (if not instant). Slice cake into ½-inch slices. Soak lightly with sherry. Arrange half of cake slices in single layer in trifle dish or glass bowl. Arrange half of the fruit artfully around sides and in center. Pour half of pudding over the fruit. Spoon half of whipped cream over the pudding. Repeat layers. Top with more fresh fruit and mint sprigs. Serves 6 to 8.

RECIPE CORNER

YORKSHIRE PUDDINGS

Recipe from Food and Beverage Director James Taylor

- ¾ cup flour
- Pinch of salt
- 2 eggs

- 9 ounces milk
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil or good beef drippings, if available

Sift flour and salt into bowl. Make a well in the center and break eggs into it. Beat eggs with wooden spoon, gradually drawing in more flour to the center. Beat in the milk little by little until the batter is smooth. Let set for 30 minutes. Preheat oven to 400°. Heat oil or beef drippings until very hot in six-cup heavy muffin tin or popover pan. Pour in the batter. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes or until the puddings have risen and are golden. Makes 6 puddings.

Vacation Packages

Fishing Package

Opening - October 20

Bird Watchers Special

Opening - June 9 and
September 5 - October 20

Girlfriends Getaway

May 9 - June 9 and
September 5 - October 20

Mother's Day

May 6 - 8

KIDS STAY FREE!

Memorial Day

May 27 - 30

KIDS STAY FREE!

Father's Day

June 17 - 19

KIDS STAY FREE!

Summer Escape

June 26 - 30 and
July 5 - 10

KIDS STAY FREE!

Fourth of July

July 1 - 5

Family Value Days

July 10 - 17

KIDS STAY FREE!

NEW!

Wine & Jazz Weekend

August 19 - 21

Labor Day

September 2 - 5

KIDS STAY FREE!

Oktoberfest

October 20 - 23

For more information on our vacation packages, go to ruttgers.com. Can't find the vacation that's right for you? We can help! Our vacation specialists can help plan your ideal vacation, family reunion, friends getaway, or group golf outing. They'll help you create the perfect package made just for you!

ONLINE SPECIALS

Go to ruttgers.com for the latest deals and to sign up for email news and updates.



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Image by VADA Photography

"Ruttger's was THE place to have our daughter and son-in-law's wedding as we have been vacationing at the resort for 27 years. The rehearsal dinner was at Zig's the evening before the big day. The food was great, and sitting out on the patio overlooking the 18th hole provided great ambiance. The day of the wedding could not have gone better. The outdoor setting at Sunset Lawn, framed between two trees with an amazing lake view in the background, made for a sweet, romantic ceremony. The pontoon ride afterwards was such a unique alternative to a limo. The beautiful weather Ruttger's arranged for us also helped! The reception room was like a wonderland, and the food was spectacular. Playing bingo at the reception (a Ruttger's vacation tradition) was something that surprised everyone, adding to the fun. We can't thank you enough for making another great Ruttger's memory for our family."

Kathy Kaiser
White Bear Lake, Minnesota



"The weekend was awesome! As usual, your staff was top notch and really helped the weekend go smoothly. The crowning piece was renting two pontoons for a Saturday afternoon cruise—it was spectacular!"

Tim Benz
Immaculate Heart of Mary Golf Group
Minnetonka, Minnesota



"Celebrating my granddaughter Ruthann's 30th birthday at Ruttger's was a summer highlight for me. As usual, the hospitality of the Ruttger's staff was super, the food delicious, and the atmosphere wonderful. As we always say, Ruttger's is our 'happy place.' Thank you, once again."

Monica Walsh Osterbauer and Family
Willmar, Minnesota



"Enclosed is a partial group photo of your loyal supporters (some members were in Tokyo). Our affection for Ruttger's goes back to the 1920s when my mother's family owned the Shannon Inn in Deerwood. When the Inn closed, Mother's family (the Bolducs) sold the boats and furniture to Ruttger's. My mother, Cecelia Bolduc, worked as a waitress at your resort in the 1920s and has regaled us over the years with her happy memories. Since those days, succeeding generations have made many pilgrimages to Bay Lake and have their own happy memories. The photo shows the Mary Miller family gleefully gathered on the deck eagerly awaiting the mouth-watering dinner they are about to enjoy! Our family total for next spring will be about 32—getting bigger all the time. We look forward to our visit to Ruttger's all year!"

Mary Miller
Mahtomedi, Minnesota

VISIT US AT ruttgers.com

CA



"Fourteen years and wonderful as ever. How fast the time goes. Thank you for such great memories!"
Pat and Joyce Hurley and Family
 St. Paul, Minnesota



"I just wanted to thank everyone at Ruttger's for the fabulous girls' weekend. This was our second annual girls' weekend. Everyone was impressed **AGAIN** by the hospitality of everyone at Ruttger's. All of the staff were just wonderful and always took care of us whether it was checking in, dining at the restaurant, playing on the golf course, shopping at the store, etc. Wherever we went and whatever we did, we **ALL** felt completely taken care of. We loved our villa as well. It's perfect for our large group. Planning a trip for 14 girls could NOT have been any easier, and we couldn't have enjoyed ourselves more! We look forward to seeing all of our friends again next year and for many years to come! Thanks, again, for a terrific weekend!"
Renee Range
 Andover, Minnesota



"Oh, what a glorious time we had at your resort last summer. The kids came from Arizona, Colorado, and various parts of Minnesota to relax, play, enjoy great meals, and have fun. All the Boylan kids and grandkids joined the Miller cousins totaling 35 in all. We have already booked for next summer and hope everyone can make it. Looking forward to seeing you soon."
Judy Boylan & Family
 Minneapolis, Minnesota



"The Coady tennis group has been coming to Ruttger's for the last seven years. Ruttger's is a special place for our group. We come for the wonderful time spent there and in honor of our beloved friend, Marilyn Coady. We held the first annual Coady tennis tournament, and Rita Welch and Sally Enstrom swung their way to victory. Pictured left to right, bottom row: Susan Rosenberger, Rita Welch, Ginny Morse, Joanne Schmid; middle row: Erlene Herr, Sharon Engel, Linda Shermock, Libby Hargrove, Lois Kukuk, Bonnie Bolton, Jane Tischbein; top row: Sally Enstrom, Joan Kruse."
Linda Shermock
 Chaska, Minnesota



"The WOW group (Widows and Widowers) thank you for a most enjoyable time at Ruttger's again this year. Our golfers always look forward to this yearly outing in anticipation of experiencing your gracious hospitality and exceptional meals."
Edwin Koran
 Oakdale, Minnesota



**SEND YOUR
 VACATION PHOTO!**

Mail to:
 Joanne Ruttger
 Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge
 P.O. Box 400
 Deerwood, MN 56444
 email to: joanne@ruttgers.com

Thanks to all of you who have shared your photos with the Ruttger family and their guests. Watch for more family photos in the next Reporter.

Dear Guest,

On the cover of this issue of the *Reporter* you can read about the Ridgeway family's long history at Ruttger's. On the scrapbook pages are photos of more guests, some new and some who have vacationed here for many years. History makes this place more than just a resort.

We think it is important to celebrate that history and learn from it. In fact, did you know there is even a Ruttger Resorts collection at the Minnesota Historical Society? It includes photos, documents, guest registers and artifacts from all the Ruttger resorts. They also have the Joseph and Josephine Ruttger Descendants Fund to support projects related to the history of Minnesota's tourism industry. The fund has provided resources for two books published by the Minnesota Historical Society Press—*Wildflowers of the Boundary Waters: Hiking through the Seasons* by Betty Vos Hemstad, and *Minnesota Vacation Days* by Kathryn Strand Koutsky and Linda Koutsky.

Retail Mania!

Excitement is starting to build at "The Shops at Ruttger's" as our 2011 merchandise is starting to arrive. Look for the best selection of jewelry and accessories that we have ever carried in the Country Store as well as more home décor items that are sure to complement your home. And let's not forget about our tried and true clothing lines such as Tribal and Nomadic Traders that keep everyone coming back.

We've added some exciting new lines this year too. Our toy and children's book departments in The Garage are expanding every year, and we're excited to showcase more and more unique items for your children. Be sure to stop in at Auntie M's for the best coffee and treats in the area.

We are anticipating a wonderful year and are looking forward to continuing some of our annual events such as Girls' Night Out and, of course, Oktoberfest! Ladies, be sure to mark your calendars for our fifth annual Girls' Night Out on Friday, June 24, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. This year we are going with a beach party theme, so dust off those swimsuits and come enjoy some long overdue "fun in the sun" while taking advantage of wonderful discounts at all of our shops.

Gretchen Bombenger
Retail Director

The Descendants Fund and Ruttger's are providing support and funding for an upcoming event at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul on May 10. As part of the Seniors in Mind Series, the *Minnesota Vacation Days* authors, singer Charlie Maguire, and *On the Road* host Jason Davis will offer a historical look at vacation getaways of past decades. Go to minnesotahistorycenter.org for more information. Hope to see you there.

Yours for a Ruttger's vacation,

Chris



CONFERENCE CORNER

Research studies over the past two years have shown the value of off-site meetings for promoting creativity, productivity, and building a stronger team. Many organizations have commented about how many new ideas and business relationships have been formed over evening bonfires at the resort.

Last year we had the opportunity to work with many of our meeting planners on more organized teambuilding events. With the help of our activities director, Krisann Gray, and director of human resources, Lisa Hunt, we were able to custom design teambuilding events to meet the needs of their groups. Based on meeting planner feedback, some of the favorite events were Minute to Win It, Amazing Race, and Iron Chef.

One of the advantages of having talented professionals such as Krisann and Lisa in-house is the cost savings afforded the group when they don't have to bring in a third-party vendor. Our teambuilding events team has the expertise, resources, and familiarity with the resort to choreograph everything from a 15-minute program to a four-hour event. To keep our teambuilding fresh and offer new events to our meeting planners, we have added our golf professional, Greg Snow, to the teambuilding events team. Greg and Krisann are ready to organize a disc golf tournament or the very popular night glow golf on Alec's Nine. Our executive chef, Terry Dox, and his assistant, Carole Matteson, had the opportunity to work with the Iron Chef competition last season, and they are looking forward to more culinary teambuilding events in 2011.

If you would like more information about these exciting teambuilding events, please contact Sue Maroney-Smith, Brynna BonGiovanni, or Renee Larson. We are looking forward to another exciting year of helping your group reach its team goal!

“

The Association of Women Contractors Retreat at Ruttger's was a great success. I appreciated all the personal attention that was dedicated to this program. It is always impressive when the property owner greets participants, but Chris was even running errands! A big thank you to Chefs Terry and Carole for the excellent Rebar Chef Challenge. Thanks for a wonderful weekend!

Karen Mason
The Travel Concern
Minneapolis, Minnesota

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Disc Golf Has Arrived!

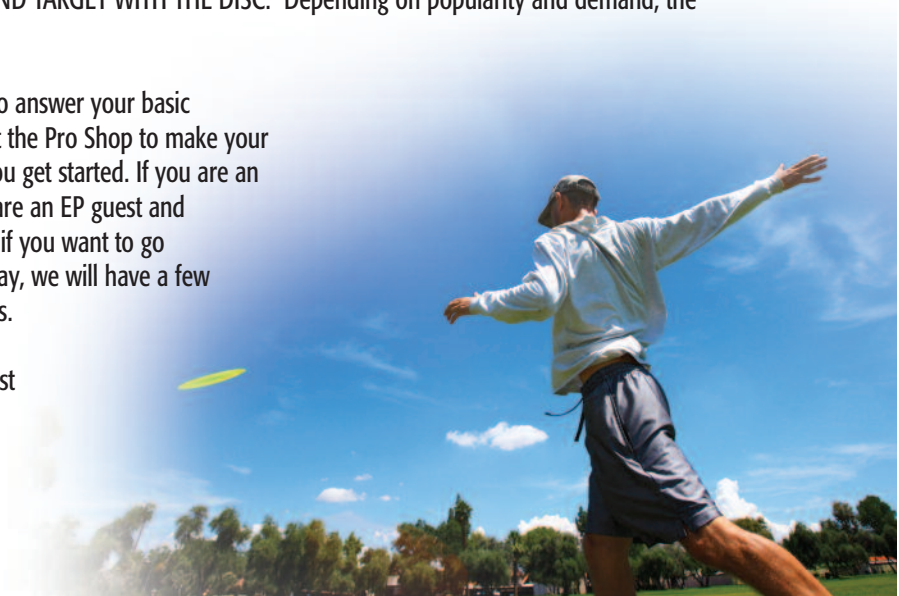
We are excited to announce that we will be offering disc golf for our resort guests this year! The plan was developed years ago by Krisann Gray, our activities director, but was put on hold to be revisited at a future date. Well, that future date has arrived, and we have decided to take the approach of "let's get it started and see where the path takes us."

Here is the plan: We have decided to use Alec's Nine as our baseline. Starting points (tee boxes) and par will be mapped out, and the goal for each of the nine holes will be to hit the flagstick on each green. Now we realize that this isn't your traditional metal basket that you see at the big-time disc courses, but the end result is the same—YOU TRY TO HIT THE END TARGET WITH THE DISC. Depending on popularity and demand, the traditional metal baskets may be added in the future.

Operating procedure: The activities staff at the lodge will be able to answer your basic questions about the course. When you are ready to play, just contact the Pro Shop to make your tee time. When you arrive, we'll give you your scorecard and help you get started. If you are an MAP guest and you bring your own discs, there is no charge. If you are an EP guest and would like to try the disc course, it will cost \$3 for nine holes and \$5 if you want to go around twice. If you do not have your own discs but would like to play, we will have a few disc packs on hand for rent. Cost is \$4 for 9 holes and \$6 for 18 holes.

We are very excited to be adding this amenity to our facility. It's just one more fun activity you can take advantage of when you visit Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge!

Greg Snow
Golf Professional



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