

The Ring Lake Carillon

Ring Lake Ranch • Dubois, Wyoming Spring 2012

An ecumenical retreat center • “renewal in a sacred wilderness”

“No synonym for God is so perfect as Beauty. Whether as seen carving the lines of the mountains with glaciers, or gathering matter into stars, or planning the movement of water, or gardening—still all is Beauty!”

• John Muir

Diverse Programs, Diverse Experiences at Ring Lake Ranch

by Andy Blackmun

As I came home from Ring Lake Ranch at the end of the season last year, I turned my attention to the list of seminars for 2012. I inherited this roster of great sessions from Carl and the previous year’s Program Committee, so I knew little about the conversations behind the scenes that had developed the session descriptions. I decided that I needed to spend some time with whatever materials the session speakers had to offer. After several weeks of this ‘work’ – a misleading term for what was really the chance to read, watch movies, and listen to music – I marveled at the range of materials to which these sessions led me. I read *Broken: A Love Story*, Lisa Jones’s memoir of her friendship with Stanford Addison, a quadriplegic Arapahoe Indian healer, *Rising From The Plains*, John McPhee’s fascinating book on the geology of Wyoming that Doug Melius recommended for his session, and Nadia Bolz-Weber’s *Salvation On The Small Screen*, her account of enduring a 24-hour marathon of the TBN televangelism channel. I listened to Carrie Newcomer’s latest album, *Everything is Everywhere*, a collaboration with the famed Indian sarod players of the Khan family. I watched a couple episodes of Krzysztof Kieslowski’s *The Deca-*

logue,” a series of hour-long movies that each explores one of the Ten Commandments.

This great variety of session topics and resources did not develop by chance. Several years ago, the Board of Directors decided to pursue intentionally sessions in at least four different areas each summer: the natural world, spirituality, arts and media, and the Bible. If you look through this year’s sessions, you will find all of these topics. Some sessions this summer are distinct to a specific area, like “Reclaiming Our Spiritual Anchors,” while others, such as sessions on “The Bible in Public Spaces” and “Balancing Head and Heart through Midrash” will draw from several of these areas of interest.

One motivation for this variety of programming is related to sustaining Ring Lake Ranch. We want the Ranch programming to appeal to a wide spectrum of interests to attract new guests who will then talk about their experiences back at home, invite others and ensure that Ring Lake Ranch can continue to operate for many more years. Our deeper motivation, however, is connected to our mission of offering “renewal in a sacred wilderness.” The experience of renewal is unique to each person who comes to the



Ranch. Some guests are invigorated by hikes to Lake Louise or riding horses along Twilight Trail. Others are stimulated by the evening seminars and the deep conversations encouraged by those sessions. Still others find rest in sitting on the porch of their cabin, reading a long-neglected book and listening to the wind blow through the limber pines. The range of our session topics is an expression of our understanding that we all need different things to experience rest and renewal.

To my mind, the element that underlies and unifies the Ranch programming and experience is the wilderness setting. The outdoor environment encourages a spe-

cial, powerful movement back and forth between one’s inner spirit and the natural wonders of the external setting around the Ranch. The seminars we offer frequently play into this interaction of mind and body. There are many vacation destinations that offer a multitude of activities to keep people busy. One can also find venues for intellectual stimulation. There are precious few places, however, that draw together the conversations, natural beauty, activities and time for deep soul reflection that are possible at Ring Lake Ranch. We invite you to join us at Ring Lake Ranch and discover your own renewal among all that we offer.



Our New Board Members

In December 2011, Ed Everding and Nate Bachtell completed their terms as members of the Ring Lake Ranch Board of Directors. Both Ed and Nate have been involved with Ring Lake Ranch for many years, so while we will miss their presence on the Board, we know they will continue to support the Ranch. In addition, Katherine Turpin resigned from the Board in August when her husband, Andy Blackmun, began work as Director. Many thanks to all of them for everything they have given to the Ring Lake Ranch community.

The Board met in January and approved the addition of two new Board members. We are pleased to welcome them:

Julie Mavity Maddalena first came to the Ranch as a new UCC clergy in 2007. She found

deep joy and renewal in the sacredness, hospitality, and fellowship of the RLR experience for herself and her family. She has returned to the Ranch whenever possible and is eager to serve such a life-giving place and mission. She served on the staff at First Plymouth UCC in Ft Collins, CO for 3 years and is currently pursuing her doctorate in Religious Studies at Southern Methodist University.

Jerry Campbell has come to the Ranch several times, both as a guest and a session leader. He is currently the President of Claremont School of Theology. He served as head librarian for the University of Southern California and Duke University, as well as Perkins School of Theology and the Iliff School of Theology. He is an ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church.

2012 Staff Update

Connie Wood and **Karen Marshall** are returning to the Ranch kitchen, Connie for her second year with us, Karen for her fifth! Anyone who tasted their cooking last summer – or talked with them during meals - knows why we are happy to have them back.

Ben Verheul continues to do a great job as Facilities Manager. His major project this winter has been replacing the floor of the Living Room, after he discovered that the plywood subfloor had started to fail. Since Ben is doing the work, much of the rest of the Living Room will also get cleaned and polished before he's done.

Amanda Verheul moves into her second year as Business Manager. She has done a great job keeping up with finances and guest registrations in the off-season. She will also be running the Gift Shop this summer, so be sure to stop by during your visit and see what she has put together.

Leah Vader returns as hike leader and housekeeper for a second summer. She will complete another round of eagle-watching in Arizona just in time to come to Ring Lake and regale us with her adventures and help us find our own on the trails around the Ranch.

Gary Ransom comes back for a third summer as wrangler. We welcome his wisdom and gentle spirit. Gary lives in Dubois, so he and Ben have been looking around for new horses to add to the herd. Several of our older horses are being kept in Dubois and getting extra attention from Ben and his father. By all reports, Tosi, Red, Diamond, Snowman and Rusty all look better than they ever have. The rest of the herd is happily munching on winter pasture in Riverton.

We will be hiring a Head Wrangler, another wrangler and a part-time cook to fill out our summer staff roster. Look for names in an upcoming e-newsletter.

I will be taking on my first summer as Director, while my wife and children look forward to playing Host Family (our term for their not-guest, not-staff status) for all of our guests. I appreciate all of the support I have received from the staff, the Board, and our guests and I look forward to welcoming everyone this summer.

The Ring Lake Ranch Carillon

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Ring Lake Ranch

Designed by

Roderick Robertson

Selected photographs by

Roderick Robertson, Lida Hill,
Scott Copeland, Katherine Turpin,
Terri Schulz

RLR Board of Directors

Terri Schulz, *President*

David Cramp, *Vice-President*

Sean Roche, *Vice-President*

Kathy Leithner, *Secretary*

Gerry Balboni, *Treasurer*

Jerry Campbell, Judith Plows, Bill
Brown, Julie Mavity Maddalena

Session Enrollment

Our sessions with Belden Lane and Doug Melius are almost full. Other sessions still have space. Stay for two weeks at a discounted rate!



RING OF FRIENDS

Ring Lake Ranch is led by our Board of Directors and our staff, but it is sustained by the generosity of people all across the country who support our mission of “Renewal in Sacred Wilderness.” Our supporters play many roles and contribute in a variety of ways. We thank you all. In the spring Carillon, we specifically recognize and thank our financial donors for 2011:

HEF indicates a gift in honor of Henry Everding to the Henry Everding Memorial Fund, which supports the horse program.

In the fall Carillon, we thanked the family and friends of Don Bachtell who contributed to the Ranch in his memory. Gifts in memory of Don that were offered since the publication of the fall Carillon are noted here. We thank all of these donors for their generosity.

We apologize if any gifts were misstated or left out. Please let us know if any information is incorrect. Thanks again to all of our donors!

Ross Lake Donors (>\$5000)

Anonymous

Lake Louise Donors (\$1001-\$5000)

Ed & Lee Everding HEF

Joyce Heil & Carl Koch

Anonymous

to honor all who have been

or are staff members at RLR

Gene & Charky Tucker

in memory of Don Bachtell

Ring Lake Donors (\$501-\$1000)

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in honor of Carl & Joyce

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in memory of Don Bachtell

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in honor of all board members

Norman & Patricia Merz

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Claire Peterman HEF

Jude & Alex Rakowski

Allan, Carla, Karen

& John Townsend

Jack & Marilyn Carlson

in memory of Don Bachtell

Inge Trump HEF

Ted Adams

Annette Bishop

in memory of her many

hospice patients

Thomas C. Lanford Jr.

in memory of Emmie Mears

Webb

Dennis & Mary O'Flyng

Penny Pope

to honor Carl & Joyce

Jim & Sue Roberts

Phillip & Gayle O'Hare

Grayson Gowen

in memory of

Barbara Salfisberg

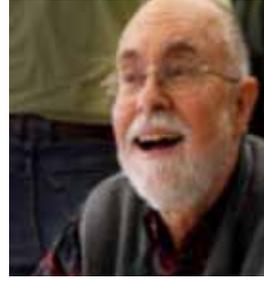
Special thanks also for the generous gifts of Sean Roche for our website, Roderick Robertson for design of the Carillon, and Cardinal Solutions, for the donation of a laptop computer to the Ranch office.

The Wonder of Ring Lake Ranch

By Bill Brown, RLR Board

Belden Lane describes the Christ-haunted landscapes of mountains and deserts in his work *The Solace of Fierce Landscapes*. Ring Lake Ranch ranks right up there, in my opinion. The place can be fierce sometimes in the summer: sun, wind, mosquitoes. But Ring Lake also offers many wellsprings of solace and vistas of wonder. Its petroglyphs bear witness to Ring Lake's holy spaciousness, a spaciousness perfectly suited for wandering and wondering. Its trails, both leisurely and challenging, are pilgrimages of contemplation and abiding astonishment. Bighorn sheep, elk, and mule deer roam freely above the Ranch, while ospreys and eagles glide effortlessly over the lakes. Oh, and watch out for the occasional thunderstorm! Welcome to the wild, raging beauty of God's creation, which can be witnessed from the comfort of a sturdy cabin or on a steady horse or in a canoe or on venturesome feet. Ring Lake is a wonderland, a sanctuary for those wondering what to do with their wild and precious lives. May Ring Lake continue to be a haven for wonderers, and it can only be so through charitable contributions from guests and readers like you. Please consider making a donation today.

Ring Lake Ranch



May 28 – June 2 Volunteer Week

Every year, the Ranch relies on volunteers, both individuals and groups, to clean, do major repair and upkeep projects, open the kitchen, and anything else needed to prepare for guests. Please consider joining us for a week of work, fun, and fellowship!

NEW! Sept. 2 – Sept. 8 Renewal Week

Our friend Fred Webb decided to retire as leader of the week of fly fishing. So while a regular seminar session will not be offered this week, guests are welcome to register as individuals or in groups to come to ride, hike, fish, and enjoy the sacred time of rest and renewal offered at Ring Lake Ranch.

Contact Amanda
at

amanda@ringlake.org
or 307-455-2663 for
special rates for this week.

For more details
check our website:
www.ringlake.org

June 3-9

Lisa Jones Wind River Stories, Your Stories

In her book, *BROKEN: A Love Story*, Lisa Jones told the story of her friendship with quadriplegic Northern Arapaho traditional healer Stanford Addison. She will read from her book, which Wyoming author Alexandra Fuller called a 'beautifully-written, true spiritual adventure.' And as part of the week, she will invite participants to access their own stories, using writing prompts and techniques she has honed in her years as a teacher of memoir and personal essay. Lisa Jones has worked as a ski instructor, kayaking teacher, waitress and author. Her writing has appeared in The New York Times Magazine, High Country News, Tin House and Smithsonian. *BROKEN: A Love Story* is her first book. She lives with her husband in Boulder, Colorado.

June 17-23

Michael Brown Hearing God's Voice in the Lord's Prayer

This session will explore the richness and texture of the Lord's Prayer. We will examine how individuals throughout the ages have been moved by the Prayer's language and how we too can find the voice of God speaking to us through this seminal prayer. Michael Joseph Brown is Director of the Malcolm X Institute for Black Studies at Wabash College. He is a scholar of the New Testament and the early church and has written extensively on prayer in the early church, including *The Lord's Prayer through North African Eyes: A Window into Early Christianity*. Among his other works are *Living Together: Lessons from an Ancient Church for a Modern One*, *The Lord's Prayer and God's Vision for the World*. Dr. Brown also pastored AME churches in Chicago and Lafayette, IN.

July 15-21

Belden Lane Hiking with the Saints in Wilderness

Drawing on the insights of the Desert Christians, Bill Plotkin, and Joanna Macy, Belden Lane has made a spiritual practice of wilderness backpacking for years. On each trip he takes along the writings of one of the saints, from Rumi and Lao-tzu to John of the Cross and Merton. This session invites us to reflect on the power of place and the practice of outdoor reading in the history of spirituality. What does wilderness teach us about beauty and speechlessness, woundedness and healing? Ritual activities and short readings from the Celtic saints, Hildegard of Bingen, and others will accompany opportunities for hiking and contemplation in the mountains. Belden C. Lane is a storyteller and writer who teaches theology at Saint Louis University. His books include *The Solace of Fierce Landscapes: Exploring Desert and Mountain Spirituality* and *Ravished by Beauty: The Surprising Legacy of Reformed Spirituality*.

July 22-28

Doug Melius I Lift My Eyes to the Hills. How Did These Mountains Get Here?

Ring Lake's beautiful landscape tells us much about its history. This week will teach us the key geological questions to ask of it. Geology is about having eyes to see and a soul to wonder. We will learn where to look in order to understand how and when things happened at this place. We will start with the most obvious, the glaciers that were here yesterday (geologically speaking) and finish with the mystery that is Yellowstone. Everyone will go home more skilled at reading the unique story that every landscape tells. Doug Melius started working life as a geologist. For the last fourteen years Doug has served as senior pastor of First Presbyterian in Sheridan, Wyoming. He has led numerous geological field trips in the Wyoming and the Rocky Mountain West.

Scholarships Available

Partial scholarships are available to people needing assistance to attend programs at the Ranch. While we strive to keep the cost of attending the Ranch as affordable as possible, we do not want the cost to keep folks, especially new participants, from attending a session. Please direct your questions to or ask for our simple application from Andy Blackmun at andy@ringlake.org or phone 888.458.5253.

2012 Schedule of Programs



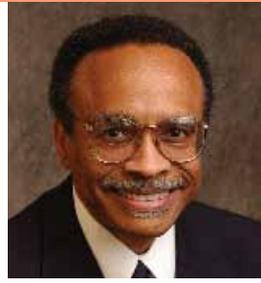
July 29-Aug. 4 Nadia Bolz-Weber A House for All Sinners & Saints

This session will be a conversation about the ways in which we do church that are cultural – pews in a row, hymnals, nice niceness, slight formality, etc. We will consider how this cultural wrapping may or may not keep people outside of church-culture from engaging with our traditions. The traditions themselves, whether liturgical or theological, have much to offer if they are allowed to take root in cultural contexts other than the mainline church. What if evangelism looked more like having strangers re-introduce us to our own traditions and less like getting strangers to come be us? **Nadia Bolz-Weber** is the founding pastor of House for All Sinners and Saints, an ELCA mission church in Denver, CO. She's a leading voice in the emerging church movement and the author of *Salvation on the Small Screen? 24 Hours of Christian Television* and the *Sarcastic Lutheran* blog.



Aug. 5-11 Carrie Newcomer & Faith Kirkham Hawkins Balancing Head and Heart through Midrash: Contemporary Creative Expression of Sacred Stories and Central Questions

This session will focus on creating new and personal story using a variety of spiritual texts. Participants will be led through a variety of experiences, including writing, journaling, visual arts and music, designed to balance mind and spirit in the way we encounter spiritual story. We will explore ways the traditional wisdom speaks to the questions we face now – personally and as a community. **Carrie Newcomer** has released twelve critically acclaimed albums on Rounder Records and facilitates workshops internationally on songwriting, creative writing, activism and spiritual vocation. She has been described as “a soaring songstress” by *Billboard* a “prairie mystic” by the *Boston Globe*. **Faith Kirkham Hawkins** is an administrator at Indiana University. From 2002 to 2007, she directed the Youth Theological Initiative, a program of theological education and engagement for high school students at Emory's Candler School of Theology. She writes fiction and non-fiction, focusing on ways in which daily life is shaped by, and shapes, our experience of the sacred.



Aug. 12-18 Luther Smith Becoming Who We Are Called To Be

Living life with a deep sense of meaning and vitality is both our challenge and opportunity. Our experiences of nurture, joy, confusion, futility, sorrow, and despair form and re-form us. Our beliefs and actions in these experiences are crucial to the emergence of our authentic self. We will focus on beliefs and practices that sustain a spirituality that fully embraces life, critically engages faith traditions, and creatively transforms our communities and self. **Luther E. Smith, Jr.** is Professor of Church and Community at the Candler School of Theology of Emory University and an ordained minister in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. Dr. Smith writes and speaks extensively on issues of church and society, interfaith cooperation, Christian spirituality, and the thought of Howard Thurman. He is the author of *Howard Thurman: The Mystic as Prophet* and *Intimacy and Mission: Intentional Community as Crucible for Radical Discipleship*



Aug. 19-25 David Petersen The Bible in Public Spaces

The Bible is most frequently seen inside churches and within religious contexts. However, the Christian Bible also figures prominently in movies, television shows, art, music, the internet, even presidential inaugurations. We will explore the role of the Bible in some of these contexts; listen to portions of Bernstein's “*Chichester Psalms*” and Copland's “*In the Beginning*”; study various artistic interpretations (e.g., Rembrandt, Chagall) of Old Testament texts; view and discuss an episode of the Polish television series, “*The Decalogue*”. What challenges and values do these “public” interpretations of biblical literature present for those in religious communities? **David L. Petersen** is Franklin N. Parker Professor of Old Testament at Emory University's Candler School of Theology. He has written and edited numerous books and articles, including *The New Interpreter's One Volume Bible Commentary* and *The Prophetic Literature: An Introduction*.



Aug. 26-Sept. 1 Carrie Doehring Reclaiming Our Spiritual Anchors

What helps us not only endure the stresses of our lives, but grow through them and become resilient? Spiritually meaningful values are like deep roots that draw nourishment from the Ground of our Being even during times of drought, and anchor us in the storms of life. These values run below the surface of our lives, hidden from view and sometimes even from us. Exploring these values help us evaluate and reclaim life-enhancing values and set aside more life-limiting values. Reflection on our values is not only personally beneficial, but enhances our spiritual intimacy when we share our reflections with partners and family members. Doing such reflections in a place of great beauty and peacefulness helps us experience how our lives are rooted in and infused with the sacredness of all life. **Carrie Doehring** is an Associate Professor of Pastoral Care at Liff school of Theology in Denver, a licensed psychologist, and an ordained Presbyterian minister. She is the author of numerous chapters and articles, and three books, including *The Practice of Pastoral Care: A Postmodern Approach*.

"A defining quality of beauty is how we feel more alive in its presence."

John O'Donahue



The Moose by Kathy Leithner

Kathy currently serves on the Board and has come as both guest and session leader to Ring Lake Ranch.

Moose sightings in Torrey Valley are legendary, but rare. Every summer we'd hear, "Some folks canoeing up the creek saw a moose cow and her calf." They'd advise, "If you see the moose, keep your distance--you don't want to get between her and her calf." I still hoped, while canoeing, to come around a curve in the creek and meet her. It didn't happen, though. Not once in twelve years. We roused up herons, followed ducks and ducklings, sighted an occasional beaver, watched an osprey pluck a trout from the lake waters, and spotted fish in the clear currents below. But no moose.

I scanned the creekside marsh every time we drove alongside it to the trailhead up the valley. Surely she'll show herself one day, I thought. This summer we often encountered bighorn sheep grazing near the natural salt lick. We stopped in the middle of the road, cameras in hand, to photograph them. But no moose.

One Thursday in late August, three of us decided to hike up the valley to Lake Louise. The trail ascends in switchbacks for awhile, then through aspen and spruce forests, over bald granite knobs, alongside the creek in places, and beside waterfalls until it ends at the glacial lake -- a perfect place to soak hot feet in icy

water (briefly!) and enjoy a packed lunch. We decided to keep silence for the ascent and pay attention to our senses: listen to the wind in the trees, the songs of birds, the roar and music of water; savor the scents of cedar and sage, the spice of aromatic herbs, the clean waft of water; behold goldenrod and asters in bloom, sun lighting the heads of grasses, animal tracks on the trail.

It had rained the night before, clearing the trail of many previously etched tracks. There were fresh tracks -- deer...and...surely those were moose. Could they be? And then, in a forest glade, suddenly Leah stopped, turned sideways, and motioned to me and Larry. Coming alongside Leah at the edge of a marsh, quietly, we saw her: the elusive moose, forty feet from us, resting at the other edge, watching us. We stood still, gazing at her. Occasionally she turned her massive head to the side, then back to us. A mutual apprehending.

Such a magnificent creature, all the more wondrous for her elusiveness, and wildness! To be with her there, face to face, was a gift.

And so, too, are the creatures in my own backyard: squirrels, rabbits, cardinals and sparrows. All beloved of God. As are you.

Volunteers at Ring Lake Ranch in 2012

Volunteering at Ring Lake Ranch is a great way to participate directly in the mission and program of the Ranch. Volunteers help in a variety of roles, including kitchen help and maintenance projects around the grounds. We have volunteers committed for many weeks of the season already, but we still have openings in the first half of July and several weeks in August. Our annual Volunteer Week, when volunteers help the staff open the Ranch, is scheduled for May 27 – June 2. If you would like to sign up for either Volunteer Week or a volunteer slot during a session week, please contact Amanda at amanda@ringlake.org or call her at 307-455-2663.

Transportation Fees for 2012

The Ranch can arrange to pick up guests from either Jackson Hole or Riverton Airport by previous arrangement. PLEASE ARRANGE YOUR FLIGHT ARRIVAL PRIOR TO 3:00 P.M. Airport transport fees for the summer: \$60 per person one way, maximum \$120 one way per family or group registered together. We want to make getting to the Ranch as convenient and inexpensive as possible. Please let us know your flight schedule well in advance.

GoodSearch & GoodShop



Ring Lake Ranch can earn a donation every time you search the Internet and shop online! Search the web with Yahoo-powered GoodSearch.com and they'll donate about a penny to the Ranch each time you search! Shop at more than 1,300 GoodShop.com merchants including Amazon, Best Buy, Toys R Us, and others, and a percentage of each purchase will go to Ring Lake Ranch!

2012 Registration

2012 RATES

All rates are per person and based on double/multiple occupancy
Includes lodging * meals * seminars * horseback riding * guided hiking * boating. No charge for children 12 & under.

Scholarships are available:
Contact Andy Blackman at andy@ringlake.org or 888-458-5253

ADULT FEES FOR 6 DAY SESSIONS

Basic lodging with shared bath\$770
Basic lodging with private bath..... \$860
Larger cabin with private bath.....\$930
Kitchenette cabin..... \$1040

YOUTH FEES FOR 6 DAY SESSIONS

Youth (ages 13 – 17).....\$590
Child (ages 12 and under)no charge

ADULT FEES FOR 2 CONSECUTIVE SESSIONS

Basic lodging with shared bath \$ 1350
Basic lodging with private bath..... \$ 1510
Larger cabin with private bath..... \$ 1620
Kitchenette cabin..... \$ 1827

YOUTH FEES FOR 2 CONSECUTIVE SESSIONS

Youth (ages 13 – 17)..... \$ 1020
Child (ages 12 and under)no charge

All fees exclude sales & lodging taxes.
Contact Amanda at amanda@ringlake.org or 307-455-2663 to inquire about daily and off-season rates. To reserve a private room, contact Amanda about additional fees & availability.

Receive a 10% discount on your session fees by bringing someone new to the Ranch with you.

Please indicate on your registration form who the new guest is. When they register, we'll record the discount. Thank you for spreading the word about Ring Lake Ranch.

Deposit:

To hold your reservations, we request a deposit of \$245/adult and \$135/youth for 6 day sessions or \$430/adult and \$185/youth for two sessions. The deposit is refundable (less a 20% handling charge) up to 60 days in advance of the session for which you have registered. After that time, the deposit is refundable (less 20%) only if we can rebook your space in the session.

No. of Registrants:

_____ Adults @ rate _____
_____ Youth (13-17) _____
_____ Children(12 & under) no charge

TOTAL (without taxes) _____

Deposit Amount _____

Session

Dates _____

Registrant Name(s) _____

Names & ages of children (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone () Work Phone ()

Cell () Email

Accommodation preference:

- Basic/shared bath Basic/private bath
 Large/private bath Kitchenette Cabin A

Roommate preference (registering separately)

- One bed? Two beds?

Is walking over steep or rough terrain difficult for you?

- Yes No

Any other physical limitations? _____

Dietary restrictions/food allergies: _____

Will you need transportation from the airport?

(see spring Carillon or website for charges)

- No Yes Jackson/Riverton

Signature _____

Date _____

We now accept Visa & Mastercard.

Pay by cash or your personal check and receive a 5% discount in fees.

I prefer to use my (circle one) **Visa** **MasterCard**

Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Return form to:

Ring Lake Ranch

P.O. Box 806

Dubois, WY 82513

(888) 458-5253 toll free

(307) 455-2663

amanda@ringlake.org

www.ringlake.org



Ring Lake Ranch

P.O. Box 806

Dubois, WY 82513

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Permit No. 25

La Crosse, WI

Return Service Requested

Come join us at Ring Lake Ranch for "renewal in a sacred wilderness."

For more information about
our programs and the Ranch
community, please visit our
website: www.ringlake.org

A Wyoming Sacrament

Sing, my words, of the smell of sage
of ancient figures on rock faces,
stony trails and diamond studded water,
of pines living and dying in green and brown
skin-felt air there down from snowy heights.

Sing of stars so near, so deep, so piercing,
of insistent day brightness everywhere,
Music in trees and bodies climbing, descending,
A sense of finding inside and outside as one—
all in a petroglyph place of pilgrims.

Sing of people over time loving the land,
the world, sheer being here, in wonderment.
Of steady horses and the festal hall of food
Sturdy construction and ample hospitality,
In a Wyoming sacrament called Ring Lake...

If you so sing, you know that you have been known
by sky, earth, air, light, and creatures under the Mercy.

• *Don Saliers (2011)*