

The Ring Lake Carillon

Ring Lake Ranch • Dubois, Wyoming • Fall 2020

An ecumenical retreat center offering "renewal in sacred wilderness."



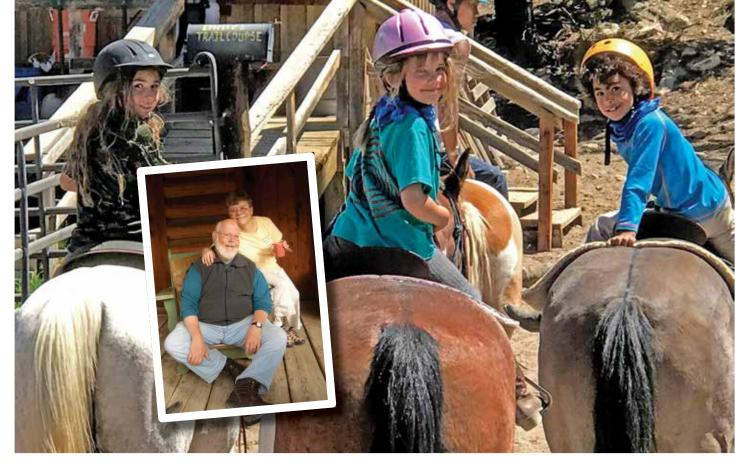
The Last, the First, the Next...

his past summer was, to put it mildly, like no other in living human memory, either at Ring Lake Ranch or anywhere else. I am happy to report, however, that the 2020 RLR season was as much of a success as all of the pandemic-related limitations and restrictions would allow. We were only able to be open for guests for six weeks, but that time was enough. Not as many people came as we had hoped, but they were enough. Not all of the buildings were used, but the activities we managed were enough. This was not a season to celebrate record growth in attendance or milestones in contributions. This was a season to quietly give thanks for the most basic of things, wherever you were – the beloved ones around us, the relative safety of one's own shelter, the food that nourishes us. The truth is, though, that

these are the things that Ring Lake Ranch and the wilderness that surrounds it have always taught us to value. Even as Ring Lake Ranch has grown stronger in so many ways over the years, the fundamental experience of renewal in sacred wilderness still sits at its core. And, thankfully, that essential experience survived a trying season and we hope it will be available again to many more people in the future. I think often about the connection between human beings and places like Ring Lake Ranch and this summer was an interesting twist after more than 50 summers of the Ranch hosting retreats. To be sure, the land and creatures around the property carried on as they always have. The osprey pair returned again and raised three more chicks. The sago lilies rose delicately alongside the hiking trails. The limber pines bent and swayed and

loosed the familiar rushing sound in the wind. Perhaps there was even a bit of a sigh of relief as the mice and the early season plants had a chance to hold sway without so many people around for a while. But, as Kathleen Dean Moore observed, "Humans are Earth's way of knowing itself." I think – I hopefully imagine, anyway - that the Ranch missed so many of you this summer. Perhaps the mountain bluebells were sad for the lack of admiration of their drooping blossoms. Perhaps the sandhill cranes wondered as they prepared their nests in the marsh where the canoers were. I know there was a palpable weight to the time there for me; even as kids climbed on the rocks around the office, the empty cabins and quiet paths were ongoing reminders of the shared disappointment of so many canceled plans and the real worry of the spreading virus.

Even as so much loss hung over the season, however, there were lessons learned, too. Prayer in the outdoor chapel each morning turns out to be a wondrous start to the day. Making your own beds when you arrive is often easier than making them for the next week as you pack up to leave. And sometimes it's fine just to have quiet evenings on your own as the sun goes down behind Little Whiskey. But here is the most important lesson, and not even a new one: Ring Lake Ranch continues to be the beneficiary of a community of exceptionally generous people. Of course, nothing is guaranteed to last forever (another lesson from the wilderness) but, thanks to the support of so many of you over so many years, the Ranch was strong enough to survive this catastrophic season. And, we look forward to welcoming you back in 2021.



The Carl Koch Memorial Scholarship Fund

the Ranch was a renewed emphasis on the presence announce that Joyce has set up the Carl Koch Memorial of younger families with children at RLR. During his Scholarship Fund. This fund will provide annual tenure, the decision was made to allow children under scholarship assistance to families with children to help 12 to attend for free and to offer a discounted rate ensure that the Ranch is affordable for them. of a trip to Ring Lake Ranch can be difficult for some to do so, as well.

s the Ranch communities knows, beloved families to cover. To help these families and to continue Director Emeritus Carl Koch died in June 2019. the work Carl did to encourage the presence of families ▲One of the quiet but vital legacies he left with and children at Ring Lake Ranch, we are honored to

for teens. These changes, along with the warmth and Families with children are welcome to contact Andy enthusiasm with which Carl and his wife Joyce Heil Blackmun at andy@ringlake.org or 888-458-5253 for always hosted families, were a great help in increasing more information about how to request assistance from the number of families and children attending sessions. the scholarship fund. Anyone interested in contributing Even with those fee reductions, however, the expenses to the Carl Koch Memorial Scholarship Fund is welcome

The Ring Lake Ranch Carillon

Published twice yearly by **Ring Lake Ranch**

Designed by **Roderick Robertson** Selected photographs by Alice Nicol, Katherine Turpin, Amanda Verheul, Craig Haberman, Martha Stahl

RLR Board of Directors

Mandy England Cole, President Suzanne Seaton, Vice President Martha Stahl, Secretary Jessica Pratt, Treasurer Alice Nicol Rvan Collins **Wade Beavers**

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Publication of the Carillon is partially funded by a generous grant from the Wind River Visitor's Council through Destination Dubois.



In Memoriam Dwight Haberman

peloved RLR volunteer Dwight Haberman died on DJune 13th, 2020 at age 88. His family has provided this remembrance:

Dwight Haberman loved many things in this world; the two that were at the top of the list were people and "thin places," those areas of stunning natural beauty where heaven and earth meet. For Dad, the lake country along the Minnesota/ Canadian border and Ring Lake Ranch were the two primary thin places that moved him in ways beyond words, transporting him to flights of rhapsody.

Add in the many kindred spirits he met at what he affectionately called "The Ranch" and you have a destination that animated his summers for more than 20 years and gave him something to daydream about during long Minnesota winters, when he shared his love of Ring Lake Ranch with others. His stories were contagious and all four of his sons and other family members joined him at the Ranch across the years.

Dad was an intrepid hiker in the high country around the Ranch during his first decade there. His first ascent of Arrow Mountain even gave him pause as he reflected on it in later years: he departed alone about noon, without notifying anyone, with a single bottle of water, and no knowledge of the way up. Climbing up to the ridge, he just followed his

nose up to the golf course and then to the top. One spring, alone again, he hiked up the New Glacier trail out of Bomber Basin until thigh deep snow stopped him. And of course, his ascent of Middle Mountain with five family members on his 69th birthday was the capstone of his hiking career.

Two Ring Lake Ranch images endure for his family: First, Dad arriving in the dining room first thing in the morning, walking to the picture window, and then gesturing while audibly greeting the four summits in view by name, "Good morning Circle, good morning Arrow, good morning Middle, good morning Whiskey." Following this he would pivot to the coffee area, getting things ready for other early birds, before happily engaging any and all in warm conversation as they arrived. The second image is Dad ending his day by lingering just outside the Living Room following the evening session to visit with others in the afterglow of another perfect Ring Lake Ranch day. A smile never left his face from sunrise to sunset when spending time with you all in the Torrey Valley.

In the end, it was each of you, the Ring Lake Ranch family, this blessed community, who brought him a joy that it's hard for us, his family, to picture his life without. Our deepest thanks for your devotion to the Ranch, for what you do to keep the facility in good shape and running, and for your friendship with Dad that so enriched his life.

We are grateful beyond words.

Craig, Mark, John, and Mike Haberman, Dwight's sons.



Promontory View

Her horse bends down his head Uninterested in the vista And pulls at a lonely

Clump of spring needle grass
And the reins for now having gone slack,
Again, upon pommel

One hand finds the other Ignoring that the skin in wrinkled Spotted, leathery and aged.

Tender still the touching Fingers within fingers softly slide. A gentle covering

Of knowing and keeping
One with another now and again
Ordained companion and

Guardian of the other Handed life long lived uncertain but Shared, though ultimately

Of an unknowable provenance And diminishing value, except To each other.

Barnett "Mike" McKee



We need your art!

Friends, we have completed all of the cabin renovations but they could all use some new art on the walls. Lots of RLR guests have a range of artistic abilities and we would love to share them in the cabins. So, please consider donating paintings, photographs, written work (that we could print and frame), etc. Similarly, if you have photos that you would be willing to let us include in the online photo gallery, the Carillon, and the website, we would love to have those, too. Please contact Andy at andy@eninglake.org to work out the details. Thanks!

2021 Sessions

While we hope that the Ring Lake Ranch experience will be back to as normal as possible next summer, there are some modifications we are making now if that turns out not to be the case:

We are offering only basic and large private bath accommodations. Shared bath cabin reservations will not be available.

We are limiting initial enrollment to approximately 25 guests for each seminar. This will allow us to implement safety protocols for dining, housekeeping, and group gatherings if necessary. We are happy to keep wait lists for additional guests and see how many guests that conditions will allow in the spring, so even if a seminar becomes full, please do ask to be added to the wait list.



May 23 - May 29 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!

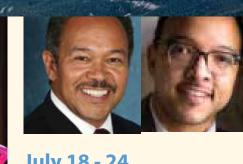


May 30 - June 5 Abdullah Antepli Engaging with Islam and Muslims Today

The growth and regional migration o Muslims, combined with the ongoing impact of extremist groups that commit acts of violence in the name of Islam, have brought Muslims and the Islamic faith to the forefront of political debate in many countries. Yet most Americans have said they know little or nothing about Islam. How to make sense of Islam as a religion, Muslims as people, and American Muslims as fellow citizens in this climate of confusion and anxiety? How to distinguish myths from realities? What resources to utilize in studying, understanding and engaging with these timely topics? Abdullah Antelp is Associate Professor of the Practice at Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy and Associate Professor of the Practice of Interfaith Relations at Duke Divinity School. A native of Turkey, Imam Antelpi worked on faith-based humanitarian and relief projects in Myanmar and Malaysia from 1996 to 2004. He served as Duke University's first Muslim chaplain from 2008 to 2014 and Chief Officer of Muslim Affairs from 2014 to 2019.



Cowboys and Indians An American Indian worldview is not just some minor adjustments to the standard eurochristian worldview. It really is a very different way of seeing everything. And it might just be a way of seeing and living that can save human existence in the world. But it won't be an easy shift. It means moving from creating wealth through extraction (of resources and labor) to seeing those resources as close relatives that demand the same respect we expect as humans from each other. Rather than the accumulation of wealth, then, the goal is to live in balance and respect with all our relatives in the cosmos. Tink Tinker (wazhazhe / Osage Nation) is Professor Emeritus of American Indian Cultures and Religious Traditions at the Iliff School of Theology. His publications include American Indian Liberation: A Theology of Sovereignty (2008 and Missionary Conquest: The Gospel and Native American Genocide (1993). Dr. Tinker has volunteered with the National and World Council of Churches and as the director of Four Winds American Indian Survival Project in Denver, serving as a traditional spiritual leader in the urban Indian community. Session is full, wait list only.



July 18 - 24 Julian Michael DeShazier and Robert Franklin Moral Leadership and Reimagining the Next Normal

Drawing on Robert Franklin's book, Moral Leadership: Integrity, Courage, *Imagination*, this session will explore how people come to be moral leaders. We will use insights from developmental psychology to analyze how virtue and leadership skills may be nurtured and how moral leaders think about love, power and justice and how they frame public issues as moral issues. We will diagnose current social crises and develop strategies for how we can contribute to the repair and reimagining of local communities and the nation. Julian "J.Kwest" DeShazier is the Senior Pastor of University Church Chicago and an Emmy Award-winning musician. Named by the Center for American Progress as one of "10 Faith Leaders to Watch" in 2018, he also serves as associate director of the Office of **Experiential Education at McCormick** Theological Seminary, Julian's father, Robert Franklin currently holds the James T. and Berta R. Laney Chair in Moral Leadership at Candler School of Theology. He previously served as president of Morehouse College and, before that, president of the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta. In 2016, Franklin was named to the HRC's council on expanding LGBTQ equality and inclusion efforts at Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Ring Lake Ranch



July 25 - August 7 Amy Oden

Right Here, Right Now: The Practice of Christian Mindfulness

Christians have always practiced mindfulness. Yet, from the popular landscape of mindfulness movement. you might not know that. Together, we will explore mindfulness across Christian history and in the culture today. What practices and postures help root us in patterns that are less reactive and more free for lives of love and justice? How do we inhabit our physical bodies when so much of our lives happen in virtual space? What can help move us from a culture of spectatorship to a life of attentiveness? We will pause in the beautiful surrounds of Ring Lake Ranch, to breathe, take our time and practice being aware in the present moment. Born and raised on the prairies of Oklahoma, Amy Oden claims her spiritual home under the wide-open sky. Over the last 30 years, she has been a college professor, a seminary professor, and a seminary dean. Amy is passionate about bringing ancient Christian voices into spiritual practice today. Her most recent book is Right Here, Right Now: The Practice of Christian Mindfulness.

Aug 8 - 14 Brian McLaren & Jodi McLaren

You may already be a poet, composer, dancer,

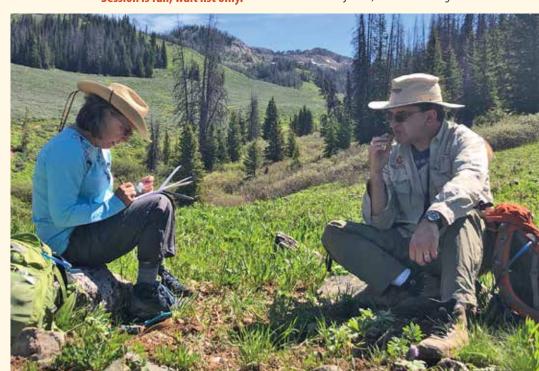
Unleash Your Inner Artist

writer, preacher, or knitter. Or you may have a reservoir of creative talent that you haven't figured out how to tap yet. Brian will reflect on his creative process, drawing especially from a book he finished writing while he was at Ring Lake Ranch. His singer-songwriter/music therapist daughter Jodi will sing and tell stories about her experiences of helping people unlock the creative treasures inside them. Most fun, they will invite everyone into a wide array of creative play and practice ... all fun, no pressure, lots of possibilities! Brian D. McLaren is an author, speaker, activist, and networker among innovative Christian leaders. His dozen-plus books include We Make the Road by Walking, and The Great Spiritual Migration. Jodi McLaren is a boardcertified music therapist and gueer singer-songwriter. Jodi has led songwriting workshops with people with disabilities, stroke survivors, cancer survivors, inmates, kids, people with acute mental health issues, and mothers in addiction rehab. Session is full, wait list only.



Brian McLaren & Micky Scottbey Jones Becoming the Ones We've Been Waiting For: Cultivating the Inner & Outer Work of Community

Inspired by the words of poet June Jordan, "we are the ones we've been waiting for", we will explore how we become that "moving force" that Jordan spoke of. How do we have the needed conversations with our communities that call us into deeper love and just action? We'll consider Micky's invitation to Brave Space which calls us to do our own inner work in the midst of social change. We will share stories of dialog and defiance to practical methods of individual and societal change as part of a week of challenging, healing, learning, contemplation and teaching. Brian D. McLaren is an author, speaker, activist, and networker among innovative Christian leaders. His dozen-plus books include We Make the Road by Walking and The Great Spiritual Migration. Micky Scottbey Jones, the Justice Doula, is a speaker & facilitator and the Director of Healing & Resilience Initiatives with the Southernbased collective Faith Matters Network and an Associate Fellow of Racial Justice with Evangelicals for Social Action. She is the author of *Keep the Fires Burning: Conquering Stress* and Burnout as a Mother-Baby Professional and contributing author of Becoming Like Creoles: Living and Leading at the Intersections of Injustice, Culture and Religion.



2021 Schedule of Programs



Aug 22 - 28 Jeff Reed Water, Watersheds, and Wilderness

Although water is essential to life, people have a long history of agonizing over it, often in the context of either too much, or too little. Water connects us all, from mountain towns to coastal cities; it transcends boundaries. In this session we will explore how water connects us to each other, to our "place" or watershed, and creation as a whole. Using the water resources of the wilderness surrounding the ranch as a reference, we will consider how we interact with water and the creatures that depend on it, here and in our home watersheds. Jeff Reed is an ecologist and fisheries scientist who has spent over thirty years researching the waters and fishes of Minnesota. His interests include catching trout on dry flies and the interactions between creation, caretaker, and Creator. He holds advanced degrees from Auburn University (in Fishes) and St. John's University School of Theology (in both Scripture and Liturgy).



Aug 29 - Sept 4 Sandra Smith & Debbie Horton

The Enneagram: Exploring Practices that Awaken Us

Whether you are new to the Enneagram System or have been working with this map for years, this week will offer space, teaching and practices to grow ourselves to be compassionate participants in the world. Together we will learn new practices, specific to each type, that move us from automatic to authentic living. Participants will leave with journaling questions that loosen automatic responses and practices (such as whole body breathing) that can sustain our presence and bring us home to ourselves. Debbi Horton teaches the Enneagram in a variety of settings, including prisons as an Enneagram Prison Project Guide. Debbi is active in antiracism groups and co-created and presents Moving the Race Conversation Forward with the Enneagram. Sandra Smith teaches the Enneagram internationally as a tool for personal, professional and spiritual development through her full-time business Alchemy-Works. She also co-hosts the podcast Heart of the Enneagram. Please Note: This seminar assumes that all participants will be familiar with the basic concepts of the Enneagram.



Sept 5 -11 Gareth Higgins How Not to Be Afraid

If you want to create chaos, teach people to be afraid. If you want a world of violence, fear is best way to get there. These days, terrifying stories colonize our news feeds, and anxiety plagues millions. Yet we can replace our narratives of fear and cynicism with stronger stories. In this session we'll delve into the mechanisms of fear, as well as the guiet, immense strength of communities that refuse to let it reign. We'll look at some of our most common fears and step into habits of hope rooted in the power of authentic spirituality to introduce us to our stronger, more joyful, awake, courageous and creative selves. Gareth Higgins is an author, storyteller, and activist who was born near Belfast during the Troubles in Northern Ireland and now lives in Asheville, North Carolina. He speaks widely about storytelling, violence reduction, the power of dreams, and connection with the earth. He led a peacebuilding community in Northern Ireland, and helped found the Wild Goose Festival, the New Story Festival, and the Movies & Meaning series.



For All That Has Been, To All That Shall Be...

n these days, I am full of gratitude for your continued generosity and support of RLR. Last spring, the RLR Board prepared for a modified summer opening with cautious hope that we would be able to offer renewal in sacred wilderness while also surviving the economic impact of the pandemic. We recognized that with so much unknown about the months ahead, we would need to hold loosely to our longer-term goals for growth and vitality.

While not what we planned, the season was richly meaningful - offering wisdom and renewal beyond for those gathering together in the Wind River Valley. And, through donations received, we find ourselves so very grateful not to be in a panic. We're doing well financially and this is to be celebrated! Especially in this time when so much is demanded of all our resources, you have sustained us. Which means that every additional gift received this year will be helping

us continue on with the plans we made pre-pandemic. The words of Dag Hammarskjöld rise as a prayer within me, "For all that has been, thanks. To all that shall be, yes."

As we navigate the last few months of the year, what a gift it is to welcome your continued support from a posture of gratitude instead of desperation. Together we will weather this pandemic. Together we will be faithful to our vision and commitment to be excellent stewards of the ranch. Together we will find ourselves experiencing the renewal of sacred wilderness, no matter the path and persistence of this pandemic. In these last months of 2020, if you are in a position to make a new or additional contribution we welcome it, and for all you have already given, we are appreciative!

Mandy England Cole, RLR Board President

ike so much else during our 2020 season, the opportunities for volunteering were greatly reduced this year. We did manage to host a sizeable group during Volunteer Week: Becky and Harold Walker, Mike McKee, Carol, George, Sara, and Wyatt Michalski, Julie Wakelee Lynch, Mike Morris, Ann Mebane, and Susan Tweit. Susan Tweit and Mia Webb were also able to return to help out around the Ranch later in the summer, as well. Thanks to all of them for their work and their enthusiasm through a challenging time. Volunteers always play a huge part in the success of each season at the Ranch. If you would like to participate in Volunteer Week or help out during one of the other weeks of the summer, please contact Andy Blackmun at andy@ ringlake.org or 888.458.5253 to see what spaces are available.

Ring Lake Ranch Board of Directors

Due to space limitations in the last edition of the Carillon, we were unable to announce and welcome our new board members. We are excited to add their skills and love of the Ranch to an already great group of leaders:







Stacey Donelson

Dr. Stacey Donelson, DACM, L.Ac has been coming to RLR since she was a little girl. Her parents Mike and Charlotte Donelson were members of Maggie Kahin's church in Pavillion, WY. Her father was a long-time board member and took care of the physical facility as a volunteer for many years. Stacey spent her teen and college years on the junior staff as a wrangler, cookie maker and housekeeping helper. Since then she has lived in NYC as a tech team lead for Weight Watchers and is currently a serial entrepreneur in Longmont, CO beginning several successful ventures in the health and wellness space. Her specialty is the relationships and mores that make WY tick and the business savvy that keeps organizations humming.

Jessica Pratt

Over the past five years, the Ranch has been a refuge for Jessica, her husband Jeff and their four children. Jessica studied Economics and Political Science at McGill University, but her early career was in Human Resources. Her passions now include teaching yoga, volunteering, reading and baking. As a proud Canadian currently living in Calgary, Jessica notes that she and her husband first met at a curling match.

Wade Beavers

Wade Beavers lives in Dubois,
Wyoming with his wife Ree. Wade
is the founder of Capital Law
Advisory Partners, a national real
estate transaction firm, and the
managing broker of Mossy Oak
Properties Wyoming Outdoors,
a regional real estate brokerage.
A Georgia native, Wade received
his undergraduate degree from
Georgia Tech and his MBA and
law degrees from the University
of Georgia. He is past or present
chairman or director of several
non-profit organizations.

We also offer our deep gratitude for Mike McKee and Amy Mears, who completed their terms of service at the beginning of the year.



2020 20%

Did you make it to the ranch this year?

isit us virtually on our website. While you are there stop by the ranch store and use code Winter2020 for 20% off storewide. Purchase a mask, hand sanitizer, fleece, or a nice Holiday ornament. There's always something special at the ranch store. If you don't see something online, give me a call 307 455 2663 or email

amanda@ringlake.org.

Thank you for supporting Ring Lake Ranch! -Amanda



2021 Registration

(888) 458-5253 toll free

(307) 455-2663

amanda@ringlake.org www.ringlake.org

Ring Lake Ranch

Dubois, WY 82513

P.O. Box 806

2021 RATES	Session	
All rates are per person and based on double/multiple occupancy	Dates	
ncludes lodging * meals * seminars * horseback riding * guided hiking * boating. No charg for children 12 & under.	ge Registrant Name(s)	
Scholarships are available:	Names & ages of children (if applicable)	
Contact Andy Blackmun at andy@ringlake.org or 888-458-5253 toll free		
ADULT FEES FOR 6 DAY SESSIONS	Address	
Basic cabin with private bath\$1,183	City/State/Zip	
arge Family cabin with private bath\$1,236	Home Phone () Work Phone ()	
YOUTH FEES FOR 6 DAY SESSIONS	Cell () Email	
/outh (ages 13 – 17)\$788	Accommodation preference:	
Child (ages 12 and under)no charge	☐ Basic/private bath	
ADULT FEES FOR 2 CONSECUTIVE SESSIONS	☐ Large Family/private bath ☐ Cabin #	
Basic cabin with private bath\$ 2,122	Roommate preference (registering separately)	
arge Family cabin with private bath \$2,152		
	One bed? Two beds?	
YOUTH FEES FOR 2 CONSECUTIVE SESSIONS	ls walking over steep or rough terrain difficult for you?	
/outh (ages 13 – 17)\$ 1,360	☐ Yes ☐ No	
Child (ages 12 and under)no charge	Any other physical limitations?	
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 guarantee a private room, contact Amanda about additional fee & availability.	Dietary restrictions/food allergies:	
	Will you need transportation from the airport?	
·	(see spring Carillon or website for charges)	
Receive a 10% discount on your session fees by bringin someone new to the Ranch with you.	g □ No □ Yes Jackson/Riverton	
Please indicate on your registration form who the new guest is. When they register, we'll	How did you hear about Ring Lake Ranch?	
record the discount. Thank you for spreading the word about Ring Lake Ranch.		
Deposit: To hold your reservations, we request a deposit of \$270/adult and \$160/youth for 6 day		
sessions or \$470/adult and \$270/youth for two sessions. The deposit is refundable 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:	Date	
Adults @ rate	- 	
Youth (13-17)	We accept Visa, Mastercard and Discover.	
Children(12 & under) no charge	Pay by cash or your personal check and receive a 5% discount	
TOTAL (without taxes)	in fees. For security purposes, please do not include your credit card number on this form. Please use the online store at www.	
Deposit Amount	ringlake.org/store to pay deposits and fees.	
	Return form to:	



RING LAKE RANCH P.O. Box 806 • Dubois, WY 82513

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