



The Ring Lake Carillon

Ring Lake Ranch • Dubois, Wyoming • Fall 2021

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



The View From The Inside *by Vanna Fox*

When the Ring Lake Ranch Board of Directors decided to conclude the 50/50: Preserve The Experience campaign a couple of years ago, we recognized that there were many avenues to strengthening the financial standing of the Ranch that were still untapped. The Board determined that the best long-term plan would be to hire a Development Director to oversee a variety of fundraising and development activities. The pandemic put the hiring process on hold for a year but in May we were able to hire Vanna Fox, who was the first Development Director for Wild Goose Festival and led fundraising for the North Carolina Council of Churches, as our first-ever Development Director. Guests who came to RLR this summer were able to meet Vanna in person but here are her reflections about the season and her greeting to the full Ring Lake Ranch community. Welcome, Vanna!

• *Andy Blackmun*

On February 17, 2021, I was peacefully celebrating my birthday at the Outer Banks in North Carolina, and I had never heard of Ring Lake Ranch. One week later my life became a frenzy of activity when a dear friend sent me the job opening announcement for a Development Director at Ring Lake Ranch. My first reaction was, "Wyoming??? But I'm a North Carolina Appalachian mountain girl." However, as I began to dig deeper, it became clear that many of the session leaders were folks for whom I have a great deal of respect. I have studied their scholarship and worked with many of them over the years. So, it began to look like this just might be my tribe. Over the course of the next 10 weeks, I interviewed, got the job, worked a four-week notice, packed, and left North Carolina on April 28th. It was only as I was driving across the country, with



Vanna Fox

lots of time to think, that God and I had a few words about my decision-making process. Having always been someone who didn't hesitate to take the road less traveled, had I now chosen an unpaved one? I would soon discover that much of it was indeed unpaved.

On May 16th I arrived, after passing the turn off from the main road THREE

TIMES. As the staff started gathering it was clear they were a close group, so excited to see each other, and I was the only new kid. The next few days were an amazing experience. As a group, they opened their arms, included me, and treated me as a member of the team from the first day. So much of the experience for each guest depends on their interaction with the staff. When guests sing the praises of the Ranch staff, this is what they are experiencing: A group of professionals who love what they do and have developed the ability to bring each new week's guests into the family immediately. Of course, this is not something that just happens when a group comes together to work for the summer. This comes from the leadership. Andy makes staff selections with great care and then nurtures the team throughout the season. It's a team developed thorough the thoughtful, intentional, patient leadership that

Continued on the next page



Ring Lake Ranch Community Quilt Project!



Andy exhibits on a daily basis. The staff and session leaders are only part of what makes Ring Lake Ranch such a unique experience. The essential piece is you, the guest. I realized quickly that every week had unique energy, and that was created when the guests arrived and began the process of becoming a community. Week after week, I saw old friendships renewed and new ones begin. The children are instant partners in building forts and getting to the dessert table first, and the adults aren't far behind. There's

a freedom just to be that happens during the sessions, on hikes, fishing, or horseback riding. This is a freedom that inspires a deep sharing of self. This environment of renewal and relaxation brings laughter and tears to each new community. It seems that often the deepest connections are made in the dish room! I had so many amazing experiences throughout the summer. Those opportunities are created through the wisdom of Andy and the board. They spend countless hours working to make

each summer interesting and exciting with various subjects and personalities, while focusing on the upkeep of the Ranch and supporting the staff. As a new staff member in a newly created position at the Ranch, I'm excited to begin making both short and long-term development plans. I'll be working closely with Andy, the staff, the board, and you to find ways for the Ranch to be sustainable for the next 50 years. Working for you and with you is an honor. I always welcome your thoughts and conversation.

Anyone who has come to Ring Lake Ranch in the last few years has likely noticed the beautiful quilts that now cover the beds in all of the cabins. All of the quilts were handmade by Polly Southworth. We've never had a chance to thank Polly for all of her hard work so we are glad to take this moment to acknowledge how much her quilts have added to the décor of the cabins. Polly, thanks so much! As if the cabin quilts weren't enough, Polly has agreed to assist with a fun community quilt project this year! We are asking as many people as possible to help with designing individual squares for the quilt and then Polly will assemble the pieces for our first Ring Lake Ranch Quilt. Once it is assembled, we will auction it off next year as a fundraiser for the Ranch.

Here are the details for how to contribute your square to the quilt:

Purchase high-quality off-white muslin

Cut an 8" square

Have fun! You can draw, embroidery, bedazzle, whatever you like

Before the New Year, mail your square to:

Polly Southworth

16 Longview Drive

Longmeadow, MA 01106

Questions? Contact [Vanna](mailto:vanna@ringlake.org) at vanna@ringlake.org

The Ring Lake Ranch Carillon

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Designed by
Roderick Robertson

Selected photographs by
John Van Nuys, Jeremy Duprey,
Amanda Verheul, Jeff Reed,
Alice Nicol, Cyndi Gueswel,
Vanna Fox, David Johnson

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Food Glorious Food!

We had another season of fantastic meals at Ring Lake Ranch this summer. Many thanks to Lee De Arment, Amy Mears, Karissa Kister, Christian Blackmun, cade beck, Becky Brown, Katherine Turpin, Mia Webb, and Hollis Kinnard for all of their help keeping everyone fed and happy this summer. Cooking at Ring Lake Ranch is often an improvised dance, as it were, so it's difficult to put together an entire cookbook of the recipes everyone enjoyed this year. However, we thought we could at least share a few of the crowd favorites. Enjoy!

Hollis's Granola Bars

Makes 40 bars
 4 cups dates
 1 cup honey
 4 cups roasted nuts
 6 cups rolled oats
 Blend dates in a food processor. Roast nuts & oats at 350 F for 10-15 minutes. Mix all ingredients, adding desired additional (raisins, chocolate chips, etc.). Spread on cookie sheets. Sprinkle salt on top. Freeze until solid.

Amy's Sliders

Mix and refrigerate a day or more:
 3 Tbsp Dijon Mustard
 2 sticks softened butter
 1 small onion grated
 1 tsp poppyseeds
 1 tsp Worcestershire Sauce
 Spread mixture heavily on slider buns. Top with sliced ham and swiss/cheddar/provolone cheese and brush the top of buns with the mixture. Wrap in foil and heat at 350 for 20-30 minutes

Lee's Curry Sauce

14 oz Coconut Milk
 14 oz Canned Tomatoes
 1 Tbsp Curry Powder
 Combine all ingredients in a saucepan and boil on medium high. Reduce until thickened to desired consistency. Serve with veggies over rice and add a protein if you like.

Christian's Jalapeno Poppers

1 8oz package of cream cheese softened to room temperature
 ½ cup mayo
 ½ cup grated parmesan cheese
 1 tsp garlic powder
 1 tsp chili powder
 ¼ tsp salt
 1 c dates, pitted and diced
 48 jalapenos
 24 strips of bacon, cut in half width-wise
 Preheat oven to 375 degrees and line a rimmed baking sheet with a silicone baking mat or parchment paper. Set aside. Place cream cheese, mayo, parmesan cheese, garlic powder, chili powder, salt, and diced dates into a bowl. Use a hand mixer to beat mixture together until well combined. Stuff each prepared jalapeno with about 1 teaspoon of popper filling using a piping bag. Lay small strips of bacon on top. Place onto prepared baking sheet and bake in preheated oven for 15-25 minutes or until bacon is cooked to your liking. Cool slightly, serve, and enjoy

Ring Lake Ranch 2022 Schedule ▶▶▶



Scholarships Available

Partial scholarships are available to anyone needing assistance to come to programs at the Ranch. All people are welcome at Ring Lake and we don't want the cost to keep anyone, especially first-time guests, from attending a session. If you have any questions or would like a copy of our simple application, please contact Andy Blackmun at andy@ringlake.org or 888-458-5253.



May 22 - May 28 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!

Transportation Fees for 2022

We are happy to pick up guests from the Jackson Hole or Riverton airports by prior arrangement. PLEASE SELECT YOUR FLIGHT TO ARRIVE PRIOR TO 3:00 P.M. Airport transport fees for the summer: \$85 / person / trip or \$170 / family / trip. We want to make getting to the Ranch as convenient as possible, so please let us know your flight schedule well in advance. Feel free to contact Amanda at amanda@ringlake.org or 307-455-2663 if you have any questions.

Ring Lake Ranch ▶▶▶

2022 Schedule of Programs ▶▶▶



May 29 – June 4

Amy Mears
Fuzz Therapy: Celebrating Fiber Arts

Bring your current project, favorite equipment, and adventuresome spirit for a week exploring the fiber arts together. We will enjoy community conversation about faith and fun and all The Ranch has to offer as we set up our work- and conversation-spaces throughout the wilderness. We will teach and learn with one another according to whatever we bring: crochet, felting, weaving, knitting, spinning with spindles and wheels, and preparing wool. Show and Tell will play an important role in our time together. We'll forage for dyestuffs and see what colors we can create! Field trips to Wyoming Wool Works in Dubois, Pingora Yarn in Lander, and a happy herd of Shetland sheep in Crowheart are daytime options. Amy Mears will convene the group and provide a whimsical collection of discussion topics. She is the co-pastor of Glendale Baptist Church in Nashville, TN and teaches preaching for seminaries in the Midwest and South. She spends her spare time kayaking and hiking, spinning and knitting, and doing chemistry experiments in natural dyeing to no ill effect, so far.



July 10 – 16

Chelsea
Yarborough Ph.D Finding, Owning, and Using Your Voice

A Workshop on Proclaiming How do we develop our voices and not simply become echoes to all the noise that surrounds us? What does it mean to proclaim as an agent for change, hope, and possibility, whether it be on public platforms or through interpersonal dialogue? Walking through the lives and proclaiming of Sojourner Truth, Nannie Helen Burroughs, and Fannie Lou Hamer, we will talk about what it means to develop our voices and think through strategies for speaking beyond the echo. This workshop will have both a seminar and practicum element as we work through our own sense of voice while learning from some examples that have come before us. Chelsea Brooke Yarborough holds a PhD from Vanderbilt University in Homiletics. She is an ordained minister, a poet, an Enneagram enthusiast, and a lover of leadership development.



July 17 – 30

History of the Wind River Valley:

Two Perspectives The town of Dubois, WY and the area surrounding Ring Lake Ranch have a rich history that spans centuries and involves a variety of peoples and traditions. This session, co-sponsored by the Dubois Museum, will examine the history of both local native American tribes and the European settlers of Dubois. Steve Banks will discuss the history of early fur traders and Dubois Museum staff will present the basic history of the town of Dubois as well as the work of railroad tie hacks. John Washakie, great-grandson of Chief Washakie, will talk about the history of the reservation. Gail Ridgely will discuss the Sand Creek Massacre which was partially responsible for the relocation of the Northern Arapaho tribe to the Wind River Reservation from Eastern Colorado. Millie Friday will talk about her work retrieving the remains of Arapaho children who died at the Carlisle Indian School. We will also offer day trips to view the remains of flumes, dams, and cabins built by the tie hacks, and sheep traps built by the Sheepeater people, the ancestors of some of the Shoshone tribe.

Session is Full; Wait List Only, Please



July 31 – August 6

Wes
Granberg-Michaelson Faith as Pilgrimage

What if we walked our way into faith, as a pilgrimage? What if where we walked with our feet was as important as what we believed in our heads in shaping our spiritual journey? What must we leave behind when we are beckoned onto unknown paths? In prior centuries, millions of people made pilgrimages to sites they considered holy, such as Jerusalem, Rome, Trondheim, and Santiago de Compostela. Wes Granberg-Michaelson has experienced that pilgrimage to Santiago; he's also gathered with 1 million Christians in Nigeria and pilgrims going to the Santuario de Chimayo in New Mexico. Wes served as General Secretary of the Reformed Church in America from 1994-2011. Earlier he was Legislative Assistant for Senator Mark Hatfield and Director of Church and Society for the World Council of Churches. He currently serves as Chair of the Board for Sojourners. He's the author of seven books, most recently *Future Faith: Ten Challenges Re-shaping Christianity in the 21st Century* and the forthcoming *Without Oars: Casting Off into a Life of Pilgrimage*.



August 7 – 13

Donald Schell and Paul Vasile
Before Words and Beyond Words

When jazz trumpeter Clark Terry was asked how he made jazz, he'd respond – "Simple – you imitate, assimilate, then innovate." Thus, the core of this session: shared attention, communication in listening, and imitation – not just music-making, but all the improvisations of our emergent humanity. This seminar's playful practice of improvisational song, wordless storytelling, and shared experience-and-reflection noticing and wondering will help us rediscover ourselves as persons-in-community, the image of God that Gregory of Nyssa insists belongs to all of us together in our one humanity. The Rev. Donald Schell is the founder of St. Gregory of Nyssa Church in San Francisco and the founding director of Music that Makes Community, an ecumenical, international project to recover and renew oral tradition practices of congregational song. Paul Vasile is a freelance church musician, consultant, and composer committed to building and renewing faith communities through music and liturgy. As the Executive Director of Music that Makes Community, Paul is passionate about sharing leadership practices that sustain faith communities through the practice of paperless (oral/aural tradition) singing.



August 14 – 20

Diana Butler Bass and Roger Freet
Writing and Reading in the Wilderness

The way that Americans engage words has gone through a revolution in the last decade. We will explore the spiritual practices and practical issues of writing, from shaping ideas and stories to platform development and publishing. Diana and Roger have worked together since 2005, first as writer-and-editor, and then as author-and-agent. They will share from their experience of creating books together, the challenges along the way, and what they have learned about reading and writing in a changing culture of words. Diana Butler Bass is an author, speaker, and independent scholar specializing in American religion and culture. Her books include the bestselling books *Grateful, Grounded, Christianity After Religion*, and *A People's History of Christianity*. Roger Freet works as a literary agent with Foundry Literary and Media Agency. Before joining Foundry, Roger worked as an Executive Editor at HarperOne, an imprint of Harper Collins Publishers, where he published bestselling authors like James Martin, Paul Stanley, Bart Ehrman, Adam Hamilton, and Stephen Prothero.

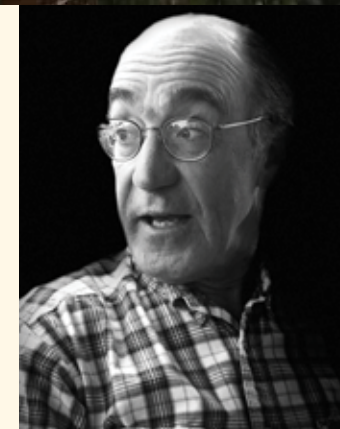


August 21 – 27

Diana Butler Bass and Marianne Borg
Practicing Wisdom: A Way of Life for Everyone

Exploding the myths that wisdom is an esoteric gift or spiritual commodity, Diana and Marianne will explore the ways that wisdom guides through all stages of our life, how it can be nurtured and practiced, and what difference it makes in a post-truth culture to individuals and communities. Diana Butler Bass is an author, speaker, and independent scholar specializing in American religion and culture. Her books include the bestselling books *Grateful, Grounded, Christianity After Religion*, and *A People's History of Christianity*. Marianne Borg is a retired Episcopal priest and the widow of Marcus Borg. She is the Founding Chair of the Marcus J. Borg Foundation. She and Marcus have been part of the Ring Lake Ranch experience for many years, which was a transformative environment and community for them both.

Session is Full; Wait List Only, Please



August 28 – Sept 3

DeWitt Daggett
Horses as Doorway to the Sacred: A Spiritual Practice of Belonging

Humans are a herd species for whom membership means life. This week we will explore the sacred as human belonging in the great web of existence and the RLR horses, a fellow herd species, will be our guides. We will ask horses to mediate a deeply embodied remembering of our participatory membership in an infinitely relational universe, an idea captured by the Hindu and Buddhist images of Indra's Net. Engaging with horses as a spiritual practice will help us understand our greater wholeness/holiness with nature, the universe, and God. Please note: The week will be limited to fifteen riding participants with prerequisites of unsupervised comfort on and around horses and the ability to mount up without the aid of a mounting block or human assistance. Non-riding guests are welcome to register and participate in other activities and the evening sessions. DeWitt Daggett has been a wrangler at Ring Lake Ranch since 2015. His previous lives include geologist, audio book producer and publisher, and farrier. He holds an MTS from Iliff School of Theology.

Session is Full; Wait List Only, Please



Thank You

to our 2021 Volunteers and an Invitation to Volunteers for 2022

Because we had to cap enrollment for much of the 2021 season, our volunteer spaces were limited. Thankfully, our Volunteer Week roster was as full and dedicated as always: Jeff Reed, Helen Gordon, Marcy Tapper, Vince Sweeney and family, Carol and George Michalski, Ken Blumer, Mike McKee, Becky Brown, Becky and Harold Walker, Ann Mebane, and Jamie and John Anderson all joined in the usual lengthy list of maintenance, cleaning, and construction chores to get the Ranch ready for the season. Many thanks to them and thanks as well to Cade Beck, Joanne and Elijah Anderson, Mike Morris, Sarah Vetter, Jordan Giessinger, Leah Vader, and Lynne Huskinson for volunteering during the season to help out around the Ranch. Thanks as well to Ben Blackmun, Holly Vetter, and Rowan Starks for their time as staff assistants.

It's now been two summers that the pandemic has made us curtail our volunteer program but we don't expect to see any restrictions on our capacity next year. So, if you are at all interested in volunteering, please know that we would love to have your help next summer! Volunteers are welcome in any number of areas of Ranch life throughout the summer; we need help in the Dining Hall, the Gift Shop, with maintenance projects, and even closing out the Ranch at the end of the season, among other things. 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.

The Christ

It was a religious retreat in Wyoming, for heaven's sake.

Really.

A famous theologian challenged us with this question:

"How many of you have experienced the Christ?"

The next morning on a sensuously stunning hike, as only the Rockies can provide,

with eight hikers ahead of me,

I chose to walk alone the slower quiet way.

Then comes the butterfly.

Landing on my shoulder

she became the answer to the question

and left me with another of her own.

Can one share a holy moment, unseen by others,

without it, going away?

Or do those moments change us?

And that is how

we experience the Christ.

Barbara Wood Gray



Announcing the Gordon Claytor Memorial Scholarship



Many people in the Ring Lake Ranch community remember the Faith, Fellowship, and Flyfishing group that gathered at the Ranch for several summers in the 2000s. Gordon Claytor served as the flyfishing instructor and guide for the group for many of those summers. Gordon passed away recently and Fred Webb, who founded the group, has offered to found a scholarship fund in Gordon's memory. Fred hopes that the fund will help others experience and perpetuate the fundamental aspects of the group: faith, fellowship, and flyfishing. If you would like to donate to the Gordon Claytor memorial scholarship, please donate to Ring Lake Ranch and note that you would like your donation to go to the scholarship fund.

2022 Registration



SLIFE BEANIE
SKU: 8515



SLIFE BEANIE
SKU: 7268



Ring Lake Ranch Shop

We have a unique selection of quality items from socially responsible companies and handmade creations from Ranch guests and volunteers.

Visit: ringlake.org/shop

Use coupon code: **FALL2021** for 10% off

2022 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 Blackmun at andy@ringlake.org or 888-458-5253 toll free

ADULT FEES FOR 6 DAY SESSIONS

Basic cabin with shared bath.....	\$1,116
Basic cabin with private bath.....	\$1,242
Large/Family cabin with private bath.....	\$1,298
Youth (ages 13 – 17).....	\$828
Child (ages 12 and under).....	no charge

ADULT FEES FOR 2 CONSECUTIVE SESSIONS

Basic cabin with shared bath.....	\$ 1,870
Basic cabin with private bath.....	\$ 2,228
Large/Family cabin with private bath.....	\$ 2,260
Youth (ages 13 – 17).....	\$ 1,428
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 guarantee a private room, contact Amanda about additional fee & 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 \$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:

_____ 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/private bath

Large Family/private bath

Cabin #

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?

(Transport fee: \$85/person/trip or \$170/family/trip)

No

Yes Jackson/Riverton

How did you hear about Ring Lake Ranch?

Signature _____

Date _____

We accept Visa, Mastercard and Discover.

Pay by cash or your personal check and receive a 5% discount in fees. For security purposes, please do not include your credit card number on this form. Please use the online store at www.ringlake.org/store to pay deposits and fees.

Return form to:

Ring Lake Ranch

(888) 458-5253 toll free

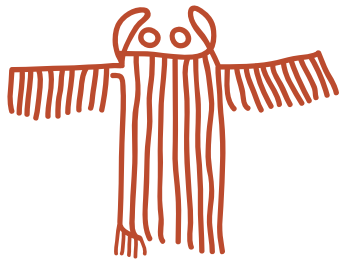
P.O. Box 806

(307) 455-2663

Dubois, WY 82513

amanda@ringlake.org

www.ringlake.org



RING LAKE RANCH

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La Crosse, WI

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

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