



The Ring Lake Carillon

Ring Lake Ranch • Dubois, Wyoming • Fall 2016

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

*"Take down a musical instrument—Let the beauty we love be what we do—
There are hundreds of way to kneel/And kiss the earth. -- Rumi"*



As we wrapped up our 50th season this summer, I decided to look back through our archive of *Carillons* (which anyone is welcome to do when you visit the Ranch – we have a notebook with all of them from the very start of Ring Lake Ranch) at our other big anniversary years, the 30th 40th, etc. Each year had great reflections on the Ranch and an invitation to a community celebration that summer, but the fall editions of the *Carillon* lacked pictures from those gatherings! I'm sure they were all great events, but this edition of the *Carillon* is meant to be proof positive that the people who came out on September 1st did have a wonderful time.

We invited everyone from Dubois and Ranch friends across Wyoming to join us and our Anniversary Week guests and

more than 170 people gathered for the evening. The Neversweat Players entertained everyone with their usual fun music, and we feasted on pulled pork from Darrell Graff of Wind River Meats and delicious sides from our own Connie Wood. It was great to welcome so many people from Dubois and show off the Ranch to folks who hadn't been out for a visit in years, if ever. Our friends Gary Keimig and Tom Lucas were kind enough to bring out some of their paintings to show, and we auc-

tioned off one of Gary's paintings – a view across Trail Lake, donated by Lin and Ann Knight – for a tidy sum – thanks to Shelley Martin for her enthusiasm and generosity in the auction. We even managed to squeeze in a quick tour of the petroglyphs before a short burst of rain came through at twilight. It was a lovely celebration and a fitting conclusion to our 50th summer of renewal in sacred wilderness.

We offer thanks to our summer volunteers elsewhere in

the Carillon, but the folks who helped make this celebration happen deserve particular recognition. To the staff that week who put in extra hours at the end of a long summer – Ben and Amanda Verheul, Leah Vader, Mo Morrow, Dewitt Daggett, Debbie Kister, Mark Keane and Connie Wood – thank you for your endless enthusiasm and dedication. To the volunteers who helped wherever needed – Carl Koch and Joyce Heil, Jim and Bev Young, Fred Nicol and RLR board members Alice Nicol, Judy Plows, Suzanne Seaton, Mike McKee, Amy Mears, Jerry Campbell, and Sean Roche – thank you for your energy and support throughout the week. And finally, thanks to the entire Board of Directors for providing the inspiration and planning for the week and the season-long celebration of the Ranch's 50th Anniversary.





Photographs:

- pg 1, top: The Neversweat Players
- Pg 1, bottom: The tent in the RLR courtyard
- Pg 2, top left: Brian Kahin, Ann Mebane and Meredith Taylor
- Pg 2, top right and lower left: Guests enjoy time socializing
- Pg 2, middle: Gary Keimig's painting of Trail Lake
- Pg 2, lower right: RLR staff get the feast ready

The Ring Lake Ranch Carillon

Published twice yearly by
Ring Lake Ranch

Designed by
Roderick Robertson

Selected photographs by
Dubois Frontier, Linda Bryant,
Wendy Belkin, Mike McKee
Anna Pinckney Straight,

RLR Board of Directors

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- Suzanne Seaton Jerry Campbell Bill Brown





***A Ranch Reflection –
Suzanne Seaton, RLR
Board of Directors***

Since I was a child, I have sought breathing room for solitude and reflection in the out-of-doors. My mother used to describe me as the girl who never wanted to come inside at the end of the day. Spreading my sleeping bag on the grass in the backyard and falling asleep gazing at the stars was my idea of heaven. As an adult, I still seek sacred space in the beauty of nature, and over the years have encountered many places that offer me the freedom to feel at home in my own skin. Coming to Ring Lake Ranch for the first time in 2009 I found another sanctuary of mountains, horses, rivers, rock and sky to hold my dreams and reflections and to offer me both solitude and community.

As the Ranch celebrates its 50th year, I am grateful for the many hearts and hands that have preserved this special site and kept it a place of welcome, beauty, rest and renewal. Moving forward, I hope the legacy of those of us who have benefited from being part of this community will be one of generosity. I encourage you to consider giving to the Ranch. Your gift will help sustain this good work and allow us to care well for the beauty of this land and the well-being of those who choose to come and be renewed here in body, mind and spirit.

Telling the Ranch's Story

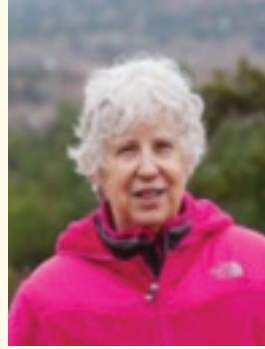
For 50 years, Ring Lake Ranch has been an important place for many people. We want to tell its story in honor of its anniversary. Carl Koch, Ranch Director from 2006 to 2011, has agreed to write the history of the Ranch and he needs your help to do it. Clearly Ranch founder Maggie Kahin was a central figure; her vision lives on in every facet of the Ranch. Then we have a circle of key people who all played essential roles in guiding and supporting the Ranch once Maggie passed. And, we have the stories of the guests, staff, speakers, junior staff, and volunteers – all of whom compose the story of Ring Lake Ranch.

Help, please. Carl would appreciate stories from all of you. In particular, he would value hearing stories about such topics as these:

- Was there a particular incident or moment when you felt especially renewed by your time at the Ranch?
- Did you have an encounter at the Ranch that has proven formative for you?
- Can you tell the story of a ride or hike, meal or speaker that illustrates the richness of the Ranch experience. Don't forget that humorous moments are often important too.
- Stories about Maggie abound, but these oral accounts need to be gathered into a publishable form; so, stories about her and other key figures will be especially helpful.
- Although reflections on any era of the Ranch are welcome, we especially need stories about the first ten years of the Ranch and the several years after Maggie's death.
- Stories may be mailed to Carl Koch, 8767 Brunswick Rd. 1-C, Minocqua, WI 54548 or sent by email to carlkoch45@gmail.com. If you have questions or would like to share your story over the phone, please call Carl at 715.358.0429.



Ring Lake Ranch



May 21 - May 30 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!

June 25 – July 1 Sandra Smith and Patti Elledge Ways of Being, Ways of Change Engaging the Wild Within and Beyond!

This advanced Enneagram-meets-Somatic-Healing retreat invites us into our full dimensionality as we deepen self-awareness and honor our gifts and resourcefulness. We will learn how we are hard-wired for healing, if we have the right relationship to our instinctual body and to change. Land, sky, sun and stars will companion us as we bravely face points of stuckness, points of orientation, and internal stories that no longer serve us. Our learning will be facilitated by the natural world and through poetry, movement, inquiry practices, live demos, small group discussions and lecture. **Sandra Smith** creates and leads workshops and staff trainings using the Enneagram Personality System as a map for deepening self-understanding, communicating more effectively, and lessening reactivity. **Patti Elledge** is a Somatic Experiencing/Trauma Release therapist specializing in human development and healing PTSD, trauma and early relational wounds via the instinctual body.

July 9 – 15 Roberta Bondi Julian of Norwich

There are few writers in the history of the church more beloved than Julian of Norwich, the fourteenth century English mystic, and with good reason. This woman's insistence on God's extravagant and tender love of us, along with God's refusal to take any interest in our sin, is a message of hope for our modern broken hearts. Her deep understanding of the Trinity as the Power of Love, the Wisdom of Love and the Goodness of Love, or as God the Father, God the Mother, and the Goodness of the Love between them, introduces us to a God beyond our deepest longings and imaginings. **Roberta Bondi** is retired from Candler School of Theology, where she was Professor of Church History. Her books include *To Love as God Loves*, *Memories of God* and *Wild Things*. She continues to teach with the Academy of Spiritual Formation.

July 16 – 22 Ray Buckley Dancing with Words Storytelling as Legacy, Culture, and Faith

Storytelling has special meaning for people of faith. We seek to identify and share our stories in nearly everything we do. Storytelling is a relationship between the speaker and the listener that may best be described not as a telling, but as story-sharing. Storytelling can enable hearers to more easily assimilate and remember history, values, culture, faith, life-lessons, and other critical. Through an understanding of the history of storytelling and of storytellers as keepers of beliefs, traditions, history, and values, we can find new meaning in the stories of our faith traditions, as well as learn what makes an effective story. Author/illustrator **Ray Buckley** is of Lakota/Tlingit/Scots descent. He currently serves as the interim Director of the Center for Native American Spirituality and Christian Study and worked as a staff member of The United Methodist Publishing House and Director of the UMC Native People's Communication Office. He is the author/illustrator of several books, including *The Give-Away: A Christmas Story in the Native American Tradition*, and *Dancing with Words: Storytelling as Legacy, Culture, and Faith*.

July 23 – July 29 Eric Barreto A People for God's Name Believing and Belonging in Luke

Survey after survey demonstrates that ethnic diversity is only increasing in recent days, and yet many of our churches remain culturally homogeneous. What might a church that invites diversity look like? Too often, our tendency has been to imagine that our faith "solves" the "problems" of diversity by making us all one, all the same. In contrast, the author of Luke-Acts views our differences as a gift to be treasured, not a difficulty to be overcome. We will turn to the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles to wonder together how God's gift of diversity might take root in our lives together. **Eric D. Barreto** is the Weyerhaeuser Associate Professor of New Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary and an ordained Baptist minister. The author of *Ethnic Negotiations: The Function of Race and Ethnicity in Acts 16*, the co-author of *Exploring the Bible*, and editor of *Reading Theologically*, he is also a regular contributor to ONScripture.org, the Huffington Post, WorkingPreacher.org, and EntertheBible.org.

2017 Schedule of Programs



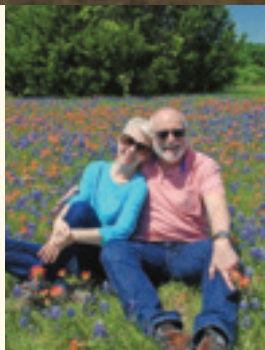
July 30 – August 5 Ron Dunn and Ed Farrell-Starbuck A Line Upon the Water Sharing the Experience of Fly Fishing and Faith

There is often more to fly fishing than meets the eye. By pursuing fish in the pooled depths of a stream one can discover not merely the presence of a fish, but also the very presence of the Holy. In this respect, fly fishing can express our longing for the God who waits for us in the depths of our own life experience. In the evenings we will explore the theological connections and the faith implications of fly fishing. We'll also cultivate the "experiential theology" of wetting a line together in the remarkable waters of the Wind River Mountains. Experienced teachers and gear will be available for anyone wanting to learn the basics or improve her or his techniques. **Ron Dunn** is currently Lead Pastor of the San Ramon Valley UMC in Alamo, California. **Ed Farrell Starbuck** retired from full-time ministry in 2013 and now serves as part-time pastor of Harwich UMC on Cape Cod. Both Ron and Ed have been exploring the connection between fly fishing and faith for more than forty years.



August 6 – 12 Kate Campbell Comfort Language

Some writing is like comfort food! For singer/songwriter Kate Campbell the work of Eudora Welty, Flannery O'Connor, and Harper Lee is like that. They are all from the South, and reading their work is like comfort food or "comfort language" each with their own recipe twists. Their work in particular has profoundly influenced Kate's own songwriting voice. She will be reading and singing and hopefully opening up further conversations about these writers and the notion of comfort language and finding our own voice in this seminar. Maybe we'll talk about comfort food as well! As the daughter of a Baptist preacher from Sledge, Mississippi, **Kate Campbell's** formative years were spent in the very core of the civil rights movement of the 1960s, and the indelible experiences of those years have shaped her heart, character and convictions ever since. Her endearing, clear water vocal delivery, eloquent gift for storytelling, easy command of a full range of American music styles, combine to earn Campbell recognition as a formidable talent by critics, musicians, and a discerning public.



August 13 – 19 Diana and John Holbert Seeking the Psalms Today

When you hear the word "Psalms" what do you think of? Trust, peace, poetry? In fact the Book of Psalms in the Hebrew Bible is a rich resource for the full range of human emotions and the complete possibilities of human behaviors. As a way of approaching the Psalms for today's world, John and Diana Holbert will facilitate our in-depth exploration of this literature by reading and responding to chosen texts, using the spiritual disciplines of Holy Listening and Lectio Divina; and by helping the participants create various kinds of presentations (movement, songs, poetry) of Laments, Songs of Thanksgiving, and Hymns of Praise in small groups. **Diana Holbert** is a liturgical dancer, a spiritual director, and a long-time pastor in the UMC, having served in England, suburbia, an all-African-American congregation, and the inner city of Dallas, Texas. **John Holbert** is the Lois Craddock Perkins Professor of Homiletics Emeritus at Perkins School of Theology in Dallas. John has published eleven books, the most recent being a novel, *King Saul*.



August 20 – 26 Ashley Zauderer The Great American Eclipse!

Ring Lake Ranch lies directly under the path of the total solar eclipse that will happen on the morning of Monday, August 21st. Locations like Little Whiskey and the ridge of Torrey Valley will offer excellent vantage points for this once-in-a-lifetime event. Approximately two minutes in duration, this event is an example of one of the most extreme observable changes in the sky with the naked eye. But, what else changes in the sky? Together we will explore everything from planetary motion, asteroids and comets, to flaring stars, exploding stars, and the remnants from these explosions -- including black holes and the spinning remnants from the burned out embers of old stars. **Ashley Zauderer** is the Assistant Director of Mathematical and Physical Sciences at the John Templeton Foundation, as well as a postdoctoral research fellow at Harvard University. She earned a BA from Agnes Scott College and her PhD from the University of Maryland.



August 27 – Sept. 2 Belden Lane For Love of a Tree Finding Spiritual Guides in the Natural World

Belden will lead us in exploring various teachers in nature and the saints (or sages) who have sought them out as spiritual guides. Examples include Hildegard of Bingen and trees, Catherine of Siena and fire, Teresa of Avila and water, and Ignatius Loyola and caves. We'll look at these and others in relation to developmental life stages along the spiritual journey, following Bill Plotkin's work. How might one's whole life might be shaped by a life-long practice of learning from teachers in the natural world? Thomas Berry, the Passionist priest and ecotheologian, complained that we've dropped out of the Great Conversation. "We're talking only to ourselves," he said. "We aren't talking to the rivers, we aren't listening to the wind and stars. We have broken the Great Conversation." This closing retreat of the season will invite us to listen once again—picking up our end of the dialogue through storytelling, ritual work, and time spent in nature. **Belden Lane** is Professor Emeritus of Theological Studies at Saint Louis University and author of *The Solace of Fierce Landscapes: Exploring Desert and Mountain Spirituality and Backpacking with the Saints*.

The Ranch is made so much better every year by the dedication and enthusiasm of our volunteers. Please consider joining us, either during our Volunteer Week, May 21st – 27th or during one of our sessions. Contact Andy Blackmun at andy@ringlake.org or call him at 888-458-5253 to sign up or ask any questions.



Staff Assistants

The Ranch hosted several great staff assistants during our 2016 season. A hearty thanks to Jacob Winslea, Rose George, Sabrina George, Zack Flamik, Taylor Stugelmayer, Elizabeth Blackmun and Christian Blackmun for all of their hard work around the Ranch.

We welcome young people between the ages of 13 and 18 to apply to be staff assistants for our 2017 season. We ask staff assistants to work between 20 and 30 hours per week. In return, staff assistants receive room, board and a small stipend during their stay. Depending on rooming arrangements, staff assistants usually stay for one or two weeks; more weeks may be available at the discretion of the Director. Staff assistants need to have come to the Ranch as guests at least once. The work can vary each day: sometimes we need help around the kitchen, sometimes down at the corral, sometimes covering the back of a group on a hike. Teenagers interested in working as staff assistants should contact Andy Blackmun at andy@ringlake.org or 888-458-5253.



The online Ranch gift shop is open again – with more sizes of the shirts that were so popular this summer, as well as a new item - and we have a holiday sale going! We are offering our limited edition 50th anniversary merchandise at 10% off plus free shipping for orders over \$50, from now until the end of 2016. Have a look at www.ringlake.org/shop.

In Gratitude for 2016 RLR Volunteers

Our 2016 season was about as eventful as we could have wanted (and handled!). The summer began with our usual Volunteer Week cleaning and maintenance work, with the addition of the construction of a new four-vehicle garage behind Creekside Cabin. We owe an enormous thank you to Jim Young who arrived before Volunteer Week to finalize plans and materials for the building. He led a small crew of volunteers and staff through 12 hour days and together they completed the framing and decking in a week! Thanks as well to Ken Iha, Ryan Collins, Dwight Haberman, Mike McKee and Becky and Harold Walker for all of their help in those first days of the project. We were also happy to have Dan Hauck and Lynn Williamson, Sara Myers and David Petersen, Jacque Franklin and Tom, Joel and Ellen Francis, Ted and Renette Laase and Dewitt Daggett work on all the other usual Volunteer Week projects: cabin cleaning, screen and fence repairs and preparing

our horses and tack. We had another strong summer of volunteer support during our guest weeks as well. Thanks to Dwight Haberman, Mike Morris, Maria Battista, David Turpin and Amelia Carrell, Lynn Williamson and Dan Hauck, Alice and Fred Nicol, Julie Wakelee-Lynch, Lesley and Glen Stugelmayer, Martha Howard-Sempert, Craig Mahood, Galen Peckham, and Carl Koch and Joyce Heil for their help in so many ways throughout the summer. Special thanks are owed to Renette and Ted Laase, Amy Mears, Fred Nicol and Shelley Martin for helping fill in for absent staff; Renette, Ted and Amy did a wonderful job in the Ranch kitchen and Fred and Shelley were great help as wranglers. We asked them to work some long hours, but they all did so with grace, enthusiasm and good humor. Thanks also to Jerry Campbell, RLR Board member and chairperson of our 50/50 Capital Campaign, for spending his summer at RLR talking with guests about the Campaign.

2017 Registration

2017 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.....	\$908
Basic lodging with private bath	\$1032
Large Family cabin with private bath.....	\$1078

YOUTH FEES FOR 6 DAY SESSIONS

Youth (ages 13 – 17).....	\$687
Child (ages 12 and under).....	no charge

ADULT FEES FOR 2 CONSECUTIVE SESSIONS

Basic lodging with shared bath.....	\$ 1584
Basic lodging with private bath	\$ 1806
Large Family cabin with private bath.....	\$ 1876

YOUTH FEES FOR 2 CONSECUTIVE SESSIONS

Youth (ages 13 – 17).....	\$ 1185
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](mailto:amanda@ringlake.org) 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 \$260/adult and \$150/youth for 6 day sessions or \$450/adult and \$250/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:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basic/shared bath | <input type="checkbox"/> Basic/private bath |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Large Family/private bath | <input type="checkbox"/> Cabin # |

Roommate preference (registering separately)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> One bed? | <input type="checkbox"/> Two beds? |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|

Is walking over steep or rough terrain difficult for you?

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|

Any other physical limitations? _____

Dietary restrictions/food allergies: _____

Will you need transportation from the airport?

(see spring Carillon or website for charges)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> 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.

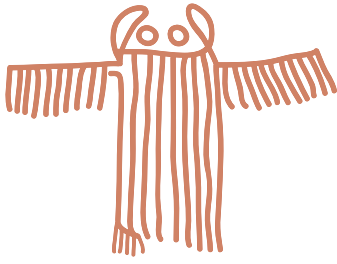
Return form to:

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

P.O. Box 806 • Dubois, WY 82513

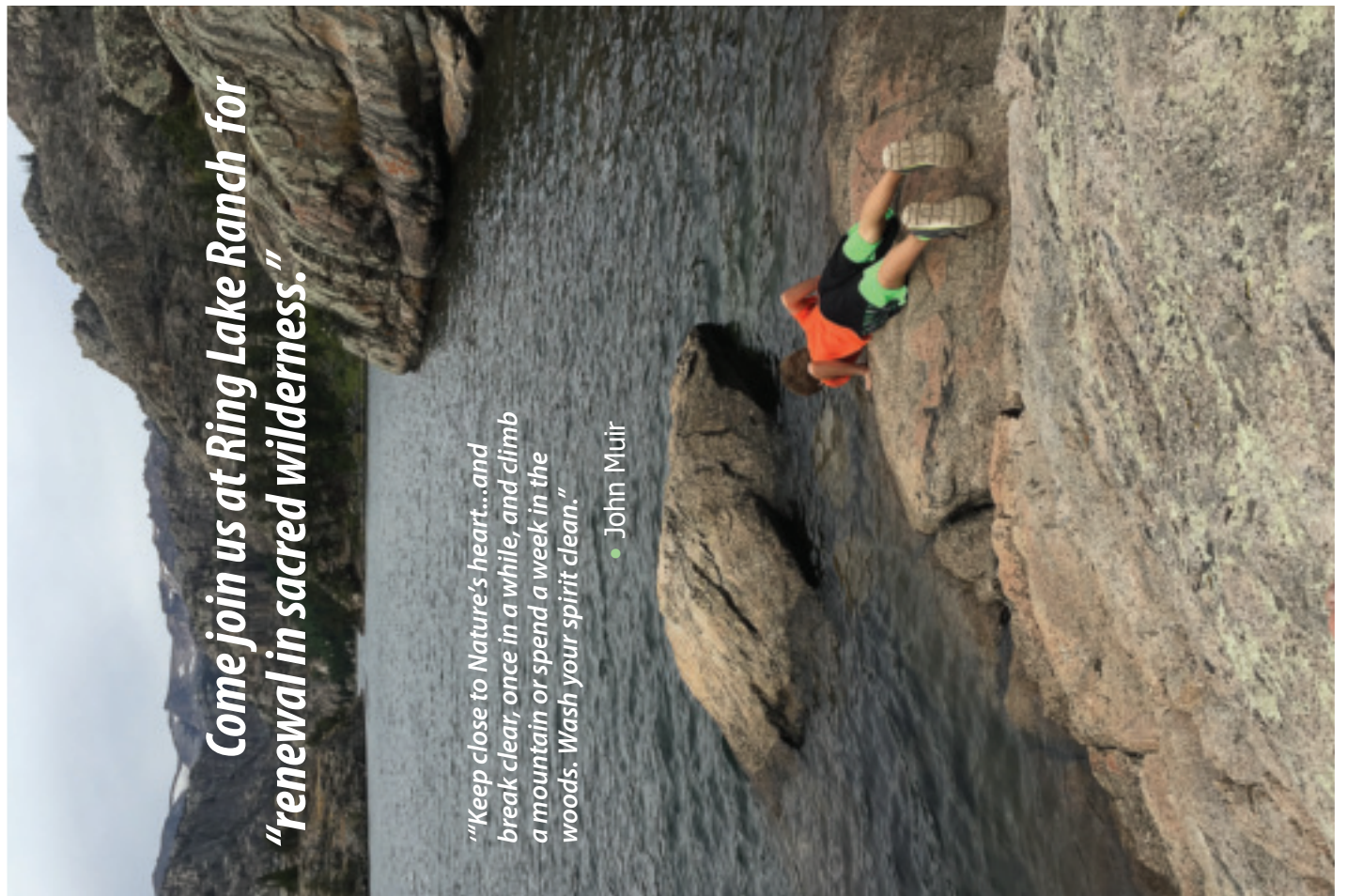
Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization

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Permit No. 25

La Crosse, WI



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

*"Keep close to Nature's heart...and
break clear, once in a while, and climb
a mountain or spend a week in the
woods. Wash your spirit clean."*

• John Muir

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