THANK YOU for your registration in Yellowstone Forever’s Decoding the Language of Nature Lamar Premier Package; we can’t wait to see you!

Below you will find detailed information specific to your class. For general information about the facilities, park information, preparing for classes, what to expect, and more, please see the Lamar Buffalo Ranch - Summer General Information document.

CLASS INFORMATION

Class Name: Decoding the Language of Nature
Instructor: Jon Young and George Bumann, M.S.
Activity Level: This course is an activity level 2 and students enrolled in this course are expected to be active participants. Be prepared to hike up to 3 miles per day, comfortably, with elevation gains up to 600 feet. Some off-trail hiking possible.*
Class Dates and Times: The course begins at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 4, 2020, and ends on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.
Location: Lamar Buffalo Ranch
Lodging and Shuttles: For those wishing to travel to Bozeman, Montana, the night before the course, your hotel room is available to check in on Thursday, September 3, 2020, at 3:00 p.m. (Shuttles are available from Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport to the hotel.) After enjoying a complimentary breakfast at the hotel, shuttle buses will pick up participants at the Element Hotel Lobby on Friday, September 4, 2020, at 10:30 a.m. Shuttles will take participants directly to the Lamar Buffalo Ranch, with stops in-between, including a catered sack lunch. Shuttles will leave the ranch around 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, and drop participants off in Bozeman no later than 2:00 p.m.
Meals: This course is catered. If you have any food allergies, please include those in your health form post-registration and if you have dietary restrictions please reach out to our Contact Center at your earliest convenience at 406.848.2400 or contact@yellowstone.org.

*All field activities will be conducted as a group. If you cannot meet the activity level expectations during your program, you may be restricted from participation in daily outings. We will not alter program itineraries or activities to accommodate participants who cannot meet the expectations of the stated activity level.

If you are running late call the Lamar Bunkhouse at 307.344.7749.

FROM THE INSTRUCTOR
Mother nature rarely shouts, and when she does speak, it’s most often in a whisper. Are you listening? Want to know that a coyote has just passed by or that a hawk is about to arrive? If so, you will want to explore the ways in which to read the nuances in the natural world in a new and unprecedented way—through the art and science of bird and animal language, and tracking. Join renowned tracker and author of What the Robin Knows,
Jon Young and Yellowstone naturalist and artist George Bumann on this enlightening program that will change the way you see the world around you—forever.

Every living human being’s ancestors were in direct communication with the natural world at some point in their history. Attentiveness to their surroundings was rooted in the will to survive and was fueled by the innate curiosity built into their, and our own, neural circuitry. During the class, you will reenter that ancient conversation, awaken the same sensory systems and take away lessons that are now more relevant for the modern age than ever. Various ways of ‘knowing’—from cutting edge science, to indigenous wisdom, to your own first-hand experiences—will ignite your ability to dig deeper into the beauty of life and allow you to bring that understanding home with you.

The program will make use of ample field outings, involve ‘bird sits’, field lectures, and open conversations towards getting the most out of our time together. A inspiring tapestry of stories and ideas will be woven out of Jon’s extensive background teaching bird language and nature connection, and his lifetime experience working as a tracker for conservation science and storytelling. George’s Yellowstone-specific knowledge of the Park, research background, over 30 years as a guide using animal language and tracking, as well as his unique perspective as an artist, will help boost your knowledge towards a truly transformative experience. Bonus material on the program will include the elements of storytelling, nature journaling, and field sketching to help you to better record and share your encounters with others both during and after the program.

Our greater goal is to help you tune into the pulse of the landscape around you, not only in a place like Yellowstone, but in your very own backyard. We will present and practice tools that will build awareness of the ‘goings on’ anywhere you find yourself— from urban, to suburban or rural settings. Nature has so much to offer us and you may find that some of the best teachers are the pigeons outside your door, the squirrels at the feeder or the deer in your neighborhood. The lessons learned will also directly translate to anywhere you may travel. Observations made during the class, or of backyard robins and rabbits, will leave you better equipped to find the next wolf in Yellowstone, or the mamba or lions in Africa, with greater proficiency than you ever thought possible. Prepare to imbed yourself in one of the greatest wild lands on earth! Come armed with your curiosity, awaken your senses, and let the magic of Yellowstone do the rest...

Warm regards and we look forward to spending time with you in the Park!

Jon Young and George Bumann, M.S.

PROGRAM ITINERARY
The details and timing of the agenda are subject to change.

After the introductory night about what the program will entail, what to expect and things to be learned, etc, each day will follow the same start general progression (with obvious contingencies for weather, etc.) of the following:

Sunrise Wildlife watching
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Breakfast
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Classroom or outdoor lessons/lecture
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.  Mid day outing in the field with the option of a packed lunch, or if poor weather lunch at ranch (to be coordinated with the caterer)
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 pm  Afternoon break
3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  Wildlife watching
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  Dinner
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  Evening program, evening wildlife watching
Fireside chats at the firing or classroom instruction

PROGRAM EQUIPMENT
For a full list of recommended equipment for all courses see the Lamar Buffalo Ranch - Summer General Information document.

Items specific to this course are:
- General field guides for birds and mammals (including any phone/ipad apps) will be helpful. You may wish to purchase or borrow some of titles below to read in the lead-up to the program. Some may be available in the Institute classroom library for your use.

RECOMMENDED READING
There are books and reference materials at the ranch for you to enjoy during your stay. In addition to those materials the instructor has recommended you read the following:

Books:
- Gooley, Tristan. The Lost Art of Reading Nature's Signs: Use Outdoor Clues to Find Your Way, Predict the Weather, Locate Water, Track Animals—and Other Forgotten Skills. Published by The Experiment. 2015.
- Hutto, Joe. Illumination in the Flatwoods: A Season with the Wild Turkey. Lyons Press.

**Media:**

• Young, Jon. *Activating the Storyteller’s Mind: Simple practices to deepen connection and integrate the nervous system*. Audio Series program.
• Young, Jon. Bird Language Basics. DVD. Village Video.
• Nature: My Life as a Turkey (2011)
• NOVA: Animal Minds

Again, we look forward to hosting you at the beautiful Lamar Buffalo Ranch. If you have any questions, please refer to your *Lamar Buffalo Ranch – Summer General Information* document or reach out to the Institute at 406.848.2400.