



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

THE INTELLIGENCE OF ANIMALS

Itinerary & Details

FIELD SEMINAR - SUMMER 2021

INSTRUCTOR: George Bumann, M.S.

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY: George Bumann, M.S., can draw, sculpt, and teach about all aspects of Yellowstone. He has a degree in wildlife ecology and works as a professional artist and educator. His art and writing have appeared in popular and scientific publications, and his sculptures can be found in collections throughout the United States and abroad.

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.*

**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.*

LOCATION: Lamar Buffalo Ranch – Yellowstone National Park, WY

PROGRAM DATES & TIMES: The program begins at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 29, 2021, and ends on Wednesday, September 1, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

LODGING CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT: Lodging check-in begins at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 29, 2021, and lodging check-out is at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 2, 2021.

MEALS: You will need to bring your own food; lunch should be able to travel in the field with you.

For general information about the facilities, preparing for classes, what to expect, cancellation policies, and more, please see the [Lamar Buffalo Ranch - Summer General Information](#) document.

FROM THE INSTRUCTOR

Can we know what goes on in an animal's mind? Perhaps not entirely, but we can begin to approach an understanding of how they perceive their environment and why they do what they do.

Indigenous cultures have known of the integral ties between all life, including the conversations within and across species. Our Western culture is just now coming to understand some semblance of the same. Journey with us as we unravel some of the wisdom and awe that exists in the natural world—as seen through scientific research, stories, and anecdotes, and above all through firsthand experience in the wilds of Yellowstone.

We will use our time together to delve into interpreting animal behavior, vocalizations, movement patterns, and more. All of this will be geared toward giving you a foothold into "reading" the landscape through animal eyes, ears, and noses. Lessons learned will be of use in Yellowstone, but my broader agenda is that you will take this new mindset and these observation skills back home with you and on all future travels—wherever they may take you. Animal intelligence is all around us, all of the time. We need only to slow down and tune in.

Our primary objectives for the class will be to:

- Learn ways to better spot and observe wildlife in the field.
- Discover ways to interpret detailed behaviors, movement, and vocalizations.
- Understand the innate intelligence of observed animals through their instinctual and learned behaviors.
- Begin to piece together how they are interacting with the landscape and other animals on a community level.

- *George Bumann, M.S*

PROGRAM ITINERARY

The itinerary is designed to take advantage of the best opportunities in the park, but may be adjusted to adapt to weather conditions, wildlife activity, holidays, and road construction.

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

Day 1 The program starts with an evening orientation where participants will be introduced to the Lamar Buffalo Ranch and go over Field Seminar overview and itinerary.

Days 2 - 4 Early mornings will be spent in the field looking for wildlife. Afterward, participants will return to the ranch for breakfast, discussions, and free time. After lunch students will then again be in the field watching wildlife and going for hikes. Evenings will be spent with evening programs.

Day 5 Check-out from the ranch is 9:00 a.m.

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:

- Optics** – *Binoculars and spotting scopes provided by the Yellowstone Forever Institute are available, however, if you have your own optics, you are encouraged to bring them.*
- Field Notebook**

RECOMMENDED READING

No prior reading is required, but participants might enjoy the following publications, that complement the program. Most publications are available at Yellowstone Forever's online store at shop.yellowstone.org. Yellowstone Forever supporters receive a 15 percent discount and proceeds directly support the park.

- Field Guides – *birds and mammals, including phone apps, will be helpful.*
- Halfpenny, James C. *A Field Guide to Mammal Tracking in North America.* Johnson Books, 1986.
- Halfpenny, James C., and Roy Douglas. Ozanne. *Winter: An Ecological Handbook.* NetLibrary, Inc., 1999.
- Heinrich, Bernd. *The Mind of the Raven: Investigations and Adventures with Wolf-Birds.* Harper Perennial, 2009.
- Heinrich, Bernd. *Ravens in Winter.* Vintage, 1991.
- Hutto, Joe. *Illumination in the Flatwoods: A Season with the Wild Turkey.* Lyons Press, 2011.
- "Inside Animal Minds: Bird Genius." NOVA Science Now, season 41, episode 8, PBS, 2014.
- Smith, Douglas W., and Gary Ferguson. *Decade of the Wolf: Returning the Wild to Yellowstone.* Lyons Press, 2012.
- Young, Jon, and Dan Gardoqui. *What the Robin Knows: How Birds Reveal the Secrets of the Natural World.* Mariner Books, 2013.

WHOM TO CONTACT

For any questions, concerns, or additional information please contact the following:

- Program itinerary, health forms, payment, and activity questions please contact Yellowstone Forever at institute@yellowstone.org or 406-848-2400
- Road updates, park conditions, and general park information please contact Yellowstone National Park Service at <https://www.nps.gov/yell/contacts.htm>
- If running late for a program, please contact 406-848-2400