



# YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

## DECODING THE LANGUAGE OF NATURE

### Itinerary & Details

FIELD SEMINAR – SUMMER 2024

**INSTRUCTORS:** George Bumann, M.S. & Jon Young

**INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHIES:** 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.

Jon Young is a leader in the field of nature-based education, and effective nature connection, he is a deep nature connection mentor, wildlife tracker, author, educator, consultant, inspiring public speaker, and storyteller. Jon's work has appeared in documentaries concerning nature and ecology and he has authored and co-authored several seminal works on deep nature connection and connection mentoring, including *What the Robin Knows: How Birds Reveal the Secrets of the Natural World* (2013), and *Coyote's Guide to Connecting to Nature* (2007).

**ACTIVITY LEVEL:** This course is 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 participants cannot meet the activity level expectations during the program, they may be restricted from participation in daily outings. Program itineraries or activities will not be altered 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 Saturday, August 31, 2024, and goes through Wednesday, September 4, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

**LODGING CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT:** Lodging check-in begins at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 31, 2024 and lodging check-out is at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 5, 2024.

**MEALS:** This course is not catered. Participants will need to bring their own food; lunch should be able to travel in the field.

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

## PROGRAM ITINERARY

Mother nature rarely shouts, and when she does speak, she's most often in a whisper. Are you listening? Do you 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.

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

#### Welcome

The program starts with an evening orientation. You will get to know one another and be introduced to the program. Throughout the evening, the itinerary and seminar key concepts will be discussed, as well as what to expect to pack for the field each day.

### Day 2 - 5

Sunrise Wildlife watching  
Classroom or outdoor lessons/lecture  
Mid-day outing in the field with the option of a packed lunch, or if poor weather, then lunch at ranch  
Afternoon break  
Wildlife watching  
Dinner  
Evening program, evening wildlife watching  
Fireside chats at the fire ring or classroom instruction

### Day 6

#### Check-Out

Check out of cabins by 9:00 a.m.

## PROGRAM EQUIPMENT

For a full list of what is included in this course, in addition to recommended equipment check out the [Lamar Buffalo Ranch - Summer General Information](#) document.

#### Required:

- Notebook and pencil for observations

#### Optional:

- Magnifying glass or hand lens
- Camera
- Binoculars

## RECOMMENDED READING

There are books and reference materials at the ranch for the class to enjoy during the stay. In addition to those materials, the following recommended readings are not required but may enhance the visit.

### Books:

- Ackerman, Jennifer. *The Genius of Birds*. Penguin Books. 2017.
- e Waal, Frans. *Are We Smart Enough to Know How Smart Animals Are?* W. W. Norton & Company. 2017.
- 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.
- Halfpenny, J.C. *Field Guide to Mammal Tracking in North America*. A Second Edition. Johnson Books. 1987.
- Heinrich, Bernd. *Ravens in Winter*. Heinrich, B. Vintage Books. 1991.
- Heinrich, Bernd. *Mind of the Raven*. Harper Perennial. 2007.
- Hutto, Joe. *Illumination in the Flatwoods: A Season with the Wild Turkey*. Lyons Press. 2006.
- Hutto, Joe. *Touching the Wild: Living with the Mule Deer of Deadman Gulch*. Skyhorse Press. 2014.
- Liebenberg, Louis. *The Art of Tracking: The Origin of Science*. New Africa Books. 1995.
- Marchand, Peter. *Autumn: A Season of Change*. Published by UPNE. 2000.
- Marzluff, John. *Gifts of the Crow: How Perception, Emotion, and Thought Allow Smart Birds to Behave Like Humans*. Atria Books. 2013.
- Meijer, Eva. *Animal Languages*. The MIT Press. 2020.
- Morgan, Tiffany and J. Young. *Animal Tracking Basics*. Stackpole Books. 2007.
- Rezendes, Paul. *Tracking and the Art of Seeing: How to Read Animal Tracks and Sign*. Collins Reference. 1999.
- Savage, Candice. *Bird Brains: The Intelligence of Crows, Ravens, Magpies, and Jays*. Greystone Books. 2018.
- Safina, Carl. *Beyond Words: What Animals Think and Feel*. Picador Press. 2020.
- Slobodchikoff, Con. *Chasing Doctor Dolittle: Learning the Language of Animals*. St. Martin's Press, 2012.
- Smith, Douglas & Gary Ferguson. *Decade of the Wolf: Returning the Wild To Yellowstone*. Lyons Press. 2005.
- Young, Jon. *Advanced Bird Language: Reading the Concentric Rings of Nature*. Owl Link Media. 1999.
- Young, Jon. *What the Robin Knows: How Birds Unravel the Secrets of the Natural World*. Mariner Books 2012.

### 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*

## WHOM TO CONTACT

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

- Program itinerary, health forms, payment, and general program questions please contact Yellowstone Forever at [institute@yellowstone.org](mailto: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.