



Ramblings

May 2018

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## PRESIDENTS VIEW

Winter has come and gone and unlike winters in the past, we didn't get the crazy blizzards (that even though they locked us down in our homes) that fill our lakes and make the beautiful trees at LVRanch grow and provide the beautiful summer green that we all love. It has been a busy 6 months for the LVRanch Board as we have met to discuss roads, access to LVRetreat and the impact of the requirement from the Forest Service concerning LVR Trail. It seems like once we answered one issue another one came up that kept the LVRanch Board very busy at our bi-monthly meetings.

What an amazing group of men and women we have serving LVRanch on the Board. Each person brings a very specific set of skills and perspective that helps drive us to decisions that are in alignment with the founding principles of LVRanch.

Diana and I are busy planning our 1st long weekend at LVRanch (Memorial Day weekend) and would love to see as many of you as we can over the course of that long weekend.

Please pray for rain so that we can have campfires this summer. If it stays as dry as it is, I know that Teller County will put a burn ban in place. I sure enjoy our nightly campfires where we sit around tell stories and eat smores.

Your Brother in Christ,

John Harris  
LVRanch Board President

## BUILDINGS & SAFETY

The colorful show of our post-fire aspens was incredible this year, bears have gone to bed, and many have winterized their water systems for the winter. Still, LVR was hopping the Saturday before Halloween with many folks enjoying the sunshine and clean air. Construction projects are still underway on several ranch lots as members hurry to take advantage of the final weeks before the snow.

There haven't been any interesting submissions for lot improvements lately... but I'm hoping some of you start getting creative. Those of you with steep inclines might consider a ski jump, alpine slide, bobsled chute. Flatter lot? Go for a tennis or bochi ball court! I'm sure we could sneak something interesting past the rest of the board members.

FYI – we seem to have satisfied the county request for information on lot improvement changes. We called everyone affected before sending the county any updates, so no one would be surprised. Please be aware that if a lot improvement changes ownership (death of spouse, transfer of lot, etc.) that the county would like to be informed.

It's great to see the new gate construction and our familiar “*Auf Wiedersehen*” sign back up. I'm sure you'll get plenty of time to admire it as you safely cruise up at 20mpg and close the gate behind you :)

Cheers,  
Shad

## NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome our new members:

Thomas and Patricia Silva on Lot 113 of Monument, Colorado

Barry and Lisa Barnes on Lot 76 of Colorado Springs, Colorado.

## LOT INFORMATION

Currently we have no lots available and have a waiting list. That is good news for LVRanch.

## LOT SIGNS

Need a sign with your name on it for your lot? Go to [www.lvranch.org](http://www.lvranch.org) and click on “Lot sign request form” at the bottom of the main page or contact Shirley Bauer at [slbauer1030@gmail.com](mailto:slbauer1030@gmail.com). Lot signs are being made for the new members.

## ADDRESS CHANGES

Please contact Shirley Bauer at [slbauer1030@gmail.com](mailto:slbauer1030@gmail.com) if you have an address change so that we keep our database of LVRanch members current.

## CLINGS, STICKERS AND FLAGS

LVR window clings, ATV stickers and ATV flags are now available. The board encourages all members to have a window cling (black and white) displayed in the lower drivers side windshield of their car and LVR stickers (yellow and black) on their ATV's. These forms of ID let your fellow Ranch members and Retreat staff know that you belong on the property. COST: Clings and stickers are FREE. ATV flags \$10.00 donation (non-deductible). If you need any of these items, contact Shirley Bauer at [slbauer1030@gmail.com](mailto:slbauer1030@gmail.com)

## EQUIPMENT

To the members of Lutheran Valley Ranch. It has been a year of many challenges. I have been working second shift at work and have been unable to attend many of the board meetings. The good news is that I am now on the days shift and will be able to attend all of the meetings in the future. This will help me keep the road grader in running order. Last year we decided to not replace the ageing road grader. Over the last year the road grader has incurred a lot of expenses. We now have to bring the road grader down to Four Rivers Equipment to have the front wheel drive repaired, which is the big project at hand for me at this time. I will be working on this and many other repair issues in the coming year I am sure.

The other thing that I am sure of is that there will be many other issues that I will be entrusted to help with. Some of them will have long reaching repercussions and some will not. What I want to let everyone know is that I take my position on the Lutheran Valley Ranch board seriously and that I will always keep the members best interests in mind in everything I do.

In the Lords service and yours,  
Theodore Gates

## LAKES , TREES AND WILDLIFE

### Outdoor Lights - Please Join the Conversation!

There's a new movement that's now catching a foothold in many scenic areas, like ours, and its popular name is called 'dark sky.' The underlying idea is to preserve the pristine quality of the nighttime skyline, for star and landscape viewing purposes.

The dark sky movement isn't about telling people that they can't have outside lights. Instead, it's about having outdoor lights that are recessed, shielded or hooded in order to direct the emitted light downward (toward the ground), instead of allowing the light to be emitted upwards, nor very far to the sides. It's the glare from a light bulb or light globe that is mostly visible to our neighbors, and it's not about outdoor space lighting, per se. It's the very same idea that is used in the construction of a common, coned desk lamp. The light only goes where it's needed, and not into your eyes ☹.

The dark sky philosophy also includes having outdoor lights connected to a manual on/off switch, and: turning an outdoor light off when an outdoor area is not being used; turning an outdoor light off after a certain hour in the evening; and, for sure, turning an outdoor light off when you go back home for several days, weeks or months when you are not using it. This all sounds very simple, because it is. Is this too much of a burden to ask from each of you?

There is, however, one item at the Ranch that is starting to propagate quicker than the bunnies in my backyard. Those are the inexpensive solar landscape lights. Certain parts of the Ranch are starting to look more like a suburban subdivision due to their proliferation. Many Ranch members are driving those into the ground, enjoying them for a weekend and leaving them outdoors shining every evening year-round.

## LAKES , TREES AND WILDLIFE (cont.)

It's a little more expensive to purchase a solar landscape light with a manual on/off switch. Then there's remembering to turn them to 'off' before you head back for home during the daytime hours. Perhaps another good alternative would be just to collect them all up and place them into your camper or shed before you leave for home. Then just stick them back out again when you return the next time. Then it's no so big a deal.

There are many good website discussions of the dark sky philosophy (not a religion) and potential good light fixture selections. It's mainly this idea that I'm asking you to consider and discuss.

Your brother in Christ!

Jim Simpson  
Board Member, Lakes, Trees and Wildlife (and lightbulbs?)

## SAFETY

Spring is here and that means CONSTRUCTION here at LVR. There are several projects continuing from last year, including a house, several small cabins, a garage, a couple of driveways, and several electricity installations. So far we have 3 requests already for the May meeting. I'd like to formally challenge the entire ranch population to have someone build a pool... with a water slide. I can guar-

antee we'll approve it 😊 As far as safety is concerned, be sure to check the county website for fire restrictions (<http://www.co.teller.co.us/>). We've been in a stage 1 ban since March... pray for rain! The board is happy to see the tree work done last fall has made it much easier to see around the corners on many of the main roads. Still, please be sure to go slowly (20mph) and close that gate when you come and go!

Thanks,

Shad

## TREASURER'S UPDATE

General O&M is over budget because we had work done on the Front Gate. Road Improvements are over budget because we decided to have the road professionally graded this past year. Annual Assessments have been received and Annual Assessments (2018-2019) will be due **November 30, 2018**. Expenses seem to be right on track.

Blessings,  
Shirley Bauer—Treasurer

## WILDLIFE SAFETY

LV Ranch is within the habitat for many species of wildlife, including moose, black bears, mountain lions, elk, deer, coyotes, foxes, raccoons and many more. I've often wondered how much of a threat those larger animals pose to us, so I did some investigating. I was happily surprised by what I discovered.

It turns out that the statistical average number of people killed every year by a mountain lion within the entire continental US (including Alaska) is one person. The statistical average for death by a black bears is one person every two years. Now according to the 2017 US census, our population reached 325.7 million people. Even when you subtract that population number by the roughly five million people living in Hawaii and Puerto Rico, the odds of getting killed by a mountain lion every year is less than 1 in 320 million people. The annual odds for death by a black bear is less than 1 in 640 million people. The occurrence of someone being killed by a moose (or any of the other listed animals) is too low to calculate any yearly average. When you also understand that the odds of dying from a lightning strike is 1 in 107,000 people, and the odds from dying from an automobile accident in Colorado is 1 in 100,000, it becomes clear that we have very little reason to be fearful of the LV Ranch wildlife. Even though the danger posed by LV Ranch wildlife appears to be very slight, it is still important to remain careful, cautious and to exercise good judgment in wildlife matters.

The Colorado Department of Parks and Wildlife (CWP) has primary management responsibility for all the wildlife species in our state. If you go to the CWP's website, you will find fact sheets available for every Colorado species of wildlife, along with suggestions about how best to respond in a wildlife encounter (and how best to prevent an encounter). When you read through all of their various fact sheets, there are several reoccurring general suggestions or rules of thumb to follow:

- 1) Keep a safe distance and don't purposefully approach wildlife;
- 2) If you encounter a young animal (of any species), you need to be particularly careful about not getting too close to it. The chances are good that there's a protective parent within the near vicinity, and that parent may be inclined to attack you if they perceive you to pose a threat to their offspring (I've seen a mother rabbit charge at my terrier in protection of its little bunny. I would never have guessed it to do that);
- 3) Don't feed wildlife (bird feeders, dog food and people-garbage will attract many);
- 4) Don't try to run away from wildlife in an accidental encounter (running away can trigger a chase and pounce instinct - it's much safer to face them and to back away slowly);
- 5) Don't make eye contact with wildlife (that's generally perceived as a challenge);
- 6) If you are hiking:
  - a) Stay in groups of two or more;
  - b) Make a regular amount of noise while walking in the forest (to avoid a surprise wildlife encounter – you don't want to sneak up on them);
  - c) Keep all pets on a leash (they can easily provoke an attack on you or be attacked);
  - d) Keep all young children close by and pick them up if approached (so they don't run);
  - e) Carry a sturdy walking stick and don't be timid about wielding it vigorously at an animal's face (if necessary).

Of the wildlife species listed above, there's only one animal within our area that is less afraid of us than we are of it. That's a moose. Due to their typically large size and great strength, a full-grown moose has no natural predators in our LV Ranch area (except hunters). Unless cornered, purposefully provoked or you happen across it during mating season, a deer or an elk poses little, if any, threat to people. They are timid creatures and will simply run away if you get too close. A city dweller might incorrectly believe that a moose has the same temperament as a deer or an elk; it does not. A moose seems to somehow know that it can manage people with much less effort than it would take for it to manage a mountain lion or a bear. So if you ever encounter a moose, the best advice is to not do anything that might make it angry.

## **WILDLIFE SAFETY (cont.)**

If a moose decides to charge at you, it's best to dodge behind anything substantial like a tree, a car or a boulder (that's the only situation where it's wise to run if the moose is charging – still don't run first). So if you haven't yet guessed, please never try to whack at a moose with your walking stick. That situation will likely go from bad to worse.

I feel that it's important to mention one other animal because of its friendly appearance and how it's sometimes characterized in cartoons, and that's the raccoon. A raccoon has sharp teeth and even sharper claws. In addition, a raccoon can be surprisingly ferocious if they are approached by a person or a pet. So please be sure to inform your young children that it's not OK to go and attempt to pet a raccoon like they might attempt to pet a cute little kitty. It would likely involve a hospital visit and more than a few stitches. The purpose of this article is aimed at raising your awareness, and not to raise your apprehension about any wildlife danger. The 1 in 320 million people odds of experiencing a wildlife-related death while at LV Ranch is, perhaps, as good as it ever gets. Your chances of being hit by lightning or of being involved in a serious car accident is at least 320 times greater!

Your brother in Christ!

Jim Simpson

Board Member – Lakes, Trees and Wildlife

## **RANCH ROADS**

I have just driven all the roads on the Ranch and I think they are in great shape. I think we can attribute that to the dearth of snow over the winter. The roads are, for the most part, in the same shape as after the grading that was done last fall. There are a few small washboards starting up on Ellison. We can handle that with a few passes of the drag, which is now over on Clare Skov's driveway. Feel free to latch on to it and make a few passes. The drag works best after a bit of rain to soften the road a bit. If you find a problem area on the roads you use, please let me know and I will give that area some special attention. With all the above said, I am not planning on having the road graded this spring. This is the first year where I thought the roads did not need grading this time of year since I have been up here.

Over the winter, we did have some major issues with ice flows on the road over at Wildhorn. At times, the ice was more than a foot thick with pot holes up to a foot deep. The ice flows are caused by springs that are along the south side of the road. It did not get cold enough this winter to slow the springs down and the water would flow from the springs and then freeze solid during the cold nights and then repeat the process every day. The county cleared the ice a couple of times but then said they did not have the resources to continue. We used our road grader as we could. It is not heavy enough to break through hard frozen ice, so we could only make a dent after some warm days. I have not come across a workable solution for this problem. Just keep in mind there may be ice in that area in future winters and drive accordingly.

The Board has closed the lower portion of Aspen Trail beyond Bluebird leading to Forest Service property. We have had an issue with ATVs using lower Aspen Trail to access an unauthorized shortcut over to Cedar Mountain Road. Unfortunately this activity has reflected poorly on Lutheran Valley Retreat. The road is closed by a gate on the Retreat side of the Forest Service property, so there is no reason to use the road anyway. We will install a gate or large log on the Ranch side to help preclude use of the unauthorized shortcut. Please keep in mind that lot members are responsible for their family and guests' conduct and remind them to use the gate behind Bear Lake to access the Forest Service property and Cedar Mountain Road to the west of the Ranch.

The weather is awesome up here this spring. Come on up and enjoy God's beautiful mountain valley!

Your Roads Guy, Rod Young

## Lutheran Valley Ranch Board of Directors Info

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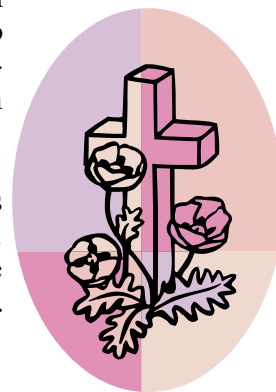
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## COLUMBARIUM

Well, here we are in May 2018 and we are still waiting for our second columbarium to be installed. After patiently waiting for a year it finally arrived in Colorado Springs in September 2017, only for it to be the wrong design. After extreme diligence by Shirley Bauer, the long awaited second columbarium is due to arrive in Colorado this coming August.

Our first columbarium is now completely reserved. We have two reservations for the second one. The cost of a niche (which holds two sets of cremains) remains the same at \$1000. Half a niche (for one set of cremains) can be reserved for \$500. If you are interested in reserving a niche, the application forms are available on the Ranch website or from Dee Paulson at (720)301-2481 or [dplakewood@comcast.net](mailto:dplakewood@comcast.net).



## BY-LAWS/RULES & REGULATIONS

If you would like a copy of the Corporate By-Laws or the Rules & Regulations, please contact Jolene Schauland at [Joleneschauland@outlook.com](mailto:Joleneschauland@outlook.com). The By-Laws and Regulations are also available on our website at: [www.lvranch.org](http://www.lvranch.org)

# UNCLE DAN'S NATURE CORNER – SPRING 2018

## WILD TURKEYS

By Bob Blackett

Benjamin Franklin in 1784 objected to the bald eagle as the new National Symbol, calling it ‘a bird of bad moral character’. He suggested instead the wild turkey, calling it ‘a bird of courage’.

Wild turkeys were nearly extirpated in the western U.S. in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. They were rare in the early days of Lutheran Valley Ranch. Around 1980 the Colorado Division of Wildlife began a program of re-introduction that has been extremely successful. The included pictures were taken through our cabin windows, the flock last fall and the very noisy gobbling tom in April of this year. I feel they were partly attracted by our birdseed feeders, plus our cabin can serve as a ‘blind’ to observe these very wary birds.

*Meleagris gallopavo* is the scientific name. Our western subspecies is called *Merriam's Wild Turkey*, found throughout the Rocky Mountains. Turkeys eat whatever they can find, especially grain and berries, acorns from wild oaks, grasses and seeds, insects and other small animals. They are social, living most of the year in flocks. Mating season is in the early spring. Toms display, gobbling, strutting and spreading their tail feathers. Hens eventually go off and build concealed nests on the ground, laying 10-14 eggs. Raccoons and skunks will eat the eggs, and predators especially of poults (young turkeys) include coyotes, foxes, bobcats and mountain lions, raptors.



The wild turkey is an important game bird, with both spring and fall seasons, hunted mostly with shotguns and bows. See the Colorado Parks and Wildlife brochure for details of this growing and challenging sport. A sportsmen's organization, the National Wild Turkey Federation, has been instrumental in conservation and re-introduction efforts.

Related birds include the blue grouse – also found at LVR – we once had to stop on Ellison Road near Deer Lake to let a flock mosey across. Colorado also has quail, prairie chickens, ptarmigan at high altitudes that turn white in winter, the endangered sage grouse, and introduced game species like chukar partridge and ring-necked pheasants. Wild turkeys have been domesticated, although your Thanksgiving Butterball is a very different animal from Mr. Franklin's ‘bird of courage’.





## SUMMER AT THE RANCH

A ranch is generally understood to be a large “farm” in the business of raising livestock of some kind (e.g. Cattle) for profit. So what is it that makes this LV- Ranch distinctly different and gives it its unifying identity? That name, Lutheran, must have something to do with it! That being the case one of the central features of summer at the Ranch is the Ranch House becoming more than just a convenient “rest-stop” like those along the interstate, in fact there’s a beautiful cross on the wall which each day reminds us of who we are as LVRanchers as a result of the One who united us with Himself by His Word in the Sacrament of Baptism, thus making us brothers and sister in Christ, and giving us a “shepherding” heart, both for the caring of each other in our earthly needs and concerns, but especially for the building up and caring for each other in what we confess in the Creed, “the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints”!

That’s the motivation and purpose the Ranch BOD has in providing each Lord’s Day during the summer, a Service at 10 AM. The Ranch House becomes the Lord’s House, the place our Savior promised to be to build us up in our faith, strengthen our brotherly unity through His ministry to us, and enable us to enjoy each day in brotherly love, grace, and peace beyond our comprehension!

This is vitally important for our time together at the Ranch because there have been some “under the surface contentions” for which there is no other solution other than that we all come together under Christ’s Cross, confessing our faith in word and deed through a central part of every service called “confession and absolution” and the greeting of “Christ’s peace!” That together with the Apostle Paul’s sharing of faith in his letter to the Christians in Rome: “I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is God’s power of salvation for all who believe!” Jesus’ words in John 15 affirm this: “You are already clean because of the Word which I have spoken to you! Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me... by this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples!”

We pray that our Summer At The Ranch is a profitable summer for all of us ranchers!!!

Clare Skov