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## PRESIDENTS VIEW

Can you believe that we are entering the Christmas season already as it seems like only a few days ago we were sitting around a campfire at LVR, enjoying time in the great outdoors surrounded by all that God created and provided to us. 1st, I want to give a very heart-felt thank you to Alan Peterson for his many years of leadership and guidance as our LV Ranch Board President. His love of LV Ranch and willingness to serve are an example that can all learn from. So, Alan, THANK YOU!! Additionally, I have no words to express my gratitude to Dee Paulson for her 12 years of service as the Board Secretary. As well as being the Chairperson for the Columbarium Committee (which she is still doing). Her diligence and attention to detail were her trademark and resulted in a very well defined set of historical records and setup the next Secretary for success (Jim does have a big set of shoes to fill :)).

Now, as I step into the role as LV Ranch President, I am humbled by the support of the other Board members and their hearts for LV Ranch. Over the years that I have been part of LV Ranch, I have come to love this place like a serene home away from home. A place where the outside world is left behind and I can spend time recharging and re-focusing my heart and mind on what really matters. The love of God and family and the communion of the saints. What a great reminder it is of God's providence to watch the Ranch members come together to accomplish great things, like Beautify LV Ranch day which was a true testament to what "working together" looks like. The Ranch members who came and worked so hard that day gave selflessly of themselves for the betterment of LV Ranch.

A special thank you to the Chuck Bauer family for fixing and refinishing the LV Ranch sign that was re-installed at the main gate and for Mr. Juth who installed the new entrance posts.

As we approach Christmas, I want to say to each of you, "Merry Christmas" and may God bless you richly in the coming year!!

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: Jeffrey Arney on lot 57 of Cottage Grove, Minnesota and Kevin and Melinda Hixon and their 3 children on lot 83 of Centennial, Colorado.

## LOT INFORMATION

Currently we have lot 113 on Columbine Loop available.

## 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.

## 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)

## ADDRESS CHANGES

Have you moved recently? If you have moved since August 2016, please contact the Ranch Secretary, Jim Simpson, at [Simpson.James.86@gmail.com](mailto:Simpson.James.86@gmail.com) and he will make sure your information is updated.

## FISH, LAKES AND TREES

### Bear Lake

Our beautiful Bear Lake needs more water. It's health relies on rainfall and snow pack. There is still enough depth to sustain fish into the winter but maybe not through the winter.

We normally have two trout deliveries a year, in late May and in late July to enhance good fishing for the Annual Fishing contest and the late summer and fall fishermen.

This year we did not have a second delivery to Bear Lake since it was already low.

Hopefully you have noticed and used the picnic areas on Bear Lake. Thanks to all who so cheerfully gave their time and energy to enhance the shore conditions for the Beautify LVR Day.

Be sure you know the contents of your rules sign which includes no wading or swimming.

Deer Lake is full thanks to the constant flow of water from the creek. The amount of weeds in the lake has increased each year and may have to be attended to next summer.

### Trees

To create safer driving conditions we have taken out some of the young aspen to give drivers and hikers a better view of on coming traffic. Remember, no matter how clear the view is the speed limit is still 20.

### Fish

I hope the fishing was good for you this season. Some of you may have enjoyed catching a Brown Trout which were reintroduced last year. Also introduced last year were the two to three pound Rainbows. I hope no one had their line snapped on those. For those fishermen who are fishing for fun and not for food, please do what you can to release the fish so that they will survive the ordeal.

### Tips for Catch and Release

1. Use a single hook and use a pliers to squeeze down the barb.
2. Use a net to land the fish so they can remain in the water longer and don't flop around on the shore. If you do handle the fish be sure that your hand is wet.
3. If your fish is in shock and doesn't swim away, use your hand to move it back and forth until it can swim out of your hand.

Dave Romberg

## **ROADS AND SIGNS REPORT**

The roads were graded in October and are in good shape for snow plowing once the ground freezes. I will attempt to keep Deer Trail and Columbine Loop plowed through the winter.

If you would like to come up during the winter and would like another road plowed to your lot, let me know. I will also plow your drive if I can. It is a lot easier to plow a drive if I know where the drive is so if you are planning on a winter excursion up here it would help to let me know so I have an idea of where the drive is located. A week or two notice of when you are coming up will also make it more likely that you will be able to get in and to make sure I will be up here to plow when you plan to come up.

The Board has sign posts for your lot signs. If you would like a new sign post, please let me know and I will get your signs on a new post. If I see signs that are in need of a replacement post, I will do those also.

Respectfully,  
Rod Young, Roads and Signs

## **RANCH TREES**

The IREA electric company has been cutting live trees on the Ranch this past summer and fall, in an effort to keep the power lines clear of falling trees. They are also removing and chipping up the logs and branches. The Ranch Board is in support of these IREA efforts for reasons which are apparent.

Due to decreased roadway visibility caused by the new growth of Aspen trees, in relation to on-coming traffic (especially on roadway curves and at intersections), the Ranch Board has recently contracted with an individual to cut back the Aspen trees by approximately 10 feet on both sides of several of the Ranch's roadways. Those cut Aspen trees are to be hauled to a central location for intended wintertime burning (when the snow is on the ground). Given the underlying safety concerns, your cooperation with both of these efforts is here requested.

A question was recently posed to the Ranch Board as to 'who owns the trees situated on the Ranch's parcel?' The simple answer is that the Ranch, as an entity, owns all of the trees.

Instead of attempting to micro-manage 'tree-cutting' on the 664 acres, a good stewardship guideline for tree-cutting was adopted in Section 1.d. of the Ranch Rules and Regulations, which reads, as follows: d. Healthy, wildfire-defensive forestry is encouraged at LVR. Clear cutting is not permitted other than for building or camping or access thereto. Cutting of diseased trees, or thinning overcrowded trees, or transplanting small trees is permitted. For guidance please contact the Ranch Board.

Because Ranch Board places a high value on maintaining a healthy tree growth (especially in the aftermath of the Hayman fire), please exercise good judgment when it comes to cutting down healthy tree situated upon your membership lot. Use of the wood is also left to the good judgment of each member concerning those logs or branches. Please, however, don't remove any such timber from the lot of another member without first receiving permission to do so from that other member.

Respectfully yours,  
Jim Simpson

## **SECRETARY'S THOUGHTS:**

I am pleased to be serving the Ranch as its Board Secretary. Jumping into this job has given me a much greater understanding and appreciation for the efforts of all of the former Ranch Secretaries! Thank you all!

Amongst many other duties, the Ranch Secretary is responsible for keeping an accurate record (primarily current mailing addresses, phone numbers and email addresses) concerning the 122 primary members, their family members and associate members too.

During the job transition, I received three sizable containers which included a separate file for each membership lot. What struck me as being profound was the fact that each file was organized alphabetically by the last and first names of the primary members. I inferred from that that our former Secretary, with a twelve year tenure, actually 'knew' the names of each of you, as well as your corresponding lot numbers, maybe more about where you lived, your family and life circumstances.

I joined the Ranch in 2004, and I have served on the Ranch Board for the past year. As the former 'Roads and Equipment' Ranch Board delegate, I came to learn the many intricacies about the John Deere road grader, it's diesel fuel tank and also about the various twists and turns of the Ranch's approximate six miles of roadway. After going through the current membership list, it turns out that that I am acquainted with less than one-half of all the primary members.

Before taking on this job, I tended to think about 'the Ranch' as a collective of numbers on the Ranch map (lot number one through 124, subtracting out the ones for the Ranch House and the RV Dump Station). Sorry, it was much easier for me to wrap my head around numbers on a map. What I'm doing now (and thinking about now) is mostly about each of you! I hope that I have an opportunity to become better acquainted with those whom I'm not.

I am most happy to have my thought process shifted in this way! I do now prefer to think about you as the members of our Ranch community, instead of lot numbers on a map :). Sorry for my previous mistake!

Please be sure to let me, or any future Ranch Board Secretary, know when your contact information changes. A simple letter addressed to the Ranch's Post Office Box works the best.

Respectfully,  
Jim Simpson – Ranch Secretary

## Lutheran Valley Ranch Board of Directors Info

John Harris – President & Ramblings  
Newsletter/Website  
Jdh930@gmail.com (email)

Dan Reed—Vice President  
Family of Christ Lutheran, Monument, CO  
Dan.lvbranch@gmail.com

Jim Simpson—Secretary  
St. John's Lutheran, Denver, CO  
Simpson.james.86@gmail.com (email)

Shirley Bauer – Membership & Treasurer  
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Rod Young—Roads & Signs  
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Shad Jeseritz—Buildings / Safety  
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Clare Skov – Ranch House  
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pastorc\_skov@hotmail.com (email)

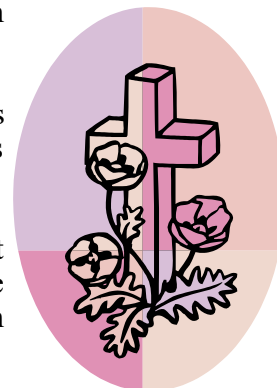
Dave Romberg - Lakes/Fish/Trees  
Peace With Christ Lutheran, Aurora, CO.  
keepkidsinsports@msn.com (email)

## COLUMBARIUM

Well, here we are in November 2017 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, only for it to be the wrong thing. The monument company is working on a resolution with the quarry in Italy. So more patience is required.

Our first columbarium is now completely reserved. We have two reservations for the second one and hope to resolve delivery issues before next summer. As the saying goes, “God willing and the creek don’t rise.”

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 Jim Simpson at [Simpson.james.86@gmail.com](mailto:Simpson.james.86@gmail.com). The By-Laws and Regulations are also available on our website at: [www.lvbranch.org](http://www.lvbranch.org)

## JUST...RAMBLING

Season's greetings as we move quickly through the year of our Lord, two thousand and seventeen. Deep into the fall season and with a few dustings of snow already delivered, and I find myself *blessed* to still be harvesting peppers and tomatoes!

Were I still in the Midwest on the farm, it would be the time of year for wrapping up loose ends, getting the equipment indoors and cleaned up for next year's plantings and a time for reflection and rest. The winter wheat should already be in the ground, as well as any other winter hardy cover crops that are planted to feed the soil and let the land lay fallow, once every 7 years as the Good Book says.



In today's society, however, it's go-go-go. We have a tendency to overlook the imperative direction given to 'rest... be still.' Rest for the land so it can rejuvenate and prepare for what follows...rest for our own bodies and minds so we can

quiet down and listen for the Lord in our own lives'. We tend to fill up our days and nights so much that we don't take time to just stop and chat any more. How many problems, concerns and worries could we easily lay to *rest* if we would do that one simple thing? Take some time, regularly, to disconnect from all of the hubbub of the world and say 'hey' to the neighbor. Take a weekend and an extra day, visit the Ranch, or surprise your kids and just pop in, maybe even surprise your spouse with a day together holding hands! But in *all* that you do, make sure to take time to listen to the Lord. Grandpa always said, "Praying, that's not too tough. It's the listening part that'll get you."

I pray God's peace for each and every one of you.

In HIS service,  
Dan Reed

## EQUIPMENT REPORT

To the board and the members of Lutheran Valley Ranch. I now begin my first full term as Ranch board member. It has been and will continue to be a privilege to serve you in this capacity. My primary responsibility has been to maintain the road grader. In that endeavor I have had my challenges and many success. Overall it has all been positive. I have been able to get help from many different people and organizations. The most helpful has been my fellow board members as well as Steve Johnson and Todd Kelm. My success has been largely due to the help that they have given me. So my deepest thanks and appreciation goes out to all concerned. I am continually amazed how many decisions have to be made that I thought would just magically take care of themselves! Once again I am learning to never assume everyone is thinking what I am thinking. To the members of the ranch I am looking forward to seeing all of you in the spring. Ellen and I are on lot 110, please feel free to stop buy and roast a marsh mellow or two. I will keep fire going in anticipation of your arrival.

In service to our Lord and savior. Theodore (Ted) Gates



# Uncle Dan's Nature Corner – Trees of The Forest

By Bob Blackett

Likely the forest, the beautiful natural environment, was what first attracted you to LVR, and maybe originally to Colorado. So here's a quiz. Before you read further, close your eyes and name the types of trees in the LVR forest.

Hint, there are six of them to my knowledge. Four should be easy: Ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, and Quaking aspen throughout the forest, Blue spruce along streams and wetter areas.

The fifth is 'cedar', AKA Rocky Mountain juniper, probably the same juniper more common in lower altitude piñon/juniper forests, but rare and shorter at 8600 feet. Until a couple of months ago that would have been my limit, and after 50+ years I thought I knew them all. But Debbie and I were hiking from the locked gate near Bear Lake up to Cedar Mountain Road and the quartz mine when I suddenly said: "What the heck is that tree?" (I'll insert a plug here for hiking as the best way to experience Nature - just as with my last Uncle Dan's on ticks, we likely wouldn't have noticed just driving by).

The tree was pine-like, but with shorter (about 2") needles and smaller (about 1") prickly cones. Two needles per bundle. A couple of pictures are included.

Once we got back to civilization, books and computers, we identified it as - ready? - Lodgepole pine! They start a couple of blocks beyond the locked LVR gate and get thicker as one approaches Cedar Mountain Road. They're all small, post-Hayman fire in that top-fire-devastated area, to around 10 feet tall. Along Cedar Mountain Road in that area are larger old-growth pre-Hayman lodgepoles, to around 80 feet. I'll include a couple of pictures of them. Don Dieter told me that he was aware decades ago of some in that area. They are not uncommon in Colorado.



So we did a survey of LVR for lodgepole. They all seem to be along the west edge. The best population was at the top of Eagle's Roost at the dead-end turnaround. Again most are small, post-Hayman, but we saw some large ones also. We noticed occasional lodgepoles along both Deer Trail Drive and Columbine Loop.

It's an interesting tree, fast growing, tall and narrow, regular and straight. Evidently the 'lodgepole' name comes from use for Native American tipis. Lodgepole pine is especially a fire-propagated tree; the small cones are resinous and opened by fire. They evidently better colonize open ground, whereas our ponderosa, fir, and spruce often need cover for their seedlings and respond only after aspen or shrubs have grown up. Seedlings of lodgepole would be worth considering for planting in badly burned areas.



Please keep your eyes open for them.



## NOTHING NEW UNDER THE LVR SUN

That slightly altered saying almost sounds like it is a quote from Scripture! It's fitting and pretty much true with the news around the Ranch House too! There's are a few exceptions: For example, the old lights are being replaced by the new forever, never burn-out lights one by one; the Ranch House furnace and all of its duct-work has been cleaned; and a couple broken bathroom facets were finally fixed.

Then there's the old news that keeps getting repeated and passed on which turns out to be not news but emotionally treasured rumor. The trouble is that some of these old rumors just keep the confusion and contention-pot boiling, like an old boil if you keep picking at it! So to prevent that sort of thing from continuing in the future I'd like to remind all of us to be taught and guided by Scripture which teaches us to speak to each other in person about things that may disturb our relationships and to disallow rumors and such from being received or passed on... reflecting Jesus who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life!

One of the goals of the BOD is and has been to foster and enhance our Christian fellowship, community spirit, and comradery among our LVR family. The Ranch House was built for that purpose and is the one central site where such brotherly love and community spirit can best be facilitated. That is what forms the basis for much of what we do! So, when you come to enjoy the RH facilities, take time get to know and enjoy each other, introduce yourself to folks you don't know aiming to make life-long friendships, and encourage the brotherly love Jesus teaches to practice. Most importantly aim to encourage and build each other up in our faith and life in Christ! Otherwise, what would distinguish LVR from any other camp-site or State Park in the Colorado Rockies?

So put on your thinking caps and let us know your ideas about how we can accomplish the above goals and purpose! LVR is much more than a place to get away and enjoy some time off: It is a "Light on a hill" for all the world around us to be guided like the star in the East and the Baptist at the Jordon pointing souls to God's greatest Gift, their Savior! For unto us was born in Bethlehem, our Savior! Have a blessed and joyous Thanks Giving, Celebration of our Savior's birth, and New Year in Christ!

In Christ! Clare Skov