

DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH



Wild Nature and the Diamond Approach

Direct and intimate contact with the wilder natural world is an ancient and profound doorway to inner awakening. Our practices of attention, inquiry, simple ceremony, and group council help us enter this doorway more fully. This retreat is an opportunity to step outside your familiar life, find nourishment and support in the embrace of wild nature, and discover healing, renewal, guidance, and inspiration for your inner journey. Here, nature provides a welcoming, accessible, powerful way home.



Our drive-in basecamp offers easy access to solitude in nearby meadows, aspen groves, pine forests, and high open ridges with outrageous views of the Rockies and prairies. Teachings from the Diamond Approach and the School of Lost Borders provide orientation; deep time in nature is the heart of the retreat.

Dates: June 24 – July 1, 2023
Location: Central Colorado Rocky Mountains
Tuition: Suggested fee \$1400; \$975-\$2900 sliding scale; \$70 camping fee
(See the SOLB website for more about [Our Way with Money](#))
Guides: John Davis, Marlana deCarion, and Ken Crocker

The School of Lost Borders

For more info, contact John at john@lostborders.org or Marlana at marlena@marlenadecarion.com
To register, go to the **School of Lost Borders** website, www.schooloflostborders.org.

***For years, copying other people, I tried to know myself. From within, I couldn't decide what to do.
Unable to see, I heard my name being called. Then I walked outside. —Rumi***

THE FOUNDATIONS

This retreat draws together two powerful paths. The School of Lost Borders' teachings and practices ground our work in immersion in the natural world, ceremonial ways of relating to the land and ourselves, and a four-fold map of nature, including human nature – body, heart, mind, and spirit. Our teachings and practices offer an inclusive, nonjudgmental view of yourself and your life's journey.

The Diamond Approach® brings clarity, depth, and richness to the lessons of wild nature. Its practice of open and open-ended inquiry and its understanding of the inner terrain of consciousness lead to a more thorough realization of our inner essence while helping us work through barriers to this realization. Integrating these paths offers a deeply transformative journey to connecting with our authentic presence and being at home in the world.

THE RETREAT

Our days are built around solo time in nature with brief teachings and a guiding inquiry question. This gives daily opportunities to expand your experience in and through the presence of wild nature. In the evenings, we share the unfolding stories. One day is devoted to a 24-hour solo, providing a chance for deeper contact with nature and your natural presence.

Our basecamp will be [Wild Mountain Retreat](#) near Buena Vista, Colorado, affording us solitude, variety, expanse, and beauty within easy walking distance of our basecamp. It is about 3.5 hours from Denver and Boulder. We will be able to drive to our basecamp, and you can choose how far to walk on your solos. A gear list and other details for preparation will be sent prior to the trip. A deposit of \$300 will hold your space on this retreat.

This retreat is appropriate for those who are new to the Diamond Approach and camping as well as those who have extensive experience with either of them. Previous wilderness experience is not necessary.



THE GUIDES



John has been a Diamond Approach teacher since 1983 and a vision fast guide and trainer since 1984. He is the author of *The Diamond Approach: An Introduction to the Teachings of A. H. Almaas*. John has been a guide at the School of Lost Borders for more than 30 years. He is certified in Wilderness First Aid.



Marlena, also a long-time Diamond Approach student, is a Professional Certified Coach, leadership trainer, and meditation teacher. For many years, she was an Outward Bound instructor, a river guide, and a Wilderness EMT. Marlena is certified in Wilderness First Aid.



Ken is a dedicated student of the Diamond Approach. He has been involved with facilitating climate change adaptation planning, restorative justice, mediation, and the use of personal story telling to foster community, connection, and healing. Ken has extensive wilderness experience.



***There is no possible way to express the many virtues of staying in remote, solitary places.
In wild places where no one lives are the conditions conducive to realization.
Therefore, heirs of the Victorious Ones, go to a wild place and practice! —Shabkar (1781-1851)***