



The BUCKING Board

NEWS AND UPDATES FROM SILVER BIRCH RANCH



GOD'S PLACE

- Dave Wager

Last summer we focused on God's faithfulness over the past 50 years. This summer we are focusing on "The Kingdom," and how we might make an impact for our King today and in the future. The theme verse for this summer is 1 Corinthians 4:20: "For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power."

If we have learned anything over the past 50 years of ministry, it is that the power of God is released as we trust Him. It is our mission to know Him and to make Him known, and we will be focusing on exactly that with the campers this summer, and we will attempt to set the infrastructure for the generations to come to do the same.

As we move forward, we are wondering who it is whom God has in mind to partner with us to accomplish His work here. The idea of being effective, safe, fun, and affordable continues to be a challenge today, and it will not get any easier in the years to come. Yet, with many partners, the burden of ministry is shared, and the voices that glorify our King become deafening.

This summer we hope to finish the first NBI dorm that will also be used as a replacement for four tent cabins. We also have just razed the Lodge at the Wolf River Refuge as we prepare for a new Lodge on that site, and we need to press on to finish the final stages of building replacement at SBR that we started thirty plus years ago.

Added to these physical infrastructure projects, we are working to form partnerships on several educational fronts that will expand our opportunities in a significant way, and to challenge what has become the norm in higher education. I invite you to be praying for us and looking for further announcements on these partnerships in the months and perhaps years to come.

Silver Birch Ranch is a place that could not exist were it not for God's provision through His people. The fact that we still exist and are expanding is a tribute to His faithfulness, and proof that He takes ordinary people, and uses them and their assets in significant ways. **Continue reading on page 3.**

SOCIAL MEDIA!

Did you know you can follow us on different social media platforms? You can find us on Facebook, Instagram, and now on YouTube!

With our new YouTube channel you can get crazy updates from Todd McIlhany, our Media Manager, and Jason Kemper, our Program Director, in fun weekly video blogs or "vlogs"!

If you go to any of these platforms and search Silver Birch Ranch, you will be able to stay in touch with camp even when you're not here!

Go follow us today!



MOVING FORWARD – WOLF RIVER REFUGE!

- Steve Tice

The Lodge building at the Wolf River Refuge is now just a memory. We worked hard at repurposing as much of the parts of the building as possible. With that work completed, it was time to remove the structure. With the help of an excavator and trucks,

the building is gone, and we are ready for what the Lord provides ahead. Our prayer is that we can replace the old Lodge with a gathering place for people to enjoy each other's company, enjoy God, and be reminded or told that the Gospel is what we all need to enjoy and make sense of this life. We are in the planning phase for this building, and we value your prayers as we seek God for wisdom as to how best to design this building to strengthen our mission.



If you haven't made plans for this summer, we hope you will consider a stay at the Wolf River Refuge. Not only do we have comfortable, affordable cabins, but we also can provide you with day long adventures, custom-made to help you and your family

enjoy each other and the God who created the Northwoods with its forests and rivers. Check out our website for more information and for family adventure registration at the Wolf River Refuge.

Men—Dave Wager invites you to join him August 16-19 at the Wolf River Refuge for a trout fishing adventure. Thanks to the help of some skilled fly fishermen, you will learn to fly fish and will spend three days trying out the skills you have learned. You can register on our website at www.wolfriverrefuge.org.

Top 10 List

1. Streaming Video Equipment - \$5,000
2. Double Stack Oven - \$8,000
3. Stable Mounting Ramp - \$500
4. Barn Facelift and Pony Cart - \$1,800
5. Ten Portable Benches - \$60 each
6. Bed Covers and Mattresses - \$2,500
7. Six Towable Tubes (ski boat) - \$150 each
8. Two Commercial Grade Foosball Tables - \$800 each
9. Two Security Gates - \$3,000 total
10. Two Gas Furnaces – WRR - \$1,000 each

If you can help with one of these items, please contact us at 715-484-2742. Silver Birch Ranch is a 501(c)(3) organization. All gifts are tax-deductible and are appreciated. If you are interested in finding out about other ways to support the ministry of Silver Birch Ranch, visit our website.

JOIN US FOR SUMMER 2018: THE KINGDOM!

- Jason Kemper

Flowers are blooming, grass is greening, days are lengthening, birds are chirping – all signs that spring has sprung, and that summer is lurking.

Ok, maybe it's not the best poetic phrase, but the fact still remains-summer is right around the corner, and we are getting very excited here at SBR. Plans for a castle and suits of armor are in the works as we prepare to jump into the medieval world of *The Kingdom*. With many new ideas and plans in the works, it's gearing up to be one of the best summers at SBR.

Like every summer, we are eagerly praying for and anticipating all that God will do in and through the lives of so many young people. Our prayer is that many of them would walk away from their time here with a love for Jesus and a desire to go share that news with their families, friends, and communities. However, for this to happen, we need your help. Camp wouldn't be camp if it weren't for the volunteers and counselors who give of their time to invest into the lives of the campers who come every week. I want to encourage you, if you are a small group leader, parent, church leader, mentor, or just want to make an impact on the life of a young person, please consider joining us this summer as a counselor or volunteer. We would love for you to partner with us as we strive *To Know Christ And To Make Him Known*.

Head on over to silverbirchbranch.org/summer to register, sign up to volunteer, contribute to the Campership Fund, or even just keep up to date on all that God is doing. Join us as we pray for the hundreds of young people and counselors who will visit camp. We look forward to seeing you here this summer!

NICOLET BIBLE INSTITUTE ALUMNUS

- Ivan Flannery



The summer prior to my senior year of high school was filled with many decisions. Being an athlete in high school provided me with options as to where I would receive my college education. Little did I know that my first time visiting Silver Birch Ranch for High School Camp would make that decision much more difficult. My mindset went from thinking I knew where I was going in life to realizing God had other plans for my future. At High School Camp I heard many great things about a one-year Bible program focusing on studying and learning about the Bible. For the first time in my life, I consistently prayed for two weeks, asking God what He wanted me to do next in life. He answered those prayers loud and clear and I chose to attend NBI as part of the class of 2011-2012. This

opportunity was a true leap of faith, as my family wasn't initially supportive of my decision, and would have rather had me attend the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point to play baseball. Nonetheless, they became supportive, and I am glad they did, because it was one of the best years of my life.

During my year at NBI, I deepened my knowledge of the Bible by studying God's Word. In addition, I learned how to serve others and realized how selfish I was. I learned to love God and love other people, which I later realized are God's greatest commandments. I developed many relationships with fellow classmates and families at camp. Many of those relationships are still active and growing in my life today. Throughout that year, my faith grew to a level I never thought was possible. For that, I am forever grateful.

After NBI, I decided to attend the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Forestry. Another piece of NBI I will never forget is meeting my wife, Elise. God placing her in my life when He did has been one of His greatest blessings to me. We now have a one-year old son, Braxton, and we currently live in Antigo, WI, where I am self-employed as a certified forester. My year at NBI is one that I will never forget, and I can honestly say that it has been one of my favorite years of life thus far.



GOD'S PLACE—CONTINUED

- Dave Wager

There are some financial and staffing challenges that await us, and plenty of unknown. Yet, we have often been in that spot before, and we have learned that the key to success is to know, love, obey, and display God. For those who have been and are an active part of what God has done and is doing, thank you. You have been successful at pointing us to God. To those who have been casually connected to Silver Birch Ranch, we invite you to consider being intimately connected, and to see what God would do with your active participation.

Please continue to pray that we are effective, safe, fun, and affordable. It has been and continues to be an honor for our staff to serve our King and our nation in this practical ministry.

Five Fun Facts!

1. The largest NBI class was held three years ago, totaling 32 students.
2. There is a room at camp that is known as "The Dungeon." Very few know its location.
3. There are 18 full-time staff and three part-time staff who work at camp.
4. Winter Jam 2018 was the largest winter youth retreat that camp has ever hosted, with 347 teens!
5. There are a total of 47 buildings on our grounds!

1. What was the original name of Nicolet Bible Institute?
2. Camp is a part of CCCA, what does it stand for?
3. What are the names of our two retreat cabins?
4. In what year was the new Canteen built?
5. Name the four tent cabins that the new dorm building is replacing.

Trivia!

(1) Pathfinders (2) Christian Camping and Conference Association (3) Namooshka & Bugaboo (4) 2006 (5) Bar W, Flying B, Longhorn, and Tumbleweed

NBI DORM UPDATE

- Steve Sanford

In the last issue of the Bucking Board we asked you to pray that the funds needed to finish the NBI Dorm project debt-free would be provided. I am thrilled to say that the monies have been pledged. Praise the Lord with us for this provision!

The dorm is moving along quickly and with most of the walls in place and painted, it is really coming together. We are very excited to see this amazing building be put to use in time for the summer season. Thank you all again for your support and prayers through this project!

With the dorm being completed by summer, it also means that next year's NBI class will be able to take advantage of this awesome upgrade! If you haven't applied yet, don't fret! There are still spots available for the Class of '19 (primarily for guys). Apply now as space is still limited!

Apply online at www.nicoletbibleinstitute.org!



Silver Birch Ranch
N6120 Sawyer Lake Rd.
White Lake, WI 54491
715-484-2742

Follow Us On:



• **Men's Spring Retreat**
April 27-29, 2018

• **Work Weekend**
May 11-13, 2018

• **Better Together Retreat**
April 6-8, 2018

• **Mother-Daughter Retreat**
May 18-20, 2018

• **The Art of Marriage Retreat**
April 20-22, 2018

Scan QR code with your smart phone to learn more about our events and retreats!



CAMPERSHIP

- Mike Jewell

Everything done at Silver Birch Ranch involves fulfilling our mission "To Know Christ and To Make Him Known." Campership is the process that allows SBR to fulfil its mission by supplying the housing, food, and programing that brings the mission to completion in the life of a camper.

Campership is not fulfilled by the fees campers are charged to come to SBR. In fact, fees only cover a portion of the cost to fulfill our mission. We count on you, our loyal supporters, to participate in Campership to fill in the financial gap as you support the mission of SBR.

How can you participate in Campership? Many people pray for SBR daily by asking God to meet SBR's needs. Some people promote SBR by suggesting to friends, family, and their churches to send campers to SBR. Still others volunteer for Dishcrew and work crews, keeping our cost at a minimum. Others send monetary gifts on a regular basis that allows SBR fill the financial gap and to provide financial assistance to those who can't afford to pay the full price of camp.

This is what Campership is--each of us sacrificing something to fulfill the mission of SBR. Campership cannot be done alone. It is everyone, working together, giving what God has given each for the sake of the mission.

So, I invite you to be a Campership provider, in whatever way God has blessed you, and I encourage you to participate in the life-giving mission of Silver Birch Ranch. Together, the Kingdom of Heaven will be eternally changed because of your commitment to Campership.