



The

# BUCKING Board

NEWS AND UPDATES FROM SILVER BIRCH RANCH



## AN UNWAVERING MISSION

- Dave Wager

Silver Birch Ranch remains a highlight for many of our nation's youth, especially during the summer months. As one walks around camp and hears young people singing Christian songs, laughing at the beach, talking nervously before a raft trip, or standing in line at the tether ball court, you realize what a privilege it is and has been to serve our nation's youth and family through the tool of Christian camping here at Silver Birch Ranch.

Our youth could be involved in so many destructive activities. However, while at camp, knowing Christ and making Him known takes stage front and center, and children look directly at one another instead of looking that friend up on some social media account.

Camp's mission has not wavered for the past 51 years. We remain dedicated to effective, safe, fun, and affordable Christian camping, and in a day and age where high tech seems to be king, we see a lot of good happening around a campfire while cooking old-fashioned s'mores.

With a host of activities that can busy our children, we are thankful for the parents who understand and act on the opportunities afforded on these grounds. Children still need to have a place to go to learn to live with others, budget their money, and discover things in the National Forest that can't be experienced any other place.

Camp is a special place for many in that "something" special happens to them here. The most special happening is when one realizes and responds to God's love. Other elements that add to a camper's experience at camp are when he/she tries some new activity and makes a new friend (or ten). Perhaps all that good is just compounded by the natural beauty and interaction with the Nicolet National Forest, Sawyer Lake, and the mighty Wolf River.

Once again, we thank those who support Silver Birch Ranch, and ask that you to continue to pray for us and help us in the future as God lays this ministry on your heart. (Donations this year seem to be a bit slower than usual, so be praying with us that God might once again demonstrate Himself through this situation.)

## OUR GUESTS

*"Such a great camp!! All of our girls count down the days until they can go back again!! Such great memories made each year."*

*"This is my happy place."*

*"So much to do, great opportunities to connect with God through His creation and have some fun."*

*"This camp is so much fun. When my group comes up, there are so many different activities to do. We all stay busy and learn about God while having so much fun."*



## PARENTS: WHAT'S A WIN?

- Steve Sanford

There is so much pressure on parents today to provide all the right opportunities for their children. The list of extra-curricular activities is endless – sports, music, drama, academics – even church. The not-so-subtle message to parents is that it is their duty to provide their children with a broad spectrum of options to maximize the unique potential of each child. The cost in time and treasure to accomplish this can be overwhelming. While none of these things are bad, are they the most important?

This, then, begs the question, “What is a Christian parent’s primary responsibility in raising their children?” Is it enough to raise well-adjusted kids, with a good education that will help them get a good job to make a decent living? Or is there a higher calling that trumps these good things?

I’d like to suggest that a true “win” for Christian parents is that their children, most of all, know God, love Him, and desire to live their lives in obedience to Him.

The statistics in this regard are not encouraging. Too many of our students, who have grown-up in the church and make a profession of faith, walk away once they have graduated from high school. In addition, many Christian colleges and seminaries are moving away from an orthodox understanding of the authority of Scripture, and they have shifted to a more pluralistic position - that Jesus is just one of many ways to salvation.

So, how do you know if your son or daughter is spiritually ready to meet the challenges to his/her faith that will inevitably come? Here are some questions you may want to ask them.

What is it that delights or excites you? Why? Do you enjoy God? Is there anything that is hindering you from following Christ? What is the Gospel? Have you decided what you believe? Can you give reasons for the faith you have? (Creation, suffering/evil, inerrancy of Scripture...) Do you understand your world view, and can you help others follow theirs to its logical conclusion?

What do you do if you discover that your daughter or son is not ready? There are a variety of options available, including Nicolet Bible Institute. We exist, among other things, to ground students in their faith – making it their own, to give direction for their future, and to teach them to serve. We would consider it a privilege to assist you as you seek to fulfill your primary role as a parent. Check it out at [nicoletbibleinstitute.org](http://nicoletbibleinstitute.org).

## Top 10 List

1. Sand Fill and Landscaping - WRR  
- \$3,000
2. Welder  
- \$3,500
3. Tire Changing Machine  
- \$2,500
4. Tire Balancing Machine  
- \$1,000
5. Barn Facelift and Pony Cart  
- \$1,800
6. Ten Portable Benches  
- \$600 (\$60 each)
7. Six Towable Tubes (ski boat)  
- \$900 (\$150 each)
8. Ten Whitewater Rafting Helmets  
- \$450 (\$45 each)
9. Two Gas Furnaces - WRR  
- \$2,000 (\$1,000 each)
10. Newer/Used 15 Passenger Vans  
- \$50,000 (\$25,000 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.*

## HANDFULS ON PURPOSE

- Mike Jewell

In the second chapter of Ruth, Boaz instructs his servants to leave some bundles of grain for Ruth to glean from his fields. These were handfuls of life-giving grain, intentionally left on purpose, where Ruth could find them, resulting in her needs being met through Boaz’s generosity. Handfuls of blessings, given on purpose, to supply for the needs of His people, are how God works in the lives of His followers.

We see the “Handfuls on Purpose” principle played out in the fulfilled needs of Silver Birch Ranch. God working through you leaves “Handfuls on Purpose” and SBR’s daily needs are met. An unexpected check from the estate of a camper who has gone home, a gift over the SBR website, someone offering to pay the bill for an operating expense, contributions to send an underprivileged child to camp, a volunteer gift of his time and skills, a vehicle or donated item that SBR needs to continue operations, or a contribution to our building fund, allowing us to build new buildings to meet future campers’ needs all are examples of unexpected “Handfuls on Purpose” given to SBR to continue the Kingdom-building work at SBR.

Amazing, isn’t it? It humbles us to be totally dependent on Him, working through you, to supply “Handfuls on Purpose” to SBR. God gets the glory and all we can say is “Thank You” for being part of the SBR ministry through your giving, in whatever form it takes. If I can ever help you in setting up a giving plan through your estate, a 401K mandated distribution plan, business or real estate sale, or through your regular monthly giving, please contact me at Silver Birch Ranch. I am happy to help in any way needed. ([mike.jewell@silverbirchranh.org](mailto:mike.jewell@silverbirchranh.org))

We appreciate your partnership in changing lives for Christ, and we are praying for God’s “Handfuls on Purpose” in your life.

# JUNIOR-MIDDLER CAMP #1 POEMS

- Junior-Middler Campers

## THE KINGDOM

True King reigns  
Holy city  
Each tear and fear wiped away

Kind-hearted  
In the presence of my Lord  
No more sin and hurt  
Governed by a gentle King  
Delighted to hear say, "Well done my good and faithful servant."  
Only true castle  
My home



Dear Band,  
Thanks for the awesome Chapel Jam.  
You turned this camp into one big fam.  
During Capture the Flag I lost my sock.  
By the way, Kate, I love the song, "No Rock."  
My friend always goes to the lake with a fishing rod.  
I get so so excited during "Unstoppable God."  
The Trading Post is like a mini mall.  
I want God to "Take, take, take it all."  
During Theme Night we escaped the castle twice.  
Even though you are in the back, I notice you, Bryce.  
This is a special thanks for such a great week.  
Although I like Chapel, learning about God was the peak.



## GOD'S WORK ON DISPLAY AT THE REFUGE

- Steve Tice

When was the last time you thought about God's wonderful creation? In Psalm 104, King David wrote that the earth is full of His creatures. He praised God for His power on display through what He has made.

This week we were visited by a snapping turtle finding a place to safely lay her eggs. She had come some 300 yards from the river to make a nest on the Wolf River Refuge lawn. Her offspring, once hatched and not much bigger than the size of a silver dollar, will make the return trip to the same river. It makes me wonder how turtles survive with such a hard beginning of life journey to overcome. King David's answer found in Psalm 104 is that we have a God who has a wonderful design for His creatures.

The Wolf River Refuge is helping people discover our Creator God. This unique facility not only is a tool for allowing people to observe turtles, foxes, deer, rabbits, and more but it is a place where people are stopping long enough to actually enjoy God's creation. It is one thing to look out a car window and see a deer standing by the road. It is an entirely different experience to watch a deer in its habitat feeding, or slowly walking along a daily route to and from its bedding and feeding areas.

This summer we are hosting families and individuals who are taking time to enjoy God and what He has made. We encourage you to join them. Come and see why people don't want to leave after a few days at the Wolf River Refuge. They find rest, true rest, as they seek their Creator. Their souls are restored as they enjoy the works of His hands!

## Five Fun Facts!

1. All proceeds from our Trading Post go to our Camper-ship Fund to help send kids to camp.
2. If you subscribe to our YouTube channel, we are giving away some fun things very soon!
3. This summer had the largest SBR High School Camp ever with 258 campers.
4. The slip-n-slide uses baby soap to make it slippery.
5. We have a new and improved Adopt-A-Horse Program! Check out our website!

1. What is our first retreat of our retreat season?
2. What is the newest water feature at the beach?
3. What is the oldest building at camp currently?
4. How many Summer Staffers do we have this summer?
5. Who is the main carpenter at camp?

## Trivia!

(1) Home School Family Retreat (2) A Climbing Wall  
(3) The Guest House (4) Fifty (5) Troy Beeber

# RELATE365.COM

- Dave Wager

Silver Birch Ranch has been ministering to our nation's youth since the summer of 1968. Recently we took a picture of the campers who attended our Junior-Middler Camp session who had either their parents or grandparents attend Silver Birch Ranch as campers. We were surprised by large number of campers who were now carrying on the family's summer traditions. (There were campers from many states and even some other countries.)

In the past few years we have realized that God has given us a special privilege of working with extended families, and we have a rather stable staff that has been able to garner some substantial experiences along the way.

Throughout this journey we have been able to serve hundreds of churches, thousands of individuals, and have even picked up new ministry partners along the way. **(Continue reading below.)**



Silver Birch Ranch  
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715-484-2742

Follow Us On:



## • Home School Family Retreat

August 23-26, 2018

## • Ladies' Retreat #1

September 7-9, 2018

## • Father-Son Retreat

September 21-23, 2018

## • Ladies' Retreat #2

September 14-16, 2018

## • Men's Fall Retreat

October 5-7, 2018

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



# RELATE365.COM CONTINUED

- Dave Wager

Presently, Silver Birch Ranch has branched out to include the Nicolet Bible Institute, a one-year Bible program, and The Wolf River Refuge, an adult retreat/conference center focusing on healthy relationships.

Recently, we have seen the opportunity to expand again and use the experience God has given us to help provide digital content for individuals and the church. The experience God has given our leadership is something we want to make available to all. We have been able to partner with one of the leading Christian radio stations in northeast Wisconsin, Q90FM, to begin the process of bringing digital content to our Silver Birch Ranch family.

Since all good things happen in the context of healthy relationships, we have named this new venture "Relate365.com," and it will focus on providing audio and video content that will challenge individuals and small church groups. Under this umbrella, we will also be partnering with "Relational Integrity" that will be reaching out to secular businesses in order to bring the principles of God's Word back into the workplace.

The foundation to all that we do rests in knowing Christ and making Him known. We do this first and foremost through the tool of Christian camping offered to individuals and the local church in the form of summer camps and year-round retreats. As our times have changed and opportunities arise, we see these strategic partnerships as a way to continue to minister to those with whom we have a relationship. We hope that the individuals and churches we serve will see the value in using the Wolf River Refuge for small adult retreats/conferences, and will use the resources available at relate365.com to confirm, challenge, and equip Christians at home and in the marketplace.