



# The BUCKING Board

NEWS AND UPDATES FROM SILVER BIRCH RANCH



## CAMP MEMORIES—50 YEARS LATER

- Daria Ruffolo

Fifty years ago this summer was my first stay at Silver Birch Ranch. It changed my life in so many ways. I was a little girl from Berwyn, IL, visiting her church's (Emmanuel Baptist Church) camp. The time at Silver Birch gave a child raised on a 30 foot lot the opportunity to swim, boat, raft, water-ski, hike, horseback ride, and, most importantly, be steeped in God's Word and Christian counsel.

As I headed off to camp, my mother made my sister and me promise we would not go in the lake, a promise destined to be broken. We rode on fractious school buses with no AC, no seat belts, and no bathrooms. It was a whirlwind of a ride through the steep turns and hills of the Menominee Reservation. The driver, whom I now know as an adult, was a man who worked full-time and who sacrificed his weekend to get children up to camp.

My first night at camp was in the cabin known as Tumbleweed, and because it rained, our sleeping bags were soaked with leaks through the tent roof. Tina Veltri and Teresa Parcello were my cabinmates. The second night I stubbed my toe in the dark, and my sister brought me to the nurse, who scolded me for wearing sandals at camp!

We wore our dresses to meetings at Lakeside Chapel and to the Awards Banquet. We struggled to not get caught in our dining table's "Thumbs Up" game, or we'd be on duty to scrape the plates. We called for a "Cook's Parade," and sat still and straight, hoping to get voted the cleanest table for each meal. The food choices were limited, and there wasn't any fruit or salad bar, but no one complained. We swam the "Two Mile Swim" and hiked to Rose Lake for the "7 Mile Hike."

The years passed quickly as I enjoyed roles as camper, counselor, worker, boat dock supervisor, Canteen staff during Campus Life Camp, dish crew, and even a couple weeks as a wrangler. In my high school years, you could find me at camp from the time school let out until it was time to register again for the fall.

I have memories of laughing at our table with Renee Pintor Dawson, sneaking to Nine Mile for a hamburger, getting a rare break to go to town to shop at Copp's for fruit and licorice, and maybe even to enjoy a steak dinner at Black Jack's. *Continue on next page.*

## DONATE ONLINE!

Did you know you can donate to camp through our website? If you go to [www.silverbirchran.org/donate](http://www.silverbirchran.org/donate), we offer a simple way for you to give to our ministries. You can choose if you want a recurring donation, choose from a suggested amount if you are unsure how much you want to give, and choose where you want your donation to go. Check out our online donation process today and consider giving so you can help more kids come to camp this summer!



DONATE

# CAMP MEMORIES—50 YEARS LATER

- Continued

I remember working in the Canteen under Debbie Pintor Henley, and having to mop and clean out the ice cream machine after the final sale of each night, long conversations with Berta, and the caution not to be called out by Pastor Wager as we struggled to keep our eyes open during the evening staff Bible meeting. I realize now the sacrifices these adults made, the long drives, and the dual commitments, just to keep the ministry moving forward.

After years of being at camp, we knew the paths like our own yards, and the dark, tree roots and stumps did not hamper a late night adventure. One night out resulted in Joyce Wager making me clean the milk bin that required me to do a header to reach the spoiled milk in the bottom of the fridge. Susan Schmoeller Strejc and I enjoyed sharing the “S” cabin each year as counsellors, and we would decorate our cabins in anticipation of the arrival of our girl campers.

Susan and I were fortunate to be one of the first girls’ staff to have our own A Frame, and Joyce reminded us that was was a privilege because we could be trusted. (????) Margie Surdyk Hess and I were the among the first girl leaders to head up an Adventure Camp session as we spent a week on a horse and in a raft, eating and sleeping in the woods with a group of teens.

As the years progressed, the trips to camp included retreats, summers as the nurse, TRAX leader with Lenny Strejc, Bible Hour teacher, and board member, all while proudly bringing my nieces and nephew up “to camp.” Dave Wager once told me that SBR has impacted hundreds of thousands of lives, and I believe that to be true.

While wearing a T-shirt or a lapel pin these days, there is inevitably a conversation that begins with these words: “I know that place....” God has moved and blessed so many through Silver Birch Ranch, a camp built by a team of everyday servants who worked behind the scenes, knowing that it is indeed a very special place. In a couple of weeks, I head out to teach a girls’ daily morning Bible Hour and I cannot wait!



## ESTATE PLANNING AND SILVER BIRCH RANCH

- Mike Jewell

Many people have served the Lord by tithing throughout their adult lives, but they might have never thought about leaving an estate gift as part of their tithe to Silver Birch Ranch. Let me show you that through the use of some common financial tools, you can provide for your family, while at the same time providing an estate or legacy gift to Silver Birch.

The simplest and most common way to leave a legacy gift is to include Silver Birch Ranch as a beneficiary in your estate. Five, ten percent, or more in tithes are common for estate planning purposes. However, this method will reduce the amount of inheritance that is left to family members. To alleviate this problem, many people have turned to the use of paid up life insurance to pass on an inheritance to their family, while giving a gift to SBR. This allows for a tax-free gift (as there are no inheritance taxes with life insurance) to the family, resulting in more inheritance than they would have received going through the regular probate process.

But, some folks can't spend their cash reserves to purchase the life insurance policies, because they need the cash to generate an income to live on during their retirement years. Here is where the use of a Charitable Remainder Trust is helpful. The cash is donated to the Charitable Remainder Trust, providing a sizable tax deduction, which can be used to purchase life insurance for the family members. Then the Trust purchases an annuity providing a dependable income for the donors for their lifetime. With the remaining dollars in the Trust, life insurance can be purchased in the name of the charity. Everyone wins.

If you have questions on how to use these financial tools to provide an income through retirement, and to leave an inheritance to your family, while blessing Silver Birch Ranch in the process, please contact Mike Jewell at Silver Birch for more details.

## Top 10 List

1. Studio Microphones-3 @ \$400  
**\$1,200**
2. Scissor Lift – Shop  
**\$2,500**
3. 18v Cordless Drill  
**\$450**
4. Camera Gimble –Video  
**\$750**
5. Metric Bolt Assortment-Shop  
**\$600**
6. Cross-Country Ski Equipment  
**\$500**
7. Standard Bolt Assortment-Shop  
**\$350**
8. Broomball Sticks-10 @ \$30 each  
**\$300**
9. Hockey Skates-5 @ \$60 each  
**\$300**
10. Summer Tubing Tubes  
**\$500**

*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.*



# NBI-A PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE

- Dave Henley



An estimated 20 to 50 percent of students enter college as “undecided,” (Gordon, 1995) and an estimated 75 percent of students change their major at least once before graduation (Gordon, 1995). The idea of paying tuitions up to \$40K knowing that your child may change his/her mind is disheartening. Consider the reasons below why NBI should be high on your post high school list.

Tuition and fees from known institutions:

Bethel University: \$46,550

University of Northwestern, Saint Paul (UNW): \$41,000

Grace College: \$33,902

Nicolet Bible Institute (NBI): \$7,900

You can do the easy math. At a minimum, you could save \$32K! But there's more value!

My daughter, Clara, attended Nicolet Bible Institute (NBI) a few years ago, and then transferred to UNW. Not only did UNW provide course credit for ALL of the NBI courses, but it also awarded her a substantial transfer student discount. Many Bible schools like UNW require at least a year of Bible. I felt great comfort knowing the staff at NBI who were providing this critical Biblical development.

Clara graduated from UNW and we are very proud of her. We look forward to what the Lord has planned for her. We are thankful for the Lord's provision of NBI, and my hope is that you will pass this along or consider this for your family and friends. Whether you are filling in that GAP year, or moving on to college, I couldn't think of a better place to begin your journey.

Check it out at <https://www.nicoletbibleinstitute.org/>

# SUMMER ON THE WOLF RIVER

- Matthew Shruck

Summer is in full swing at the Wolf River Refuge. So far this summer we've seen some of our largest groups ever and a lot of great families. It's very exciting to see families enjoying our facilities, the river, the hiking trail, and the jungle gym! The Refuge is currently in the middle of a makeover, as we set our sights on multiple landscaping and outdoor projects. It was a bit of a late spring this year, but the trees are so alive right now. Everywhere you look there is a reminder that we serve the giver of life! With the amount of retreaters and upcoming projects, it'll be fun to watch how the Refuge continues to transform, and burst into life, as the summer progresses. Right now, the Wolf River Refuge is full of deer and dragonflies. The water level on the river is finally calming down, and the fish are jumping—leaving us very excited for our upcoming Fisherman's Retreat in July!

“Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy” (Psalm 96:11-12).

We hope that you'll visit us soon!

# CAMPER POEMS

*These poems were written by Junior-Middler #1 campers in response to a Daily Challenge early in the summer!*

No Camp!

*There is no camp like our camp!  
(Clap clap clap clap clap clap)  
There is no camp like our camp!  
(Clap clap clap clap clap clap)  
It is fun in the games, and wet in the rain,  
A stronghold of friendship, a shelter of fun.  
There is no camp like our camp!  
(Revised from a camp song)*

S.B.R

*Silver Birch Ranch is so much fun,  
Because you get to do a ton,  
From jumping off the Jungle Joe,  
To just taking it down low.*

*Climbing the rock wall,  
But you may fall,  
It's okay,  
You should still stay.  
There is just so much to do,  
And it will be so perfect for you.  
So come to Silver Birch Ranch at  
last,  
And you will have such a blast.*

# Five Fun Facts!

- 1. The original tennis courts were made of clay.*
- 2. Don Rezac was the first wrangler at SBR.*
- 3. The stables were originally built where the Dining Hall is today.*
- 4. Camp's first raft on the lake was a pirate ship.*
- 5. There used to be a tree house behind the Dining Hall.*

## CAMPER POEMS

-Continued

### The SBR Lake

The lake here is so cool--  
A lot better than a pool.  
See the morning sun.  
Afternoons are so fun.

Listen for God.  
He needs to be a part of us, like two peas in a pod.  
Listen for Him in the lake,  
Or while behind the boat wake.  
Do you hear Him?  
I do.



Silver Birch Ranch  
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Follow Us On:



#### • Family Camp #2

July 3-8, 2019

#### • Jr High Camp

July 13-19, 2019

#### • Junior/Middler #2

August 3-9, 2019

#### • Faith Church Family Camp

August 9-11, 2019

#### • Homeschool Family Camp

August 22-25, 2019

#### • Ladies' Retreat #1

September 5-8, 2019

#### • Ladies' Retreat #2

September 12-15, 2019

#### • Father-Son Retreat

September 27-29, 2019



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

## AN END OF SUMMER NEED

-Jason Kemper

Summer is in full swing and campers are everywhere enjoying ziplining, rock climbing, tubing, horseback riding, and all of the other fun activities that summer at SBR has to offer. So far, each week has been packed with fun, new friendships, and, most importantly, new commitments to follow Jesus. God is always faithful and it's exciting to see all that He is currently doing in the lives of the campers. This summer is on course to set a record for the greatest number of campers that we have ever served in a summer, which is really exciting. With that exciting news also comes an even greater opportunity to invest in the lives of each camper.

Currently, we have a need for volunteers and counselors for our Junior Middler #2 and Family Camp #3 weeks of the summer. If you are a small group leader, parent, church leader, or even a family friend of someone who is camping, I personally want to encourage you to consider counseling for them. It would be a great way to not only create fun memories, but also be a positive encouragement as they grow in their relationship with Jesus. Or if that doesn't work, I invite you to come and volunteer and help us serve the young people and families here those weeks. Head on over to [www.silverbirchbranch.org/volunteer](http://www.silverbirchbranch.org/volunteer) for more information and to apply to help us serve the campers. Whether is volunteering, praying, or financially supporting SBR, I want to thank you for your continued partnership to help us make Christ known to each of our campers this summer and beyond.