



The

BUCKING Board

NEWS AND UPDATES FROM SILVER BIRCH RANCH



JOB #1

- Dave Wager

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds and I will declare your greatness. Psalm 145:3-6

Silver Birch Ranch is enjoying the winter serving season as we make preparations for our 52nd summer themed "Overboard." We are excited about our theme, about the opportunity we have, once again, to provide a place that is effective at proclaiming the Gospel, safe, fun and affordable. Silver Birch Ranch is and has been a miraculous work of God, and while we praise Him for His provision, we thank many of you for choosing to be used as His instruments of provision.

The psalm quoted above is one that seems to clearly state the goal we have of proclaiming God's greatness to the next generation in a way that they, too, will be able to proclaim His goodness to those who follow them.

This thought process is outlined again in 2 Timothy 2:2, when Paul tells Timothy the following:

"...and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."

We invite you to join us in ministry throughout this year. We have need of volunteers on winter weekends and need of those who would bring a cabin of children and be counselors with them during summer youth camp. There are also opportunities to give financially so that those who cannot afford camp are able to come and learn just as those who have the means to attend camp without help are able to come.

Christian camps have always seen much fruit in that they provide that special place for hearing and then thinking about what a real relationship with God looks like, and it gives students a time and place to pause and respond. We look forward to seeing what God will do in 2019.

DONATE ONLINE!

Did you know you can donate to camp through our website? If you go to www.silverbirchrancho.org/donate, we offer a simple way for you to give to our ministries. We just recently updated how you can give as well! Now 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!



A NEW YEAR—A NEW DIRECTOR

- Steve Tice

As of March 31, 2019, Steve Tice will no longer be the Director of the Wolf River Refuge. Steve and Kris have decided to move closer to their children. Lord willing, they will be headed to Lafayette, Indiana. They will miss the many people who have enjoyed a stay at the Wolf River Refuge. God, with His perfect timing, has provided a new Wolf River Refuge leader who is already at Silver Birch Ranch. Matt Shruck is currently serving as the SBR Retreat Intern. Matt loves to serve people and will be a great addition to the Wolf River Refuge. Matt has a desire to continue what has begun at the Wolf River Refuge, and grow the ministry looking to God for His direction.

The Wolf River Refuge continues to be a place where families find a resting place. In the past month, two different families found

what they described as a relaxing place to laugh and enjoy each other. Those are three things that families need to grow together. We would love to serve your family and be a part of helping it grow!

Matthew Shruck and his wife, Kelsey, are from Rhinelander, WI, and they're excited for this opportunity to serve the Lord here, in the Northwoods. They are in love with the purpose of the Refuge and its future. Matt received his bachelor's degree from UW-Whitewater, where he studied philosophy and world religions. He received his master's from Missouri State University in religious studies. Matt has a deep love for Christ, theol-



ogy, asking thought-provoking questions, adventure, and God's creation. He says he is excited to be a part of the Silver Birch Ranch family, where all of his interests and passions can be poured into ministry at the Wolf River Refuge.

Top 10 List

1. *B Cabins Remodel*
- **\$3,500**
2. *Office Vacuum Cleaner*
- **\$170**
3. *Hockey Ice Skates*
- **New or Used Condition**
4. *Carbon Monoxide Detectors*
- **\$1,500 (\$35 each)**
5. *Three Gas Furnaces – WRR*
- **\$1,000 each**
6. *Tire Changing Machine*
- **\$2,500**
7. *Tire Balancing Machine*
- **\$1,000**
8. *Rolling Jacks for 4 Post Lift (2)*
- **\$1,555 each**
9. *Gimbal Stabilizer & Camera Case*
- **\$860**
10. *Benches*
- **\$55 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.

SILVER BIRCH RANCH SUMMER 2019

Overboard

FOR WE WALK BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT.
2 CORINTHIANS 5:7

SUMMER 2019: OVERBOARD - Jason Kemper

We've crested the hill. The days are slowly starting to get longer which means this: summer is getting closer! Ideas and plans are flying around as we eagerly look forward to Summer 2019: Overboard. Youth Camp registration is open and Family Camp registration starts January 22. Spots will be filling up fast, so make sure not to dilly dally, and head on over to silverbirchran.ch.org/summer for information on camping, volunteering, or Summer Staffing. Also, make sure to check out SBR Insider on our Youtube channel as we will do a very special giveaway leading up to summer. We look forward to seeing you for our 52nd Summer: Overboard.

REACHING OUT

- Steve Sanford

One of NBI's core values is serving, not just here at camp, but also in our community and beyond. As most Americans were recovering from their tryptophan-induced comas after Thanksgiving, 15 NBI students, interns, and staff joined with Faith in Action to serve at Lighthouse Christian Camp in Smithville, TN. Lighthouse exists to serve the poor and needy, the fatherless and orphan, and the widow. All campers are 100% scholarshipped. Our primary project was preparation for their annual Girls' Christmas Party-an event that draws about 400 girls from the surrounding six counties. An additional project was the construction of a maintenance garage.

We arrived to a gymnasium with a mountain of donated toys, gifts, and clothes for all ages. Our week-long task was to sort items by gender and age, bundle toys to create gift baskets, and organize, organize, organize to facilitate an army of 8-12 year-old shoppers!

The result was amazing to watch. Each girl was given "money" to buy gifts, mostly for their families, so that they could experience the joy of giving, not just receiving. For some, this was the only Christmas they would have. In addition to shopping, they all moved from station to station where they sang Christmas carols and enjoyed hot chocolate, wrote thank-you letters, ate lunch, and listened to a Gospel presentation of the true meaning of Christmas.

This trip impacted us as much as those we came to serve. One student expressed it this way: "What a trip! I have never felt closer to God up until this trip. It was very encouraging to see people of all ages give 100%, 12 hours a day, for six days, in order to make such a huge impact in these kids' lives. Praise God!"

You can learn more about NBI and its mission by going to our website at www.nicoletbibleinstitute.org.



GOD IN THE BUSINESS OF SBR

- Mike Jewell

If you have been involved in operating a business, you know that to make a profit, income has to be greater than expenses. So, we create a business plan to accomplish our profitability goals. Simple, right? But, when God is the owner, business plans turn into a ministry plan, and money becomes a tool to be used in "Making Christ Known." This requires a ministry to be operated differently than a business. Let me explain.

A non-profit ministry does not always have a steady source of income, like the widget company would. Income goes up and down on a regular basis, and often unpredictably. Expenses continue to climb yearly as the cost of operating goes up. Income from fees charged to campers is rarely more than expenses. This makes SBR dependent on donations to financially survive year after year. So, we are dependent on God, just the way the owner likes it.

How have we seen God provide? Some years camper numbers increase to cover expected shortfalls, other years expenses are decreased to meet the financial need, and then there are those years when a large/unexpected donation arrives. **Continue on next page.**

Five Fun Facts!

1. Every Couples' Retreat we do a fun photo booth for the couples.
2. Camp has no retreats after Thanksgiving until the end of December.
3. We host a total of 17 retreats from August to May.
4. Summer Staff and Summer Volunteer applications are now open!
5. Each year the NBI students get to go on a missions trip to Lighthouse Christian Camp in Tennessee.

1. Where are the two bike racks located at camp?
2. What is the name of the stables?
3. What other lakes is Sawyer Lake connected to?
4. How many vans does camp have?
5. What is the name of the raft trip that high school campers go on in the summer?

Trivia!

(1) By the Program Kitchen & Office (2) North Star Stables (3) Rose, Jesse, and Mary (4) Five (5) Big Smokey

GOD IN THE BUSINESS OF SBR - Continued

All you can do is drop to your knees and give God the glory in what He is doing in the lives of generous people. No matter how you slice it, year after year, God the Owner provides.

So, each year we build our spreadsheets of columns and rows of numbers, trying to predict how God (the Owner) will choose to provide. Each year, God is faithful, and surprises us in the many different ways He shows His provision. We have given up trying to predict how God will provide. We have gotten very good at just saying "Thank You, Lord" and just changing the spreadsheets!

So what does 2019 have in store for SBR financially? We started the year with a balanced budget, but an unexpected \$50,000 repair was needed to our Chapel. So, we start the year off in the negative, but we have all of 2019 to look forward to how our Owner will provide. After all, His goal is not to make a profit, but to "Make Christ Known." He's got this.



Silver Birch Ranch
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Follow Us On:



• **Winter Jam**
February 1-3, 2019

• **Do Your Own Thing Retreat**
March 21-24, 2019

• **Adoption Family Retreat**
March 8-10, 2019

• **Couples' Retreat #2**
April 12-14, 2019

• **It's All in The Vows Couples' Retreat**
April 5-7, 2019

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



STAFF RECOGNITION

- Dave Wager

Silver Birch Ranch has been blessed with a faithful staff who has loved and served our God and our nation for many years. This year we celebrated the faithfulness of God and some staff members who have served for many years.

Steve and Becky Sanford have celebrated being at Silver Birch Ranch for 30 years, and continue to serve the students of the Nicolet Bible Institute. Troy and Jana Beaber have been serving for 15 years building, preparing, and decorating the various buildings around camp. Jake and Karynna Schiech have been students and volunteers, and Jake has served in our food service department for 5 years.

13 years ago, Steve and Kris Tice joined our staff to initiate a new camp we were developing in Canada that became known as Canadian Adventure. Throughout the years, their love for God, family, and the Body of Christ was and still is evident, as they served Him faithfully. Their duties in Canada in the summer and at our home base during the school year eventually gave them the ability to help guide the foundational years of the Wolf River Refuge property.

Steve and Kris have felt led to move closer to their family and to continue seeking opportunities in the local church to use their education in Biblical Counseling to honor God and build His body.

We thank the Tice family for their love, service, and example, and we encourage our camp family to continue to pray and reach out to them during this transitional time.

We thank God for all the staff who work every day to serve the church here at Silver Birch Ranch, and we ask that you continue to thank God and them with us as you have the opportunity for their faithful love and service.