



The

# BUCKING Board

NEWS AND UPDATES FROM SILVER BIRCH RANCH



## NEW PROGRAM AT SBR AND WRR: FOSTER FAMILY CONNECT

- Dave Wager

As history rolls on we realize that some things always remain the same. God never changes, people are sinful, sin separates people from God, and people all over the world suffer because we choose to live outside the way we were meant to live.

There always seems to be international tensions, wars and rumors of wars, earthquakes, storms, and pandemics. At some point, all the activities that are so pressing today will be a footnote in history.

Silver Birch Ranch first began serving campers the summer of 1968, and it continues to be dedicated to our mission of knowing Christ and making Him known. Our mission was vital in 1968 and remains vital in 2021. The things that change through the years are the various methods employed to engage in our mission. The first goal was to serve the local church with a place for evangelism and to develop leadership. In that, our summer camps continue to look for ways to serve the church in those two areas.

In order to meet the continual challenges our culture has faced, we started various branches of ministry that now include the Nicolet Bible Institute, the Wolf River Refuge, Relate 365, and soon we will be branching out to include a ministry called Foster Family Connect. ([fosterfamilyconnect.org](http://fosterfamilyconnect.org))

We have seen the need that many counties in Wisconsin have in meeting the challenges of caring for those in foster care. We are hoping that we can be used to encourage many churches to have organized efforts to meet the various challenges in their communities so that the church is a place the county governments look to for help.

This ministry is very catalytic in nature as we hope to be the spark

that stokes the flame of family reconciliation, and we believe that we, the Church, should take the lead.

Silver Birch Ranch will be a place that encourages and trains. We are working at training and developing a horse mentoring program, we will make the Wolf River Refuge available for training and respite, and we hope to develop some foster care camps there one day, and to provide unique educational opportunities to help encourage and equip those involved in caring for foster care children.

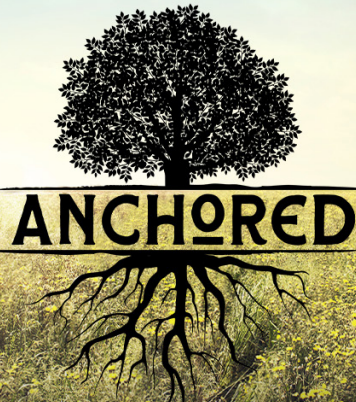
We also hope to find the financial backing in each county to enable any children in foster care, and in the specific county, the opportunity to attend summer camp.

As the children attend summer camp, we will work towards having the local churches involved as camp counselors, which, once again, brings us back to the part that does not change.

For more information about Foster Family Connect, please go to [www.fosterfamilyconnect.org](http://www.fosterfamilyconnect.org). Click on the home page button to receive the FFC newsletter for regular updates on ministry needs, prayer requests, training materials, and podcasts as they are developed.

If you have followed Silver Birch Ranch through the years, you know that we are always dreaming about what God can do with this place, and He always does far more than we can imagine. We invite you to join with us in imagining and praying that we can, somehow, have a positive effect in our state by successfully reaching out to these precious children.

NO MATTER WHAT LIFE BRINGS



# ANCHORED

MAY 14-16, 2021



**-Jason Kemper**

SIGN UP TODAY!

We are excited to announce a brand-new retreat for anyone 14-20 years old. The Anchored Retreat will be held May 14-16 here at Silver Birch Ranch. It will be a weekend geared towards encouragement, refreshment, and practical Biblical wisdom to find security, hope, and strength for these uncertain days.

It has been over a year that everyone has been dealing with the effects of COVID on our everyday lives. For many it has created a lot of stress, loneliness, or even just a longing to be around people again. This retreat is created to be a fresh new start. Our hope is that not only will you have fun, but also be encouraged, equipped, and ready to face the challenges of everyday life from a Biblical perspective. If you or someone you know would welcome new insights and encouragement, or if you are a youth leader who would love to come alongside your students, then this is just the retreat for that. Head over to [silverbirchbranch.org/anchored](http://silverbirchbranch.org/anchored) to check out the various keynote speakers and workshops offered. Register by April 16th to lock in the Early Bird discount. We cannot wait for you to join us for this amazing, encouraging weekend.

## NICOLET BIBLE INSTITUTE

**-Spring Break**

NBI Students took advantage of two Spring Break Mission Project Trips, one to Montana Bible College and Breakaway Youth Ranch in Montana, and one to Camp Daniel in Athelstane, WI.



## Top 10 List

1. 3 Summer Tubes  
\$250
2. 1 Snow Plow  
\$6,800
3. 30 Zip Line Harnesses  
\$100 each
4. 1 Tire Changer  
\$1,500
5. 1 Computer  
\$1,500
6. Pressure Tank- Stable Well  
\$4,500
7. WRR Hawk Cabin Remodel  
\$5,000
8. Used Golf Cart  
\$2,000
9. Feed Lot for the Stable  
\$5,000
10. 3-20 gauge shotguns  
\$300 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.



# GARDEN MAINTENANCE - WRR

- Matthew Shruck

Spring has the forest bustling all around us as the animals are coming out of their deep winter bedding. Spring at the Wolf River Refuge, however, did not have to emerge from hibernation. Instead, the Wolf River Refuge saw our busiest winter since Silver Birch Ranch first acquired the riverside property. We were blessed to be a place of refuge, restoration, and regeneration for many families, wedding anniversary retreats, and women's groups. Spring and summer are also shaping up to be quite busy, as well.

Our goal for 2021 at the WRR is to reach small groups and home life groups. With our cabins and our meeting room, WRR is the perfect location to reconnect with home life groups that have dismantled over the course of 2020. Church attendance alone is still vastly lower than pre-COVID. For those who are back in church, most are still not meeting outside of church like they used to. That being the case, we would like to offer the Wolf River Refuge as a place to bring those home life groups. I'm sure that even in reading this, there are people with whom you've barely connected over the past year, but who you miss dearly.

One of the most miraculous aspects of the spring season is the new life that we see around us. This is true of the new growth of sprouts as they emerge from the soil. This is also true of the parts of creation that were dormant in winter. In this same way, much like the grapevine in my own yard, the transition between winter and spring is an opportunity to prune back our lives so that we can more easily get in touch with our roots and recognize from where our nourishment stems. And, as we know, those shoots that are pruned and have fallen away from the vine will not grow this coming year. We would like to encourage you to remain connected to God, the true vine, or if you're not, then quickly graft into your local church. Only then will you find the nourishment necessary to produce fruit. We look forward to seeing you this year as we continue to grow alongside you, equipping you with gardening tools for spiritual cultivation, and offering a place of refuge for you, your families, and friends.



**Nicolet Bible Institute**  
TEACHING | TRAINING | REACHING

**APPLY TODAY**

**LIVE LIKE IT MATTERS**

**APPLY BY MAY 15 TO GET \$500 OFF NBI**

A promotional graphic for Nicolet Bible Institute. It features the institute's logo (a cross inside a circle with 'NICOLET BIBLE INSTITUTE' and '1982' around it) and the text 'Nicolet Bible Institute TEACHING | TRAINING | REACHING'. Below the logo is a QR code and the text 'APPLY TODAY'. The background of the graphic shows a group of young people smiling. At the bottom, there is a dark blue banner with the text 'LIVE LIKE IT MATTERS' and 'APPLY BY MAY 15 TO GET \$500 OFF NBI'.

# LOOKING FORWARD TO THE SEARCH

-Jason Kemper

After an unprecedented year, we cannot help but look forward to summer. Plans and preparations are in full swing as we eagerly anticipate returning to normal. We are excited to have our grounds swarming with young people again eager to grow in their relationship with Jesus.

In order for this to happen, we need YOUR help! Whether it's counseling, volunteering, camping, sending a camper, or giving a donation to help a student come to camp, we would love for you to partner with us this summer. Head on over to [silverbirchbranch.org/summer](http://silverbirchbranch.org/summer) to register, sign up to volunteer, or even just keep current with 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!



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Follow Us On:



- **Authored Couples' Retreat** April 9-11, 2021
- **Spring Work Weekend** April 23-25, 2021
- **Spring Men's Retreat** April 30-May 2, 2021
- **Mother-Daughter Retreat** May 21-23 2021
- **Anchored Retreat** May 14-16, 2021
- **Homeschool Family Retreat** August 26-29, 2021
- **Ladies' Retreat 1** September 10-12, 2021
- **Ladies' Retreat 2** September 17-19, 2021

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



# FAMILY SPRING WEEKEND

-Jason Kemper

Are you getting Spring fever and looking for a way to get out and do something together as a family? Look no further! We are offering a Spring Family Weekend on April 23-25. Come hang out at SBR and enjoy activities like horse-back riding, rock climbing, ziplining, and archery just to name a few. We've kept costs to a minimum, so head over to the Family Retreat section of our website and check out more information. We hope you can join us for a fun weekend away as a family!

