



The

BUCKING Board

NEWS AND UPDATES FROM SILVER BIRCH RANCH



THANKING AND PRAISING GOD FOR HIS PROVISION

- Dave Wager

We learn much from contrasts. Last summer we heard of many who were unsure about how safe a camp could operate in a global pandemic. We, too, wondered, as our whole nation was immersed into something we have never experienced before.

We saw churches struggle, camps close, schools try to teach virtually, and received mixed messages from just about everyone on protocols and procedures.

We, as a nation, experienced an epidemic of loneliness fueled by fear, and we wanted to get back to “normal,” but seemed unsure what that now looked like.

In this issue of the Bucking Board, I want us to focus on the good news for a bit.

The good news is that Silver Birch Ranch has been open and is enjoying what might be record numbers of young people and families once again playing and learning together during the summer of 2021.

Our staff was able to work throughout the pandemic, and God continues to demonstrate His faithfulness to us.

We were able to enjoy an excellent Nicolet Bible Institute class who were able to enjoy in-person instruction.

We have seen an increase of those to whom we can minister online. (<https://www.podbean.com/relate365>)

We have launched a ministry to help encourage the churches in Wisconsin to be active participants in their foster care system—Foster Family Connect.

Our wranglers have gone to school to understand better how we might use horses to mentor those in foster care.

There is a good number of students who have applied for the Nicolet Bible Institute.

We received many applications from young people who wanted to volunteer at Silver Birch Ranch this summer (at a time when workers in general seem challenging to find).

The forest is beginning to grow back and hide the many scars inflicted on the landscape during the duracho two years ago.

Many faithful friends gave generously, enabling us to continue to pay our bills and help all campers who need help.

Many items that have been listed on our Top Ten were donated (either through financial giving or by item).

Indeed, we have so much to be thankful for and to rejoice about, and we ask you to join with us in thanking and praising God for His provision and opportunities that abound.

Please also pray that we always remain a faithful example and stay effective at our mission, safe for all people, fun, and affordable.

Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol Him, all peoples! For great is His steadfast love towards us, and the faithfulness of Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord! -Psalm 117:1-2

A FULL SUMMER

-Jason Kemper

Laughter, music, games, activities, pizza, and cheesy breadsticks – all sights, sounds and smells of summer camp well underway. It feels good again to have camp packed with young people playing, laughing, and hearing about the Truth of Jesus. It's also great to have a summer that feels somewhat "normal" again. Between COVID last summer and the storm in summer 2019, it has been an interesting two years. However, through it all, God has shown time and time again His faithfulness and His provision so that we continue to offer a place for young people to get away and deepen their relationship with Jesus.

This summer has proven that everyone is excited to be back at camp. We've had record numbers of campers registering for our youth camps, so much so that we are on pace to set a record for the largest attendance summer yet. Even though we are only approaching our half-way mark, we are already seeing many young people trusting in Jesus for salvation, and for that we are thankful. Let's continue to pray for God to do amazing things in the lives of campers this summer.



Top 10 List

1. Beach Front Road
\$7,000
2. Climbing Tower Road
\$15,000
3. Chest Freezers (2)
\$600 each
4. Camera Equipment
\$8,000
5. Pancake Grill
\$6,300
6. Knee Board or Wakeboard-new or used
\$250 (new)
7. Water-skis-new or used & Ski Ropes
\$250 (new)
8. Canoes-new or used-3
\$500 each (new)
9. Aqua Thruster (for beach front cleaning)
\$4,000
10. Picnic Tables (8) for Wolf River Refuge
\$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.



Nicolet Bible Institute
TEACHING | TRAINING | REACHING



APPLY TODAY



LIVE LIKE IT MATTERS

MUCH NEEDED MAINTENANCE AT THE WOLF RIVER REFUGE

- Matthew Shruck

This summer season the maintenance team from Silver Birch Ranch has been instrumental in making the facilities at the Wolf River Refuge shine. This past winter we had a pipe burst on the second floor of our Hawk and Raven Cabins, which led to a complete renovation. However, while in the process of fixing up the cabin, our maintenance team added a brand new room onto Hawk that had previously been a storage shed. They've also helped with some much-needed roofing on our Loon and Swan cabins. Later this summer, we're looking at a new garage project. It's great to see the progress being so tangibly made.

Here at the Wolf River Refuge, we're praying that you're keeping up with the daily maintenance of your soul, as well. We pray that you're connected to the vine and in the Word. We look forward to seeing you soon or in the coming seasons, as we continue to rejoice in the things that the Lord has made new—both tangibly and intangibly.



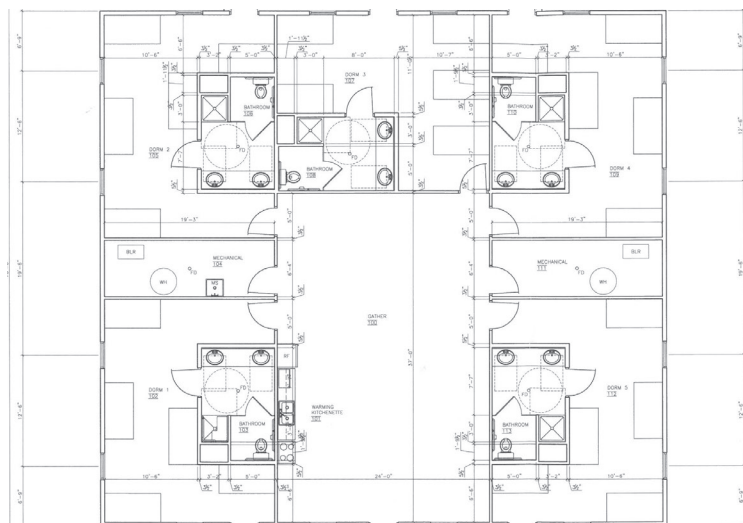
CARDEN STEPHENSON

Servant of God

As we focus on what good is happening, we can't help but reminisce of the recent homegoing of camp's friend and servant, Carden Stephenson. The good news is that he is present with the Lord and can now experience life the way it was meant to be.

Carden and Lynn served as volunteers at camp for twenty years. They served wherever asked, opened their home to many, and gave us an example of what servants are about. His memorial service honored God and demonstrated the immense impact a servant has on the next generation.

"For if we live, we live to the Lord, And if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's." - Romans 14:8



MOVING FORWARD!!

-Dave Wager

We are grateful for the many years we have served, and we are preparing the infrastructure for many more years to come. Part of the plan will be to begin to work on a new large cabin to replace the remainder of the tent cabins, and we hope to land on a design that works well for the many different groups we serve today and in the future. Please be praying that we finish this facility before Memorial Day 2022, and that we can use it for many decades to come. See the photo for the tentative plans for this cabin. Join us as we trust God for this provision.

POEM FROM JR-MIDDLER 1 CAMP

Junior-Middler #1 campers are always encouraged to write a poem about camp or something they've learned at camp. Here's one of this year's winners!

Trust
When you have looked all around,
For an answer that just can't be found,
When the world seems to quake,
And everything breaks,
When the waves are so high,
That you just want to cry,
All you can do is trust.

Trust that He'll carry you back to the shore.
Though we have sinned, His mercy is more.
Trust that He'll hold you when everything's crumbling.
Choose to trust Him when your world is tumbling.
He'll show you the answer you have been looking for,
And give you the key before you have a door.
All you need to do is trust. Jr-Middler #1 camper, 2021



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Follow Us On:



- **Homeschool Family Retreat** • **Fall Men's Retreat**
August 26-29, 2021 Sept. 30-Oct. 3, 2021
- **Ladies' Retreat 1** • **Father-Daughter Retreat**
September 10-12, 2021 October 8-10, 2021
- **Ladies' Retreat 2** • **Fall Couples' Retreat**
September 17-19, 2021 October 29-31, 2021
- **Father-Son Retreat** • **Scrapbooking Retreat**
September 24-26 2021 November 11-14, 2021

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



FROM OUR MAILBOX

We have been so encouraged by so many recently who have given financially or with specific items, some from our Top Ten list, and others towards our General Fund or Camperships. Thank you to all of you who have shared your resources and love in that way.



5.10.21

Dear SBR—
We just want you to know that as our kids were growing up we valued you greatly. And as they are now adults, we want to continue to support and invest in you. Please use this gift however you see fit. We trust you!

-Former camper and staff parents

6.16.21

(My daughter) had the greatest time and always comes home saying, "Camp is the best part of my summer!" Thank you for the great organization and for providing such a wonderful experience for both my girls. I'm so grateful Silver Birch Ranch has come into our lives. It's been such a blessing!

-Parent of a Jr. Middler 1 camper